

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

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FOR MILITANT, EFFECTIVE POLITICAL AGITATION

Mass agitational work by the Communist and Workers' Parties is one of the most powerful means of politically educating the working people. The great Lenin taught us that "all-round political agitation is the focal point at which the vital interests of the political education of the proletariat and the vital interests of the whole of social development and of the entire people come together...". Militant and effective agitation enhances the political consciousness and militancy of the popular masses, convinces them of the correctness and timeliness of the slogans advanced by the Parties and rallies them in the struggle for translating these slogans into life.

The firm ideological basis for political agitation is the all-conquering teaching of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin. The experience acquired by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and by the Communist and Workers' Parties of all countries graphically proves that political agitation is effective provided it is rich in ideological content and inseparably linked with the vital problems of the working people's life, with the problems of the present international situation, with the struggle against the danger of a new war, for lessening international tension. A high ideological level, actuality, truthfulness, clarity and simplicity are integral features of the militant, offensive agitation and mass work of the Communists.

The strength and might of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism—the greatest gain of the peoples—are growing daily. Every day brings new, splendid successes to the peoples of the USSR in their Communist construction. People's China is confidently marching along the pathway of great social and economic transformations. The working people of the countries of people's democracy are victoriously building Socialism. The struggle of the peoples for peace, which has become a mighty motive force of our time, is increasingly gaining strength in all countries. Radical changes are taking place in the political development of the countries of Asia. The national-liberation movement of the peoples of colonial and dependent countries is gaining momentum.

However, the enemies of peace, those who are against easing the international tension, have not given up their aggressive designs; they are brandishing their arms, advocating the notorious "positions of strength" policy and are busy elaborating new plans for aggravating international tension. In these conditions the main task of all peace-loving forces, of all champions of peace is to enhance vigilance, to meet the plans of

linking these tasks with the fight for the cause of peace. Political agitation helps further to strengthen the people's-democratic state, the alliance of the working class and working peasantry, the defence of the country, fosters among the people a sense of patriotism, love of homeland, loyalty to the Soviet Union and fraternal solidarity with the working people of the world, enhances vigilance with regard to the intrigues of home and foreign enemies.

Despite the fact that in capitalist, colonial and dependent countries the Communist and Workers' Parties, which express the vital interests of the people, are working under difficult conditions of persecution and are being hounded by the police the Communists are widely popularising through their political agitation the remarkable achievements of the peoples of the democratic camp and inspiring the masses of workers and peasants with hopes for a better future. In their political agitation the Communists of these countries closely link up the struggle of the peoples for peace, freedom, national independence and democratic rights with the task of realising the vital demands of the working people, with the struggle for bread and a fair wage, against unrestrained capitalist exploitation, unemployment and poverty.

The Communist Party of China, the Communist and Workers' Parties of People's Democracies in Europe, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the French and Italian Communist Parties and other Communist and Workers' Parties have accumulated a great deal of experience in political agitation among the masses. This work is being successfully developed by the Communist Parties in India, Indonesia, Brazil and other countries. However, the Central Committees of a number of Communist and Workers' Parties rightly point out that political agitation still does not keep pace with the big tasks confronting the Parties and call for resolute elimination of prevailing shortcomings.

The improvement of political agitation means, in the first place, to raise its ideological level, to extend its sphere of action and to ensure that the broadest possible sections of the population are reached by the agitational work. This task was emphasised, in particular, at the recent meetings of the Central Committees of the French and Italian Communist Parties. It is necessary, above all, to improve the agitational work directly among the workers in the industrial enterprises and among the peasants in the countryside. The duty of every Communist is to take a personal part in agitational work, constantly to explain the policy, aims and tasks of the Communist and Workers' Parties to the workers, peas-

XVth Congress of Communist Party of Austria

The XVth Congress of the Communist Party of Austria opened in Vienna on May 13. The delegates unanimously approved the agenda submitted by the Central Committee and elected the presidium. Amid loud cheers, Comrade Franz Honner welcomed on behalf of the Central Committee the representatives of the fraternal Communist and Workers' Parties who were also elected to the presidium. The Congress rose in tribute to the memory of J. V. Stalin and K. Gottwald.

The Congress was attended by delegations of the fraternal Communist and Workers' Parties of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, France, Italy, Great Britain, Western Germany, Finland, Norway, Holland, Greece, Switzerland and the Free Territory of Trieste.

The report of the Central Committee was given by Comrade Johann Koplenig, Chairman of the Party, who reviewed the international situation, described in detail the development of Austria's foreign and home policy since the last Congress, dwelling particularly on the struggle for the national independence of the country, against the threat from West German militarism and on the tasks facing the Party in this connection.

Comrade Rudolf Richter then made the financial report of the Central Committee, and Comrade Franz Freihaut the report of the Central Control Commission.

The reading of the message from the C.C. of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was greeted with stormy applause by the delegates and guests. The message says:

"TO THE XVTH CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRIA

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union sends fraternal greetings to the XVth Congress of the Communist Party of Austria.

The Communist Party of Austria—vanguard of the Austrian working class—has waged in the course of its entire history unremitting struggle against militarism and imperialist reaction, for the national independence of Austria, for the cause of the working class and for the unity of the ranks of the working people.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union wishes the Communist Party of Austria success in its struggle for the independent and democratic development of the country, for uniting all democratic and patriotic forces against militarism and the threat of a new Anschluss, for the vital interests of the working people, for strengthening its ranks, for peace and friendship between peoples.

Long live the friendship between the peoples of Austria and the Soviet Union!

**CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY
OF THE SOVIET UNION."**

The message received from the C.C. of the Korean Party of Labour was read at the meeting. The Congress was greeted by Comrade Riccardo Ravagnan, on behalf of the Italian Communist Party, and Comrade

Karoly Kiss, on behalf of the Hungarian Working People's Party. Messages from the fraternal Parties were greeted with loud applause by the delegates.

The Congress continues its work.

Third Congress of Polish Trade Unions

The Third Congress of Polish Trade Unions was held from May 5-9 in Warsaw. 967 delegates, representing 4.5 million trade unionists, took part in the congress.

The congress was attended by Louis Saillant, General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions. Trade union delegations from the USSR, the People's Republic of China, the People's Democracies, France, Britain and other countries greeted the congress.

Delegates and guests warmly greeted the appearance at the congress of the leaders of the Party and the Government

for raising the standard of living of the working people, strengthening the worker-peasant alliance and enhancing revolutionary vigilance, in the struggle for peace and the fulfilment of the Six-Year National Plan.

40 delegates who took part in discussion on the reports of the Central Council and the Central Auditing Commission pointed, in particular, to shortcomings in the work of trade unions in the sphere of improving labour protection, utilising reserves, raising productivity of labour and lowering production costs. They also pointed to the

LIBERATION DAY IN GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

On May 8 the working people of the German Democratic Republic celebrated their national holiday—the Day of Germany's liberation from Hitler fascism. Expressing their love for and gratitude to the Soviet Army—their liberator—hundreds of thousands of Germans visited the graves of Soviet soldiers and placed wreaths and flowers on them.

In Berlin wreaths were laid at the foot of the monument in Treptow Park on behalf of the President of the Republic, the C.C. of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the Chairman and Presidium of the People's Chamber, the Government of the German Democratic Republic, the

Lander Chamber, the National Council of the National Front of Democratic Germany and on behalf of Embassies and Diplomatic Missions in the Republic. After the laying of wreaths a memorial meeting took place.

In spite of obstacles created by the West Berlin police numerous delegations from West Berlin laid wreaths at the monument to Soviet soldiers in the Tiergarten (British sector).

A celebration meeting was held in the State Opera House in Berlin on May 8. Celebration meetings and rallies were also held in other cities and villages of the Republic.

