Workers of all lands, unite!

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

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GREAT FORCE OF LENINIST ORGANISATIONAL PRINCIPLES

The Communist and Workers' Parties in all countries are invariably guided by the Leninist teaching on the Party of the new type. One of the outstanding works by V. I. Lenin, expounding the teaching on the Party, is the book entitled "One step forward, two steps back" published fifty years ago. In this work Lenin set out the basic organisational principles of the Party of the new type, for the first time in the history of Marxism elaborated the teaching on the Party as the leading organisation of the proletariat, as the main weapon in its hands without which it is impossible to overthrow the power of the bourgeoisie, to achieve the dictatorship of the proletariat, to build Socialism and Communism. Lenin delivered a crushing blow to the ideological and organisational concepts of the Russian Menshéviks, the Revisionists, renegades from Marxism and international opportunism as a whole. This was of great significance for the development of the revolutionary movement in all countries. The past fifty years have graphically illustrated the great vital power of the Leninist teaching on the Party of the new type. The Lenin ideas are the militant guiding principles for all Communist and Workers' Parties.

V. I. Lenin attached exceptional importance to the organisation of the proletariat, to organising the Party of the working class. He concluded his famous book "One step forward, two steps back" with the following prophetic words: "In its struggle for power the proletariat has no other weapon but organisation... The proletariat can become, and will inevitably become, an invincible force only when its ideological unity round the principles of Marxism is consolidated by the material unity of an organisation which unites millions of toilers in the army of the working class. Neither the decrepit rule of Russian tsarism, nor the senile rule of international capital will be able to withstand this army."

This scientific foresight of Lenin is fully confirmed by the entire march of historical events.

Founded and shaped by Lenin, the genius of the Revolution, and by J. V. Stalin, his companion-in-arms and continuer of his cause, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union rallied the working class and the working peasantry into an indissolubie alliance, achieved the overthrow of the power of the capitalists and landlords, organised the dictatorship of the proletariat, inspired the million-fold masses to conscious historical creative work, ensured the building of a socialist society and is confidently leading the Soviet people forward to Communism.

Under the leadership of the Communist [illegible] the working people going among all classes of the population, in uniting all national and democratic forces in the struggle for democratic freedoms and national independence, against the instigators of a new war.

The extremely important and responsible tasks facing the Communist and Workers' Parties in present conditions make big demands on their members. The Rules of the Communist and Workers' Parties in the countries of people's democracy oblige the members to fight selflessly for the cause of the working people, for the cause of Socialism, oblige them to be active fighters in carrying through the policy of the Party, strictly to observe Party and state discipline, persistently to raise their ideological level, to be models in work. Fortitude, staunchness, persistence, active struggle for implementing Party decisions—these are the qualities required from members of the Communist and Workers' Parties in the capitalist, colonial and dependent countries. The members of these Parties often experience tremendous difficulties, upheavals, privations and adversity. But the advanced, selfless sons of the working class, of the working peasantry and the progressive intelligentsia do not fear difficulties. The Communist and Workers' Parties in the capitalist, colonial and dependent countries are training and moulding genuine heroes in their ranks, staunch and fearless fighters for the interests of the people.

The principal condition for the strength and invincibility of the Party is unity and solidarity of its ranks. The bourgeoisie is doing everything it can to undermine the unity of the Communist and Workers' Parties, to send its agents into them. That is why the Communist and Workers' Parties consider it their main duty to strengthen the unity of their ranks, to enhance the vigilance of all the members.

In the Rules adopted by the Second Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party, as well as in the Rules of other Parties, special emphasis was laid on the fact that members are charged with the task of preserving the unity of the Party as a main condition of the strength and fighting efficiency of the Party. The fourth Plenum of the C.C. of the Communist Party of China, held in February, adopted a resolution on strengthening the unity of the Party and defined the tasks for further consolidating the unity of the Party ranks.

The norms of Party life elaborated by Lenin, the principles of Party leadership envisage consistent adherence to the principles of democratic centralism and inner-Party democracy, the utmost development of the activity of the rank-and-file

New Economic Achievements of German Democratic Republic

As reported by the Central Statistical Board of the German Democratic Republic industry fulfilled the gross production plan for the first three months of this year by 97 per cent. Compared with the first quarter of the previous year gross industrial output went up 11 per cent.

The socialist industrial enterprises fulfilled the plan 98.5 per cent and increased the volume of production by 10 per cent above the figure reached in the first quarter last year. According to preliminary data labour productivity rose by 5.9 per cent and average wages 8.6 per cent as compared with the corresponding period last year.

Output of privately-owned industry was 18 per cent higher than in the first quarter of 1953.

The total foreign and internal trade of the Republic in the first quarter rose by 28 per cent compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. Trade with the countries of the democratic camp increased by 23 per cent and with the capitalist countries by 42 per cent.

Compared with the first quarter of 1953 retail trade increased 15 per cent.

STRIKE MOVEMENT IN ITALY

Under the leadership of the Italian General Confederation of Labour the struggle of the working people of Italy for the satisfaction of their immediate demands and a higher standard of living has developed with renewed force.

During the past few weeks general or partial strikes have taken place in many cities. Some 90-93 per cent of all workers of Rome took part in the general 24-hour strike on May 13, which brought work practically to a standstill in enterprises of the capital. 24-hour strikes were also held by the industrial workers of Naples, Cremona, Genoa, Savona and by the building workers of Rimini. During the past week strikes of building workers have also taken place in Milan, Bergamo, Reggio-Emilia and other cities.

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CELEBRATING TERCENTENARY OF REUNION OF THE UKRAINE WITH RUSSIA

The significant date of the 300th anniversary of the reunion of the Ukraine with Russia is being marked by the Soviet people in every home, in every family. In honour of this date the working people of the Ukraine are widely unfolding socialist emulation. A Jubilee Session of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR, to which guests from other Soviet Republics are invited, will be held in Kiev on May 22. A ten-day festival of Russian literature and art was recently held in the Ukraine. Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre presented for the people of Kiev Shaporin's opera "The Decembrists", Asafiev's ballet "Fountain of Bakhchisarai", Borodin's "Prince Igor" and Tchaikovsky's ballet "Swan Lake". In Kharkov the people warmly welcomed as honoured guests the artistes of the famous Maly Theatre, while the people of Dniepropetrovsk welcomed those of the Gorki Theatre of Drama from Leningrad.

Russian writers visited the graves of the great Ukrainian poet T. G. Shevchenko and the Russian Soviet writer Arkady Gaidar. They met with collective farmers in the Kiev-Svyatoshinsk district, the working people in the Kanev district, visited the ancient city of Chernigov and other places. In the course of the ten days about 1,400 people gave performances in theatres and palaces of culture, in village clubs, in the parks, in factory shops and in higher educational institutes.

This glorious, historic date is being widely and joyfully marked by the working people of the RSFSR and other fraternal Soviet Republics. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR has decided to convene a Jubilee Session of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR in Moscow on May 27 in honour of the 300th anniversary of the reunion of the Ukraine with Russia, to which delegates from fraternal Republics have been invited. Performances given in Moscow by the leading opera collective in the Ukraine—the T. G. Shevchenko Theatre of Opera and Ballet from Kiev—were accorded a warm and enthusiastic reception. The opera "Bogdan Khmelnitsky", composed by K. Dankevich, Merited Worker of Art of the Ukrainian SSR, the Ukrainian composer A. Svechnikov's ballet "Marusya Boguslavka" and Borodin's "Prince Igor" were performed in the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow and met with a hearty reception.

Celebration meetings are now taking place in Moscow, Leningrad, Minsk, Tashkent, Baku and other cities of the Soviet Union in honour of the anniversary, and socialist emulation between the working people of the Ukraine and the fraternal Union Republics is growing apace.

In connection with this historic date tokens of friendship for the fraternal Russian and Ukrainian peoples are being prepared in all the Soviet Republics. A Session of the Academy of Sciences of the Byelorussian SSR in Minsk and a general meeting of the Academy of Sciences of the Lithuanian SSR in Vilnius (Vilna) were dedicated to the anniversary.

Only in a country where the socialist nations are united in one family around the glorious Communist Party is such a mighty and vivid manifestation of the friendship of the peoples possible.

Congress of Unity of German People

The Second National Congress of the National Front of Democratic Germany (NFDG) took place in Berlin on May 15-16. About 5,000 delegates and visitors from the German Democratic Republic and Western Germany, representatives of the most diverse political views and world outlooks, took part in the work of the Congress.

A report on the immediate tasks of German patriots in the struggle for a united, peace-loving Germany was given by Professor Erich Correns, Chairman of the National Council of the NFDG. He called on the Congress to begin preparations for holding throughout the whole of Germany a Western parts of the country closer to each other.

The delegates unanimously adopted an appeal to all Germans for big efforts in the common struggle for a united Germany and for peace, a message to German servicemen in the Foreign Legion in Viet Nam and a proposal for an immediate ban on the recruitment of Germans to the French Foreign Legion.

On the proposal of Rosel Hillebrandt, a delegate from Western Germany, the Congress unanimously agreed to instruct the National Council to call on state bodies and political and social organisations in the

Statement by Secretariat of World Peace Council

The Secretariat of the World Peace Council has published the following statement:

An emergency Session of the World Peace Council will be held on May 23-28 in Berlin.

The World Peace Council will discuss, in particular, the question of the security and independence of the peoples as well as the need to remove the threat to use atomic and hydrogen weapons.

