

For a Lasting Peace, for a People's Democracy!

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INSTRUCTIVE LESSONS OF HISTORY

Nine years have passed since the day of the great victory over Hitler fascism and the termination of the war in Europe. The further this wonderful day recedes the more magnificent there stands out before mankind the world-historic exploit of the Soviet people in the struggle against fascism and the decisive role played by the USSR in the great victory over Hitler Germany. By their courage and selflessness, at the cost of colossal sacrifice, the Soviet people not only upheld the freedom and independence of their native land, they saved the peoples of Europe and Asia from the threat of fascist enslavement and saved world civilisation.

The Soviet people, by smashing the fascist aggressors, demonstrated the indomitable strength of the Soviet social and state system, the moral-political unity of Soviet society, the alliance of workers and peasants, the friendship of socialist nations and of the life-giving Soviet patriotism.

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union, tried and tempered in battle, was the inspirer and organiser of the victory of the Soviet people over the fascist plunderers. By means of its organisational work the Party directed all the efforts of the Soviet people towards the common goal, and subordinated all the forces and means at the disposal of the country to the cause of smashing the enemy. The victory over the fascist aggressors is inseparably linked with the name of J. V. Stalin—the great continuer of the immortal cause of V. I. Lenin—who, during the war years, headed the State Defence Committee and the Armed Forces of the USSR.

In the grim and bloody war against the fascist enslavers the Soviet people had loyal allies in the peoples fighting for national independence and democratic rights. Many of the best sons of the British and American peoples gave their lives for victory over the enemy. The members of the Resistance Movement in Europe, the heroic partisans in France and Italy, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Greece and Yugoslavia, fought valiantly against the Hitler fascists. Polish and Czechoslovak divisions and, in the final stages of the war, Bulgarian and Rumanian divisions, fought shoulder to shoulder with the heroic Soviet Army against the common enemy. The popular struggle against the Hitler aggressors seriously weakened the rear of the fascist troops and helped the Soviet Army to smash the Hitler war machine.

As a result of the victory over Hitler fascism and Japanese militarism the entire international situation has radically changed: the forces of Socialism and democracy have grown, while the positions of imperialism and reaction have weakened. A

peace and for extending international co-operation and business relations with all countries. The Government of the USSR has always adhered to the view and adheres to it now, that the capitalist and socialist systems can fully co-exist peacefully, competing with each other economically. All the actions of the Soviet Union are aimed at strengthening peace and international security.

The lessons of history teach us that firm and stable security in Europe, as well as throughout the world, can be realised only by means of collective security of sovereign states.

The Soviet draft for a "General European Treaty on Collective Security in Europe" provides a basis for really solving the problem of European security. The Soviet Union proposes the formation of a united camp of all European states anxious to ensure their security and to strengthen peace in Europe. This proposal corresponds to the vital interests of strengthening peace in Europe and to the national interests of the peoples of Europe, including the German people. The idea of a "General European Treaty on Collective Security" finds new ways to the hearts of millions of people and meets with increasing support among the peoples of Europe.

In its turn the proposal of the Chinese Government on the desirability of combining the efforts of all the countries of Asia for the purpose of ensuring peace in Asia is in consonance with the interests of strengthening peace in Asia and throughout the world and has been wholeheartedly welcomed by all champions of peace.

The building of a system of collective security in Europe and the collective effort of the peoples of Asia can and must lead to the ensuring of lasting peace throughout the world.

The Geneva Conference of Foreign Ministers is discussing the burning questions of strengthening peace in Asia: peaceful settlement of the Korean problem and establishing peace in Indo-China. Successful solution of these tasks would be of great significance for lessening the international tension. And this can be achieved provided the Geneva Conference proceeds from the principle that the peoples of Asia themselves are fully entitled to settle their own affairs.

The peoples of Asia, who have been groaning under colonial oppression for long years, have now awakened. Big changes are now taking place in Asia which accounts for the greater part of the population of the world. These big political changes in Asia

Press Day in the USSR

On May 5th the Soviet people widely celebrated the traditional Press Day. The Soviet press is wholly devoted to the great cause of the Communist Party and brings to the masses the immortal ideas of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, and battles for the implementation of the gigantic programme of Communist construction.

V. I. Lenin, the brilliant founder and leader of the Communist Party and the Soviet state, in an article entitled "The Workers and 'Pravda'", written in 1912 shortly after the birth of "Pravda", foretold that the time would come when the whole of Russia would be covered by a network of workers' organisations with workers' newspapers. That which Lenin foresaw has been realised. Thanks to the daily concern of the Communist Party the press has grown into a mighty force.

There are now about 7,800 newspapers in the USSR with a total circulation of over 44 million, up to 1,500 journals and other periodicals. Newspapers are published in every town and district in the languages of all the peoples of the Soviet Union. Many of the nationalities which prior to the October Revolution had not even their own written language now have dozens of papers in their own language. In successfully solving the tasks facing the Party organisations an important role is assigned to the local press, to factory newspapers and to the wall newspapers.

Thousands of rank-and-file workers, engineers and technicians write to the newspapers. Innovators in industry share their experience on the pages of newspapers, disclose unutilised reserves, criticise negligent executives, loafers and those who produce waste.

Book publishing is steadily improving and the number of books published yearly is growing. In 1940 some 451 million copies of books were published and by 1953 the number had grown to about 1,000 million. The publication of political and technical books, belles-lettres and also text-books for elementary, secondary and higher schools has considerably increased.

The decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on awarding the Order of Lenin to the "Pravda" printing

works, named after J. V. Stalin, for outstanding achievements in developing the press of the country and in connection with its twentieth anniversary was published on May 5th. By decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR a large group of workers employed in the "Pravda" printing works have been decorated with orders and medals for their many years of successful work.

There have been talks and lectures in the enterprises, offices and educational establishments to mark Press Day. An all-Moscow meeting of the workers of newspapers, journals, publishing houses and polygraphic enterprises, devoted to Press Day, took place in the Hall of Columns of the House of Trade Unions. Meetings of press workers also took place in Leningrad, Kiev and other towns. Spring book-bazaars have been opened everywhere.

In Bryansk a four-storied Press House is ready for use. It will be occupied by the editorial offices of the regional newspapers "Bryanski Rabochy", "Bryanski Komsomolets" and a book publishing house. In the lower Volga area where there are vast stretches of virgin and unused land, a new daily paper, the "Molodoi Leninetz" is being published.

Press Day was also widely noted in Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and other countries of people's democracy. The newspapers in these countries are fulfilling a great and honourable task, inspiring millions of working people to the struggle for a happy future and rallying the people around the Communist and Workers' Parties, which are organising the masses for the building of Socialism. Now, with the Geneva Conference in progress, the press of the countries of people's democracy is widely reporting this event and is supporting the stand taken by the delegates of the USSR, the People's Republic of China and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea—a stand which is in the interests of all the peace-loving peoples of the world, which exposes the intrigues of the enemies of peace and calls on the people to sharpen vigilance.

Another Price Cut in Poland

The decree of the C.C. of the Polish United Workers' Party and the Council of Ministers concerning a new reduction of retail prices was published on May 1st. The reduction was carried out in accordance with the decisions of the Second Party Congress for raising the standard of living of the working masses in 1954-55 by

cent, tinned fish 7-10 per cent, fruit from 6 to 20 per cent, cigarettes on the average 6 per cent, woollen fabrics 10-35 per cent, cotton fabrics from 5 to 35 per cent, silk goods from 12 to 40 per cent, ready-made woollen clothing 10-15 per cent, ready-made cotton and silk clothing from 4 to 17 per cent, cotton and rayon

MOVEMENT IN FRANCE AGAINST REARMING GERMAN REVANCHISTS

Representatives of broad sections of the French people who are fighting with greater determination against the ruinous Bonn and Paris treaties continue to gather at meetings, demonstrations and peace congresses. Thousands of delegates, many of them elected at enterprises, attended fifteen demonstrations and peace congresses on April 25.

More and more active members of the Socialist Party and Socialist deputies and councillors are opposing the rearming of the German revenge-seekers and together with the Communists and other French men and women, are taking an active part in the struggle against ratifying the Bonn and Paris treaties. In his speech at the peace congress of the Seine Department the Secretary-General of the Socialist groups of theatre and cinema workers declared that there was growing opposition to the "European Defence Community" in the Socialist Party.

In Montech (Tarn-et-Garonne Department) six active members of the Socialist

Party, including four municipal councillors, together with other prominent local people, signed a call for the holding of a Department rally against the "European Defence Community". A protest meeting against the formation of the "European Army", attended by a Socialist member of the general council of the Department and by a number of Socialist Mayors and others, was held in Montignac (Dordogne Department). Following a fraternal discussion with Communists, Socialists in Vitrac and La Rouge-Gageac denounced the "European Defence Community". At a congress in the Ain Department two Catholics, a Socialist and a Communist made reports on behalf of the Department peace council.

Three Socialist Mayors were elected to the presidium at the Gard Department congress in Nimes. An activist of the Socialist Party was elected, together with a Communist, Radical, Catholic and Protestant, to the leadership of the peace movement in the Vendee.

In Defence of Smith Act Victims

In July three years will have passed since the jailing of Eugene Dennis and a number of other leaders of the Communist Party of the USA—the first victims of the fascist Smith Act. The conviction of the Communist leaders was used by reaction as the starting point for a wide crusade against all the progressive forces in the country opposed to war and fascism. In present-day America not only the Communists but all who openly oppose the aggressive designs of Wall Street are subjected to persecution and hounding. The Attorney General of the US Brownell recently declared his intention to launch a persecution drive against thousands of progressives.

What is the "crime" of the people whom American reaction tries to put behind bars?

"Amnesty Trumpet," organ of the National Committee to Win Amnesty for Smith Act Victims, wrote recently in connection with the Smith Act frame-ups against progressive Americans that "while a number of the defendants, principally those in the California and New York trials, are national leaders of the Communist Party, many have been state

in the USA and other countries. More and more honest Americans are beginning to realise that passage of these bills would result in wiping out the last vestiges of democratic liberties, in outlawing the trade unions and different democratic organisations and establishing McCarthyism, the American pattern of fascism. The most varied organisations are demanding an amnesty for the victims of the Smith and McCarran Acts.

The New York "Daily Worker", a progressive newspaper, reports that a meeting of the San Francisco branch of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union on April 21 called on the Attorney General Brownell to amnesty the victims of the Smith Act. The resolution said: "We believe that all this hogwash about a red overthrow of government, treason charges against Democrats and other red-baiting is a manoeuvre to get our minds off the drive towards war, to get our minds off the depression.

"We also urge you to drop your McCarthy legislation designed to denaturalise native-born Americans and further curtail civil liberties.

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As a result of the victory over Hitler fascism and Japanese militarism the entire international situation has radically changed: the forces of Socialism and democracy have grown, while the positions of imperialism and reaction have weakened. A number of countries in Europe and Asia dropped out of the capitalist system and their peoples have stepped out irrevocably along the pathway of socialist development and have established in their countries the system of people's democracy. The triumph of the people's revolution in China and the rise of the Chinese People's Republic represent an outstanding victory for the cause of Socialism and democracy. One of the greatest achievements of the peoples is the rise of the powerful 800-million strong camp of peace, democracy and Socialism, headed by the Soviet Union—the indestructible bulwark of world peace.

A sign of the times and the great motive force of the day is the striving of the peoples for peace. The peace movement which has developed in recent years has become the indomitable movement of our time; it embraces hundreds of millions in all countries and on all continents. In many countries in Europe and Asia all the healthy forces of the nation are in the process of uniting in the interests of peace and security of the peoples.

But the aggressive imperialist circles are reluctant to take into account these historical changes in the international situation. They artificially create an atmosphere of war hysteria, threaten the world with the hydrogen bomb, openly proclaim the policy of force and prolonged cold war, resort to blackmail, threats and intimidation. This reckless, gambler policy is definitely doomed to failure. It is common knowledge that the Hitlerites, fumed and raged, were unwilling to take into account the real facts, looked with scorn on the popular masses, over-estimated their strength and underestimated the strength of the peace-loving peoples. The consequences which this gambler policy brought upon the Hitlerites are equally well-known. The reactionary circles in the USA are following in Hitler's footsteps. They, too, raging and thundering, are reluctant to take account of reality, ignore the will of the peoples for peace and do not want to learn from the instructive lessons of history. But he who refuses to learn from history pays dearly.

What do the lessons of history, linked with the first and second world wars, show? The first world war led to the victory of the Socialist revolution in Russia. And from the second world war also capitalism emerged with its sphere of rule considerably restricted. And if the crazy aggressive circles attempt to unleash a new world war, then, inevitably, this will lead to the collapse of the entire capitalist system.