Ninth Liberation Anniversary of Czechoslovakia

Prague, capital of Czechoslovakia, was in festive array on May 9—the ninth anniversary of the liberation of the country from the Nazi yoke by the Soviet Army. Houses and streets were decorated with banners, flags and posters. The citizens of the country once more recalled with boundless gratitude the Soviet heroes who fell in the battles for the liberation of Czechoslovakia. All over the country the people laid wreaths at the memorials to Soviet soldiers and officers and placed flowers on the graves of Soviet warriors.

On the eve of Liberation Day celebration meetings, dedicated to the memorial date, were held by all the regional councils. On May 8 there was a celebration meeting in the B. Smetana Theatre in Prague, attended by members of the

C.C. of the Communist Party, the Government and the National Front.

On the occasion of Liberation Day the foremost workers in the realm of science and technology, innovators, workers of literature and art were awarded state prizes for the successes achieved during the past year.

On May 9 the traditional military parade of the Armed Forces took place in Prague, watched by hundreds of thousands of working people. Before it started Comrade Antonin Zapotocky made a speech in which he stressed that Czechoslovakia wholeheartedly desires to live in peace with all countries irrespective of their political systems.

The day of celebration ended with a mass outdoor fete in the Wenceslas Square.

People of Albania Celebrate Victory Day

The ninth anniversary of the remarkable victory of the Soviet people over Hitler fascism and the end of the war in Europe was celebrated by the people of Albania as a great holiday. Together with the peoples of the Soviet Union and other freedom-loving peoples the working people of Albania made a noble contribution to the struggle against the fascist aggressors. A great number of the best sons and daughters of the country gave up their lives in the name of this glorious victory.

Meetings, reports and talks devoted to this significant date were held in enterprises and offices, towns and villages all over the country. The newspapers carried

editorials devoted to Victory Day. In its editorial entitled "Victory Day and Lessons of History" the newspaper "Zeri i Popullit" wrote: Nine years ago the Soviet people and their armed forces won a historic victory over German fascism. For the whole world May 9 signifies the triumph of the forces of peace and progress over the black forces of war. During these years the USSR has consistently fought to prevent further aggression and to frustrate the military schemes of aggressive imperialist circles.

The peaceful policy of the USSR, the newspaper pointed out, is meeting with ever-increasing support from the peoples since it corresponds to their vital interests.

The strength and might of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism—the greatest gain of the peoples—are growing daily. Every day brings new, splendid successes to the peoples of the USSR in their Communist construction. People's China is confidently marching along the pathway of great social and economic transformations. The working people of the countries of people's democracy are victoriously building Socialism. The struggle of the peoples for peace, which has become a mighty motive force of our time, is increasingly gaining strength in all countries. Radical changes are taking place in the political development of the countries of Asia. The national-liberation movement of the peoples of colonial and dependent countries is gaining momentum.

However, the enemies of peace, those who are against easing the international tension, have not given up their aggressive designs; they are brandishing their arms, advocating the notorious "positions of strength" policy and are busy elaborating new plans for aggravating international tension. In these conditions the main task of all peace-loving forces, of all champions of peace is to enhance vigilance, daily to expose and thwart the plans of the warmongers, to struggle with even greater persistence for the establishment of normal relations and peaceful co-operation between the states.

This task can be successfully realised only provided the broadest popular masses are rallied for its fulfilment. Extending their influence among the masses, explaining to them the present international situation in all its complexity, showing them the need to take an active part in the struggle in defence of peace, the Communist and Workers' Parties thereby carry out their genuinely historical duty, their great mission.

The extremely complex and responsible tasks confronting the Communist and Workers' Parties in the present international situation insistently demand that all Parties, all Party organisations, all Party members steadily improve political work among the masses, strengthen political agitation in every way and raise its level.

Communists counterpose to all kinds of bourgeois falsification and misinformation the truth about the genuinely peace-loving principles of the foreign policy of the USSR, the People's Republic of China and the People's Democracies; they make known to the broad masses the concrete Soviet proposals for the peaceful solution of the German question, the creation of a system of general European collective security, for the reduction of armaments, the prohibition of atomic and hydrogen weapons and the establishment of a strict control over the implementation of this prohibition. To the crude distortions by the capitalist press and radio of the events taking place at the present Geneva Conference they counterpose the truth about the proposals advanced by the Government of the Korean People's Democratic Republic for a peaceful settlement of the Korean problem, about the proposals of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam for the restoration of peace in Indo-China, about the relentless struggle of the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China for strengthening peace in Asia and throughout the world.

In the countries of people's democracy, where the Communist and Workers' Parties are the leading and directing force of society, the vital tasks of political agitation are relentlessly to foster among the working people a sense of their duty to society, a socialist attitude towards labour and public property, a desire to achieve fresh successes in building Socialism, in developing industry and ensuring a rapid advance in agriculture, in raising the production of consumer goods and increasing in every way the well-being of the people, closely

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Political agitation is an important component part of the entire Party work. It is a living Party cause which does not tolerate clichés, ready-made formulas learned by heart and fancy phrases. The language of the Communist agitator must be simple and able to be understood by the people. Agitation organised in a correct way always takes into account different local conditions, the trades, the cultural and political level of the people among whom it is carried out. "The art of every propagandist and every agitator", Lenin taught, "lies precisely in influencing a given audience in the best possible way by making a truth known to it as convincing as possible, more comprehensible, more striking and more firmly remembered." Mass meetings, group and individual talks, the press, radio and cinema, posters, leaflets and brief slogans—all methods and forms should be used for wide agitational activity among the working people.

Communist and Workers' Parties strive to ensure that political agitation becomes a constant method of educational work in Party organisations and an important means of linking the Party with the masses. They fight against the practice of spasmodic, seasonal campaigning in agitational work. They constantly stress that attention to daily mass agitation is a paramount duty of all Party committees and leading Party functionaries, that the direct participation of leading Party cadres in agitational work should serve as an example for all Communists and for all agitators.

To bring the policy and slogans of the Party to the consciousness of the people is a responsible and honourable Party duty. It calls for a high sense of responsibility before the Party and the people on the part of every agitator, requires that he constantly studies and perfects his knowledge. It calls for the daily attention of Party organisations to questions of the proper selection and education of agitators, for day-to-day guidance for agitators' groups in a skilful and efficient way. The concern displayed by Party committees for organising agitational work, training agitators and providing them with all necessary materials is an important precondition for successful and effective agitation.

To intensify political agitation, to raise its ideological level and to make it more purposeful and militant means to strengthen still more the influence of Communist and Workers' Parties among the popular masses, to strengthen their ties with the masses and to make them more effective in the struggle for lasting peace and the vital interests of the peoples.

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Delegates and guests warmly greeted the appearance at the congress of the leaders of the Party and the Government headed by Boleslaw Bierut, first Secretary of the C.C. of the Polish United Workers' Party.

The congress discussed the following questions: 1. Report of Central Council of Trade Unions. 2. Report of Central Auditing Commission. 3. Amendments to trade union rules. 4. Election of leading trade union bodies.

Comrade Bierut, first Secretary of the Central Committee of the PUWP, made a speech of greeting on behalf of the Central Committee. He spoke on the role of the trade unions, which unite millions of working people in the struggle for carrying out the great tasks outlined by the Second Party Congress, in the struggle

for raising the standard of living of the working people, strengthening the worker-peasant alliance and enhancing revolutionary vigilance, in the struggle for peace and the fulfilment of the Six-Year National Plan.

40 delegates who took part in discussion on the reports of the Central Council and the Central Auditing Commission pointed, in particular, to shortcomings in the work of trade unions in the sphere of improving labour protection, utilising reserves, raising productivity of labour and lowering production costs. They also pointed to the necessity for increased efforts to combat bureaucratic distortions in the work of many trade unions and for greater solicitude for the needs of the working people.