It will express the will of the world public to promote, as far as it can, settlement of important international problems in the spirit of lessening tension and in the spirit of peace.

Frederic JOLIOT-CURIE.

Paris, May 14, 1954.

POWERFUL ADVANCE OF PEACE MOVEMENT IN INDIA

The aggressive plans of the US imperialists, aimed at suppressing the national liberation movement in Asian countries, have given rise to vigorous protests from the million-fold masses of India.

Those taking part in the mass meetings throughout the country resolutely condemn the US designs for setting up an aggressive bloc in South-East Asia and express the hopes that a solution of the Korean and Indo-China issues will be reached at the Geneva Conference. At meetings called by the All-India Peasant Union (Kisan Sabha) the peasants wrathfully protest against the US-Pakistan aggressive pact.

People of the most varied social strata, political views and religious beliefs are joining the peace movement, which has assumed a genuine national character. Convincing proof of this was the National Convention Against the US-Pakistan Pact and for Lessening International Tension held recently in Delhi on the initiative of prominent political and public figures including 50 members of the Indian Parliament and nearly 100 members of State Legislative Assemblies.

The Convention was attended by about 400 delegates representing all the main political parties as well as public and religious organisations. The delegates indignantly condemned the aggressive actions of the US in Asia and called on the people of India to rally in the struggle for peace. The Convention unanimously adopted eight resolutions dealing with the most important

class. He concluded his famous book "One step forward, two steps back" with the following prophetic words: "In its struggle for power the proletariat has no other weapon but organisation... The proletariat can become, and will inevitably become, an invincible force only when its ideological unity round the principles of Marxism is consolidated by the material unity of an organisation which unites millions of toilers in the army of the working class. Neither the decrepit rule of Russian tsarism, nor the senile rule of international capital will be able to withstand this army."

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Under the leadership of the Communist and Workers' Parties, the working people in a number of countries of Europe and Asia have forever thrown off the yoke of imperialism and have stepped out onto a new path, the path of people's democracy. Of historic significance is the victory of the great Chinese people who, under the leadership of their glorious Communist Party, smashed the imperialists and their Chiang Kai-shek menials, founded the People's Republic of China and achieved enormous successes in economic and cultural construction. All these historic events represent a supreme triumph for Marxism-Leninism, splendid corroboration of Lenin's teaching on the organising, inspiring and transforming role of the Party of the new type.

The Party of the new type is the vanguard, conscious and organised detachment of the working class equipped with revolutionary theory, with knowledge of the laws of the development of society and class struggle and experience of the revolutionary movement. Only a Party that is armed with the all-conquering teaching of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, that is solid and centralised, possessing a single will and a single discipline is capable of directing the struggle of the working class and leading it to victory.

The success of the entire activity of the Communist and Workers' Parties, their strength and the realisation of their tasks depend wholly on the links with the broad popular masses, on the support of the people. Nothing is so alien to the spirit of the Leninist teaching on the Party of the new type as sectarianism, as isolation of the Party from the masses, inability to give ear to the voice of the masses and to understand their urgent needs, lack of readiness not only to teach the masses, but also to learn from them. Resolute eradication of any manifestation of sectarianism and "tailing behind", and extending contact with the popular masses—these are important pre-conditions for the further strengthening of the Communist and Workers' Parties, for converting each of them into a really mass Party capable of leading the millions of the working class and all the working people.

The Communist Party is the political leader of the working class. And precisely because it is the political leader of the working class—the most advanced class in contemporary society—it acts as the political leader of the people, expressing the interests of all the progressive forces of the nation. The experience of the Communist Parties of France and Italy, which are the main directing force in upholding national independence, in defending democratic freedoms, fully confirms this Leninist principle. The Communist and Workers' Parties in the capitalist, colonial and dependent countries see their primary duty in conducting tireless political work among the broad masses of the working class and the peasantry, in and moulding genuine heroes in their ranks, staunch and fearless fighters for the interests of the people.

The principal condition for the strength and invincibility of the Party is unity and solidarity of its ranks. The bourgeoisie is doing everything it can to undermine the unity of the Communist and Workers' Parties, to send its agents into them. That is why the Communist and Workers' Parties consider it their main duty to strengthen the unity of their ranks, to enhance the vigilance of all the members.

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The Party branches or groups are the basis of the Party of the new type. The Communist and Workers' Parties in the capitalist countries regard as their primary task the activisation of industrial branches, the struggle for establishing branches at all enterprises where there are none, first and foremost in the big plants. Lenin set the task of making each factory a fortress of the Party of the working class. This Leninist counsel serves as a guide to action for all Communist and Workers' Parties.

One of the most important principles of the Leninist teaching on the Party of the new type is the principle of collective leadership. Only collective leadership in the work of all Party organisations and Party bodies can ensure correct decisions in relation to the complex tasks facing the Party.

A powerful means of heightening the fighting efficiency of the Communist and Workers' Parties, of unfolding inner-Party democracy, of eliminating shortcomings is self-criticism and particularly criticism from below. Bold and open criticism and self-criticism—this is the Leninist method of strengthening the Communist and Workers' Parties, of correctly training the Party cadres, of activising the work of all Communists.

By making a detailed and thorough study of the experience of the CPSU, by ever more profoundly mastering the idea of Leninism, the Communist and Workers' Parties are tirelessly sharpening their organisational weapons. Questions of organisational work were the subject of discussion at the Congresses of the Communist Party of Bulgaria, the Polish Unjted Workers' Party, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Communist Party of Great Britain. The Third Congress of the Communist Party of India also focused attention on organisational questions and questions of training the members. Organisational work is on the agenda of the forthcoming Congresses of the Hungarian Working People's Party, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the French Communist Party and the Communist Party of Brazil.

Guided by the great Leninist teaching on the Party of the new type and translating into life the Leninist counsel on strengthening contact with the masses, on developing inner-Party democracy, criticism and self-criticism, on the principle of collective leadership, the Communist and Workers' Parties will achieve further successes in strengthening their ranks and heightening the fighting efficiency of their ranks in their entire activity, which is devoted to selfless service for the cause of peace, democracy and Socialism.

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A 48-hour strike of some 160,000 industrial, transport and agricultural workers has been held in the Ferrara Province. In the ceramic and cement industries in the Viterbo Province all the workers came out on strike. In Turin, in addition to a general 4-hour strike held on May 20, there have been strikes in a number of enterprises. A 96-hour general strike was declared on May 19 by the workers of the rubber industry. As a result of the strikes the employers in many places agreed to pay the workers an immediate advance in anticipation of an increase in wages.

people in the Kanev district, visited the ancient city of Chernigov and other places. In the course of the ten days about 1,400 people gave performances in theatres and palaces of culture, in village clubs, in the parks, in factory shops and in higher educational institutes.

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A report on the immediate tasks of German patriots in the struggle for a united, peace-loving Germany was given by Professor Erich Correns, Chairman of the National Council of the NFDG. He called on the Congress to begin preparations for holding throughout the whole of Germany a popular referendum on the wishes of the German people: a just democratic peace treaty and the withdrawal of all the occupation troops or the EDC agreement and an increase in the number of occupation troops. The fight to hold this popular referendum, the speaker noted, was the great national task of all German patriots.

In the discussions the speakers stressed the fact that without the active participation of the Germans themselves it would be impossible to re-establish the unity of Germany; proposals were put forward for bringing the Germans in the Eastern and Western parts of the country closer to each other.

The delegates unanimously adopted an appeal to all Germans for big efforts in the common struggle for a united Germany and for peace, a message to German servicemen in the Foreign Legion in Viet Nam and a proposal for an immediate ban on the recruitment of Germans to the French Foreign Legion.

On the proposal of Rosel Hillebrandt, a delegate from Western Germany, the Congress unanimously agreed to instruct the National Council to call on state bodies and political and social organisations in the German Democratic Republic and Western Germany to organise joint action for the banning of all types of weapons of mass extermination and for bringing the two parts of the country closer together economically and culturally.

The Congress elected the new National Council of the NFDG.

The work of the Second National Congress in Berlin was a graphic illustration of the growing activity among broad masses of the German people in the struggle against militarism, for peace and the democratic unity of Germany.

Those taking part in the mass meetings throughout the country resolutely condemn the US designs for setting up an aggressive bloc in South-East Asia and express the hopes that a solution of the Korean and Indo-China issues will be reached at the Geneva Conference. At meetings called by the All-India Peasant Union (Kisan Sabha) the peasants wrathfully protest against the US-Pakistan aggressive pact.

People of the most varied social strata, political views and religious beliefs are joining the peace movement, which has assumed a genuine national character. Convincing proof of this was the National Convention Against the US-Pakistan Pact and for Lessening International Tension held recently in Delhi on the initiative of prominent political and public figures including 50 members of the Indian Parliament and nearly 100 members of State Legislative Assemblies.

The Convention was attended by about 400 delegates representing all the main political parties as well as public and religious organisations. The delegates indignantly condemned the aggressive actions of the US in Asia and called on the people of India to rally in the struggle for peace. The Convention unanimously adopted eight resolutions dealing with the most important questions of ensuring peace in Asia and lessening the international tension. The resolution on "Asian problems" says: "While regretting the absence from the Geneva Conference of many Asian countries vitally interested in discussions on Asian problems, this Convention welcomes the participation in the Geneva Conference of the representatives of the Chinese People's Republic and declares its firm belief that the Chinese People's Republic must be admitted to its rightful place in the United Nations' Organisation."