All honest people know perfectly well that the Soviet Union, People's China and the countries of people's democracy do not want war, that they consistently stand for

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The peoples of Asia, who have been groaning under colonial oppression for long years, have now awakened. Big changes are now taking place in Asia which accounts for the greater part of the population of the world. These big political changes in Asia are strikingly manifested first of all in China. The great people of China led by their glorious Communist Party have laid the firm foundations of the people's-democratic system and are now carrying out vast social-economic and political transformations. All the people of Asia are fighting a just struggle for liberation from imperialist oppression, for national independence and freedom. The awakening of the peoples of Asia threatens completely to undermine the colonial system of imperialism. The imperialist monopolies who have become used to squeezing huge profits from the blood and suffering of the peoples of Asia do not want to relinquish their colonial domination. In their endeavours to arrest the national-liberation movement of the peoples of Asia, US influential circles are planning to build an aggressive bloc and to extend the war in Indo-China.

But no force in the world can hold back the historic development of the peoples of Asia. The events in Korea, where the American interventionists suffered crushing defeat, prove that any intervention against a country whose people are upholding their freedom and independence is doomed to failure. The heroic struggle of the People's Army in Viet Nam, courageously upholding the freedom and independence of their homeland, is striking testimony to the fact that an army fighting, for a just cause is invincible.

The solidarity of the freedom-loving peoples of Asia is growing in the fight against the attempts of the aggressive forces to convert the countries of the East into a zone of eternal colonial oppression and slavery. This solidarity is an important factor for strengthening peace.

The consistent and persevering struggle waged by the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, the People's Democracies and all peace-loving forces for strengthening peace has led to a certain relaxation in the international tension. But this relaxation must not be over-rated. It must not be over-rated because the enemies of peace are persisting in their criminal plans. The aggressive forces are keeping up the armaments drive, building new military bases and military blocs, preventing the peaceful reunification of Korea, provoking an extension of the war in Indo-China, reviving in every way West German militarism and preparing Japan for the role of a shock force in a new imperialist aggression in Asia.

In these circumstances the champions of peace see their main task in being on guard, in thwarting the plans of the aggressive circles, in achieving a further lessening of the international tension and in promoting to the utmost peaceful co-operation between the nations, in fighting for the preservation and consolidation of peace throughout the world.

newspapers. Innovators in industry share their experience on the pages of news-papers, disclose unutilised reserves, criticise negligent executives, loafers and those who produce waste.

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Sugar has been reduced on the average 7.8 per cent, butter 9 per cent, milk and sour cream 7.5 per cent, cheese 12 per cent, wheat flour 6.5 per cent, semolina 7 per cent, vermicelli 5 per cent, sweets from 6 to 12 per cent, sausage from 4 to 10 per cent, tinned meat from 8 to 20 per cent, fish 10-15 per

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Postage rates have been cut 25-33 per cent, prices in tailoring, shoe-making and dry-cleaning establishments, laundries, etc. by 10-30 per cent.

Working People Throughout the World Joyfully Celebrated May Day

The working people of the world celebrated May Day, the day of international solidarity, the day of fraternity of the workers of all lands, under the slogan of intensified struggle against the aggressive actions of the enemies of peace and for a further easing of the international tension.

The Soviet people celebrated May Day in an atmosphere of optimism, confidence and peaceful creative labour. On the morning of May 1st the streets and squares of Moscow were crowded with demonstrators. Red Square was gaily decorated. Members of the C.C. of the CPSU, state and public figures, famous innovators in industry and agriculture and foreign guests stood on the tribunes along the Kremlin wall.

As the hands of the clock on the Kremlin's Spasskaya Tower neared 10, there was thunderous applause in the Square. Comrades G. M. Malenkov, N. S. Khrushchev, K. E. Voroshilov, L. M. Kaganovich, A. I. Mikoyan, M. Z. Saburov, N. M. Shvernik, M. A. Suslov, P. N. Pospelov and N. N. Shatalin, Ministers of the USSR, Marshals of the Soviet Union and leaders of the Moscow Party organisation appeared on the tribune of the V. I. Lenin and J. V. Stalin Mausoleum.

The speech made by N. A. Bulganin, Marshal of the Soviet Union, was followed with close attention. Then came the parade which clearly illustrated that the Soviet Armed Forces have everything necessary for fulfilling their noble mission of standing guard over the peaceful labour of the peoples of the USSR.

After the parade hundreds of thousands of working people of the capital marched through Red Square, demonstrating their will to achieve new successes in Communist construction. The festive procession was a mighty demonstration of the great unity of the Communist Party, the Soviet Government and the people.

There were mass May Day demonstrations of the working people all over the Soviet Union.

May Day was joyfully celebrated by the working people in the countries of people's democracy. A big demonstration was held in Peking in Tien An Men Square. More than half a million people marched past the tribune on which stood the leaders of the Communist Party and the Central People's Government of China headed by Comrade Mao Tse-tung. The holiday procession lasted for more than three hours. Demonstrations of many thousands of working people were also held in other towns of the country.

The holiday was triumphantly and joyfully celebrated by the working people of Poland. At the May Day demonstration in Warsaw Comrade Bierut greeted the working people of the capital and the entire country. He called on the working class, the working peasantry, members of producer co-operatives, the intelligentsia and young people to rally closer in the ranks of the National Front in the fight for peace and for the Six-Year Plan. Comrade Bierut concluded his speech with a call for the further strengthening of the alliance between the workers and peasants, for eternal friendship between the peoples of Poland and the Soviet Union.

The people of Czechoslovakia greeted May Day with gay processions in which many thousands took part. Demonstrators gathered in Prague on the Wenceslas Square which was decorated with flags, portraits and posters. A. Zapotocky, President of the Republic, delivered May Day greetings to the working people of the country on behalf of the C.C. of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the Government and the National Front. The demonstration of hundreds of thousands of Prague working people lasted for several hours.

The working people of Hungary celebrated the ninth May Day since their liberation in an atmosphere of great political enthusiasm. A powerful demonstration took place in Budapest. Everyone chanted slogans in honour of the Working People's

In Defence of Smith Act Victims

In July three years will have passed since the jailing of Eugene Dennis and a number of other leaders of the Communist Party of the USA—the first victims of the fascist Smith Act. The conviction of the Communist leaders was used by reaction as the starting point for a wide crusade against all the progressive forces in the country opposed to war and fascism. In present-day America not only the Communists but all who openly oppose the aggressive designs of Wall Street are subjected to persecution and hounding. The Attorney General of the US Brownell recently declared his intention to launch a persecution drive against thousands of progressives.

What is the "crime" of the people whom American reaction tries to put behind bars?

"Amnesty Trumpet," organ of the National Committee to Win Amnesty for Smith Act Victims, wrote recently in connection with the Smith Act frame-ups against progressive Americans that "while a number of the defendants, principally those in the California and New York trials, are national leaders of the Communist Party, many... have been state or community leaders and many others active in their unions and in struggles for civil rights and peace".

Such are the Smith Act victims whose sole "guilt" is that they stand for democratic liberties, for peace.

It is not fortuitous, therefore, that now, when new anti-democratic and anti-Constitutional bills are being discussed in US Congress, the movement in defence of the victims of the Smith Act is growing

in the USA and other countries. More and more honest Americans are beginning to realise that passage of these bills would result in wiping out the last vestiges of democratic liberties, in outlawing the trade unions and different democratic organisations and establishing McCarthyism, the American pattern of facism. The most varied organisations are demanding an amnesty for the victims of the Smith and McCarran Acts.

The New York "Daily Worker", a progressive newspaper, reports that a meeting of the San Francisco branch of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union on April 21 called on the Attorney General Brownell to amnesty the victims of the Smith Act. The resolution said: "We believe that all this hogwash about a red overthrow of government, treason charges against Democrats and other red-baiting is a manoeuvre to get our minds off the drive towards war, to get our minds off the depression."

"We also urge you to drop your McCarthy legislation designed to denaturalise native-born Americans and further curtail civil liberties.

"We urge you to intercede on behalf of the innocent victims of the Smith Act now serving time and urge the President to grant them amnesty."

More and more progressive Americans are demanding the release of the victims of the Smith and McCarran Acts and the repeal of the fascist laws. On the initiative of the National Committee to Win Amnesty for Smith Act Victims a month of struggle for the liberation of victims of this fascist law will begin on June 4.

Party, of the building of Socialism, of the unbreakable fraternal friendship of the Hungarian and Soviet peoples and of peace.

There was a big demonstration in Bucharest, the capital of Rumania. From early morning a stream of demonstrators made their way to Stalin Square. Columns of gay and happy demonstrators marched past the Government tribune before the leaders of the Party and the Government.

The capital of Bulgaria was gaily decorated on May 1st. Columns of demonstrators marched to the central square in Sofia with songs and music. The demonstration lasted for over two hours, with some 300,000 people taking part.

In Tiranë, capital of Albania, people in holiday attire began to gather in Skanderbeg Square at sunrise. The procession was led by the victors in the May Day emulation and lasted for more than three hours.

May Day was triumphantly celebrated by the working people of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. There was a May Day meeting in the heroic town of Pyongyang followed by a demonstration of more than 200,000 people from the city and surrounding villages.

In Berlin thousands of working people marched in the May Day columns to the Marx-Engels Square, among them many workers from Western Germany who, together with the working people of the GDR, demonstrated their determination not to permit the resurgence of militarism and fascism in Western Germany. Demonstrations and popular festivals were held in all towns of the Republic.

In the capitalist countries May Day was celebrated as the day of struggle by the working people for their vital demands, democratic rights and for world peace. In spite of bans and reprisals, meetings and demonstrations took place in cities in all parts of the world, and the magnificent strains of the "Internationale" were heard.

In view of the Government's ban on holding the May Day demonstration in

Paris tens of thousands of Parisians gathered on May 1 in the Vincennes Woods to celebrate the international holiday of the working people. There was a big meeting of the CGT organisations at which the leaders of the French Communist Party headed by Comrade Jacques Duclos were present.

The working people of Italy celebrated May Day under the slogan of the struggle for their rights and for peace. Meetings and demonstrations addressed by leaders of the Italian General Confederation of Labour and other trade union leaders were held in towns and villages throughout the country.

London had a May Day demonstration of the working people and a meeting in Hyde Park. Militant slogans of the working people of Britain were carried on posters: "Long Live Peace!", "Stop Re-arming Western Germany!", "Ban the H-Bomb!" The Hyde Park meeting was addressed by Comrade Harry Pollitt.

The May Day demonstrations in Western Germany were of a militant character and were demonstrations against reviving German militarism, for peace and the re-unification of Germany on a peaceful and democratic basis. In many of the columns members of the Social Democratic Party marched shoulder to shoulder with the Communists, thereby demonstrating unity of action.

In Vienna the May Day demonstration of Austrian workers took place under the slogan of struggle against German militarism, the deadly enemy of Austria. In New York about 15,000 people gathered at a mass May Day meeting which took place under the slogan of "Work and Peace!"

Big demonstrations were held in Japan, India, Indonesia and in many other countries.

The May Day celebrations in all countries demonstrated the growing unity and increasing determination of the working people to battle for their rights and for easing the international tension.

Great Force of Inviolable Friendship of Free Peoples

The rise of the powerful camp of peace and Socialism headed by the Soviet Union, which took place after the second world war, constitutes a big victory for the working people of the world.

This democratic camp, embracing an enormous territory with a population of more than one-third of mankind and disposing of boundless possibilities, is a mighty force. The countries of this camp have the most favourable conditions for their development along the highway to Socialism and Communism, in complete consonance with the national interests of each country.

The completely new relations between the countries of the democratic camp, relations hitherto unknown to history, brilliantly confirm the great foresight of V. I. Lenin who, as early as 1916, wrote that Socialism, by organising production without class oppression and by ensuring the well-being of all members of the state, facilitates and accelerates tremendously the process of bringing the nations closer to each other.

The new type of relations between the countries of the democratic camp is the brilliant embodiment of the international solidarity of the working people. These relations are profoundly imbued with the spirit of proletarian internationalism and are based on the community of interests of these countries who are stepping out along one and the same road and have one and the same objective—defence of peace and the construction of Communist society; they are based on complete and genuine equality for all nations, big and small, on safeguards for the sovereign rights and independence of each country, on non-interference in the internal matters of other states, on mutual respect, confidence and friendship between the nations, on their economic co-operation and mutual aid. In the Soviet Union, in the entire camp of peace, democracy and Socialism there is an atmosphere of optimism, confidence and peaceful creative labour.