The congress approved the reports of the Central Council and the Central Auditing Commission. It decided that the trade unions would be guided in their future activity by the decision of the Central Committee of the Party on the work of trade unions and by the directives given in the report of the Central Council of Trade Unions.

At its concluding meeting the congress elected the Central Council and adopted an appeal to all working people of town and countryside.

French People Demand End of War in Indo-China

World public opinion is more and more resolutely clamouring for an immediate cessation of the hostilities launched eight years ago by the French colonisers against Viet Nam, Pathet-Lao and Khmer.

In France, the popular movement of protest against the war in Indo-China has assumed such proportions that it is now being joined by people and organisations that but recently condemned the Communists for their courageous fight against this "dirty war".

The fight of broad masses of the French people, supported by all democratic forces of peace, has already hindered those who would extend the conflict in the realisation of their criminal design. The latter, however, have not abandoned their schemes; the peril has not yet faded and therefore the movement of protest must grow stronger so that peace may triumph. This is precisely the point stressed by the Political Bureau of the French Communist Party in its statement in "l'Humanité" of May 8.

"The striving of the American rulers to go on with the war and extend it and the French Government's appeal for naked intervention by the USA in Indo-China", the statement reads in part, "are now meeting with failure. A heavy blow was dealt to the policy 'from positions of strength' systematically carried out by Bidault and Laniel, whose foreign policy has always been in line with that of the American imperialists.

"The danger, however, is not yet past since the foes of peace have not yet abandoned their aggressive designs and Bidault has not given up his intention to sabotage the Geneva Conference. And nevertheless the hopes of millions of people in France and Viet Nam for an end to the war, particularly after the bloody battle at Dien

Bien Phu, may become an immediate reality." "The Political Bureau", the statement goes on, "calls upon all Communists and Party organisations courageously and actively to back the campaign initiated by the Movement of Peace Supporters for organising and supporting deputations of patriots to go to Geneva and to their Deputies in order to make known to the French representatives the will of the people."

Having pointed out how great is the role and the responsibility of the working class in the fight for ending hostilities in Indo-China the Political Bureau stresses in its statement: "The restoration of peace in Indo-China is one of the tasks for the realisation of which the Communist working people and their Socialist brothers very often take united action. The Political Bureau demands that every Party organisation and Party member work with the greatest degree of responsibility for extending the united front, strengthening it and increasing its activity. To carry on work at enterprises, in towns and villages for ensuring united action—organising petitions, meetings, deputations, demonstrations, etc.—this must be one of the tasks of the day."

The heavy defeat recently suffered by the French Expeditionary Corps at Dien Bien Phu has increased the urgency of the need to end the conflict—a need acknowledged by almost the entire French people. Having underestimated the capabilities of the people who are fighting for their independence, the colonisers and those who support them found themselves in Indo-China in a position not far removed from catastrophe.

The events at Dien Bien Phu gave rise to a new wave of indignation in France. The French people are indignant at the

policy of those who, instead of settling the conflict by means of negotiations, stubbornly strive to carry out their adventurist schemes with a view to continuing and extending this conflict. The vast majority of the French people are more and more resolutely demanding a cease-fire.

This demand has met with a wide response in the press. In an article on the speech delivered by G. Bidault at the Geneva Conference the newspaper "Le Monde" points out: "The tone of the speech of our representative in Geneva and the determination with which he demands the disarming of irregular units and the ending of aggression against Laos and Cambodia, apart from the fact that they are not an auspicious start for the negotiations, do not, of course, correspond to the present military situation."

The newspaper "Combat" points out on its part that in order to avoid another Dien Bien Phu it is essential to stop "this sinister venture which is leading to the collapse of the military prestige of the nation, defeated by... people fighting in their own country for the slogans and ideals which in France itself have more than once roused the people to arms..."

"Let G. Bidault eventually understand in Geneva that it is necessary to end the Indo-China venture, that it is not the time to play the role of the untalented Talleyrand or to claim to be victorious when in point of fact he represents a country driven to defeat."

The idea that the Geneva Conference can find the honourable path for solving this question is seized upon by and enjoys the support of most newspapers.

"Now", the newspaper "Liberation" writes, "it is necessary to withdraw as quickly as possible from the fatal venture

which was started contrary to the quite obvious interests of France and is being continued in defiance of the will of the vast majority of the French people. Geneva must provide the opportunity for a radical change in our policy and for the negotiation of an honourable peace which to a considerable extent will help to wipe out the errors made in the fratricidal war."

Almost without exception the newspapers believe that the proposals submitted by Pham Van Dong, representative of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, represent a serious basis for discussion. "In any case", the "France Soir" correspondent cabled, "these proposals cannot be rejected without profound consideration."

The Administrative Commission of the General Confederation of Labour issued a statement which says that the proposals of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam "reflect the inflexible will of the Ho Chi Minh Government for peace and are a remarkable basis for negotiations".

The Commission appealed to all French working people to forward to the Government and Foreign Minister Bidault letters, telegrams and petitions demanding an immediate cease-fire in Indo-China.

A similar resolution was also carried by the Directing Bureau of the Union of French Women, which points out that negotiations on the Indo-China question should be conducted on the basis of the proposals made by Pham Van Dong, leader of the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The hope of many millions of people in France, Indo-China and all over the world that the bloody Indo-China venture can be stopped may become reality. Enough bloodshed—the peoples declare, and their voice resounds louder and louder.

People of Albania Celebrate Victory Day

The ninth anniversary of the remarkable victory of the Soviet people over Hitler fascism and the end of the war in Europe was celebrated by the people of Albania as a great holiday. Together with the peoples of the Soviet Union and other freedom-loving peoples the working people of Albania made a noble contribution to the struggle against the fascist aggressors. A great number of the best sons and daughters of the country gave up their lives in the name of this glorious victory.

Meetings, reports and talks devoted to this significant date were held in enterprises and offices, towns and villages all over the country. The newspapers carried

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The peaceful policy of the USSR, the newspaper pointed out, is meeting with ever-increasing support from the peoples since it corresponds to their vital interests.

Social Democrats of Eastern Westphalia Appeal for Fight Against "Policy of Force"

A regional conference of the Social Democratic Party in Eastern Westphalia (Western Germany), attended by 1,200 delegates, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"The delegates to the regional conference of Social Democrats from Eastern Westphalia, as well as their Communist class brothers, are following the development of political events with increasing alarm. They protest against the amendments to the Constitution adopted by the majority of the Bundestag on February 26..."

"The sole purpose of the amendments to the Constitution is to further the realisation of the dubious policy of the 'European Defence Community', although the results of the Berlin Conference of the four Powers clearly showed that such a policy does not contribute to the reunification of Germany and consequently to the cause of European security. The Social Democratic Party calls upon all people to struggle with it against the folly of the 'policy of force'."

SUCCESSSES IN SOLVING NATIONAL PROBLEM IN CHINA

After the founding of the People's Republic of China the peoples of China embarked upon a new historical era of popular democracy and national equality. Our country is now a big fraternal and co-operative family of all the nationalities inhabiting it. Under the leadership of the Communist Party and the Central People's Government, the national minorities have put regional autonomy into practice and established or are preparing to establish autonomous regions and organs.

Regional autonomy for the national minorities is the fundamental policy laid down by Comrade Mao Tse-tung for the solution of China's national question through the application of Marxist-Leninist theory on this question. The promotion of regional autonomy has given the national minorities inhabiting definite areas the right to administer their own domestic affairs under the unified leadership of the Central People's Government and the local people's governments of a higher level. It has paved the way for the advancement of the national minorities and enables them to proceed gradually towards Socialism from the present stage of their development.