National Liberation Struggle of Peoples of Pathet Lao and Khmer

Inspired by the successes of the Viet Nam people who proclaimed the Democratic Republic in August 1945, the peoples of Pathet Lao and Khmer have waged long and heroic struggle for the freedom and the complete independence of their countries.

The close alliance between the peoples of Pathet Lao and Khmer and the Viet Namese people in the liberation struggle against their common oppressors—the French colonisers and the US imperialists behind them—found expression in the agreement signed in March 1951 for an alliance between Viet Nam, Pathet Lao and Khmer. This alliance is based on the voluntary principle, on equality, mutual aid and respect for the national independence of each country. It is constantly becoming stronger despite the attempts of the imperialists to divide the peoples of Indo-China with the object of enslaving them. The peoples of Pathet Lao and Khmer cannot be deceived by the demagogic declarations of the American imperialists who, striving to push the French colonisers right out of Indo-China and to take their place, are prevailing upon the puppet monarchs of Laos (Pathet Lao) and Cambodia (Khmer) to demand "independence".

Having liberated a considerable part of their territories from the rule of the French colonisers, the peoples of Pathet Lao and Khmer, like the people of Viet Nam, led by their freely elected governments, are continuing the struggle for their just cause.

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An interim democratic government was established in Pathet Lao way back on October 12, 1945, which proclaimed the independence of the country and compelled King Sisavong Vong to abdicate. However, soon after, the French colonisers began their aggression against Pathet Lao, and the people once again rose with arms in hand to defend their freedom.

In August 1950 a conference of representatives from all the social strata of the population set up the National United Front of Pathet Lao (Lao Issala) and the new Government of Resistance. It laid the foundation for unfolding a resistance movement and national construction in the country. The National United Front of Pathet Lao consists of representatives of workers, peasants, intelligentsia and national bourgeoisie. It has recently been joined by new mass organisations representing different social strata and nationalities.

Relying on the National United Front, which is playing a decisive role both in the liberated and occupied territories, the Government of Resistance headed by Prime Minister Souvannouvong at present controls areas covering more than 110,000 square kilometres, i.e. more than half the country. Over two-thirds of the population of Pathet Lao—more than 1 million people—live in these regions. Democratic rule is being effected in nine out of the ten provinces in the country and the democratic Government renders every-day aid to newly liberated regions.

The Government has carried through a number of democratic reforms and gives substantial economic aid to the peasants by supplying them with agricultural implements and seeds. Production has considerably increased and this enables the needs of the resistance movement to be provided for and the standard of living to be raised. With great enthusiasm the Pathet Lao peasants are cultivating fallow lands and are striving to obtain higher yields. Despite the enormous damage done by the colonisers, and also by drought, satisfactory rice harvests are being gathered on the liberated territory. Illiteracy is being eliminated.

The people of Khmer are waging a heroic struggle against the French colonisers, the American interventionists and the puppet regime. In April 1950 the National Conference of the people's representatives, in which more than 200 representatives of all sections of the population took part, formed the National United Front of Khmer (Khmer Issarak), adopted its programme and Rules. It elected the National Liberation Committee which was later converted into the Government of Resistance headed by Son Ngoc Minh, President and Prime Minister. The Government of Resistance enjoys prestige not only on the territory which has been liberated and which covers an area of nearly 100,000 square kilometres with a population of 1,000,000 (a third of the total area of the country and a quarter of the entire population), but in fact throughout the greater part of Khmer. The National United Front exerts great influence in the whole of Khmer, unites masses of peasants, the intelligentsia, Buddhist monks and a considerable part of the national bourgeoisie.

At present the liberated areas form a single entity along the frontier with Viet Nam and Thailand. There are, however, liberated areas in other parts of Khmer—in 11 of the 14 provinces.

The Government of Resistance, whose first act was to give the people democratic freedoms, has carried through a series of economic reforms and has abolished all the exorbitant taxes levied by the colonisers. Beginning with 1952 the working people launched emulation for increasing production. The standard of living is steadily improving. The Government is devoting close attention to the elimination of illiteracy. Whereas under French imperialist rule the population was practically 100 per cent illiterate, now in several of the liberated regions the number of illiterates has fallen to 30 per cent.

In the regions still under the control of the French colonisers the people's struggle against colonial oppression and exploitation, particularly the struggle of the workers on the rubber plantations, is growing.

The high prestige of the Governments of Resistance in Pathet Lao and Khmer, their achievements in the economic and social spheres and the increasing confidence reposed in them by the great majority of the population justify their demands to participate in discussion on the question of restoring peace in Indo-China at the Geneva Conference.

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Truth will out, despite the ridiculous attempts of the French colonisers and the American imperialists to refuse to acknowledge the existence of the Governments of Resistance of Pathet Lao and Khmer, and also to refuse to acknowledge the national liberation struggle waged by these two peoples for their independence by references to imaginary "aggression" on the part of the Viet Nam People's Army in Pathet Lao and Khmer. Even in its official documents the H. Q. of the French expeditionary corps admits that three-quarters of the populated regions in both countries are theatres of active guerrilla warfare. The reactionary American magazine "Twentieth Century" commenting in May 1953 on events in Pathet Lao, in answer to the question "What is to be seen in Laos?", replied that it was the same as was to be seen all over Asia and Africa, in all the colonies —the revolt of the peoples demanding freedom.

Inspired by the support of all the peoples in the camp of democracy and peace, of all peace-loving peoples and relying on the active solidarity of the French people, the peoples of Pathet Lao and Khmer, in fraternal unity with the Viet Nam people, are intensifying their selfless fight for peace, national independence and freedom.

For Powerful Upsurge of Agriculture in Rumanian People's Republic

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Gheorghe Apostol

First Secretary, Central Committee, Rumanian Workers' Party

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Questions of developing agriculture are given first place by the Rumanian Workers' Party and the Government of the Rumanian People's Republic. In undertaking the further planned advance of socialist industry—the base for developing the entire national economy and increasing the well-being of the people—the Party and the people's-democratic state direct the united efforts of the working class, working peasantry and all working people towards the realisation of a mighty upsurge of agriculture and production of consumer goods, in accordance with the tasks set by the meeting of the C.C. of the Party held in August 1953.

The measures adopted by the Party and the Government for ensuring the further development of agriculture and an increasing volume of trade between town and countryside testify to the fact that the Party is unswervingly guided in all its policy by the tried Leninist teaching and historical experience of the CPSU and the Soviet state, tirelessly strengthens the alliance of the working class and the working peasantry in which the leading role belongs to the working class. The consolidation of this alliance and the vanguard role of the working class—the leading force of the Government and of all the working people—are the guarantee for the successful solution of the tasks of building Socialism in our country.

I.

After the heroic Soviet Army liberated Rumania and the working class in alliance with the working peasantry won power under the leadership of our Party, profound changes took place in the life of the Rumanian countryside. As a result of agrarian reform, over one million hectares of land were given to the working peasantry liberated from the age-old yoke of the landlords. The Party and the people's-democratic state have consistently carried out a policy of supporting the working peasantry, helping them in every way to develop their farms in their own interests and in the interests of advancing the national economy. The working peasants have received from the state selected seed, pedigree cattle, agricultural implements, agrotechnical and zoo-technical assistance and cheap credits. Under conditions of the people's-democratic system, as a result of the support given by the state, the process of pauperisation of the working peasantry has come to a halt in the countryside. The material conditions of our peasants have considerably improved and their standard of living has risen substantially since the liberation.

The rise of the socialist sector in the countryside was an event of the utmost importance in the development of agriculture. Over 280,000 working peasant families are united on the voluntary principle in 4,300 collective farms and associations for joint cultivation of land. Many of them have already achieved good results in increasing production and raising productivity of agricultural labour and, on this basis, in improving the life of the peasants in the collective farms and associations.

Guided by the fundamental counsel of V. I. Lenin which says that only a heavy machine industry can reorganise agriculture, our Party adopted measures to lay the foundations for the mechanisation of agriculture and organised 220 machine and crease of crop acreage and a mighty development of animal husbandry, the restoration and development of wine-growing and horticulture.

This year our industry will supply the MTS and state farms with more than 1,600 caterpillar tractors, more than 2,500 cultivators and binders, over 1,300 threshing-machines and thousands of tractor-drawn ploughs and seeding machines. The number of machine-hiring stations will be increased and their equipment improved.

The struggle to ensure a new upsurge of agriculture in our country has already brought some positive results. The average yield of wheat, maize, potatoes and sugar beet in 1953 has surpassed the 1938 level.

Despite unfavourable climatic conditions this year, the spring sowing is being carried out with a higher level of agrotechnique. Members of collective farms and individual peasants are showing greater interest in farming technique. This year organic fertilisers and selected seed have been used on a wider scale and the square-cluster method of sowing is being introduced.

II.

Marxist-Leninist science and the historical experience of the Soviet Union teaches that the final solution of the grain problem, the radical elimination of the difficulties of supply, the ensuring of a high standard of living for the entire working people are inseparable from the fulfilment of the tasks of the socialist transformation of the countryside.