Diametrically opposed to this are the relations between the countries of the imperialist camp where the policy of diktat and enslavement of the peoples holds sway, where, instead of friendship and co-operation, there are irreconcilable contradictions, rivalry and a fierce struggle for maximum profits, for new sources of raw materials and markets, where, instead of equality of the peoples, there is loss of national sovereignty, as well as national oppression and unrestrained exploitation of the backward and colonial countries.

The decisive factor of the co-operation and friendly mutual aid between the People's Democracies is their indestructible friendship with the great Soviet Union and the constant and selfless aid accorded them by the Soviet Union.

The consolidation and development of the new social and state system in the People's Democracies, the successful construction of Socialism, the rapid rise in the material and cultural standards of the working people in these countries are closely bound up with the help and friendship of the Soviet Union, with their co-operation and mutual aid. Without these mutual bonds, without the friendship and help of the Soviet Union to the peoples of these countries their liberty and freedom could not have been safeguarded nor could they have gone successfully ahead with socialist construction.

The development of the People's Republic of Bulgaria along the pathway of Socialism and the future of our people and our country are also closely bound up with the friendship and the help of the Soviet Union, with the fraternal co-operation and mutual aid of all free peoples.

Only on the basis of Bulgarian-Soviet friendship has Bulgaria been regenerated and become a viable and flourishing state, confidently and bravely.

★
Todor Jivkov

First Secretary, Central Committee,
Communist Party of Bulgaria

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increased 14.5 times, the volume of Hungary's foreign trade was 13 times greater, Poland's more than 6 times, Czechoslovakia's more than 3.5 times, while Bulgaria's was almost 3 times greater. The share of the Soviet Union in the foreign trade of the People's Democracies registered a particularly big increase. In 1952 the share of the People's Democracies in the foreign trade of the Soviet Union was 80 per cent of the total trade. The share of the countries of the socialist camp was 65 per cent of the goods exchanged in the European countries' of people's democracy in 1951 and nearly 70 per cent in China in 1952.

The countries of the democratic camp have always been ready and are prepared now to trade with capitalist countries on the basis of equality and mutual advantage. The policy of discrimination, however, which is being pursued by US ruling circles hampers the exchange of goods between the free states and the capitalist countries. This policy is a serious blow to the vital interests of all states subordinated to the American diktat.

Each of the countries of the democratic camp imports from the other free countries only the goods which it needs and exports those goods which are needed by the other countries. The Soviet Union supplies the countries of people's democracy with complete aggregates for factories and industrial combinats, with complete sets of equipment for mines, ore-workings, power stations, etc. It grants highly favourable long-term loans and credits and gives tremendous scientific and technical help. The Soviet Union supplies these countries with technical designs, drawings, details of the technological processes and other scientific and technical documents free of charge; this enables these countries to make wide use of the achievements of Soviet science and technique, the most advanced in the world.

The existence of the democratic camp headed by the Soviet Union and the broad economic co-operation between the countries of this camp make possible planned organisation and division of labour so that each can develop those branches of heavy industry best suited to its conditions.

Without the help of the Soviet Union and without the co-operation between the People's Democracies it would be impossible even to dream of the accelerated economic and cultural development that has taken place in Bulgaria since September 9, 1944. Immediately after the war the Soviet Union helped Bulgaria to rehabilitate the ruined national economy. Between 1945 and 1947 alone, the Soviet Union exported to our country 33,000 tons of raw materials for textile manufacture, 36,000 tons of rubber, 329,000 tons of oil products, 217,000 tons of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, 34,000 tons of chemicals, etc. During the years of drought which our country suffered after the war the Soviet Union gave us help in the form of grain and fodder, thus saving the people from hunger.

With the help of the Soviet Union and the co-operation of the countries of people's democracy our people are transforming the face of the country. During the first Five-Year Plan Bulgaria received from the Soviet Union equipment for entire plants and power stations such as the J. V. Stalin Chemical Combinat, the V. I. Lenin Metallurgical Plant, the Vylko Tshervenkoy thermo-electric station, all kinds of machinery and raw materials in which our national economy is deficient and other valuable materials. Thanks to this, during 1949-52 some

tion. Fully applicable to the countries of people's democracy are V. I. Lenin's words to the effect that the "state is strong by virtue of the consciousness of the masses. It is strong when the masses know everything, when they are able to judge everything and do everything consciously". The Communist and Workers' Parties in the People's Democracies are always guided by these words of V. I. Lenin in their efforts to promote culture and raise the consciousness of the working people. Culture in these countries has become the property of the broad popular masses. The art of the people has been given full scope.

In a short period of time the countries of people's democracy have made great strides in cultural upbuilding and have achieved such a blossoming of their culture as was never seen before. We are working successfully for the final defeat of bourgeois ideology and the complete renovation of science, art and culture on the basis of Marxism-Leninism.

The working people in the People's Democracies are educated in the spirit of the immortal teaching of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin, in the spirit of patriotism and proletarian internationalism, eternal friendship with the great Soviet Union, love of labour, respect for socialist property and irreconcilability towards any manifestations and remnants of bourgeois ideology.

Our science, art and culture are also developing at a rapid rate. Public education has been made accessible to the masses. There has been a sharp increase in the number of primary and secondary schools. Tens of thousands of working people who could not study under bourgeois rule now find it easy to get into the newly opened primary and secondary evening schools. The higher educational establishments have been reorganised and new ones opened. The number of students has increased and there has been a change in the social structure of the student body. Every year approximately 30,000 specialists graduate from general and special educational establishments and an average of nearly 6,000 from higher educational establishments. On the whole illiteracy has been eliminated.

The workers in the realm of science and art are successfully reorganising their activity on the basis of Marxist-Leninist theory. The work of our scientists, writers, painters, artists and composers, of the press and cinema is becoming closely linked with socialist construction in practice.

One of the most important results of the cultural revolution in our country is the appearance of a new, people's intelligentsia, coming from the ranks of the working class and working peasants, from the ranks of advanced workers, stakhanovites and leading workers in agriculture. The overwhelming majority of the old intelligentsia is also playing an active part in building Socialism in our country.

The tasks of the cultural revolution in the countries of people's democracy, including Bulgaria, are also being solved with the help of the concrete and abundant aid rendered by the Soviet Union and under the fruitful influence of Soviet socialist culture. We can now draw freely on the experience of Soviet culture, the richest in content and the most progressive culture in the world, assimilate and creatively apply the Soviet experience in bringing about the cultural revolution, use the concrete help given by Soviet workers in the realm of science, art and culture.

The Bulgarian-Soviet friendship month and the month of Soviet culture held each year in our country, the close relationship between the Bulgarian and Russian lan-

In Communist and Workers' Parties

MEETING OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREECE

A meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece held in April heard and discussed the report given by Comrade Georgi Gusias, Member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee, in relation to the work of the Central Committee members and the tasks facing the Party organisations in Athens, Piraeus and throughout the country.

After discussion on the report the Central Committee unanimously adopted a resolution "The Communist Party of Greece on the road to renewed struggle and success for the well-being of the people and the country" The resolution approves in the main the political line and organisational work carried out by the Party leadership in 1953. It points out that the Party work has improved considerably since the reorganisation at the beginning of 1953. The resolution gives instructions in the light of the tasks facing the Party. The Central Committee charged the Secretariat to ensure that the leadership given to the Party organisations in Athens, Piraeus and throughout the country be further improved.

AID TO POLITICAL STUDY OF COMMUNISTS IN COLOMBIA

Daily practical help to members studying Marxist-Leninist theory independently is one of the main tasks of the leadership of the Communist Party of Colombia.

"Vanguardia del Pueblo", central organ of the Communist Party, published the programme for independent study by the cadres. The first subject is devoted to Party building and study of works by V. I. Lenin including "What Is To Be Done?", "One Step Forward—Two Steps Back", as well as "Problems of Leninism" by J. V. Stalin, and Liu Shao-chi's—"Party of the Chinese Revolution" and "On the Inner-Party Struggle".

Other subjects deal with revolutionary strategy and tactics, Marxist philosophy and political economy. Works by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Tse-tung and the "History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks). Short Course" are recommended as literature for these subjects.

The curriculum devotes close attention to the history of Colombia. The programme also includes study of a number of national works and works of world literature.

PARTY EDUCATION AT LUPENI PIT

Bearing in mind that the results of productive labour are closely connected with raising the political level of the workers, the Party branch in the Lupeni pit in Jiu Valley (Petrosani district, Rumanian People's Republic) displays constant concern for improving the quality of Party education.

The Party Committee systematically verifies the work of the groups in the education network, resolutely eradicates such shortcomings as superficial study of Marxism-Leninism and dogmatism in teaching. The Committee not only brings to light these shortcomings but also concretely helps the tutors to approach in a creative fashion the study of Marxism-Leninism and

STUDY IN ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

The Italian Communist Party devotes constant attention to the political education of its members. Three national, five regional and eleven provincial Party schools, in addition to five provincial evening and week-end schools, have been established to train cadres. Between 1951 and 1954, 331 members, including 62 women, have passed through the national Party schools, and 1,202, including 452 women, through the regional schools.

The publication of syllabuses on a number of subjects has been of great help. Over 345,000 of such syllabuses have been circulated, among them 79,000 copies of the "Gramsci Short Course" on the Party programme, 50,700 copies of the "Marx Short Course" on economic problems, 32,800 copies of the "Lenin Short Course" dealing with the agrarian question, 83,000 copies of the "Stalin Short Course" dealing with the peace struggle, and 72,000 copies of

the "Togliatti Short Course" on the history of the Italian Communist Party. Most successful is the "Clara Zetkin Short Course", devoted to questions of the struggle for the emancipation of women in capitalist countries. 25,000 copies of the first edition of this symposium have been sold.

The meeting of the Central Committee of the Party held on April 11-14 placed before all the Party Federations the task of further extending the mass political-educational work of the Party branches. The Federations were instructed to organise evening and week-end schools, circles for reading "Unita", "For a Lasting Peace, for a People's Democracy!", the journal "Rinascita" and other Party literature. The branches have the task of extending the network of mobile libraries with a view to helping members and non-party people in their independent studies.

WINNING MORE MEMBERS FOR COMMUNIST PARTY OF SWEDEN

The Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Sweden recently conducted a recruiting drive. During the campaign Party branches displayed greater efforts in popularising Party activity. The biggest successes were achieved in the distribution of the Party press, as a result of which thousands of new subscribers were won for the Party newspapers and journals.

"The growing interest in the Party press as well as the increase in support for the Party's policy among members of trade

unions and other mass organisations", says the call of the Executive Committee published in connection with the campaign, "have considerably contributed to the possibility of an organisational strengthening of the Communist Party. Our propaganda and other forms of activity aimed at achieving unity in the struggle for guaranteed employment, for the 5-day week, pensions for workers and other essential demands have brought closer thousands of working people in our country."

EXPERIENCE OF CONSULTATION CENTRES IN HUNGARY

For a number of years consultation centres have been functioning in the Houses of Party Education under the auspices of the regional and district committees of the Hungarian Working People's Party. However, as a result of a let-up in propaganda work hardly any tutors applied to the consultation centres for help. Many Party committees did not attach due weight to the important role of these centres.

With the publication of the materials of the XIXth Congress of the CPSU and the decisions taken by the meeting of the C.C. of the Hungarian Working People's Party held in June 1953 the work of the consultation centres greatly improved. Increased interest in theoretical questions has been shown by both Party members and non-party working people. Propagandists apply more often to the consultation centres for guidance.

Following the example of regional and city committees the branches in big factories have also organised their own consultation centres. The consultation centres at the "Red Star" tractor plant and the textile mill in Kispest and other enterprises are guided by the secretaries of the Party committees.

The centres receive many letters in which the propagandists, branch secretaries and working people ask for consultations on questions concerning Party policy in the village, the possibilities of developing small peasant farms in the conditions of people's democracy, the necessity for a planned and proportionate development of the national economy, international political life, etc. During the current Party study year the consultation centres have

for this consultation arose from the fact that a number of Party members in this district did not clearly understand this question. At a meeting held in the consultation centre of the Veszprem region it became clear that even leading Party functionaries had a wrong idea of the relations between the Party bodies and the people's councils. These comrades underestimated the councils as mass organisations.

The work of the consultation centres is conducted in close contact with the work of the regional newspapers which are publishing more propaganda materials.

In rendering systematic help to the propagandists the consultation centres and Party committees can become more thoroughly acquainted with concrete questions of Party propaganda, direct more actively the elaboration of study materials and more successfully combat the ideas alien to Marxism-Leninism.