In the past four years or more the Communist Party of China and the Central People's Government have devoted close attention to the matter of furthering regional autonomy for the nationalities. Since the promulgation by the Central People's Government in August 1952 of the "General Programme of the People's Republic of China for the Implementation of Regional Autonomy for the Nationalities", splendid achievements have been registered in this respect throughout the country. By March this year 51 national autonomous regions of county level and upwards had been established, in addition to many others at district level. Work in connection with the setting up of national autonomous regions is being carried on in different parts of the country and more of these regions will be established.

The realisation of regional autonomy for the nationalities has produced good results. It has stimulated the political enthusiasm, initiative and patriotism of the peoples of China; it has strengthened both the unity of the population and the unity of each people; cemented the ties between the autonomous organs and the people; and gradually, it has led to the political, economic and cultural development of the national minorities. All this is eloquent proof of the superiority of the system of regional autonomy for the nationalities and of the correctness of the line that regional autonomy is the key to the solution of the national question in China.

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During the past four and a half years China has accumulated rich and vital experience in promoting regional autonomy for the nationalities. Of this experience the following is the most essential:

1. Adequate appraisal of the special characteristics and actual conditions of the national minorities. Article 31 of the "General Programme of the People's Republic of China for the Implementation of Regional Autonomy for Nationalities" stipulates: "The people's governments of higher levels shall make an adequate appraisal of the special characteristics and actual conditions of each national autonomous region at the present stage of development, so that their directives and orders conform both to the general line as laid down in the Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and to these special characteristics and actual conditions." The reasons

the Han people who constitute the main body of the population. There are also considerable differences among the national minorities themselves. Even within one national group conditions are not always the same and sometimes they are altogether different. In promoting regional autonomy and in carrying out work in the national autonomous regions, the Party and the Government are taking particular care not to apply mechanically to these regions the methods applied and the experience drawn from work in the areas inhabited by the Hans, nor to apply mechanically to any national minority or national autonomous region the methods and experience that may be suitable for another national minority or national autonomous region.

On the other hand, the Party and the Government emphasise that as a prerequisite for their smooth progress the national minorities and national autonomous regions must properly adapt the experience of the advanced nationalities and regions to the actual situation and historical conditions in their localities. Conservative ideas and working methods which shut out such advanced experiences are detrimental to the advancement of the national minorities and national autonomous regions.

2. Strengthening and consolidating the unity of the peoples and the unity of each people. This is one of the basic conditions for the implementation of regional autonomy as well as one of its important aims.

The Communist Party of China has resolutely adhered to the policy of national equality in the course of the Chinese revolution and national construction in keeping with the Marxist-Leninist theory on the national question and with the experience gained by the Soviet Union in its application of the national policy of Lenin and Stalin. As a result, the peoples of China have achieved unprecedented unity. Nevertheless, there still exists the tendency of dominant-national chauvinism, particularly Great-Han chauvinism, on the one hand, and the tendency of local nationalism, on the other, both of which are bourgeois ideologies reflected in national relations. To overcome these tendencies, the Party and the Government have intensified education in patriotism and internationalism and the popularisation of the national policy among the cadres and masses of the various nationalities and have introduced the practice of criticism and self-criticism among them.

In this respect the Party and the Government have laid great stress on this kind of education among the Han cadres and have taught them to practise self-criticism to overcome their Great-Han chauvinist ideas and their remnants. Experience has shown that this is the most effective method. For instance, when the Han cadres in the Tibetan Autonomous Region in Sikang Province and in other national minority regions took the lead in seriously criticising their Great-Han chauvinist ideologies and style of work, the national minority cadres were deeply moved and voluntarily followed suit by criticising their own local nationalist ideologies and asked the Han cadres to assist them in this work. This has further strengthened the mutual confidence and unity of the peoples and has helped the work in the autonomous regions.

In promoting regional autonomy the Party and the Government are exerting great efforts to strengthen and consolidate the unity of each people. This means that the Party and the Government are intensifying education on unity, settling disputes and doing away with discord among the

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Wang Feng

Vice-Chairman, Commission of Nationalities Affairs, Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China

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3. Gradual imparting of a national character to the autonomous government organs. This is the gist of the policy of regional autonomy for nationalities. In accordance with the stipulations of the "General Programme of the People's Republic of China for the Implementation of Regional Autonomy for Nationalities", imparting a national character to the autonomous organs includes the following measures: Autonomous organs shall be composed mainly of members from the nationality exercising regional autonomy; the actual form the autonomous organ is to take shall be determined by the wishes of a majority of the nationality exercising regional autonomy and the wishes of the local leaders who are in close touch with the people; the autonomous organ shall adopt the language most commonly used in the region as the chief medium of intercourse in the exercise of its authority; and while doing its work the autonomous organ shall take into consideration the national forms obtaining in the region. In short, there are three main questions involved in imparting a national character to the autonomous organs, namely, national minority cadres, native language, both spoken and written, and national forms.

J. V. Stalin addressing a Congress of the Peoples of the Terek Region in 1920 said: "The autonomy of which we speak here is to be understood, to mean that all governing bodies should be staffed with your own people, who are familiar with your language and your manner of life. This is the meaning of autonomy.

"Autonomy must teach you to stand on your own feet—this is its aim."

Again, in his "Report on National Factors in Party and State Affairs" delivered at the 12th Congress of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks), 1923, J. V. Stalin pointed out:

"For this it is necessary that not only the schools, but all institutions and all bodies, both Party and Soviet, should step by step be made national in character, that they should be conducted in the language that is understood by the masses, that they should function in conditions that correspond to the manner of life of the given nation."

Such is J. V. Stalin's counsel on imparting a national character to autonomous government organs. And it is precisely under the guidance of the great Lenin-Stalin teaching on the national question that the Communist Party of China has proceeded with its work of promoting regional autonomy.

Much has been done and achieved during the past few years by the various national autonomous regions and their Party and administrative organs in training cadres of the different nationalities, developing their respective languages, as well as in properly applying their own traditional systems in various fields.

With regard to training cadres of the various nationalities the Party and the Government, in addition to establishing

cadres have been trained and many of them have been promoted to leading posts at different levels.

Definite progress has also been made by the various national autonomous regions in developing the national languages and retaining the traditional systems peculiar to the nationalities concerned. For instance, the people's Government of the Tibetan Autonomous Region in Sikang Province has mapped out a series of concrete measures for adopting the national language, whereby all directives, announcements and publicity materials are printed in both Tibetan and Chinese, and all the cadres of Han nationality working there are called upon to learn the Tibetan language. These measures aim at the adoption by the local people's government of the Tibetan language as the chief medium of intercourse in the exercise of its authority.

It is worth noting in this respect that most of the Han cadres working in national autonomous regions wholeheartedly serve the national minorities and play an important part in helping the local people's governments to train native cadres for work in different fields. The Han cadres have won the hearts of the native cadres because they respect their traditions and customs, and because they establish close contact with the national minority masses by properly adapting themselves to the latter's way of life. Unity and co-operation between the Han and the native cadres constitute one of the important factors for the successful development of many-sided constructive work in the national autonomous regions.

4. Helping the national autonomous regions gradually to exercise their rights. Under the unified state system and decrees, all the national autonomous regions enjoy the right to exercise local autonomy in political, economic, financial, cultural and educational affairs, as well as the right to organise local people's armed forces, according to their respective administrative status. Proper exercise of these autonomous rights will release the great initiative of the national minorities, all in different stages of development, in administering their internal affairs, and will thus considerably facilitate the political, economic and cultural progress of the national minorities in the autonomous regions. Therefore, the Party and the People's Government have all along devoted close attention to this question. Much has been done and achieved in this respect by the Central People's Government and local people's governments at higher levels.

The Party and the Government have resolutely criticised and rectified certain erroneous ideas held by some Han cadres working in the national autonomous regions—ideas which led them to ignoring their duty of helping the national minority cadres to fulfil their responsibilities and to handling everything themselves. At the same time, the Party and the Government have also pointed out the erroneous viewpoint that regional autonomy may be exercised in disregard of the unified state system and decrees and of the unified leadership of the Central People's Government and local people's governments at higher levels. The Party and the People's Government maintain that regional autonomy must be practised within the People's Republic of China which is a big family comprising many nationalities, and that it must be practised under the unified leadership of the Central People's Government and in conformity with the principles outlined in the Common Programme of the People's Republic of China.