Our working peasantry are proving from their own experience how wide are the possibilities of socialist agriculture for increasing output of agricultural products. For instance, the "11th June" collective farm in the village of Valea Roşie in the Bucharest Region harvested in 1953 an average yield of wheat of about 2.1 tons per hectare as against 1.2 tons obtained on the individual sector. In 1953 the "Victoria" collective farm in the village of Lenauheim, Arad Region, harvested from 460 hectares of wheat an average yield of more than 2.7 tons per hectare, from 360 hectares of maize more than 4 tons per hectare, from 100 hectares of winter barley more than 3.2 tons per hectare and so on. Our country has never had such yields before and they are becoming a great force of attraction for the working peasantry. It is natural that the number of members in this collective farm has increased almost fivefold since 1949—from 67 to 301 families; an even bigger increase is to be observed in other collective farms.

Our main task in the struggle for the socialist transformation of agriculture is to strengthen organisationally and economically the existing collective farms because, so strengthened, the advanced collective farms serve as the most striking and convincing example for drawing the working peasantry onto the path of the socialist transformation of agriculture. Of great significance in this connection are the measures adopted by the Party and the Government for helping collective farms to become big producers of grain and the products of animal husbandry. These measures envisage the granting of big credits (800 million lei for 1954-1955 alone) for the working peasantry but, on the contrary, by rendering aid to individual peasant farmers, by raising their economic level and improving technical equipment. The conditions for drawing the broad peasant masses onto the path of Socialism are created not by maintaining a low level, but by an upswing in agricultural production which corresponds to the interests of the development of the national economy as well as to the interests of the working peasantry.

III.

The Party and the people's-democratic state are giving big help to the small and middle peasants with a view to utilising the considerable and far from exhausted potential possibilities in their farms for increasing agricultural production. Measures have been taken for granting cheap credits to the individual working peasants, for rendering them agro-zoo-technical aid, for helping the small and middle peasant farms with tractors and other state machines on favourable terms, for supplying them with chemical fertilisers and other necessities. Experience shows that in the present conditions the establishment of the correct economic attitude towards the small and middle peasant—the chief source of agricultural production for the market—is of decisive importance in increasing the production of agriculture.

The Party is guided by the instructions of V. I. Lenin on the necessity for applying the principle of the material incentives for producers in increasing production. Lenin wrote that "personal interestedness raises production; that above all we must increase production and at any cost".

A number of measures have recently been taken for raising the material interestedness of the working peasants in increasing agricultural production. Of particular significance in this respect are the decisions of the Government and the Party for applying the contract system to a number of agricultural crops. These measures envisage a wide system of incentives: favourable prices, bonuses, reductions in state deliveries and taxes, agro-zoo-technical assistance, favourable terms for acquiring manufactured goods, etc. The aim of this system is to bring economic influence to bear for the purpose of intensifying the work of the collective farms, associations, small and middle peasant households in those branches of agriculture where the products are most essential for the national economy. By extending the contract system the bonds between industry and agriculture will be strengthened and the leading role of industry raised; conditions will be created for improving supplies of agricultural produce to the towns and manufactured goods to the working peasantry; the economic base of the alliance between the working class and the working peasantry will become even stronger.

Carrying out the policy of restricting the kulak, the Party at the same time wages constant struggle against any manifestation of appeasement and opportunism in relation to the rural exploiters. The kulak has always been and is still the irreconcilable enemy of the working people of town and countryside, the enemy of the people's-democratic system. There can be no talk state farms and to develop them as big producers of selected seed, marketable grain, pedigree cattle, animal husbandry products, vegetables and technical crops.

Guided by the example of Soviet scientists and utilising their rich experience, our scientists have achieved considerable success in elaborating scientific methods of cultivation, in improving and zoning particular crops, in protecting and looking after the crops and in producing new animal strains. Our scientists, agronomists and zoo-technicians, who enjoy the love and respect of the entire people and receive the powerful support of the state, have now open to them the broadest possibilities for creative work—possibilities hitherto unthinkable. This refers not only to the better conditions enjoyed by our scientific institutions and experimental stations, but to the joy and satisfaction at seeing how their advice and the results of their research find ever wider application in agriculture and bring excellent results. The Party and the Government call upon the agricultural scientists, on all agronomists and zoo-technicians constantly to deepen their technical and scientific knowledge and to establish closer contact with the leading practical workers in agriculture and with the masses of the working peasants. Not in the office or at the desk, but in the fields among the peasants—this is the place for the agronomist.

The recent meeting of leading agricultural workers, convened by the C.C. of the Party and the Government, revealed the numerous experts, people who skilfully and lovingly cultivate their fields and reap some 3.5 tons of wheat per hectare and gather 5 or 6 tons of maize, from 30 to 40 tons of potatoes and 60 tons of sugar beet per hectare.

It should be noted, however, that certain Party organisations, local councils and agricultural bodies do not know, and what is more make no attempt to know, the leading agricultural workers in the area, do not make a fundamental study of their experience, make no effort to spread this experience and do not strive stubbornly and persistently to popularise agrotechnique. The press, lectures, agricultural brochures and radio—all are inadequately used; the work of some village halls is poor and they have not yet become real centres for spreading knowledge of agricultural technique.

A powerful advance in agriculture depends in large measure on the quality of the political and organising work of the regional and district committees of the Party, on their efforts and ability to raise the level of leadership in agriculture. The Party organisations must clearly understand the urgency of the tasks in agriculture, must be operative and efficient in tackling these tasks and in overcoming the elements of bureaucracy and armchair leadership. With knowledge of the job they must concretely tackle the work of increasing the output of agricultural and animal husbandry products, assimilate the principles of agro-technique and the advanced experience of agricultural production and fight for their popularisation; they must improve the political leadership given to the people's councils and economic bodies, without displaying any tendency to take their place, they must do everything to strengthen and extend the socialist sector of agriculture and to ensure correct application of the measures aimed at supporting the house-

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The Congress of the French Communist Party which will take place from June 3-7 will discuss the report of the Central Committee, organisational questions and work among young people. The Central Committee and the Central Commission for Financial Control will be elected.

Preparations for the Congress are under way and are based on the discussion of three important documents drawn up by the Central Committee—draft theses on the political situation and the tasks of the French Communist Party, draft resolution on organisational questions and draft resolution on work among young people.

The draft theses give an analysis of the present international and internal situation. They consider critically the activities of the Party since its last Congress in 1950 and outline the programme for the fight of the Party in the immediate future. Giving prominence to the "struggle for national independence and peace, for bread and freedom", the draft notes that the question of strengthening the unity of action of the working class is the main question at the present time. The draft likewise emphasises that the "establishment of a proletarian united front requires the unity of all national and democratic forces, which is a decisive question at the present moment".

The draft resolution on organisational questions lays stress on the Leninist organisational principles of the Party of the new type. It censures the mistaken views which led to praise for the establishment of a system of branch political instructors and legalising the existence in the Party of a category of passive members and emphasises the necessity of forming and strengthening Party organisations in enterprises.

The draft of the resolution on work among young people gives an analysis of the present plight of French youth and sets out measures which the Party proposes to them as a means of ending this state of affairs. The draft recalls the Communist organisational principles for the youth movement and defines the tasks before the Party organisations and activists in ensuring the development of democratic youth organisations.

These documents have been published in the central organs of the Party—in "l'Humanité" and "France Nouvelle"—as well as in the federation weekly newspapers and in other Party organs. They have thus been brought to the notice of all Party organisations and members and to the masses.

Communists are discussing these documents in a critical manner and making proposals at all branch reporting-back meetings, at the conferences of sections and federations which are taking place throughout the country. The Party press is also actively participating in the discussion. "L'Humanité" and the federation weekly newspapers carry a special section entitled "Tribune of discussion for XIIIth Congress" in which letters from Party members are published on the various questions on the Congress agenda. These letters contain criticisms and suggestions on the drafts under discussion. The newspapers also feature articles by federation secretaries and members of the C.C., in which the activities of the Party are considered from various angles. Recently, for instance, "l'Humanité" printed an article by Marcel Servin, member of the C.C., on the necessity of strengthening Party organisations in the factories.

The discussion which is taking place throughout the Party will make it easier for the Congress to bring to light the difficulties and weak points in the work of the Party and to elucidate more fully the perspectives of the forthcoming struggle. At the same time it is helping to raise the political level of all members, to bring about a better understanding of the great tasks facing the Party; it helps to rally them for the day-by-day fight for peace in Indo-China, against the ruinous Bonn and Paris military agreements and assists them to uphold the demands of the working people.

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The report of the Central Committee, given by Comrade Johann Koplenig, was discussed on May 14-15 at the XVIth Congress of the Communist Party of Austria. The delegates cited numerous facts which convincingly testify to the growing threat to the independence of Austria emanating from the West German monopolists and militarists; at the same time they noted that the fight against the encroachments of West German militarism on the economy and culture of Austria and the struggle for Austria's independence are national tasks.

Erwin Scharf, the Chairman of the Socialist Workers' Party of Austria (Left Socialists), greeted the Congress on behalf of this Party and emphasised that the Left Socialists, together with the Communists, are striving [illegible] received from the fraternal Parties of Poland, Albania, Belgium, Denmark, India, Israel, Indonesia, Iraq, Mexico, Sweden and other countries.

On May 16, after the concluding speech of Comrade Koplenig, the Congress unanimously endorsed the report of the Central Committee and approved its political line. The amended Rules of the Party and the programme-statement "Path to achieving and ensuring the independence of Austria" were unanimously adopted.

Having elected by secret ballot the Central Committee and the Central Control Commission, the Congress ended with a speech by Comrade Franz Honner.