The work of the consultation centres helps to raise the level of the ideological work in Party branches. It has become the practice for members of Party committees to take part in the discussions organised by the consultation centres with a view to explaining and popularising the decisions of the Party and the Government. The consultation centre in the IXth District of Budapest, for instance, discussed the question of developing agriculture. Secretaries of branches from large factories in the district took part in the discussion. Discussion materials were later sent to the district committee of the Party.

Together with the first positive results the work of the consultation centres

and markets, where, instead of equality of the peoples, there is loss of national sovereignty, as well as national oppression and unrestrained exploitation of the backward and colonial countries.

The decisive factor of the co-operation and friendly mutual aid between the People's Democracies is their indestructible friendship with the great Soviet Union and the constant and selfless aid accorded them by the Soviet Union.

The consolidation and development of the new social and state system in the People's Democracies, the successful construction of Socialism, the rapid rise in the material and cultural standards of the working people in these countries are closely bound up with the help and friendship of the Soviet Union, with their co-operation and mutual aid. Without these mutual bonds, without the friendship and help of the Soviet Union to the peoples of these countries their liberty and freedom could not have been safeguarded nor could they have gone successfully ahead with socialist construction.

The development of the People's Republic of Bulgaria along the pathway of Socialism and the future of our people and our country are also closely bound up with the friendship and the help of the Soviet Union, with the fraternal co-operation and mutual aid of all free peoples.

Only on the basis of Bulgarian-Soviet friendship has Bulgaria been regenerated and become a viable and flourishing state, confidently and briskly stepping out along the road to Socialism. The working people of our country are well aware that there is not and cannot be any other way for their country. And there is no force on earth capable of diverting our country from this road, the sole road of its salvation, since all other roads lead to imperialist oppression and to loss of freedom and national independence for Bulgaria.

The people of Bulgaria, linked to the peoples of the Soviet Union with age-old friendship, have become convinced from their own experience that in the Soviet Union they have their best friend and protector, the firmest guarantee of the security of their freedom, national independence and state sovereignty.

That is why Georgi Dimitrov stressed: "There is not and cannot be a single right-thinking Bulgarian loving his native land who would not agree that true friendship with the Soviet Union is no less essential for the national independence and well-being of Bulgaria than sun and air."

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The Soviet Union not only liberated the working people of the countries of people's democracy from fascism and imperialist dependence, it gives them varied, selfless and generous aid in building socialist society.

Above all the countries of people's democracy rely, in all spheres of activity, on the historical experience accumulated by the peoples of the Soviet Union in building socialist society and they freely utilise this rich experience, adapting it to the national peculiarities of each country. The inner laws and basic principles of the building of Socialism in the countries of people's democracy are the embodiment of the laws and principles discovered and elaborated by Marxism-Leninism and successfully applied by the Soviet people under the leadership of the Communist Party.

An important means of economic co-operation and mutual aid between the countries of the democratic camp, of ensuring economic advance and rise in the well-being of the peoples of these countries is the foreign trade between them—trade which knows no haggling and bargaining, the bedrock of which is mutual advantage, the sincere desire to help one another and secure a common economic upsurge. The foreign trade of the countries of the democratic camp is successfully developing and growing all the time. In the years 1948-52 the trade turnover between them more than trebled. In 1952, as compared with 1946, the foreign trade of Rumania

isolation and diversification of labour so that each can develop those branches of heavy industry best suited to its conditions.

Without the help of the Soviet Union and without the co-operation between the People's Democracies it would be impossible even to dream of the accelerated economic and cultural development that has taken place in Bulgaria since September 9, 1944. Immediately after the war the Soviet Union helped Bulgaria to rehabilitate the ruined national economy. Between 1945 and 1947 alone, the Soviet Union exported to our country 33,000 tons of raw materials for textile manufacture, 36,000 tons of rubber, 329,000 tons of oil products, 217,000 tons of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, 34,000 tons of chemicals, etc. During the years of drought which our country suffered after the war the Soviet Union gave us help in the form of grain and fodder, thus saving the people from hunger.

With the help of the Soviet Union and the co-operation of the countries of people's democracy our people are transforming the face of the country. During the first Five-Year Plan Bulgaria received from the Soviet Union equipment for entire plants and power stations such as the J. V. Stalin Chemical Combinat, the V. I. Lenin Metallurgical Plant, the Vylko Tchervenkov thermo-electric station, all kinds of machinery and raw materials in which our national economy is deficient and other valuable materials. Thanks to this, during 1949-52 some 700 modern industrial enterprises were reconstructed, built and put into operation. Such new industrial centres as Dimitrograd, Kyrdjali, Burgas copper mining district, Rudozem and Madan are developing rapidly.

Thanks to the help rendered by the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy our country has built in a short space of time a mighty power industry. During the nine years of people's rule power stations with a capacity of more than 100,000 kilowatts were brought into use, equalling the capacity of all the power stations built under bourgeois-monarchist rule throughout the course of its history.

The Soviet land is also rendering great and all-round help to our agriculture. Excellent Soviet tractors, combines and other agricultural machines are working in the fields of our co-operatives. A number of large irrigation schemes were carried out and put into operation with the help of the Soviet Union.

The help given by the Soviet people to our country cannot be over-estimated. At our request they send their skilled specialists to work out plans, delegations of leading stakhanovites, innovators and peasants renowned for their bumper yields to pass on their advanced experience. Thanks to this the working people of our country are quickly mastering the Soviet technique and successfully applying advanced methods of labour.

The Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Bulgaria, held recently, noted with legitimate pride on the all-round upsurge in the development of our national economy and the great strides made by our country in building Socialism, the leap forward in the unprecedented development of our productive forces, the leap forward to Socialism.

"From a backward agrarian country", reads the report of the Central Committee delivered by Comrade Vylko Tchervenkov at the Sixth Congress, "our country has already become an industrial-agrarian country..."

"The foundations of Socialism have been laid in Bulgaria. The necessary conditions have been created for the rapid development of the country along the road to Socialism and for a sharp rise in the material and cultural standards of the working people."

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Successful construction of Socialism is impossible without persevering work to raise the socialist consciousness of the working people, without a cultural revolu-

tion on the basis of Marxist-Leninist theory. The work of our scientists, writers, painters, artists and composers, of the press and cinema is becoming closely linked with socialist construction in practice.

One of the most important results of the cultural revolution in our country is the appearance of a new, people's intelligentsia, coming from the ranks of the working class and working peasants, from the ranks of advanced workers, stakhanovites and leading workers in agriculture. The overwhelming majority of the old intelligentsia is also playing an active part in building Socialism in our country.

The tasks of the cultural revolution in the countries of people's democracy, including Bulgaria, are also being solved with the help of the concrete and abundant aid rendered by the Soviet Union and under the fruitful influence of Soviet socialist culture. We can now draw freely on the experience of Soviet culture, the richest in content and the most progressive culture in the world, assimilate and creatively apply the Soviet experience in bringing about the cultural revolution, use the concrete help given by Soviet workers in the realm of science, art and culture.

The Bulgarian-Soviet friendship month and the month of Soviet culture held each year in our country, the close relationship between the Bulgarian and Russian languages which enables large numbers of our people to read Soviet books, the widespread study of the Russian language, the translation and publication of Soviet books in large editions—all considerably help our working people to become better acquainted with Soviet culture and to study it profoundly.

The signing of cultural agreements between Bulgaria and other countries of the democratic camp, the fact that our cultural workers visit the Soviet Union, China, Poland and other countries of people's democracy and go there on cultural missions, and the help given by these countries in training our young scientific and cultural cadres are of exceptional significance for the successful development of Bulgarian culture. The Bulgarian people see in the broadening cultural relations with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies the guarantee of the steady, creative upsurge of their culture.

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There is no sphere in our social, political, economic and cultural life where one cannot see the fruitful influence of the help of the Soviet Union, the results of co-operation with the People's Democracies.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria has made friendship with the great Soviet Union and the People's Democracies the corner-stone of its foreign policy. This friendship is sealed forever by the treaties of friendship, co-operation and mutual aid concluded between our country and the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania and Albania.

Shoulder to shoulder with other countries of the democratic camp Bulgaria is taking an active part in the world peace movement; it fully supports the efforts of the Soviet Union for reuniting Germany on a peaceful and democratic basis, for the conclusion of a General European Treaty on Collective Security in Europe, the prohibition of atomic and other weapons of mass destruction and for peaceful co-operation between states.

The remarkable successes of the countries of people's democracy in socialist construction, in developing science, art and culture and raising the material and cultural standards of the working people are striking proof of the great force of the friendship and co-operation between the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies and of the superiority of the new type of relations established between the countries of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism.

strategy and tactics, Marxist philosophy and political economy. Works by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Tse-tung and the "History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks). Short Course" are recommended as literature for these subjects.

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The Party Committee systematically verifies the work of the groups in the education network, resolutely eradicates such shortcomings as superficial study of Marxism-Leninism and dogmatism in teaching. The Committee not only brings to light these shortcomings but also concretely helps the tutors to approach in a creative fashion the study of Marxism-Leninism and to combine theory with practice.

The Party branch sees to it that the tutors regularly attend lectures and seminars, raise their ideological level and perfect their methods of teaching.

The Committee members often attend the classes in the groups and seminars. This helps to improve the education considerably.

The Committee is striving to give more help to the branches in removing the shortcomings in the educational network and in ensuring the best conditions for profound assimilation of the fundamentals of Marxist-Leninist theory by all members, probationers and non-party activists.

Party committees did not attach due weight to the important role of these centres.

With the publication of the materials of the XIXth Congress of the CPSU and the decisions taken by the meeting of the C.C. of the Hungarian Working People's Party held in June 1953 the work of the consultation centres greatly improved. Increased interest in theoretical questions has been shown by both Party members and non-party working people. Propagandists apply more often to the consultation centres for guidance.

Following the example of regional and city committees the branches in big factories have also organised their own consultation centres. The consultation centres at the "Red Star" tractor plant and the textile mill in Kispest and other enterprises are guided by the secretaries of the Party committees.

The centres receive many letters in which the propagandists, branch secretaries and working people ask for consultations on questions concerning Party policy in the village, the possibilities of developing small peasant farms in the conditions of people's democracy, the necessity for a planned and proportionate development of the national economy, international political life, etc. During the current Party study year the consultation centre in the Szolnok region received over 140 requests. The staff of these centres send detailed replies to the letters from the working people.

The most popular of the varied forms of work conducted by the centres are the consultations provided in the localities, for which the staff travel to the districts, villages and factories. As a rule, besides those invited, the consultations are attended by between 30 and 50 people interested in one or another question.

On instructions from the Oroshaza district committee the consultation centre held consultations on the question of the attitude to the middle peasants. The need

people's democracies estimated the councils as mass organisations.

The work of the consultation centres is conducted in close contact with the work of the regional newspapers which are publishing more propaganda materials.

In rendering systematic help to the propagandists the consultation centres and Party committees can become more thoroughly acquainted with concrete questions of Party propaganda, direct more actively the elaboration of study materials and more successfully combat the ideas alien to Marxism-Leninism.

The work of the consultation centres helps to raise the level of the ideological work in Party branches. It has become the practice for members of Party committees to take part in the discussions organised by the consultation centres with a view to explaining and popularising the decisions of the Party and the Government. The consultation centre in the IXth District of Budapest, for instance, discussed the question of developing agriculture. Secretaries of branches from large factories in the district took part in the discussion. The discussion materials were later sent to the district committee of the Party.

Together with the first positive results the work of the consultation centres still suffers from serious shortcomings. The explanations given by the staff are not always distinguished for exactness, and dogmatism can still be observed in their theoretical questions and overlook important questions of principle related to Party policy.

The Party branches are striving to eliminate these shortcomings in the work of the consultation centres.

Sandor DEMCSAK
Instructor of Agitation and
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FROM COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PRESS

Eve of Congress of Communist Party of Austria

In accordance with the decision adopted by the September (1953) plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Austria the XVIth Party Congress will be held between May 13 and 16. In view of the outstanding significance of the Congress, which is being convened in the period when the class struggle in Austria is sharpening and the direct threat to the country's independence from the resurgence of West German militarism is being aggravated, Party organisations have made thorough preparations for the Congress. The democratic newspapers and first of all the Party journals "Der Funktionär" and "Weg und Ziel", in their columns, have given particular attention to questions of Party life.

The preparations were initiated by a discussion by the Political Bureau in November 1953 of the work and struggle of the Party in the past two years. The results of this discussion are expressed in the theses of the Political Bureau "Discussion of results of the last elections, political situation and tasks of the Party". These theses served as the basis for a broad discussion which involved all Party activists.