People's Political Consultative Conference

introduction of regional autonomy does not necessarily mean the solution of the national question once and for all. This question can be fundamentally solved only by actively helping the more backward national minorities to develop their political, economic and cultural work wherever circumstances permit, so that they gradually attain the level of the advanced nationalities.

Varying degrees of progress in their political, economic and cultural life have been recorded among the national minorities since the establishment of the national autonomous regions. This has been made possible by the assistance given them by the people's governments at higher levels, the unity of the different peoples of these regions and by their rising level of consciousness. Particularly significant progress has been noted in some of the autonomous regions established earlier. The achievements of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region are particularly noteworthy.

In the past, Inner Mongolia was very backward in production, but this has now been greatly developed. Total grain output in the region in 1953 exceeded by 25 per cent the peak figure recorded before the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression. There were 1.4 times more livestock in 1953 than in 1947, when the autonomous region was established. Modern industries are being built in the region. As a result of the development of production, purchasing power in 1952 was more than three times higher than in 1948, while in 1953 it was 35 per cent above the preceding year. In the old days there were very few literate people in Inner Mongolia. Nowadays, nearly thirty thousand cadres of the different nationalities have been trained, and more than 60 per cent of all the children of school age attend school. In the past disease was rampant and the population rapidly decreased. Today the public health and medical services have not only stopped the decline in population but have even increased it.

The achievements of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region have not only proved the correctness of the policy of regional autonomy for nationalities advanced by the Communist Party of China, but also serve as a brilliant example of progress for other national autonomous regions.

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China is a multi-national country of more than sixty nationalities. Before the liberation the nationalities did not enjoy equality because then there existed a system of national oppression. The victory of the people's revolution, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, has forever ended the oppression of China's various nationalities and has laid the foundation for the close unity of the many nationalities in building a socialist society.

The Soviet Union, the first country in the history of mankind to have successfully solved its national question, is an inspiring example to China. Encouraged by this brilliant example and filled with confidence, the peoples of China are building their great motherland—their big multi-national fraternal and co-operative family.

In their foul attempts to weaken the might of our multi-national people's-democratic state and enslave the Chinese people, the imperialists have never ceased in their attempts to undermine, by every means, the unity of the various nationalities. Our sacred task is to sharpen our vigilance against the foul plots of the imperialists, consolidate what we have already attained in our work among the nationalities

END OF STUDY YEAR IN RUMANIAN WORKERS' PARTY

The organisations of the Rumanian Workers' Party recently took steps to raise the ideological level of Party education. Better help is now given to members engaged in individual study of Marxism-Leninism; the syllabuses in use at the evening universities of Marxism-Leninism and evening schools have been revised to enable students to prepare better for their lessons.

At present Party organisations are preparing for a successful conclusion of the study year. Before it ends (June 15-30) members who have been taking various courses are going over the material already covered. At the end of the study year the groups studying the history of the CPSU and the evening Party courses will have classes in which the materials taken will be reviewed.

In the course of rounding off the study year, Party schools, evening universities of Marxism-Leninism, seminars and groups are devoting special attention to discussion of the most vital and complicated theoretical problems to ensure that the students have a better understanding of them. The aim of the programme of classes to review materials taken earlier in the year is to ensure a more profound assimilation of the Marxist-Leninist teaching on the transitional period from capitalism to Socialism in the People's Democracies and other problems of socialist construction.

The evening universities of Marxism-Leninism and evening Party schools are striving to render more effective help to every student. A great deal of attention is devoted to individual and group consultations. Consultation centres and seminars of tutors have begun to train tutors of rural groups and courses for the classes to review the work during the study year, which are to be held in the second half of this month.

Political Study in Communist Party of Chile

The leadership of the Communist Party of Chile constantly stresses the necessity of raising to the maximum the political level of all its members. Five seminars for leading Party functionaries are now in progress in Santiago. The curriculum includes study of the decisions of the IXth National Conference of the Party, the Party plenums, the materials of the XIXth Congress of the CPSU, dialectical and historical materialism, political economy and J. V. Stalin's "Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR".

The Party schools in Santiago include one for the leadership of the Santiago regional committee and several schools for the members of the commune commissions and committees. In addition, study has been organised in short-term courses and in Party branches.

This year, after a long interval, the Central Party school has been resumed in Santiago. Summer schools were held last year in Antofagasta and Valdivia with curriculums similar to that of the Central Party school.

Hitherto the Party leadership paid attention only to such forms of Party education as schools, courses and seminars; it is now also devoting great attention to independent study by the members. The Party organisations are working to ensure that

economic and cultural development of the national minorities. All this is eloquent proof of the superiority of the system of regional autonomy for the nationalities and of the correctness of the line that regional autonomy is the key to the solution of the national question in China.

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During the past four and a half years China has accumulated rich and vital experience in promoting regional autonomy for the nationalities. Of this experience the following is the most essential:

1. Adequate appraisal of the special characteristics and actual conditions of the national minorities. Article 31 of the "General Programme of the People's Republic of China for the Implementation of Regional Autonomy for Nationalities" stipulates: "The people's governments of higher levels shall make an adequate appraisal of the special characteristics and actual conditions of each national autonomous region at the present stage of development, so that their directives and orders conform both to the general line as laid down in the Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and to these special characteristics and actual conditions." The reasons for this are that the conditions obtaining among the national minorities are extremely complex. In the political, economic and cultural spheres as well as in the fields of religion, customs and habits the national minorities are quite different from

masses of the various nationalities and have introduced the practice of criticism and self-criticism among them.

In this respect the Party and the Government have laid great stress on this kind of education among the Han cadres and have taught them to practise self-criticism to overcome their Great-Han chauvinist ideas and their remnants. Experience has shown that this is the most effective method. For instance, when the Han cadres in the Tibetan Autonomous Region in Sikang Province and in other national minority regions took the lead in seriously criticising their Great-Han chauvinist ideologies and style of work, the national minority cadres were deeply moved and voluntarily followed suit by criticising their own local nationalist ideologies and asked the Han cadres to assist them in this work. This has further strengthened the mutual confidence and unity of the peoples and has helped the work in the autonomous regions.

In promoting regional autonomy the Party and the Government are exerting great efforts to strengthen and consolidate the unity of each people. This means that the Party and the Government are intensifying education on unity, settling disputes and doing away with discord, ironing out in every possible way mutual misunderstanding and calling upon the people to respect and consult each other so as to achieve closer unity under the leadership of the people's governments of higher levels.

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With regard to training cadres of the various nationalities the Party and the Government, in addition to establishing numerous national institutes and courses for training large numbers of such cadres, have patiently helped them to raise their political level and professional qualifications through practical work in the different autonomous organs. Up to date 130,000

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5. Utmost development of political, economic and cultural work in the national autonomous regions. This is one of the main links in solving the national question. The

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Some Results of Conferences of Italian Communist Party

The Party conferences which have taken place in the majority of provinces enable us to get, if not a complete, at any rate quite a real picture of the development of the Communist Party, its activities, growth of its strength.

The provincial conferences were preceded by a great deal of preparatory work; there were thousands of branch meetings and section conferences with tens of thousands of Communists taking part in the discussions. In the province of Bari, for instance, of the 19,800 Communists present at branch meetings and section conferences 6,223 spoke.

All the Party branch meetings and the conferences were open and it is worth noting that the local population attended them and followed their work with the greatest of interest.