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For Powerful Upsurge of Agriculture in Rumanian People's Republic

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Gheorghe Apostol
First Secretary, Central Committee, Rumanian Workers' Party

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Questions of developing agriculture are given first place by the Rumanian Workers' Party and the Government of the Rumanian People's Republic. In undertaking the further planned advance of socialist industry—the base for developing the entire national economy and increasing the well-being of the people—the Party and the people's-democratic state direct the united efforts of the working class, working peasantry and all working people towards the realisation of a mighty upsurge of agriculture and production of consumer goods, in accordance with the tasks set by the meeting of the C.C. of the Party held in August 1953.

The measures adopted by the Party and the Government for ensuring the further development of agriculture and an increasing volume of trade between town and countryside testify to the fact that the Party is unswervingly guided in all its policy by the tried Leninist teaching and historical experience of the CPSU and the Soviet state, tirelessly strengthens the alliance of the working class and the working peasantry in which the leading role belongs to the working class. The consolidation of this alliance and the vanguard role of the working class—the leading force of the Government and of all the working people—are the guarantee for the successful solution of the tasks of building Socialism in our country.

I.

After the heroic Soviet Army liberated Rumania and the working class in alliance with the working peasantry won power under the leadership of our Party, profound changes took place in the life of the Rumanian countryside. As a result of agrarian reform, over one million hectares of land were given to the working peasantry liberated from the age-old yoke of the landlords. The Party and the people's-democratic state have consistently carried out a policy of supporting the working peasantry, helping them in every way to develop their farms in their own interests and in the interests of advancing the national economy. The working peasants have received from the state selected seed, pedigree cattle, agricultural implements, agrotechnical and zoo-technical assistance and cheap credits. Under conditions of the people's-democratic system, as a result of the support given by the state, the process of pauperisation of the working peasantry has come to a halt in the countryside. The material conditions of our peasants have considerably improved and their standard of living has risen substantially since the liberation.

The rise of the socialist sector in the countryside was an event of the utmost importance in the development of agriculture. Over 280,000 working peasant families are united on the voluntary principle in 4,300 collective farms and associations for joint cultivation of land. Many of them have already achieved good results in increasing production and raising productivity of agricultural labour and, on this basis, in improving the life of the peasants in the collective farms and associations.

Guided by the fundamental counsel of V. I. Lenin which says that only a heavy machine industry can reorganise agriculture, our Party adopted measures to lay the foundations for the mechanisation of agriculture and organised 220 machine and tractor stations. Last year the MTS cul-

crease of crop acreage and a mighty development of animal husbandry, the restoration and development of wine-growing and horticulture.

This year our industry will supply the MTS and state farms with more than 1,600 caterpillar tractors, more than 2,500 cultivators and binders, over 1,300 threshing-machines and thousands of tractor-drawn ploughs and seeding machines. The number of machine-hiring stations will be increased and their equipment improved.

The struggle to ensure a new upsurge of agriculture in our country has already brought some positive results. The average yield of wheat, maize, potatoes and sugar beet in 1953 has surpassed the 1938 level.

Despite unfavourable climatic conditions this year, the spring sowing is being carried out with a higher level of agrotechnique. Members of collective farms and individual peasants are showing greater interest in farming technique. This year organic fertilisers and selected seed have been used on a wider scale and the square-cluster method of sowing is being introduced.

II.

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At its first meeting the newly elected Central Committee elected the Party Chairman, the secretaries

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Despite all these achievements agriculture in our country has seriously lagged behind the mighty development of industry the overall output of which in 1953 was almost 3 times greater than in 1938, while agriculture still has before it the task of exceeding the prewar level. Animal husbandry is particularly far behind in its development.

The lag in agriculture is explained above all by the fact that for a long time the main efforts of the country were directed primarily at developing industry. The elimination of the disproportion between the development of industry and agriculture will mean better satisfaction of the demands for agricultural products, which have increased considerably as a result of the growth of the urban population, the increased consumption in town and countryside and also the growing demands of light industry and the food industry for agricultural raw materials.

The Party and the Government, on the basis of decisions adopted at the meeting of the C.C. of the RWP in August 1953, direct the efforts of the working people above all towards raising the production of marketable grain; the grain problem is the key problem of our agricultural production. With the emphasis on increasing grain production, the Party and the Government are putting into effect measures aimed at an all-round upsurge of agriculture—increasing grain production, particularly maize, creating fodder resources for animal husbandry, increasing the head of cattle and its productivity, developing the production of vegetables and industrial crops. In view of these tasks a number of economic measures were elaborated envisaging a more than twofold increase of capital investments in agriculture, greater assistance to collective farms, associations and households of the individual working peasants, the extension of mechanisation and the application of up-to-date farming technique, an in-

of wheat an average yield of more than 2.7 tons per hectare, from 360 hectares of maize more than 4 tons per hectare, from 100 hectares of winter barley more than 3.2 tons per hectare and so on. Our country has never had such yields before and they are becoming a great force of attraction for the working peasantry. It is natural that the number of members in this collective farm has increased almost fivefold since 1949—from 67 to 301 families; an even bigger increase is to be observed in other collective farms.

Our main task in the struggle for the socialist transformation of agriculture is to strengthen organisationally and economically the existing collective farms because, so strengthened, the advanced collective farms serve as the most striking and convincing example for drawing the working peasantry onto the path of the socialist transformation of agriculture. Of great significance in this connection are the measures adopted by the Party and the Government for helping collective farms to become big producers of grain and the products of animal husbandry. These measures envisage the granting of big credits (800 million lei for 1954-1955 alone) for capital investments and construction, for acquiring machinery, equipment, pedigree cattle, expert agro-zoo-technical aid and also reductions and allowances in relation to state obligations and special allowances when contracting for and purchasing agricultural products.

The Party and the Government are giving a great deal of attention and the utmost assistance to agricultural associations for joint cultivation of land. The Party has set the task of eliminating any underestimation by individual functionaries of the role and significance of agricultural associations.

Leninism teaches that the broad path of the countryside to Socialism is by way of the co-operative in all its diverse forms, including the association, because these forms make it easier for the peasant to take the decisive step towards a socialist economy.

In establishing more collective farms we shall continue strictly to observe the voluntary principle—the chief Lenin principle in the matter of the socialist transformation of agriculture. The Party has been leading and will continue to lead a stern fight against any measure of compulsion with regard to the working peasantry, against abuses, against all manifestations which are harmful to the alliance of the working class with the working peasantry and serve the cause of the enemies of the working people, of the enemies of Socialism.

We must at the same time root out the tendency to let the socialist transformation of agriculture drift. Systematic, constant and persistent work to make clear the advantages of joint cultivation of land and intensification of concrete political work among the people, among the working peasantry and their families—such is the task.

Confusion must be eliminated and we must combat the view that assistance to individual peasant farmers is a factor that allegedly makes socialist upbuilding in the village more difficult. It must not be forgotten that the upsurge of agricultural production is not achieved by impoverishing

favourable prices, bonuses, reductions in state deliveries and taxes, agro-zoo-technical assistance, favourable terms for acquiring manufactured goods, etc. The aim of this system is to bring economic influence to bear for the purpose of intensifying the work of the collective farms, associations, small and middle peasant households in those branches of agriculture where the products are most essential for the national economy. By extending the contract system the bonds between industry and agriculture will be strengthened and the leading role of industry raised; conditions will be created for improving supplies of agricultural produce to the towns and manufactured goods to the working peasantry; the economic base of the alliance between the working class and the working peasantry will become even stronger.

Carrying out the policy of restricting the kulak, the Party at the same time wages constant struggle against any manifestation of appeasement and opportunism in relation to the rural exploiters. The kulak has always been and is still the irreconcilable enemy of the working people of town and countryside, the enemy of the people's-democratic system. There can be no talk about the kulak passing over peacefully to Socialism. It would be a dangerous opportunist illusion to imagine that the advance of agriculture will take place smoothly, without kulak resistance, all the more so since a powerful growth in agricultural output constitutes a serious blow to the profiteering tendencies of the kulak on the market. A vital condition for success in the struggle is the sharpening of the vigilance of the working peasantry and the strengthening of its militancy in order to frustrate the encroachments and influence of the class enemy and isolate him from the masses.

IV.

The struggle for the development of agriculture is the cause of all the working people. The working class is making a vital contribution to the struggle, multiplying its efforts to saturate agriculture with ever-increasing numbers of the best machines and implements and to supply the villages with manufactured goods.

A most important role in the struggle for developing agriculture and for increasing production is played by the MTS. The MTS must seriously improve their work, ensure more intensive, more productive and more profitable utilisation of the machine park, improve the quality of the work and wage a struggle for overcoming the big shortcomings observed mainly in the sphere of maintenance of the tractors and other machines. As yet our MTS are not fully carrying out their role as organisers of socialist production, as the main lever in the socialist reconstruction of agriculture. Better work by the MTS depends, in large measure, on their being reinforced with skilled workers. In this connection a positive influence will undoubtedly be exerted by the fact that a great number of workers and technicians, enthusiastically responding to the call of the Party, have decided to go to the countryside for work in the MTS and state farms.

The Party and the Government have taken measures to do away with the serious shortcomings which are observed in many

radio—all are inadequately used; the work of some village halls is poor and they have not yet become real centres for spreading knowledge of agricultural technique.