In November and December last year the district, territorial organisations and Party branches at the largest factories held meetings of the leadership and meetings of activists which critically analysed the work of previous years and drew corresponding conclusions for the future. The discussion, in which over 1,000 activists took

part, greatly helped the Party to reveal and eradicate shortcomings and weak points in Party work and contributed to strengthening the militant unity of the Party and its links with the masses.

In this way the Party was able to achieve certain successes in establishing unity of the workers in the struggle for their social and economic demands, as well as in strengthening friendly relations between Communist, Socialist and non-party workers. Those who took part in the inner-Party discussion drew attention first and foremost to the importance of improving the work of the special organisers and strengthening links between them and Party members. In December last year the Central Committee instructed all special organisers and branch activists to have a talk with every member on the work and the policy of the Party, to hear his critical remarks and suggestions. This also helped considerably to increase the activity of comrades and strengthen the militant unity of the Party.

The positive results accruing from the discussion of the theses of the Political Bureau and from the individual talks could already be seen at branch meetings. The speeches made at these meetings, which elected a new leadership, testify to the broad inner-Party democracy and increased political activity of the members. Meetings of Party branches were a firm basis for the district conferences which elected the new

leadership of district organisations and delegates to the XVIth Congress.

In addition to discussing questions of inner-Party life the speakers and those who took part in the discussion devoted their main attention to the fight for national independence, once more threatened by the aggressive policy of the West German militarists, and to the tasks of establishing united action of the workers in the fight for their social and economic demands.

There is no doubt, "Weg und Ziel" writes (No. 5, May 1954) in its editorial "On Eve of Party Congress", that the Congress will devote particular attention to these two problems: the struggle in defence of Austria's independence threatened by West German militarism and bringing about united action of the workers for the realisation of their social demands.

These key questions found expression also in the draft programme-statement issued by the Communist Party "The path to achieving and ensuring the independence of Austria", which will be submitted for the consideration of the Congress. At present, in a number of district organisations, meetings are being held of the district leadership and Congress delegates, with Central Committee members taking part, to discuss the draft. Thus, while considering this important document the Congress will have the advantage of knowing the views of the overwhelming majority of Party members.

GENEVA CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

From April 30 to May 6 the Geneva Conference continued its work.

At the meeting on April 30 the chair was taken by V. M. Molotov. During the general discussion which continued that day on the Korean question only the representatives of Turkey and Thailand spoke. The Turkish representative confined himself to pompous phrases in which he extolled the American intervention in Korea and declared that he "felt that the proposal of North Korea should not be supported". The Thailand representative's speech was equally empty. It consisted of nothing but praise for the American military intervention in Korea and contained no proposals at all.

In view of Dulles' departure the US delegation was headed, from May 3, by Bedell Smith, US Assistant Secretary of State.

At the meeting on May 3 A. Eden, Chairman, announced that the Prime Minister of Ceylon, in his capacity of chairman of the Conference of the Prime Ministers of the countries of South-East Asia in Colombo, had sent to the Geneva Conference an extract from the communique issued at the termination of the Colombo conference.

The situation which arose at the Conference compelled Pyun Yung-tae, representative of South Korea, to make a new statement at the meeting of May 3.

But here again the speech of the Rhee minister boiled down to a repetition of the hackneyed themes of the American anti-Soviet and anti-Communist propaganda. He tried to make up for the complete lack of arguments by the usual attacks on the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea.

After the Rhee representative had spoken, the floor was given to Nam Il. The Korean people, he said, have made enormous sacrifice and suffered much during the three years of sanguinary war forced on them from without. We do not think that there is a single Korean who wants the war to be resumed except those who are more concerned about the interests and prestige of their foreign patrons than they are for their own people.

Nam Il denounced the allegation made by the American delegation to the effect that "free" elections had already taken place in South Korea and that there was no need for new elections there. Nam Il showed, citing examples, that these elections were carried out under conditions of brazen police action, terror and naked pressure on the voters; the presence of American troops in South Korea, he said, contributed to this.

The facts about the anti-democratic character of the Rhee regime are so numerous and so well known that even the Uno Commission for Korea was unable to deny them, although it adopted an obviously prejudiced attitude in favour of the Rhee clique.

The creators of the anti-people's regime in South Korea, Nam Il said, understand perfectly well that this regime can only be maintained with the help of foreign troops. That is why the South Korean rulers cling so stubbornly to the American bayonets and are so obdurate in their opposition to the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea.

Nam Il stated in conclusion that if the settlement of the Korean question were left to the Koreans themselves and foreign in-

terference in the internal affairs of Korea eliminated, there could be no doubt that the Korean people would find the strength and resolution to cope with all the difficulties and establish a united, independent and democratic state.

Stefanopoulos, the Greek Foreign Minister, was followed by Chou En-lai, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. On April 27, said Chou En-lai, the Foreign Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea submitted reasonable proposals to this Conference, which were supported by the delegations of the People's Republic of China and the USSR. But the US delegation and the delegations of other countries, repeating old and groundless arguments which, as has already been proved, cannot further a solution of the Korean question, have opposed Nam Il's proposals. They want to continue to operate with the unlawful decisions adopted by Uno and persist in backing interference in the internal affairs of Korea without giving the Korean people the opportunity to decide their own problems. There are people at this Conference who try to justify US interference in the internal affairs of Korea and other Asian countries by reference to the so-called "open door and equal opportunity policy". In fact, however, this policy has long ago been exposed by history, especially by the history of China, as a weapon for imperialist expansion. This policy has long since become bankrupt in the eyes of the peoples of Asia.

Right up to the present, continued Chou En-lai, the majority of the states in Uno maintain silence about the activities of the USA, expressed in aggression against Chinese territory—the Island of Taiwan—and in violating the territorial sovereignty of China. At the same time the People's Republic of China is still prevented from participating in Uno, while representatives of the remnants of the Kuomintang clique sit, as formerly, in Uno and at other international conferences, presenting themselves as representatives of the Chinese people. This situation has seriously undermined the prestige of Uno and has resulted in it losing the moral right to decide the Korean question and Asian problems.

We consider, Chou En-lai continued, that to enable the Korean people to solve their own problems by peaceful means without outside interference all states having troops in Korea should agree to the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea within a stipulated time.

Chou En-lai made concrete proposals for solving the question of the Korean and Chinese prisoners-of-war forcibly detained by the Command of the Uno troops and incorporated into the Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai-shek armed forces.

At the seventh meeting on May 4, under the chairmanship of Wan Waihayakon, discussion continued on the Korean question. Speeches were made by Pearson, Canadian Foreign Minister, and by the representatives of Holland and Ethiopia who, however, added nothing new or positive to the discussion.

Unofficial talks took place between the delegations on May 5 and 6 with a view to bringing the different points of view closer to each other.

The Conference continues.

Struggle of French Peasantry For Their Vital Interests

The struggle of the French peasantry assumed enormous proportions in 1953 and during the first few months of 1954. The peasants have had recourse to such forms of struggle as, for instance, barricading the roads and refusing to take goods to the markets, which are entirely new in conditions of France.

The first to barricade the roads at the beginning of last August as an expression of their protest against the policy pursued by the reactionary Laniel Government were the wine-growers of the south who experience difficulties in selling their produce. About 100,000 wine-growers took part in this fight. Somewhat later, as a result of the sharp fall in cattle prices at fairs and markets, the small and middle peasantry of the central, south-west and western cattle districts entered the struggle.

On October 12, 1953 more than 2,000 barricades were put up on the roads in 18 Departments in the central part of the country. At this time too, the peasants in many Departments in the south-west and west refused to take their cattle to the fairs and markets as a sign of protest. In all several hundred thousand peasants took part in this mass struggle.

At the beginning of November the wine-growers of the Loir-et-Cher Department and on December 22 the small and medium peasants of the central regions again barricaded the roads in spite of repressive measures by the police. Between March and May this year powerful peasant demonstrations took place, especially in the wine-growing districts, in which more than 50,000 wine-growers in Beziere, 30,000 in Carcassonne, 20,000 in Nimes, 15,000 in Perpignan, 10,000 in Dranguignan, etc. took part. A very positive feature of these mass demonstrations is that the working peasantry and the agricultural workers acted together.

It should be noted that the protest movement is more powerful in districts in which the small peasants predominate. This is explained primarily by the fact that it is the small and middle peasants who, with the agricultural workers, are suffering more than anyone from the agricultural crisis and also by the fact that the Communist Party, which exerts a powerful influence in the countryside, has done a great deal in these districts to orientate the struggle of the working peasants and to explain its purpose.

It should also be emphasised that, following on the big workers' strikes of August 1953 the struggles of the French peasants coincide with the development of the workers' movement. This struggle, which is being conducted in one and the same direction, strengthens the bonds of solidarity between the workers and the working peasants and helps them to understand that only by joint struggle will the working class and the working peasantry achieve the complete change in the country's policy for which they are striving.

In this way the alliance of the working class and the peasantry is becoming stronger, an alliance which can become the decisive force in solving all the vital problems of the working people.

The immediate reasons for the outburst of anger among the peasant masses are the sharp fall in prices for their products and the decline in sales. All this is the result of the Marshall plan policy and the Atlantic Pact, the policy of renouncing the independence of France which has been pursued by successive governments since 1947.

Since 1947, as a matter of fact, after the Socialist Ramadier excluded the Communist Ministers from the government and with the application of the Marshall plan to France, an ever-widening gap be-

cline in sales of agricultural produce to the sole profit of the big capitalist monopolies and the big intermediaries.

During a period of six years prices of manufactured goods rose more than 4.5 times whereas the price paid for agricultural goods increased just over twofold, and all this without benefit to the consumer as, in consequence of ever greater taxes and the profits made by the big intermediaries, goods sold at a low price by the producer are re-sold very dearly to the consumer whose purchasing power is insufficient.

The wine-growers cannot sell their wine and that is why they are selling a part of their harvest at low prices for distillation and why the destruction of some vineyards is envisaged in the next few years. Furthermore, in consequence of difficulties in selling surpluses, the Government has decided to reduce the area sown to sugar beet by 60,000 hectares.

Good harvests are becoming more and more a catastrophe for the peasants. At the same time hundreds of thousands of families of working people are deprived of necessities because they are paid absolutely inadequate wages, even if they are not experiencing the growing unemployment.

The import of foreign agricultural produce under the Marshall plan has been widely used by the big capitalist monopolies for influencing purchase prices for agricultural produce and keeping them at a level below the prices of manufactured goods.

Many of the articles imported by the Government could be produced in abundance if only the Government really pursued a policy of developing agriculture. But can one speak of such a policy when it is known that in the 1954 budget the total allocation for agriculture, including capital investments and credits for equipment, are less than 2 per cent of the entire expenditure whereas military expenditure is envisaged at more than 40 per cent.

The share of agriculture in the national income is shrinking continuously; from 23.8 per cent in 1938 it has fallen to 15 per cent in 1953. The peasant debt has grown considerably. Whereas in 1948 the sum of the loans taken up by the peasants from the Agricultural Credit Bank was 69,000 million francs, in March 1953 it had reached the figure of 274,000 million francs. Only the landlords and landowners, who have farms of the capitalist type and who comprise a small minority, are able to maintain and increase their profits by cutting to the limit the extremely low wages of agricultural workers. Only these big landowners can utilise up-to-date agricultural machinery and large amounts of artificial fertilisers. Thus, of the 90 Departments in France 12 of them situated to the north of the Loire, which have large-scale agriculture and in which big farms of the capitalist type predominate, possess 38 per cent of all the tractors whereas only 9 per cent of all the peasant farms in France are to be found in these Departments. It must be pointed out that the tractors in these Departments are concentrated in the hands of the largest landowners.

Having brought millions of small peasants to want and destitution by their anti-national and reactionary policy, the representatives of the big bourgeoisie of France, following American orders, now maintain, that the small peasant farms, on the pre-

Waldeck Rochet
Member, Political Bureau,
French Communist Party

minority of landlords possessing farms of the capitalist type. Such has been the programme of all the successive "Atlantic" governments in France since 1947.

Capitalism, long ago began to expropriate the small peasants. During a period of 50 years a million small farms disappeared in France. It is now a question of making another million disappear in a much shorter period. Already in some Departments of the Paris basin and in the north large farms of the capitalist type occupy nine-tenths of the land under cultivation, and the former small peasants have become hired labourers or they are unemployed. And today it is the small peasants in the south, centre and west of France who are likewise threatened with ruin and expropriation.