The holding of the conferences, the fact that a great many Communists took part in discussion and the deep interest aroused by the speeches and problems discussed are an irrefutable proof of the development of the Italian Communist Party, the growth of its strength and influence, the heightened efficiency of its cadres, of all Communists. The conferences testify to a further new advance of the Party in the cause of winning over the majority of the Italian people to its side.

I.

The Communist Party is closely bound up with the broad masses of the working people, the Italian citizens. This is corroborated by the economic, political and social struggle during the past few years, by the results of measures taken by Party organisations and the results of Party conferences.

Our Party has achieved successes in spite of the unbridled anti-Communist campaign. It has achieved them because of its correct, genuinely national policy,

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Pietro Secchia
Deputy General Secretary,
Italian Communist Party

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because it daily protects the interests of the working people notwithstanding threats, arbitrariness and violence. These advances are due to the work and struggle of all Communists and all democratic organisations.

The democratic parties and organisations have made a big step forward and this is one of the achievements of our country. Were it not for the anti-Communist policy, however, which is pursued by the ruling circles, the entire nation could have advanced along the road to progress. Anti-Communism is not directed solely against one party, against one movement only, in fact, it harms the entire nation, divides the Italian people, hinders unity and the utilisation of all forces, of all the sound energy of the nation in its efforts to renovate the country. And that is why we must not leave it to chance, give way to fatalism and remain indifferent in the face of a policy of arbitrary anti-Communism.

Party conferences—and there are quite a number of these—that completely ignored the Scelba Government, that said nothing about the nature and role of this government, have made a mistake. The strength of the Party and the movement lies not in priding themselves on indifference to the policy pursued by reactionary circles, but in the extent to which they are able at any moment to reveal to the working masses their chief enemy, in the extent to which they are able to rally, unite and summon the masses to struggle in order to isolate and defeat the enemy.

At the Party conferences the question of the repeated scandals in the ruling circles, a proof of the demoralisation of bourgeois society, was mooted. This question was discussed because when ruling circles do not even conform to the laws by which every civilised state should abide, and the Statute and Constitution are such laws, when they ignore the will expressed by the people and openly proclaim that their will and not the will of the people is the law, then the workers, peasants, intelligentsia, all the working people and all honest people of every party must unite and act and struggle, since when the ruling circles reach this point then any kind of violence, any illegal action is possible and the danger of attacks on the democratic and republican institutions is a greater menace than ever before.

But the chief problems in the centre of heated discussions at Party Conferences were others, namely those of the conditions of life and labour of the vast majority of the Italian people. At these conferences there was discussion on the general political line of the Party, on our position and our tasks arising from the home and international situation. They discussed the problems of the struggle for peace, against the formation of EDC, the struggle for freedom, in defence of and for the implementation of the Republican Constitution, for agrarian and industrial reforms, the struggle against the big monopolies, for expanding the home market and of all productive activity, questions of the struggle for raising the standard of living of factory and office workers, peasants, of all working people. Not only was there discussion on these main questions, which can be solved only by a new course in Italian policy. Simultaneously with the chief tasks, each section conference and each provincial conference discussed the vital questions of the village in which the particular section

is working, the vital questions of the communities and the working people of the particular province.

The Party conferences showed that not only do the sections and federations know their communities, the social-economic structure of their given province, but that they are able to determine the problems, the solution of which is essential for an upsurge in industry, agriculture and for economic revival in the particular province. It is a big achievement of the Party that the leading cadres in our organisations are not only able to set the general tasks to which attention has been drawn by the central bodies of the Party, but that they are able, within the general framework of Party activities, to define the tasks which the Communists must put before the population and before themselves in each village and in each community in the interests of the country and of the working masses.

II.

The Communist Party is the only party in Italy which discusses at its meetings and conferences the problems of immediate interest to all sections of citizens and the vital problems of the town, the countryside and the entire nation.

The deepening crisis in our economy, the curtailing of industry and the decline in agriculture were discussed at all Party conferences and not only were the reasons for these things brought out, but, of particular importance, concrete measures were studied and laid down for the struggle to save certain enterprises, for carrying through a policy of economic revival, for agrarian and tax reform and for raising the standard of living in towns and countryside.

The Party conferences have shown that not only the leading cadres but all Communists today realise the tasks and national role of the working class and the Communist Party. Party members and the broad masses of the working people are in the vanguard of our nation; they are daily developing concrete, practical activity and establishing political contact with all progressive forces of the country.

It can be declared with pride and proved that the Italian Communist Party is a national Party. To be a national Party does not only mean to have a definite number of cadres and Party members who realise the role of the working class and the Communist Party in the country. To be a national Party means, first of all, to possess the ability and the strength properly to fulfil this role. To be a national Party is not only to realise that the Party represents the interests of all the working people, of the entire Italian people, this signifies, above all, the ability to protect these interests daily, to uphold the demands of all sections of the working people, of all progressive classes in society.

The Party conferences testify to the fact that the Party has not only become stronger politically, has not only grown quantitatively, but qualitatively as well. By the end of 1953 the Party counted 2,134,285 Communists in its ranks. By the 31st of March 2,061,827 Communists had received new membership cards whereas 2,030,690 Communists had received membership cards on this date last year; thus we have already reached 96.6 per cent of the total number of Communists who were in the Party in December last. The Italian Communist Federation of Youth had 377,112 members on March 31, i.e., 85 per cent of the number in the organisation in December 1953.

The campaign for the membership card exchange shows the constant progress in strengthening the Party ranks. This is confirmed by the fact that the number of Party members lapsing annually—in the first postwar years it reached 15-20 per cent and in some of the provinces of South Italy even went up to 40 per cent—is now on an average 7-8 per cent. We now have 1,800,000—1,900,000 comrades who have become firmly linked with the Communist Party over a number of years.

The leading cadres of federations, sections, branches, Party group organisers and other activists have considerably improved their work. The most notable successes in the leadership of the work and the struggle have been achieved by the secretariats and committees of those federations which are

now sufficiently strong and efficient to display their own initiative. An enormous number of sections and branches now have capable leading committees and efficient secretaries.

An important positive fact which attests to the development of the Party and which clearly came to the fore during the Party conferences of sections and federations is the ideological and political strengthening of the Party. During the last few months a broad campaign has been carried through in the Party to improve methods of leadership and to develop inner-Party democracy, during which we stimulated discussion and criticism.

At Party conferences of sections and federations there was a lively and broad discussion of the different problems. This discussion in all cases showed the unity of effort as well as ideological and political unity in the Party ranks. All this once again testifies to the fact that the development of inner-Party democracy, an improvement in methods of leadership are the chief means for strengthening the Party itself, for heightening the activity and developing the initiative of its members.

III.

One of the shortcomings which was brought to light at many of the section and even federation conferences is that Party organisations have insufficiently linked the demands most agitating the working people of various communities and villages with the general policy of the Party.

The organisation of broad, united movements for solving the problems of the day, problems which agitate broad sections of citizens and public opinion must not lead to belittling the role the working class plays and must play in this great struggle for the regeneration of the country. It is a question of the struggle by which the working class develops broad activity to unite all sections of the working people, middle strata of society, intelligentsia and all progressive forces against the arbitrary rule of monopolist groups and those circles which

GENEVA CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

From May 7-13 the Geneva Conference continued its work.

At the eighth meeting on May 7 the chair was taken by V. M. Molotov and discussion continued on the Korean question.

The first to be given the floor was Carlos Garcia, the Philippine representative, whose speech was simply a repetition of the spurious arguments used by the delegations of the USA and certain other countries which are docile to the American diktat.

The floor was then taken by C. Webb, the New Zealand representative, who admitted that Uno failed to justify the "hopes" placed in it with regard to the Korean question. At the same time he stated that he could not support the attitude of the delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea.

The last to speak was the representative of Colombia, Suleta Ankhel, who proposed that elections be carried out in Korea under the control of foreign states with the presence of foreign armed forces in the country.