A powerful advance in agriculture depends in large measure on the quality of the political and organising work of the regional and district committees of the Party, on their efforts and ability to raise the level of leadership in agriculture. The Party organisations must clearly understand the urgency of the tasks in agriculture, must be operative and efficient in tackling these tasks and in overcoming the elements of bureaucracy and armchair leadership. With knowledge of the job they must concretely tackle the work of increasing the output of agricultural and animal husbandry products, assimilate the principles of agrotechnique and the advanced experience of agricultural production and fight for their popularisation; they must improve the political leadership given to the people's councils and economic bodies, without displaying any tendency to take their place, they must do everything to strengthen and extend the socialist sector of agriculture and to ensure correct application of the measures aimed at supporting the households of the individual working peasants.

For this reason the Party and its Central Committee have advanced as the prime task the improving of the work of the rural branches of the Party; it is necessary to devote close attention to strengthening the rural district committees of the Party, which are an important factor in solving the tasks put forward by the Party in the sphere of agriculture and in strengthening the contact between the Party and the masses of working peasants.

The matter of improving supplies to the population, of raising the standard of living of the working people in town and countryside and further strengthening the alliance between the working class and working peasantry—the base of the people's-democratic system—depends, to a great extent, on the realisation of a powerful advance by agriculture.

In our country we have all the objective conditions for overcoming the lag in agriculture and for achieving a powerful rise in its output. With the aim of ensuring a sharp upswing in agriculture the people's-democratic system is creating better and better material and technical conditions. Our climate is favourable, our soil is fruitful. Our peasantry is diligent and industrious. With feelings of high responsibility and consciousness the working class is fulfilling the task of the leading force of the state and of the entire working people. The enormous, selfless help of the Soviet Union, the relations of co-operation and mutual aid with all the countries of the democratic camp enable us to economise considerable resources and to allocate huge material-technical means for the development of agriculture.

Guided by the teaching of the brilliant Lenin and his great continuer—J. V. Stalin—the Rumanian Workers' Party and the Government of the People's Republic of Rumania will make full use of the favourable conditions for the economic development of the country, for constantly raising the standard of living of the people, for further considerable successes in building Socialism.

present plight of French youth and sets out measures which the Party proposes to them as a means of ending this state of affairs. The draft recalls the Communist

Bonn and Paris military agreements and assists them to uphold the demands of the working people.

XVIth CONGRESS OF COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRIA

The report of the Central Committee, given by Comrade Johann Koplenig, was discussed on May 14-15 at the XVIth Congress of the Communist Party of Austria. The delegates cited numerous facts which convincingly testify to the growing threat to the independence of Austria emanating from the West German monopolists and militarists; at the same time they noted that the fight against the encroachments of West German militarism on the economy and culture of Austria and the struggle for Austria's independence are national tasks.

Erwin Scharf, the Chairman of the Socialist Workers' Party of Austria (Left Socialists), greeted the Congress on behalf of this Party and emphasised that the Left Socialists, together with the Communists, are striving to achieve unity of action of the working class and are waging a fight for a free and independent Austria.

Delegates and visitors accorded warm applause to the greetings extended by the representatives from the fraternal Communist and Workers' Parties. Messages were received from the fraternal Parties of Poland, Albania, Belgium, Denmark, India, Israel, Indonesia, Iraq, Mexico, Sweden and other countries.

*On May 16, after the concluding speech of Comrade Koplenig, the Congress unani*mously endorsed the report of the Central Committee and approved its political line. The amended Rules of the Party and the programme-statement "Path to achieving and ensuring the independence of Austria" were unanimously adopted.

Having elected by secret ballot the Central Committee and the Central Control Commission, the Congress ended with a speech by Comrade Franz Honner.

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At its first meeting the newly elected Central Committee elected the Party Chairman, the secretaries of the C.C. and the Political Bureau. Comrade Johann Koplenig was unanimously elected Chairman. Comrades Friedl Fürnberg, Franz Honner, Heinrich Fritz and Rudolf Richter were elected secretaries of the Central Committee.

FROM COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PRESS

Growing Struggle of British Working People

"World News"—Weekly Journal of E.C., British Communist Party

The constantly rising cost of living in Britain gives rise to mounting protests from the working people who are increasingly demanding higher wages, cuts in arms expenditure and insisting that everything be done to preserve peace.

This movement is widely featured in the columns of "World News", weekly journal of the Executive Committee of the British Communist Party. On May 8 the journal carried a review of the recent trade union, Labour and Co-operative conferences showing that the delegates in their overwhelming majority insisted on going ahead with wage claims. For instance, at the Annual Conference of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers a motion in favour of a wage increase was carried overwhelmingly. This was done, the journal points out, despite the efforts of the Right-wing General Secretary to turn the wages issue "into an anti-Communist one on the grounds that the demand was in line with the policy of the Communist Party".

WORLD NEWS

At the Conference of the National Union of Teachers the Executive Committee was defeated when it attempted to water down a resolution on wages. The Conference instructed the E.C. "to initiate forthwith a public campaign in support of this demand".

The Women's and Youth conferences of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, one of the largest unions in the country, also went on record for a rise in wages, writes the author of the review. In the speeches of many delegates at all these conferences the wages question was linked with the demand for cutting armaments and developing East-West trade.

In a number of articles "World News" noted that the workers are taking action to back their wage claims. Examples of such actions have been the strikes of the electricians and engineers and the threat of a national strike by the railway workers (only averted by Government intervention promising greater satisfaction of their demands).

At the same time articles in the journal draw attention to certain weaknesses in the struggle. Comrade Kerrigan, member of the E.C., pointed out in a recent number that the workers recognise "that the wage fight has been helped by our factory organisations and by the 'Daily Worker'. Communist shop stewards are recognised as fearless fighters, their views are respected. We must, therefore, admit that it is our responsibility that we have not profited by our position to break down all barriers between us and the workers on the job and win thousands of them into our Party".

The journal also draws attention to a feature of the recent trade union conferences showing that wherever the issue of rearming Western Germany has been allowed to come before the delegates there has been overwhelming opposition to the revival of West German militarism. The Scottish Trades Union Congress, representing the organised workers of Scotland, strongly protested on this question.

A recent conference called by the Federation of West Yorkshire Peace Organisations, attended by 200 delegates and observers from Labour, trade union, peace and religious organisations in the area, unanimously voiced its strong condemnation of West German rearmament. Similar views have been expressed by nearly 150 Yorkshire Labour and trade union organisations.

Summing up the results of the recent conferences of the Labour movement, "World News" points out that they have "underlined in a most interesting way the points placed by Harry Pollitt before the 23rd Congress of the Communist Party not only on wages, but on most of the major policy issues made in his report to Congress. There can be no doubt at all that if we can put them quickly and clearly before the trade unionists, co-operators, Labour Party members and the movement generally, then the objectives set us in his report... will become the achievements of our great and glorious trade union movement".

Lodz Party Organisations Strengthening Bonds with Countryside

The organisations of the Polish United Workers' Party in the city of Lodz are devoting more and more attention to the question of strengthening the links between industrial enterprises and the villages. In the light of the decisions of the Second Party Congress envisaging greater help to agriculture, meetings of branch committees and membership meetings discussed the work of the patronage groups that have been set up in factories. Regular lectures on questions of agrotechnique are arranged by the district committees for the activists.

During the first quarter of the year 161 factories and offices in the city took patronage over villages. Some 445 groups in these factories maintain close contact with the machine and tractor stations, state farms, co-operatives and villages. These groups helped the rural activists to form 3 producer co-operatives, 5 preparatory committees for the organisation of co-operatives and 14 groups of the Youth League. The patronage groups give much help in cultural-educational work in the villages.

Some 177 repair teams were sent to the villages during the spring sowing. The villages are also visited by Lodz doctors who, in addition to rendering medical aid, conduct mass-political work among the rural population. Often the workers from the Lodz factories invite the peasants from the villages over which they have patronage to joint celebrations of special dates.

GENEVA CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

Over May 14-20 the Geneva Conference continued its work.

V. M. Molotov presided at the meeting on May 14, which was devoted to discussion of the question of restoring peace in Indo-China.

The head of the delegation of the USSR, V. M. Molotov, made a statement on re-establishing peace in Indo-China. He dwelt on the development of events in Indo-China leading to the formation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam which has taken the path of independence and concern for the needs of its people. He analysed the reasons which led to the war in Indo-China and criticised the aggressive plans of influential circles in the USA, which are aimed at expanding the war in South-East Asia and showed that the proposals put forward by the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam form a basis for settling the Indo-China question and restoring peace in Indo-China. V. M. Molotov expressed solidarity with these proposals and put forward additional points to help to reach agreement on the question of control over the fulfilment of the conditions for a cessation of military operations. At the same time V. M. Molotov expressed the conviction that the Geneva Conference would consider all other proposals which actually contribute to the restoration of peace in Indo-China, including the French proposal that fulfilment of an agreement for ending military operations in Indo-China should be guaranteed by those taking part in the Conference.

The task of promoting the restoration of peace in Indo-China, said V. M. Molotov, cannot be understood by the Geneva Conference in the sense that the cessation of military operations in Indo-China should be turned into an adroitly arranged respite for one side who would like to utilise this breathing space to prepare an extension of the war in Indo-China. The task of the Conference must be understood to mean that a speedy cease-fire must be achieved in Indo-China, and, together with this, an agreement that would mean the satisfaction of the lawful demands of the peoples of Indo-China for their national independence and democratic freedoms.