Such are the painful consequences of the system of capitalist exploitation, which are aggravated by the policy of the Marshall plan and the Atlantic Pact, a policy which is laying a heavy burden of military expenditure on the country and which, in the end, has to be shouldered by the workers and peasants through increased taxation involving high prices and other means.

The working peasantry in France is rising up against this policy which is bringing them to poverty and ruin. In order to achieve the right to live by their labour, they are organising action, going over to mass collective struggle and are demanding a change in conditions.

Big proprietors in the leadership of the National Federation of Landholders have undertaken and are undertaking ever new manoeuvres to put a brake on the protest movement of the peasant masses. But the peasantry are taking no notice of them and are turning away from them, and as a result of the struggle of the peasant masses many genuine representatives of the working peasantry were elected at the last Congress of the National Federation of Landholders to the Bureau of this Federation.

Becoming each day more conscious of the necessity for a complete change in the political course, the working peasantry is making common cause with the working class in the struggle against the governments of reaction and war which are reducing them to destitution. And so numerous agricultural trade union organisations are, together with their own demands, putting forward the demand for increasing the purchasing power of the working people in the towns with the object of extending the market for agricultural produce.

The French peasants, who are suffering from declining sales and a sharp fall in the purchase prices for agricultural produce, are understanding better and better that to extend the market for agricultural produce it is necessary first and foremost to reduce the profits of the capitalists and traders, to abolish the numerous taxes levied for war needs and giving rise to increased selling prices for essential goods, to allocate for the technical equipment of agriculture a portion of the means which are being swallowed up by the war in Indo-China and rearmament, to establish normal trade relations with the Soviet Union, the countries of people's democracy and People's China. They are also understanding more and more that a change in the foreign policy of France, a rejection of the policy of the Marshall plan

popular in the countryside when to the material difficulties of the agricultural workers, the small and middle peasants there is added their great anxiety in the face of the deadly danger of the rebirth of revanchist militarism in Western Germany.

The French peasantry, having been taught by past experience, understand full well that the rearming of the Bonn revanchists behind the screen of the "European Army" would signify at the same time the subordination of France to German militarism, the impossibility of a peaceful solution of the German problem, of a peaceful, equitable agreement between East and West, an intensification of the armaments drive and the growing danger of a new war. That is why the peasants are taking active part in the struggle against ratification of the Bonn and Paris agreements and for immediate negotiations for peace in Indo-China.

The striving of the peasant masses for peace is reflected, in particular, in the success of the Department peasant congresses organised by the "National Peasant Committee to Defend Peace and Agriculture". Since November 1953 there have been 44 Department peasant congresses in which more than 10,000 delegates took part. A distinguishing feature of these congresses was that they had the character of broad unity which was expressed in the fact that an impressive number of prominent figures in agriculture and countryside belonging to all parties, notably many elected persons—Socialists, Radicals, Republicans of all trends and non-party people, took part in the work of the congresses.

After these peasant congresses in defence of peace the delegates unanimously demanded from Minister Bidault that he refuse to support the plan for a "European Army", which is the chief obstacle to a peaceful solution of the German problem, and that he should not frustrate peaceful settlement of the Indo-China problem.

The preparations for the peasant congresses and the decisions adopted by them to a considerable extent helped to rally the peasant masses to the struggle for peace and national independence. In the Loir-et-Cher Department, for instance, about 10,000 peasant families have already expressed their resolute opposition to the Bonn and Paris agreements and to prolonging the war in Indo-China by signing petitions to deputies for their Department.

Of decisive significance for this struggle is, of course, the active participation of Communist-peasants and the rural Party organisations. The important role played in all these struggles by the weekly peasant newspaper of the Party, "La Terre", which in the past few months acquired 26,000 new subscribers, should particularly be noted. The total number of subscribers to this paper now considerably exceeds the figure of 100,000. It is also sold at bookstalls.

The peasants of France realise more and more clearly that without peace there can be no well-being or social progress in the countryside.

This means that never have the possibilities for intensifying the struggle of the peasants and for combining this struggle with the fight waged by the entire French people been greater. The use of these possibilities, on an even wider scale, for the constant strengthening of the militant alliance of the workers and the peasants,

DEVELOPMENT OF POWER INDUSTRY IN CHINA

More than 160 power units, transmission lines and sub-stations will be started

kilometres has been completed 65 days

police action, terror and naked pressure on the voters; the presence of American troops in South Korea, he said, contributed to this.

The facts about the anti-democratic character of the Rhee regime are so numerous and so well known that even the Uno Commission for Korea was unable to deny them, although it adopted an obviously prejudiced attitude in favour of the Rhee clique.

The creators of the anti-people's regime in South Korea, Nam Il said, understand perfectly well that this regime can only be maintained with the help of foreign troops. That is why the South Korean rulers cling so stubbornly to the American bayonets and are so obdurate in their opposition to the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea.

Nam Il stated in conclusion that if the settlement of the Korean question were left to the Koreans themselves and foreign in-

drawal of all foreign troops from Korea within a stipulated time.

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The Conference continues.

DEVELOPMENT OF POWER INDUSTRY IN CHINA

More than 160 power units, transmission lines and sub-stations will be started, built or expanded in the People's Republic of China in 1954. Over 20 of these projects are expected to begin generating power this year.

In the North-east, a 220,000-volt high-tension transmission line extending for 370

kilometres has been completed 65 days ahead of schedule. A 130 kilometre-long transmission line from Tientsin to Peking will be ready before the National Day on October 1. New transmission lines are being installed in Anhwei, Shantung and Shansi Provinces.

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Since 1947, as a matter of fact, after the Socialist Ramadier excluded the Communist Ministers from the government and with the application of the Marshall plan to France, an ever-widening gap between the prices for manufactured goods and the prices paid for agricultural produce has been observed in the country; there have been imports of foreign agricultural produce under the Marshall plan, accompanied with a rapid fall in prices and a de-

the sum of the loans taken up by the peasants from the Agricultural Credit Bank was 69,000 million francs, in March 1953 it had reached the figure of 274,000 million francs. Only the landlords and landowners, who have farms of the capitalist type and who comprise a small minority, are able to maintain and increase their profits by cutting to the limit the extremely low wages of agricultural workers. Only these big landowners can utilise up-to-date agricultural machinery and large amounts of artificial fertilisers. Thus, of the 90 Departments in France 12 of them situated to the north of the Loire, which have large-scale agriculture and in which big farms of the capitalist type predominate, possess 38 per cent of all the tractors whereas only 9 per cent of all the peasant farms in France are to be found in these Departments. It must be pointed out that the tractors in these Departments are concentrated in the hands of the largest landowners.

Having brought millions of small peasants to want and destitution by their anti-national and reactionary policy, the representatives of the big bourgeoisie of France, following American orders, now maintain, that the small peasant farms, on the pretext that they are not profitable, must disappear and give place to farms of the capitalist type.

The openly admitted plan of the enemies of the working peasantry is to eliminate a million small farms to the advantage of a

class in the struggle against the governments of reaction and war which are reducing them to destitution. And so numerous agricultural trade union organisations are, together with their own demands, putting forward the demand for increasing the purchasing power of the working people in the towns with the object of extending the market for agricultural produce.

The French peasants, who are suffering from declining sales and a sharp fall in the purchase prices for agricultural produce, are understanding better and better that to extend the market for agricultural produce it is necessary first and foremost to reduce the profits of the capitalists and traders, to abolish the numerous taxes levied for war needs and giving rise to increased selling prices for essential goods, to allocate for the technical equipment of agriculture a portion of the means which are being swallowed up by the war in Indo-China and rearmament, to establish normal trade relations with the Soviet Union, the countries of people's democracy and People's China. They are also understanding more and more that a change in the foreign policy of France, a rejection of the policy of the Marshall plan and the Atlantic Pact and a return to the policy of peace and national independence are the main conditions for improving their material well-being.

The idea of the need for changing the political course is becoming ever more

expressed their resolute opposition to the Bonn and Paris agreements and to prolonging the war in Indo-China by signing petitions to deputies for their Department.

Of decisive significance for this struggle is, of course, the active participation of Communist-peasants and the rural Party organisations. The important role played in all these struggles by the weekly peasant newspaper of the Party, "La Terre", which in the past few months acquired 26,000 new subscribers, should particularly be noted. The total number of subscribers to this paper now considerably exceeds the figure of 100,000. It is also sold at bookstalls.

The peasants of France realise more and more clearly that without peace there can be no well-being or social progress in the countryside.

This means that never have the possibilities for intensifying the struggle of the peasants and for combining this struggle with the fight waged by the entire French people been greater. The use of these possibilities, on an even wider scale, for the constant strengthening of the militant alliance of the workers and the peasants, an alliance which will ensure the triumph of the policy of peace, national independence and social progress, depends solely on improving the work of the Communists and Party organisations in the countryside.

For Lessening International Tension, for Freedom and Social Progress

Since the Berlin Conference the American and West European rulers in an attempt to divert the development of international events in the direction that they want have been hastening to shorten the timetable for carrying out their old plans, the plans for the final and irrevocable division of the world into two hostile groupings, for complete and accelerated rearming of a revanchist Germany, for atomic terror and provocation. This explains the feverish activity of American diplomacy in trying to force immediate ratification of the EDC agreement by Italy and France.

A four-party coalition consisting of Christian Democrats, Social Democrats, Liberals and Republicans was formed under American pressure—a coalition which, taken as a whole, can be characterised as the American party. It is not difficult, therefore, to see through the designs of the Government to force ratification of the EDC agreement and embark on another crusade against Communism. An analysis of the reasons for this latest anti-Communist crusade and the circumstances in which it is being conducted shows that it is directed not only against Communists and Socialists but also against all who regard themselves as patriots, who have a sense of national dignity and who are fighting against the poverty in which our people live.

However, the conclusion that can be drawn from the latest events is that the results accruing to the inspirers of the policy of force are the reverse of those anticipated. Actually, just as was the case ten years ago in the fight against fascism, the most varied groups, strata and trends are uniting in the struggle against EDC.

The EDC champions in Italy, docile to the American diktat, stop at nothing. They fear that a reasonable discussion of the Soviet proposals for a system of all-European collective security would put paid to the hopes

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Italian Communist Party

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of getting the EDC agreement ratified. They would like blind ratification by Parliament of an agreement which means relinquishing national sovereignty, division, poverty and provocations. Precisely for this reason Scelba hastened to submit this agreement for ratification. Precisely for this reason Saragat hastened to sign it, having gone back on his former declarations about the urgency of social reforms.

In demanding ratification of the EDC agreement the Scelba-Saragat Government is taking upon itself a heavy responsibility. It is heavy above all because EDC legalises the rearming of Germany, a rearming which would make Germany the master of Europe.

The EDC champions assert that the division of Europe into blocs should not give any cause for alarm since the enormous destructive force of atomic weapons and the impossibility of defence from atomic attacks or counter-attacks will oblige every country and every bloc to be careful.

It should be borne in mind that it is precisely with the signing of the EDC agreement that the Italian Government would be freed from any responsibility for observing caution and from any possibility of adopting a decision. According to this agreement the questions of war and peace, use of the A-bomb, etc. are decided by a foreign command without any Italian state organs having any say in the matter. But even granting the argument that the seriousness of this step obliges each of the participants in the military bloc to be

careful, why, then, do they not unconditionally reject the policy of division and adopt the system of collective security? Why not reach immediate agreement on prohibiting the manufacture and use of atomic weapons?

It is essential to prevent ratification of the EDC agreement; it is necessary to launch a really holy crusade for banning the A and H-bombs.

The results achieved in earlier struggles oblige us to work for further and greater success. It is possible and necessary to draw into the struggle for safeguarding life, for our future and the future of our children, all working women and mothers, all ordinary people and Catholics. Every organisation of the people, every democrat and every patriot must give thought to the matter of how to fulfil his duty. The Central Committee calls on all organisations of the Communist Party and on all members to be in the van of the struggle, to display initiative and to raise these questions in all organisations in which they have influence.

The members of the Party and the Party organisations must reinforce and extend the campaign against ratification of the EDC agreement. The slogans which must be in the forefront of this campaign are sufficiently clear, popular and national, and cannot but win over millions and millions of people. Repressions, oppression and arbitrary actions on the part of the Government are inevitable, but we must overcome them. Without a doubt this campaign will be successful provided we develop it as a united, gigantic mass movement, drawing into it not only the advanced sections of our people but all Italians, members of all parties, their leading figures and elected persons, many

of whom still support the idea of the "Community" without being aware of its consequences for the country. We must conduct this activity in the form of conferences, rallies, meetings, electing deputations and commissions, holding discussions, getting up petitions and other measures.