On May 8 the Conference proceeded to consider the second item on the agenda—on restoring peace in Indo-China.

The first meeting, devoted to discussion of the Indo-China question, was attended by V. M. Molotov, Foreign Minister of the USSR, G. Bidault, Foreign Minister of France, A. Eden, Foreign Secretary of Britain, Chou En-lai, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, Bedell Smith, US Under-Secretary of State, Pham Van Dong, Deputy Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the representatives of the three Associated States—Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia—as well as advisers and experts of the delegations of the countries mentioned. The meeting was opened by A. Eden.

The first to speak was G. Bidault. The French Foreign Minister gave a distorted account—an account which was contradictory to well-known facts—of the history of the development of events in Viet Nam after the people of Viet Nam had risen up in a just struggle against the colonial enslavers, for their freedom and their lawful national rights.

On behalf of the French delegation, Bidault made a proposal envisaging the following measures: with regard to Viet Nam—"a regrouping and concentration of troops" in zones to be defined by the Conference on the proposal of the commanders-in-chief; "the disarming of elements which belong neither to the army nor to the forces keeping order"; setting free prisoners-of-war and civil internees; international control over the implementation of these conditions.

As concerns Cambodia and Laos, the proposals of the French delegation provide for the virtual disarming of the people's liberation armies under the guise of "evacuation of all regular and non-regular forces of Viet-minh".

Pham Van Dong then took the floor. He made a statement to the effect that the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam proposes that the Conference invite official delegates of the Khmer Government of resistance and the Pathet-Lao Government of resistance to take part in its work.

Bedell Smith, US representative, opposed this proposal.

Chou En-lai then spoke and pointed to the complete groundlessness of the position adopted by the US representative.

The floor was then taken by V.M. Molotov.

There have already been invited to our Conference, V. M. Molotov stated, the representatives of those Khmer and Pathet-Lao forces who are fighting for national independence, for the unity of their country, for the right to enjoy democratic freedoms and for a peaceful existence on the national territory.

national independence, for the unity of their country, for the right to enjoy democratic freedoms and for a peaceful existence on the national territory.

After the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam had been proclaimed, Pham Van Dong continued, it became evident that the era of French colonial domination in Indo-China had come to an end. Nevertheless the French colonisers who made plans to reconquer Indo-China did not reckon with the new situation.

The French expeditionary corps landed in Cochinchina and, due to a surprise attack, on September 23, 1945, captured the city of Saigon, from where they extended the war to the south of Indo-China. Thus the military conquest of Indo-China was begun by the French colonisers.

Pham Van Dong dwelt in detail on the responsibility devolving on the Americans for prolonging and extending the war in Indo-China.

Having begun intervention in the Indo-China war, American imperialism is aiming at gradually ousting the French from Indo-China, at converting it into an American colony, at seizing the economy and natural wealth of Indo-China, suppressing the national-liberation and democratic movement of the peoples of Indo-China, at using Indo-China as a jumping-off ground for the seizure of the countries of South-East Asia and converting Indo-China into an American military base.

The US and French imperialist circles want to continue the war in their own interests and to profit by the bloodshed of others.

However, said Pham Van Dong, the military situation of the enemy is more difficult now than ever before, particularly after the great victory won by the liberation army of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam at Dien Bien Phu on the eve of this Conference, the importance of which is clear to everybody. Sure of the rights and strong in their unity, the peoples of Indo-China are filled with determination to fight for the frustration of all the plans of the American interventionists.

Pham Van Dong stated that in the course of their resistance the people and army of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam were strengthening and supporting the forces of resistance in the military sphere and in the political, economic and cultural fields. At the present time, under the guidance of the Government the regime of the Democratic Republic has been consolidated in an area covering more than three-quarters of the country.

Pham Van Dong declared on behalf of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam that:

"The people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, as well as the peoples and Governments of resistance of Khmer and Pathet-Lao, are prepared to settle by negotiation the question of restoring peace in Indo-China on the basis of recognition of the national rights of the peoples of Indo-China: national unity, independence and democratic freedoms, thus creating the conditions for the re-establishment of friendly relations between the peoples of Indo-China and France on the basis of equality and mutual interests. That is the path which ensures the restoration, under conditions of equity and honour, of a stable and lasting peace in Indo-China, the only path that will really ensure peace and security for the countries in South-East Asia and Asia and which will effectively promote a relaxation in international tension, the maintenance and strengthening of peace throughout the world."

At the end of this statement Pham Van Dong made concrete proposals "On re-establishing peace in Indo-China".

The facts show, said V. M. Molotov, that the armed forces which invaded North Korean territory were the force of the United Nations in name only. In reality at least nine-tenths of the foreign troops participating in the war against North Korea were United States forces. The other 15 states did not provide more than one-tenth of the foreign armed forces which fought in the Korean war. Their participation served merely as a screen for American aggression in Korea. This also shows who bears the main responsibility for the extremely brutal, barbaric and inhuman character of warfare which was proved by numerous facts at the time. This does not however diminish the responsibility of the other states who participated in the Korean adventure.

There are countries, declared V. M. Molotov, where many are displeased with the fact that the peoples of Asia have at last stood up to defend decisively their rights and interests. But it is time to understand that no policy based on "positions of strength" can turn back the wheel of history. The peoples of Asia, the population of which constitutes more than half of the entire population of the globe, have taken a new path and there exists no power or authority which could prevent the new, truly democratic development of the peoples of Asia, and not Asia alone.

In the Korean question just as in all other questions of international significance, concluded V. M. Molotov, the Soviet Union upholds the interests of peace and of the free development of the peoples. While the ruling circles of the United States and of certain other states seek to set up military blocs both in Europe and Asia the Soviet Union upholds the interests of the collective security of the peoples, the establishment of which would eliminate the necessity of forming opposing military groupings of states. This policy of the Soviet Union is motivated by the interests of preservation and consolidation of world peace.

Spaak, Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Pyun Yung-tae, representative of South Korea, also spoke at the meeting.

Discussion on the restoration of peace in Indo-China was continued at the meeting on May 12 at which A. Eden presided.

Trying to spoil the favourable impression made by Pham Van Dong's proposals on broad sections of public opinion which are in favour of a peaceful settlement of the Indo-China question and to impede such a settlement, the representative of Cambodia read out a "telegram from the Government of Cambodia" hastily concocted, possibly in Geneva itself, possibly elsewhere, to the effect that an official, a stretcher-bearer and bonze (Buddhist priest) had been killed there on May 10.

The representative of the Bao Dai government then put forward proposals that the Bao Dai government be regarded as the sole government authorised to represent Viet Nam.

Chou En-lai was then given the floor. In a vivid and convincing speech he outlined ways to a peaceful settlement of the Indo-China question.

The People's Republic of China, Chou En-lai said, cannot but be concerned by the war now being waged in the neighbouring states and by the danger of this war being extended. The Chinese people consider that just as there was a cease-fire in Korea, so there should now be a cease-fire in Indo-China.

It is known that the USA is not an Asian country, Chou En-lai added. There is no threat to the security of the USA from any state in Asia and certainly not from the peoples of Indo-China who are fighting for national independence.

Freedom for Smith Act Victims!

Louder and louder are the voices being raised in the USA and other countries of the world demanding the release of the Smith Act victims and the repeal of the fascist laws. Ordinary Americans are beginning to realise more and more that the wild orgy of McCarthyism and persecution under the Smith Act and other police laws are directed not only against Communists but also against trade unions, freedom of speech and assembly.

Local branches of the Civil Rights Congress and other progressive organisations have organised rallies in a number of regions of the country. Those participating in these rallies demanded an end to persecutions under the Smith Act and the release of the victims of this law. One such rally in San Francisco called on progressives to launch a broad amnesty campaign for those imprisoned under the Smith Act. Percy Edmond, representative of the San Francisco Civil Rights Congress, said that persecutions under the Smith Act represent "an attack on the whole progressive movement, the Negro people and organised labour. These attacks on our constitutional rights can and will be stopped by freedom-loving Americans".