In connection with the Geneva Conference, V. M. Molotov went on to point out, France is faced with the important question of making a choice in Indo-China. One course is to continue the war in Indo-China, resulting in an extension of the war for the sake of foreign aggressive plans, which bode no good as regards satisfying French national interests. Another course is that of negotiations, above all with the people of Viet Nam, and further steps in this direction in order to secure a speedy end of the war and the establishment of peace in Indo-China. This course makes possible the establishment of *mutual understanding* and friendly relations between France and the peoples of Indo-China.

The Geneva Conference must exert every possible effort to promote such peaceful settlement of the Indo-China question.

The Soviet delegation, continued V. M. Molotov, like the delegation of the People's Republic of China, attaches great significance to the proposals put forward by the representative of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. It expresses its solidarity with these proposals and trusts that they will be accorded due attention.

V. M. Molotov said in conclusion that the Soviet Government proceeds from the fact that the settlement of the Indo-China question, with due consideration to the national interests of the peoples of Indo-China, would represent an important step not only in the matter of strengthening peace in Asia, but in the cause of strengthening world peace.

Bidault then took the floor. He declared that the French delegation would study V. M. Molotov's statement and that it had given careful consideration to the statement made by the representative of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, Pham Van Dong, at the meeting on May 10. The French Foreign Minister gave an assurance that he was in agreement with the main position set out by Pham Van Dong—that of peace, independence, unity and democracy. All that Bidault said further, however, revealed the purely declaratory nature of his assurances.

Bidault again insisted on his version, which was contradictory to the real facts, that the people's-liberation movement in Khmer and Pathet Lao was, allegedly, a "foreign invasion". Such a version, at variance with the facts—as was again proved by Bidault's speech—was required by the French delegation in order to avoid discussion and solution of the question of restoring peace in all three states of Indo-China on the basis of recognising the national rights of their peoples.

Referring to the proposals of Pham Van Dong, Bidault declared that only the representatives of the Bao Dai Government, the "sovereignty and independence" of which France had recognised over the entire territory of Viet Nam, had the right to speak on behalf of Viet Nam.

Bidault rejected the proposal for carrying out general free elections in Viet Nam under the supervision of local commissions. He showed that influential French circles fear the free expression of the will of the Viet Nam people.

Bidault expressed the desire that at present only military and not political questions be settled.

There were no meetings on May 15-16.

On May 17 there was a closed meeting of the nine delegations participating in discussion of the Indo-China question at which information on the evacuation of wounded from Dien Bien Phu was given. The meeting then resumed discussion of the question of restoring peace in Indo-China.

On May 18 and 19 the closed meetings of the nine delegations continued discussion of the question of restoring peace in Indo-China.

The Conference continues its work.

The Way to Achieving and Ensuring Independence of Austria*

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Johann Koplenig
Chairman, Communist Party of Austria

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In the period between the XVth and XVIth Congresses our Party waged a particularly heavy struggle in defence of the vital interests of the working class and against the strivings of the government parties to turn Austria into a fore-post of American imperialism.

The American imperialists need German militarism for the realisation of their war plans, they need its war-industry potential and its Hitler officers who once again are to train from among the German people the necessary soldiers. And the greater the contradictions between the American imperialists on the one hand and the French and British imperialists on the other, and the more vigorously the people of Western Europe act against all the plans aimed at involving them in another war, the more the American imperialists orientate on the West German revenge-seekers and the more feverishly they hasten once again to rearm German militarism.

But the peoples of Europe have not forgotten that it was none other than German militarism which in the lifetime of one generation twice unleashed world war. The peoples have not forgotten that the mailed fist of German militarism brought heavy losses to the working-class movement, that German militarism brought to the peoples reaction and fascism. Nor have the peoples forgotten that the German militarists deprived the countries occupied by them of their freedom and independence.

A serious danger arises for Austria as a consequence of the American policy of reviving German militarism. Past experience shows that German militarism will never reconcile itself to the existence of a sovereign and independent Austria.

The experience of history also shows that the Anschluss in 1938 was not the beginning but the consummation of a long process of development, its final phase. Long before the Anschluss the big German capitalists and the owners of the monopolies had entrenched themselves in the decisive economic positions in Austria. And long before a number of economic and political measures had been carried out by reactionary Austrian governments with the aim of subordinating Austria to the aggressive designs of German militarism. Years of systematic Great Germany propaganda paved the way ideologically and politically for the Anschluss.

The Austrian people who became the victims paid bitterly for this Anschluss. They found themselves involved in war and tens of thousands of their sons fell on the fronts; Vienna and many other cities still suffer from the destruction brought to our country by German militarism. This explains why more and more people in our country are becoming alarmed, since forces which again seek to link the fate of Austria with the designs of German militarism are functioning in Western Germany. The Bonn ministers and militarists make no secret of the fact that they regard Austria as part of Great Germany and that they are simply waiting for a favourable opportunity to repeat the Anschluss. Once again they are laying claim to those economic positions in Austria which they held prior to the second world war, and it is known that the Austrian Government long ago unanimously agreed to comply with the shameful demand of the Hitler leaders of the war economy and to place under their control the decisive part of our nationalised heavy industry in the western districts of the country.

And if today the Bonn Government puts forward these far-reaching and insolent demands this is because they are supported real threat and to bring it to the knowledge of the masses of the working people—this is one of the decisive components of the struggle for achieving and ensuring a sovereign and independent Austria.

The government parties—the "People's Party" and the Socialist Party—feigning indignation, declare that there are no forces in Austria anxious for a repetition of the Anschluss, no forces working for such an Anschluss. But all that they need do is to look in the mirror and they will see these forces. The "Union of Independents" now quite openly calls for a new Anschluss, and it was none other than Helmer, Minister of the Interior, who nurtured the "Union of Independents", it was he who in a recent Sunday speech spoke of a possible coalition of the Socialist Party and the "Union of Independents". It is precisely influential leaders of the "People's Party", Raab, Graf and Gorbach, who continually call upon the "Union of Independents" to form a single anti-Marxist, anti-Communist front.

Among the most dangerous forms of Anschluss propaganda are the "soldiers' rallies" held under the protection of the Government and of the heads of the provinces. In the American and British zones of occupation former men of the Hitler army are organised in "comrades' associations" and streams of newspapers are circulated calling for revival of the German front-line spirit and glorifying German militarism. Our country is flooded with films and war literature brought in from Western Germany. Representatives of German militarism and revanchist Bonn politicians such as Kesselring and other Hitler generals travel all over Austria. They are given official receptions by such influential representatives of government circles as Gorbach; in their talks with former Werhmacht officers and organisers of the soldiers' and militarist leagues they plot against Austria.

By means of their unrestricted anti-Communism and provocative propaganda of slander and hatred for the Soviet Union and against our neighbours, the government parties help the worst enemies of the sovereignty and independence of Austria. More and more in the two government parties there are coming to the fore those forces who, influenced by American policy, are preparing to repeat the Anschluss, this time with Adenauer Germany. These forces mask their Anschluss propaganda with loud talk about "Europe", knowing perfectly well that this loudly-advertised Europe simply covers up their strivings to recreate German militarism. At the Brussels conference of the Socialist parties the leaders of the Austrian Socialist Party, Scharf and Pittermann, voted, contrary to the interests of Austria, for the "European Army" and for rearming Western Germany. The leaders of the "People's Party" also seize every convenient opportunity to display their solidarity with the provocative policy of the Adenauer clique.

All the facts show that in Austria there are forces working for a new Anschluss, and these forces are fostered and encouraged by the present Government. But a policy which again seeks to harness Austria to the chariot of German militarism cannot guarantee us the friendship of the peoples, it increasingly isolates our country not only from our neighbours on cation in relation to the Soviet Union. This policy bodes no good for our people, it simply favours the encroachments of German militarism and increases the danger to Austria. In view of this development and faced with the growing danger on the part of German militarism the demand for neutrality, previously advanced by us, no longer suffices. The slogan of neutrality no longer corresponds to a situation in which only struggle against German militarism can make it possible to pave the way for independence.

Austria cannot remain neutral in relation to those forces which, on the one hand, are nurturing German militarism—its deadly enemy—and, on the other, in relation to the peoples who are fighting against these forces.

Under a slogan of neutrality we cannot rally the masses for resistance against the danger of a new Anschluss, we shall not be able to ward off this danger.

The Communist Party will continue to co-operate with all the forces who oppose the government's one-sided orientation on the West, who honestly and sincerely come out for the neutrality of Austria. But it will likewise resolutely act against all those government figures who, behind a screen of imaginary neutrality, declare that they are neither pro-American nor pro-Russian, but who, in fact, subordinate Austria to the orders of American imperialists and help the enemies of Austria's independence.

We Communists are fighting and must fight for a policy and for a government that will resist the revival of German militarism and its strivings towards an Anschluss.

We are struggling and must struggle for a policy and for a government that would include Austria in the active struggle of the peoples against German militarism.

A struggle against German militarism signifies a struggle for putting an end to "soldiers' rallies" and militarist-chauvinist propaganda which are simply paving the way for a new Anschluss; a struggle to end the supporting of German rearmament by handing over economic positions to German war-industry capital; a struggle to have done with the propaganda of slander and hatred directed against our neighbours and against the Soviet Union.