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To prevent ratification of the EDC agreement means to work not only for lessening the international tension and strengthening peace, but also for defence of the people's freedom and social progress. By insisting on ratification of the EDC agreement the Government is simultaneously demanding that it be empowered, as stated in the draft law, "to bring the law into conformity with the requirements of the Community". This would signify giving the Scelba Government the right to change, at its discretion and on orders from the Americans, the basic legal principles of the country. Thus, the crooked electoral law, which failed during the elections held on June 7, 1953, would find its equivalent and substitute in the new law. All the freedoms and rights enjoyed by the people would be jeopardised.

The Scelba-Saragat Government, formed as an EDC government, as an anti-Communist government, is forced to camouflage its reactionary designs in a "social programme" which, it is alleged, corresponds to the interests of the masses. Nothing could be more false and demagogic. Actually, the departmental estimates of the new ministers are those that were drawn up by Pella and before him by Fanfani. These estimates, however, contain nothing new, that is, if one leaves out of account the worsening of their content; and if everything is left to the new ministers, then unemployment and poverty will become more pronounced than ever. Features of these estimates are a further increase in indirect taxation—the main burden of which falls on the popular masses—an increase in military expenditure to the amount of 120,000 million lire and reduced allocations for public work.

The greatest guilt of the Government is its passivity in relation to the evils in

the structure of the national economy, expressed in the enormous and steadily increasing number of people not employed in productive social labour. Whereas in 1871 this part of the population constituted 14.5 per cent, by 1951 it had reached 36.5 per cent, that is, it had increased 2.5 times and is growing all the time. This aspect of economic decline is most pronounced in the south and in the mountainous districts of the Alps and Apennines.

With regard to capital investments in industry, the ratio between south and north in 1951 was 1:14 and between the islands and the north 1:35. Industrialisation of the south and industrial development throughout country must be in the forefront of any policy for doing away with unemployment and poverty. But the new Government confines itself merely to statements about the economic situation of the country and rejects all proposals for ending or easing the oppression by the monopolies or, at least, of controlling their activity.

And while the Government remains deaf to every demand for regeneration, the healthy forces of the country—factory and office workers, peasants and people of science and technology—are responding to the call of the trade unions and political leaders, Communist and Socialist; they are meeting, holding joint discussions, drawing up plans and showing the way to the regeneration of the country and the abolition of the worst of the national evils.

The Government, conscious of the difficulties entailed in imposing the EDC agreement on the country, has once again resorted to an anti-Communist campaign. Anti-Communism suits the Christian-Democratic propagandists; it relieves them of the necessity of holding discussions, of supplying answers and of the duty of convincing opponents. Anyone who criticises or opposes EDC and the orders from America or the Vatican is proclaimed a Communist and subject to immediate persecution. Such was the case, for example, with the film producers who have recently put life into the national cinema, rich in

genuine artistic content. On the pretext of anti-Communism the rulers are placing new obstacles in the way of trade with the East, while in France, Britain and even in Italy strong trends of public opinion are demanding an extension of this trade. Sabotaging the possibility of improving the economic situation of the country Scelba and Saragat, for the sake of pleasing America, are conducting a ridiculous campaign against the alleged advantages that the Italian Communist Party would derive from this trade.

In their shameless activity spearheaded against the working-class and democratic movement, the clerical leaders always get help from representatives of the other so-called democratic parties. For example, this time their lieutenant, Saragat, advanced the shameless and disgusting suggestion that the trade unions and democratic organisations be deprived of the premises, which had been taken from the working people by the fascists or which had been built with money of the working people.

Clearly this activity is conducted not only with a view to pleasing the US Ambassador and the Italian reactionaries, it is also designed to win sympathy for the Government among the fascists with the aim of building a reactionary bloc. Saragat, true to himself, is paying the way for this bloc. He is proud of his role as a tool in the hands of the Christian Democrats against the Communist and Socialist workers and will zealously fulfil it until he is abandoned by the last Social Democrat and until the Christian Democrats have no further use for him. Together with Scelba, Saragat is raising the banner of anti-Communism in order to impose the EDC agreement on the country and to help the Christian Democrats strengthen the unity of their ranks which have been shaken by the deep-going contradictions which became more pronounced and sharper as a result of the recent scandals. These scandals have revealed the corruption and crimes of a number of state figures and top leaders of the clerical party.

(Continued on page 4)

BOOK REVIEW

Indictment of Fomenters of War Hysteria

(*"The Game of Death"* by Albert Kahn)*

In his book the "Game of Death" Albert Kahn, a writer who has devoted himself to the cause of peace, examines the effects on American children of the policy of militarisation and war preparation pursued by the ruling circles. Every page of Kahn's factual and carefully documented indictment unfolds a picture of an atmosphere in present-day America poisoned with the feeling of fear, dread and despondency. At the same time, despite the terror of the secret police and the McCarthy inquisitors, Kahn describes the brave fight of parents and numerous progressive individuals to save the children from the disastrous effects of the war hysteria fomented by influential reactionary circles.

The whole world knows that no one is threatening the United States with atomic war or any other kind of war. But because the ordinary Americans display no zeal for the aggressive designs of their rulers and resist their war preparations, the latter are in a rage. "This apathy cannot be tolerated" fumes Governor Dewey of New York. Work on the children, and we shall win over the parents for war, is the motto of these aggressive circles.

It is of the insensate cruelty with which they have set about their monstrous job that Kahn acquaints his readers.

In the chapter headed "Climate of Horror" he relates how the children in New York schools and their parents are terrorised by threats of mythical atom-bomb attacks.

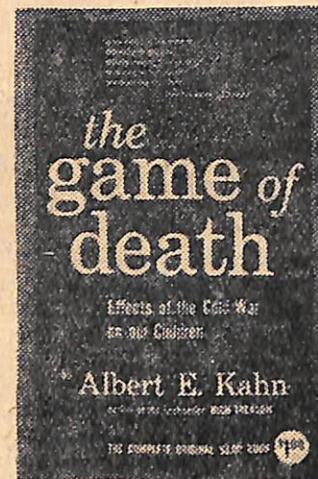
"In order to save your children from burns in the case of direct exposure to an A-bomb", reads a circular addressed to New York parents, "we are asking him or her to bring to school a piece of sheet large enough for him to curl under... Write his name on it in ink. He is to keep it in his desk for use in emergencies."

An official memorandum issued to heads of schools and child establishments advises "that children aged two to eight" should make weekly trips to the shelter.

When a little girl was asked why she was wearing the metal identification tag which has been issued to school children she replied: "So that people will know who I am if my face is burned away."

In Chicago a little boy, terrified by the atom-bomb drill at school, rushed home to his mother and said: "Please, mother can't we go some place where there isn't any sky?"

So the children have become hostages of the war propaganda and of the war preparation; they are terrorised in school and sent home hysterical in order to break down the opposition of their parents to the war policy of the billionaire merchants of death.



the skyscrapers of Broadway and Fifth Avenue tens of thousands of children are herded in what Kahn describes as "squalid, obsolete, miserably-equipped schools crumbling with age and neglect". But, bad as they are, the slum schools of New York are palaces compared to those in the small towns and in rural areas where classes are held "in basements, empty stores, garages, churches and even trailers". Kahn quotes an educational official, Dr. Howard Dawson, as saying: "No farmer would house his pigs in some of the hovels used as school buildings."

Why is it, it may be asked, that in this transatlantic paradise of the capitalist world schools for the children of the working people are housed in pigsties? There is no scarcity of building materials, and with millions tramping the streets in search of work no scarcity of manpower! The point is that guns, tanks, A and H-bombs

take priority over school-building. "On a comparatively quiet day on the Korean battlefield in January 1953", writes Kahn, "an army communique reported that US artillery had shot away about six hundred tons of steel—approximately enough steel for constructing two school buildings, each accommodating one thousand children." The cost of only one of the numerous aircraft carriers which the US Government keeps in Far Eastern waters, thousands of miles from the shores of America, "was sufficient to pay for the construction of a thousand medium-sized schools".

According to Mr. John Foster Dulles the USA is the citadel of democracy in what he likes to term the "free world". And yet in this "free world" it is almost impossible to get any kind of work, even the most humble, without the applicant first receiving the approval of the secret police. This, applies particularly to the job of teaching.

Teachers must "co-operate" in preparing their young charges for war; if they refuse they are hounded and persecuted with vindictive malice.

Of the many harrowing facts related in the "Game of Death" none makes more painful reading than the story of how Mrs. Gutride, a quiet, inoffensive New York teacher, beloved by her pupils, was hounded to death by the secret police. One afternoon she was summoned from her class to the principal's room where she was questioned by two officials who were accompanied by a stenographer. When Mrs. Gutride refused to answer questions about her political views her persecutors threatened her with court action. "That night, in the quiet and loneliness of her room, Mrs. Gutride turned on the gas jets and lay down on her bed. The body of the teacher was found two days

jailed leaders of the Communist Party of the USA.

Relays of police agents keep the homes of the Communist leaders under surveillance right round the clock. The children are followed to school and into the class-room, to the cinema where the agent sits in the row behind them and to the shop when they go on errands for their mothers. Albert Kahn describes how the secret police intimidated the owner of a children's summer camp not to accept Daniel, the 14-year-old son of one of the Communist leaders, Gilbert Green; he tells how 4-year-old Kathryn Jackson lost her place in a nursery school when the police reported that her father was a Communist, and how the children of Steve Nelson, the well-known Communist leader in Pennsylvania, are inhumanly persecuted by teachers acting on police incitement.

This expensive "interest" in the children of the American Communists contrasts with the criminal neglect of the tens of thousands of young children living in starvation and brutally exploited on fields and in factories. In his chapter headed "The Forgotten Children", Kahn tells the terrible story of the 100 children of agricultural labourers who in 1950 were "found starving in a farm labour camp near the town of Phoenix in Arizona". One of the unemployed fathers, driven frantic by the sight of his starving children, had been selling his blood in a desperate effort to get food for them.

Kahn quotes the farm labourers union chief, H. L. Mitchell, as saying that "100,000 children in families of migratory farm workers were living on the verge of starvation". Using official Government sources Kahn shows that in addition to the half a million child workers employed in agriculture "there are at least three million children engaged in other forms of child labour in the United States".

This enormous army of brutally exploited child labour is growing as a direct result of the militarisation of the economy. By 1950 the number of child slaves had more than doubled compared with 1940; and in December 1951 a special committee reported that in the year and a half since the outbreak of the Korean war the number of school-age children employed had risen by more than a quarter of a million.

Equally illuminating is the chapter headed the "Niagara of Horror"—the Hollywood gangster films, the murder programmes on television and the so-called comics. Not without reason does he recall that in the USA "perversion of children has become an industry".

As we see, the "Game of Death" does not make pleasant reading. Nor is it meant to be. Its author is no ivory tower artist sitting aloof in neutral isolation. He is an active and fearless participant in the great world-wide peace movement.

The "Game of Death", which deserves to be translated into all the languages of

Statement by Paul Robeson

The other day Paul Robeson released for publication the following statement:

"Various newspaper columnists, radio commentators and magazines are now spreading the fantastic slander that Paul Robeson is 'changing his views'. Well, liars will continue to lie and this is a sad but a true fact that nowadays American manufacturers lead the world in the production and distribution of every variety of falsehood including, as we just have seen in Washington, 'doctored' photographs.

"But let me say for the record: the very essence of my life and work is loyalty to my convictions. I am, as I have been for many years, firmly and fully devoted to the struggle for peace and democracy throughout the world, for Negro liberation and colonial freedom, for friendship with the peoples of the Soviet Union, the new China and the People's Democracies of Europe. The interests of the working people of every land are my guiding principle and I know no force that can make me change.

"As for those who are telling the public that I have changed my mind, I might ask: how stupid can you get. Is the struggle for peace less meaningful today when Dulles threatens momentarily to throw a hydrogen bomb and bring retaliation in kind upon our own heads? Is it thinkable that Paul Robeson, the recipient of an International Stalin Peace Prize, would ever cease for a moment in his efforts in the sacred cause of peace?

"Am I, one of the three men awarded the title of 'Champion of African Freedom' in 1950, expected to ignore in 1954 the continuing massacre of my brothers in Kenya? And here in America is Jim Crow dead and buried? Has the Congress passed the anti-lynch law and FEPC? Have my people's demands for economic, political and social equality been granted? If not, why should Paul Robeson who has dedicated his life to the struggle for those goals, change his mind about them now.