Early in April the National Lawyers' Guild forwarded to members of the Judiciary Committees of the House and Senate a report condemning the bills designed to take away the citizenship of anyone imprisoned under the Smith Act. These bills, the report says, represent "one more repressive measure designed to frighten people away from daring to exercise their Constitutional rights of free speech and free assembly".

Evidence of the growing indignation at the arbitrary actions of American reaction is the petition campaign that has been launched in the state of Wisconsin demanding the recall from the Senate of McCarthy—one of the ominous figures of fascist reaction in the USA. Some 200,000 of the 404,000 signatures which give voters the right to recall their representative from the Senate have been collected.

Progressive world public opinion wholeheartedly supports the activity of honest people in the USA in defence of the Smith Act victims, against the court arbitrariness of US reaction.

Opening in Budapest of Museum of History of Working-Class Movement in People's Democracies

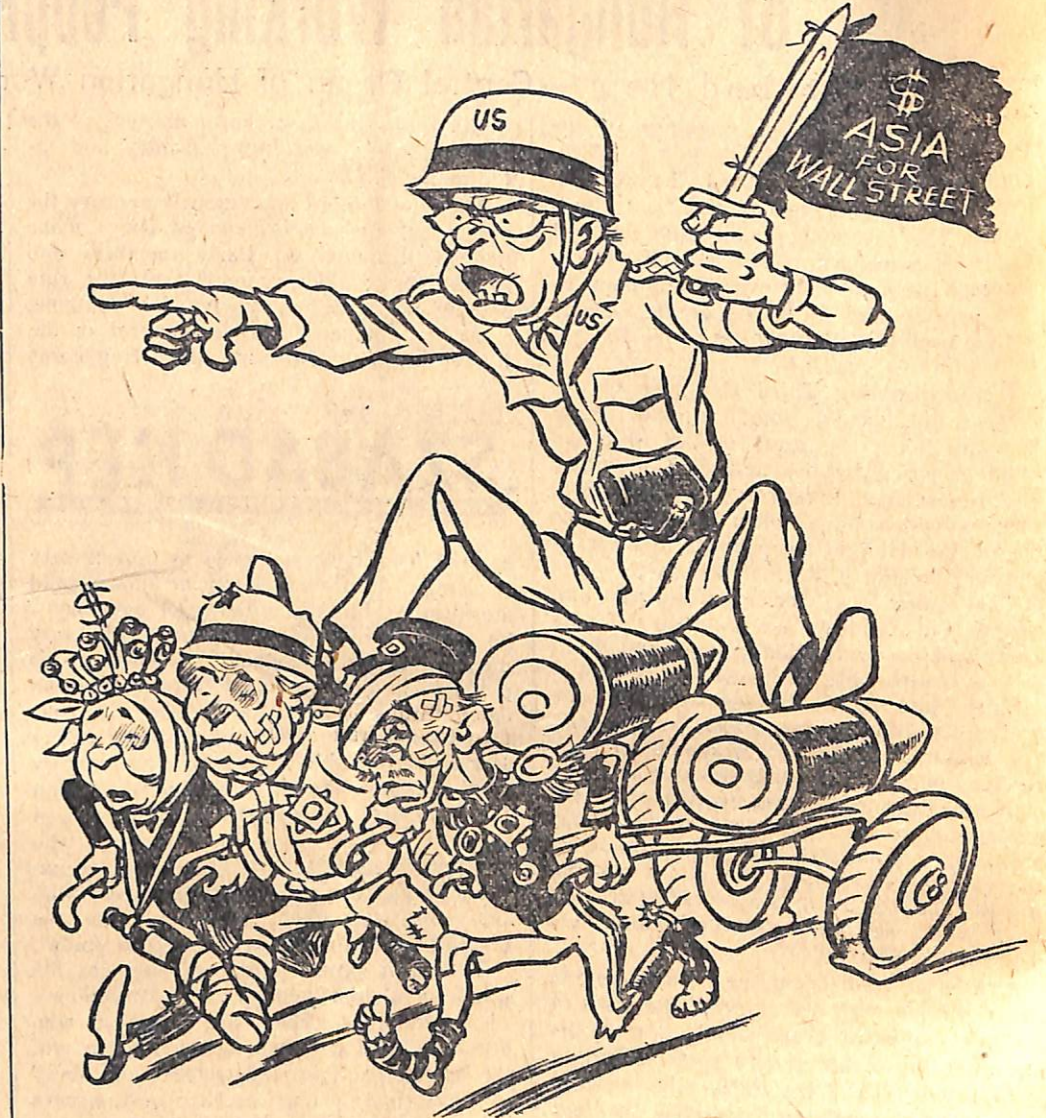
A museum of the history of the working-class movement in the People's Democracies was opened in the premises of the Institute of the Hungarian working-class movement in Budapest. The ceremony was attended by representatives of the C.C. of the Hungarian Working People's Party and the Government, representatives of the fraternal Communist and Workers' Parties and veterans of the Hungarian working-class movement.

Many photographs, pictures, newspapers, books and sculptures show visitors the development of the working-class movement in China, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania; the heroic struggle of the working people of these countries for their liberation and their remarkable achievements under the people's rule. The displays show the selfless aid rendered by the Soviet Union to the People's Democracies in building Socialism.

The museum also illustrates the past and present activities of the working people.

Provocative statements by the American puppets Bao Dai, Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai-shek have recently become more frequent on orders from US aggressive circles. These statements are designed to frustrate the peaceful settlement of the Korean and the Indo-China questions and to aggravate the situation in South-East Asia.

(Press item)



DEVOTED LACKEYS OF WALL STREET

Drawing by J. Novak

POLITICAL NOTES

Unctuous Speeches and Aggressive Deeds

While the representatives of American diplomacy both at the Geneva Conference and outside it are giving vent to speech after speech on the subject of their "peaceableness" and their "most sincere sympathies" for the peoples of the Asian countries, their brothers from the Pentagon are preoccupied with activities of another kind: with pencil in hand and strategic maps before them, they are totting up the manpower and economic resources necessary for prolonging and expanding the war in Asia. In Singapore and other places under the domination of American generals persons of high military rank from Britain, France and Australia are conferring as to the best means of keeping the peoples of Asia under the colonial yoke, of suppressing their mighty national-liberation movement. A new military bloc, spearheaded against the peoples of South-East Asia, is being formed.

In addition to the USA, Britain and France the intentions of the instigators are that Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand and the three puppet governments in Indo-China should be included among the participants of this bloc. In this way the US is attempting to camouflage their insolent intervention in the internal affairs of the Asian states. An active role in the projected bloc is being assigned to Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai-shek's clique.

The organisers of this new aggressive grouping are attempting to prove that this bloc is a "defensive" one, that its

colonies and to facilitate the seizure of these colonies.

According to the designs of the American imperialists, the "alliance" of colonial powers will have a certain "Asian army", these militarists.

US reactionary circles are thus trying to form something similar to the aggressive North-Atlantic bloc in South-East Asia and the Pacific Ocean basin. If the polists as a means of enslaving the peoples of Western Europe, then the Pacific bloc should help American capital become boss of the show in the Asian countries. If in Europe the North-Atlantic pact is a means of preparing aggression against the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy, the US ruling circles are allotting a similar role to the Pacific bloc in relation to the People's Republic of China and other peace-loving countries in Asia.

Is it not clear that these war plans of aggressive imperialist circles are radically opposed to the interests of peace and oppressed peoples. Is it not clear that these war plans are aimed, primarily, at perpetuating colonial slavery at any cost, at restraining the peoples who are striving towards national freedom and independence which are nursing such plans.

But whoever is nursing such plans...