"The fact is that every day brings new proof that the great cause of peace and liberation, in which I am inseparably united with the vast majority of mankind, is invincible. The doom of imperialism has been sounded in all Asia and soon Africa and other colonial lands, now straining against their chains, will rise in mighty freedom.

"And here at home it is beginning to look as if those who want to 'go it alone' into the new world war cannot count on having the American people go with them—and everybody else has already said 'No'. "Change my mind? Gentlemen of the press, you had better change yours because what I believe in is happening."

Concern for Health of Polish Population

The people's Government in Poland allocates large sums of money for public health, improving working conditions and sanitation. Care for the health of the population has led to the installation in enterprises of complex up-to-date electric filters which retain soot, ashes and other injurious substances contained in smoke and thanks to which only an insignificant part of these reaches the air. In Silesia, despite the fact that many new enterprises have been built here in the last few years,

The American policy "from positions of strength" is giving rise to growing anxiety and alarm among the West European allies of the USA and is leading to the isolation of the inspirers of this policy.

(Press item)



RAGE AND FURY ARE BAD COUNSELLORS IN POLITICS

Drawing by J. Novak.

POLITICAL NOTES

Failure of American Policy of Intimidation and Threats

When Mr. Dulles' aircraft touched down in Geneva, the US Secretary of State found it necessary to declare that he had come to the Conference of Foreign Ministers "with good intentions", "on a mission of peace". One would have expected that the ruling circles of the US would use the opportune moment to confirm their "good intentions" with deeds. Nothing of the kind took place, however, and could not take place because Mr. Dulles' words about "peace" concealed the carefully prepared sabotage plan for extending the war in Indo-China, a plan for direct intervention by US armed forces in the war, an arrogant challenge to all the peoples of Asia resisting colonial oppression, fighting for their freedom, independence and national regeneration.

That matters stood thus, and thus only, was corroborated by the very first speech made by Mr. Dulles on the Korean question. The Secretary of State was exasperated beyond bounds by the measures advanced by the delegation from the People's Democratic Republic of Korea for the speedy restoration of the national unity of Korea and the founding of a united independent and democratic Korean state. All he could do was to make repeated assertions about his hatred of Communism, make slanderous attacks on People's China and dig out once more from the dusty archives the unlawful decisions rubber stamped three and a half years ago by the Uno General Assembly under the dictat of American diplomacy. Fearing a free expression of the will of the Korean people, Dulles

quence, the Eisenhower Administration was in a state of confusion verging on despair and that there was an "open split" between the US and Britain.

The obvious bankruptcy of the American policy of intimidation and threat has given rise to downright panic in the press of the US monopolies and amongst the top politicians of all hues. The "New York Post" correspondents cabled from Geneva that Eisenhower's hurriedly worked out paper plan for the defence of the Far East had been torn to shreds and that the Western alliance was experiencing unprecedented strain. The United Press correspondent was even more explicit in stressing the gloom in influential American circles. He wrote that serious differences which threatened to destroy even the semblance of unity between the allies in Geneva had arisen between the USA, Britain and France. The "New York Times" commentator, bemoaning the collapse of the plans for "joint" intervention in Indo-China, noted by the way that the Western allies were not solely responsible for this but that the lack of public support in the USA itself was also to blame. As if summing up these comments, the "Chicago Daily Tribune" correspondent was compelled to admit that by Dulles had "isolated the USA" at Geneva.

When it became clear that the stupid attempts of American

A bomb", reads a circular addressed to New York parents, "we are asking him or her to bring to school a piece of sheet large enough for him to curl under... Write his name on it in ink. He is to keep it in his desk for use in emergencies."

An official memorandum issued to heads of schools and child establishments advises "that children aged two to eight" should make weekly trips to the shelter.

When a little girl was asked why she was wearing the metal identification tag which has been issued to school children she replied: "So that people will know who I am if my face is burned away."

In Chicago a little boy, terrified by the atom-bomb drill at school, rushed home to his mother and said: "Please, mother can't we go some place where there isn't any sky?"

So the children have become hostages of the war propaganda and of the war preparation; they are terrorised in school and sent home hysterical in order to break down the opposition of their parents to the war policy of the billionaire merchants of death.

School buildings, too, are among the cold war casualties. Only a step away from

* **The Game of Death.** Albert Kahn. Cameron and Kahn. New York.

what he likes to term the "free world". And yet in this "free world" it is almost impossible to get any kind of work, even the most humble, without the applicant first receiving the approval of the secret police. This applies particularly to the job of teaching.

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Singled out for the refined sadism of the secret police are the children of the

of child labour in the United States". This enormous army of brutally exploited child labour is growing as a direct result of the militarisation of the economy. By 1950 the number of child slaves had more than doubled compared with 1940; and in December 1951 a special committee reported that in the year and a half since the outbreak of the Korean war the number of school-age children employed had risen by more than a quarter of a million.

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The "Game of Death", which deserves to be translated into all the languages of the world, will kindle hatred in the hearts of all for the criminals who use children as guinea pigs in their attempt to win their parents for the policy of preparing war.

John GIBBONS

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All the newly built enterprises in people's Poland and those which are now being erected are supplied with these filters.

"with good intentions", "on a mission of peace". One would have expected that the ruling circles of the US would use the opportune moment to confirm their "good intentions" with deeds. Nothing of the kind took place, however, and could not take place because Mr. Dulles' words about "peace" concealed the carefully prepared sabotage plan for extending the war in Indo-China, a plan for direct intervention by US armed forces in the war, an arrogant challenge to all the peoples of Asia resisting colonial oppression, fighting for their freedom, independence and national regeneration.

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But Dulles obviously overdid things and went too far. His efforts to force on the Geneva Conference decisions to the liking of the US ruling circles, to draw his allies into a hopeless and lost war in Indo-China and to spread the war in Asia did not meet with any particular support even on the part of those Western statesmen who as a rule docilely follow the US policy. Profound differences of approach were revealed between the USA and Britain, between the USA and France in relation to key questions of international politics. The British allies of the USA, in particular, made it quite clear that they were not prepared to rush headlong into war for the sake of American interests or to submit quietly to its policy of arrogant diktat. At the same time Churchill publicly announced that Britain would not undertake any military obligations in relation to Indo-China until after the Geneva Conference. Neither did the intentions of the US State Department to convert Geneva into an "American Tribunal" over the freedom-loving peoples of Asia receive the anticipated support of the Western countries.

And so, even on the admission of the Western bourgeois press, the sabotage which Dulles so carefully prepared against the peace and the security of the peoples burst "like a huge bubble". The "New York Herald Tribune" wrote, for instance, that the American plan for "saving" the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu had been frustrated by Britain, that, as a conse-

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When it became clear that the stupid attempts of American diplomacy to create a "position of strength" by means of provocative calls for "joint action" in Indo-China and for an aggressive bloc in Asia had found no particular sympathy in Paris and London, that the notorious "positions of strength" policy was suffering a serious set-back, when it became clear that the US delegation found itself in a situation tantamount to isolation, Mr. Dulles hurriedly pulled out and departed for Washington, leaving things to his deputy.

Commenting on the reasons for Dulles' departure from Geneva and its consequences, the French newspaper "Combat" stated: "Having fallen out with Eden and Bidault, Dulles is leaving Geneva." According to the newspaper "Franc-tireur", Dulles met with "the most crushing defeat of his career" and that this is the logical outcome of "the series of big mistakes of which Western diplomacy cannot be proud".

The departure of Dulles from Geneva, states the French newspaper "Liberation", testifies to the failure of the American schemes to frustrate the Geneva Conference.

The near future will show whether American diplomacy will draw the correct conclusions from the bankruptcy of its policy of intimidation and threats revealed in Geneva and whether its representatives are capable of taking into account the fundamental historical changes that have taken place in Asia. It is doubtful whether this will be so. They will resort all the more quickly to all kinds of machinations in order to begin with renewed force their intrigues against a peaceful solution of the Korean and Indo-China questions and to build up an aggressive bloc of colonial powers spearheaded against the peoples of Asia. Consequently, the greatest vigilance must be exercised and tireless struggle waged by all peace-loving forces for the complete defeat of the reckless policy of the influential circles in the USA, the policy of sharpening the international tension and suppressing the national-liberation movement in Asia.

Jan MAREK

FACTS EXPOSE...

Unwilling Donors To avoid death from starvation working people in Greece are forced to give their blood for a miserable reward. The profits amassed from this speculation in blood are pocketed by the monarcho-fascists. The "Blood Bank" opened in Piraeus buys blood from working people for a paltry sum—for 350 grams of blood it pays 200

thousand drachmas (6.5 dollars). The blood is then sold for 350 thousand drachmas—the difference being pocketed by the bank. 90 per cent of the donors are unemployed youths and girls denied the right to work for a livelihood.

EDITORIAL BOARD

For Lessening International Tension, for Freedom and Social Progress

(Continued from page 3)

In the political sphere anti-Communism is aimed first of all at preventing any consultation, any contact, co-operation and united action between Communists and Socialists, between people friendly to the Communists and Socialists, with a view to striking at all who do not support the policy of the Christian Democrats. Very frequently, however, these plans suffer failure. This was seen in the united struggle fought by the working people during recent months, in the popular actions for saving some branches of industry and in other actions which united working people of all political and trade union trends. Very often these actions are joined by the rank and file of the lower clerical organisations, by prominent Christian Democrats and even representatives of the higher clergy.

Naturally, the stand taken by these Christian Democratic leaders and clergy by no means signifies that they have given up the idea of combating Communism. Their stand is determined by the desire not to be outside the broad movement of the masses and to prevent the Communists from becoming the sole leaders of this movement. But this does not detract from the significance of them adopting such a stand. On the contrary, this is a valuable lesson, since it shows that mass pressure impels representatives of rampant anti-Communism to abandon their designs, at least for the time being; it shows that by taking this path it is possible to triumph over anti-Communism.

The struggles of the working people of Italy also contain more general lessons which are of significance for all. They bring home even to those most confused by the anti-Communist propaganda that it is possible, useful and essential to co-

operate with the popular forces led by the Communists if they really want to achieve a solution of the problems so vital to the working people.

It should be noted however that while we have had significant success in effecting unity in the struggle for immediate demands, we are not yet in a position to say that we have had any sizable success in the fight on general political questions, in other words we have not yet succeeded in bringing about the political co-operation of all the popular and democratic forces. From this we must draw the conclusion that we must above all improve our work in strengthening unity both in the economic and in the political struggle.

Confronted with the reactionary designs of the Scelba-Saragat Government the Communists, Socialists and all the genuinely democratic forces must convince the masses that, on the pretext of saving the country from a so-called Communist danger, the reactionary forces are bent on driving a wedge into Italian democracy and on paving the way for the advent to power of the old clerical, monarchist and fascist bloc which was the political base of the twenty years' absolute rule of the ultra-reactionary industrial and agrarian groups.

But it cannot be said that the plans of the clerical leaders are being realised or can be realised unhindered. Inside the Christian Democratic Party and among the Catholic masses the anti-Communist calls of Scelba have failed to prevent the growth of the new democratic movement of anti-fascist unity. The left democratic forces in the government parties are becoming more and more militant. All this clearly facilitates the rise of new condi-

tions for establishing contact and co-operation between the democratic, popular forces of all the parties. Everything furthers the extension of this co-operation to the sphere of the political struggle as well.

It would be a big mistake on the part of the Communists to conclude that because of the renewal of the feverish anti-Communist campaign they should relinquish the policy of unity. Failure to uphold the policy which has brought us so much success would be tantamount to helping anti-Communism. On the contrary, with greater vigour than ever before, we must multiply the beginnings we have made with united action and extend it also to the political struggle. At the moment it is not a matter of choosing between a Socialist-Communist government and a government of broad democratic co-operation. Today we must choose between agreement and democratic co-operation with the forces headed by Socialists and Communists or submission to the absolute rule of the reactionary forces. And it is incorrect to say that there is no alternative to a government bloc of clericals, monarchists and fascists. To think in this way means helping black reaction, as is done by the leaders of the four government parties. Consequently, all sincere democrats and genuine anti-fascists in these parties cannot look on passively like spectators while their leaders help to bring to power the social and political bloc which in the past brought severe trials to our nation.

Despite the success already achieved in this sphere our efforts for building a new and effective democratic alliance have not yet yielded the necessary results. The Christian Democratic forces, particularly in central and northern Italy, adhere to the anti-Communist stand of their leaders. The electors who voted for the Christian Democrats, although they often side with us in trade union struggles and in the fight for concrete demands, still support their leaders on political questions. It is obvious that in this sphere anti-Communism is still yielding fruit. However, in order