The Austrian working class, proud of its glorious traditions and its great struggle against reaction, militarism and fascism, bears an extremely great responsibility at the present time. Today, more than ever before, the task of the working class is to head the struggle against new dangers, the struggle for a free, independent and sovereign Austria.

The Austrian working class is called upon—and it can head the fight of the people for national freedom and independence, for progress and peace—to lead the people in a decisive struggle against all the plans aimed at making Austria once again the prey of German militarism. However, the policy of the Right-wing Socialist leaders who still command a following of large masses of working people is hindering the working class in carrying out its mission.

The policy and activities of the Right-wing leaders of the Socialist Party of Austria are designed to prevent any mutual understanding among the workers and to forces are intensifying their offensive, a united front of the working class is more essential and important than ever before.

The Communists will concentrate all their efforts so that, in the struggle for economic and social demands, united action by the Socialist, Communist and non-party workers can be established, thereby strengthening the militant force of the entire working class and rendering it capable of resisting all attacks and achieving new social and political successes.

The trade unions are of decisive importance in the struggle for raising the standard of living of factory and office workers, for the defence and extension of social rights, for the defence of democratic freedoms and achievements and also in the struggle for peace. The overwhelming majority of factory and office workers, together with numerous categories of intellectuals, are organised and united in the trade unions. We must clearly understand that work in trade unions is the chief lever for achieving unity of action.

Without the all-round strengthening of our work in the trade unions it is impossible to win the confidence of the working masses, without this we shall not be able to achieve any serious successes in establishing unity of action.

It is essential that the efforts of all Party organisations and all Party members be directed at stepping up activity outside the Party ranks, at work among the masses. This patient and persistent activity among the masses requires reorganisation of all Party work. It means that the leading Party bodies must systematically occupy themselves with questions of work at enterprises and in trade unions and also with the activities of different mass organisations.

The present situation places heavy obligations on our Party and confronts it with difficult tasks. A big job lies ahead of us—to win over the hearts and minds of the Austrian working class, the sympathies of the Austrian people.

Our Party is not a small one. It represents a big force and is in a position to solve this task. The key is in our hands, the key to the solution of these tasks is in the Party itself.

One of the main obstacles to the full development of the forces and activity of the Party lies in the fact that throughout our Party, from top to bottom, there is not enough criticism and self-criticism. Many comrades consider that we arm the enemy with arguments when we openly disclose and discuss shortcomings, weak points and errors made by the Party. But this is a big mistake. A critical approach to shortcomings, weak points and errors, a bold and decisive development of inner-Party democracy, criticism and self-criticism, from the bottom to the top, is an important component in training and tempering the Party members.

Our Party, together with the Communist and Workers' Parties in all countries, is fighting under the victorious banner of Marxism-Leninism. Without Marxism-Leninism the working class stands unarmed before the ideological and political influence of its enemies and cannot lead the people to victory.

Armed with Marxism-Leninism, our Party can and will be in a position to form a united front of the Austrian working class and, in the struggle for peace and independence, unite the democratic forces of our people.

We Communists believe in the Austrian people. We are prepared, together with the democratic forces of our people, to bear

Advanced Workers and Peasants Join Chinese Communist Party

The great programme of socialist transformations in the spheres of industry, agriculture, handicrafts and trade in the Peo- enthusiastically

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China, resulting in an extension of the war for the sake of foreign aggressive plans, which bode no good as regards satisfying French national interests. Another course is that of negotiations, above all with the people of Viet Nam, and further steps in this direction in order to secure a speedy end of the war and the establishment of peace in Indo-China. This course makes possible the establishment of mutual understanding and friendly relations between France and the peoples of Indo-China.

The Geneva Conference must exert every possible effort to promote such peaceful settlement of the Indo-China question.

Bidault expressed the desire that at present only military and not political questions be settled.

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The Conference continues its work.

Advanced Workers and Peasants Join Chinese Communist Party

The great programme of socialist transformations in the spheres of industry, agriculture, handicrafts and trade in the People's Republic of China is enthusiastically supported by the people. The best representatives of the working class and working peasantry, employees and students—foremost fighters in building the new socialist China—are joining the Communist Party.

In 1953 the number of Communist Party members in the enterprises in Kwangsi Province was more than four times the 1952 figure.

The Communists play a leading role in developing agricultural production. 40 per cent of all Party members in the countryside in Shensi Province, for instance, are chairmen or assistant chairmen of agricultural producer co-operatives or mutual-aid teams. During the first three months of 1954 over 7,500 leading agricultural workers and activists in the Szechwan Province joined the Party.

victims paid bitterly for this Anschluss. They found themselves involved in war and tens of thousands of their sons fell on the fronts; Vienna and many other cities still suffer from the destruction brought to our country by German militarism. This explains why more and more people in our country are becoming alarmed, since forces which again seek to link the fate of Austria with the designs of German militarism are functioning in Western Germany. The Bonn ministers and militarists make no secret of the fact that they regard Austria as part of Great Germany and that they are simply waiting for a favourable opportunity to repeat the Anschluss. Once again they are laying claim to those economic positions in Austria which they held prior to the second world war, and it is known that the Austrian Government long ago unanimously agreed to comply with the shameful demand of the Hitler leaders of the war economy and to place under their control the decisive part of our nationalised heavy industry in the western districts of the country.

And if today the Bonn Government puts forward these far-reaching and insolent demands this is because they are supported by the American monopolies who are backing the new Anschluss plans of the Adenauer clique. To be conscious of this

* From report of Central Committee to XVIth Congress of Communist Party of Austria.

ment parties help the worst enemies of the sovereignty and independence of Austria. More and more in the two government parties there are coming to the fore those forces who, influenced by American policy, are preparing to repeat the Anschluss, this time with Adenauer Germany. These forces mask their Anschluss propaganda with loud talk about "Europe", knowing perfectly well that this loudly-advertised Europe simply covers up their strivings to recreate German militarism. At the Brussels conference of the Socialist parties the leaders of the Austrian Socialist Party, Scharf and Pittermann, voted, contrary to the interests of Austria, for the "European Army" and for rearming Western Germany. The leaders of the "People's Party" also seize every convenient opportunity to display their solidarity with the provocative policy of the Adenauer clique.

All the facts show that in Austria there are forces working for a new Anschluss, and these forces are fostered and encouraged by the present Government. But a policy which again seeks to harness Austria to the chariot of German militarism cannot guarantee us the friendship of the peoples, it increasingly isolates our country not only from our neighbours on the East, but also from all the peoples of Europe whose freedom and independence are threatened by German militarism.

The course of events since the Berlin Conference shows that the Government of Austria has decided to continue and intensify slander and the policy of provo-

to end the supporting of German rearmament by handing over economic positions to German war-industry capital; a struggle to have done with the propaganda of slander and hatred directed against our neighbours and against the Soviet Union.

The Austrian working class, proud of its glorious traditions and its great struggle against reaction, militarism and fascism, bears an extremely great responsibility at the present time. Today, more than ever before, the task of the working class is to head the struggle against new dangers, the struggle for a free, independent and sovereign Austria.

The Austrian working class is called upon—and it can head the fight of the people for national freedom and independence, for progress and peace—to lead the people in a decisive struggle against all the plans aimed at making Austria once again the prey of German militarism. However, the policy of the Right-wing Socialist leaders who still command a following of large masses of working people is hindering the working class in carrying out its mission.

The policy and activities of the Right-wing leaders of the Socialist Party of Austria are designed to prevent any mutual understanding among the workers and to divide their ranks. Their sole effect is to weaken the militant force of the working class and to strengthen its enemies.

In the present situation, however, when, as a result of the Americanised policy of the Government, employers and reactionary

development of the forces and activity of the Party lies in the fact that throughout our Party, from top to bottom, there is not enough criticism and self-criticism. Many comrades consider that we arm the enemy with arguments when we openly disclose and discuss shortcomings, weak points and errors made by the Party. But this is a big mistake. A critical approach to shortcomings, weak points and errors, a bold and decisive development of inner-Party democracy, criticism and self-criticism, from the bottom to the top, is an important component in training and tempering the Party members.

Our Party, together with the Communist and Workers' Parties in all countries, is fighting under the victorious banner of Marxism-Leninism. Without Marxism-Leninism the working class stands unarmed before the ideological and political influence of its enemies and cannot lead the people to victory.

Armed with Marxism-Leninism, our Party can and will be in a position to form a united front of the Austrian working class and, in the struggle for peace and independence, unite the democratic forces of our people.

We Communists believe in the Austrian people. We are prepared, together with the democratic forces of our people, to bear responsibility in the great struggle for the independence, democracy and peace of Austria. All our efforts will be aimed at accelerating the unification of these forces. Jointly we can and will achieve this great aim for the good of all our people!

NEXT TASKS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

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Ajoy Ghosh
General Secretary,
Communist Party of India

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The Central Committee of the Communist Party of India met from April 10 to 18, just over three months since the Third Party Congress. The session reviewed both the national and international developments since the Congress and took certain important decisions concerning the mass movement and Party organisation.

The announcement of the US-Pakistan Arms Pact, coupled with the Pact between Turkey and Pakistan, has brought the war danger right to the doorstep of India. The recent hydrogen bomb tests in the Pacific have not only endangered the lives of the peace-loving Asians, but, as the Central Committee points out, "they are also designed to instil fear in the minds of the freedom-fighters and to subjugate them to the diktat of US imperialism".

The Central Committee noted that US imperialism, alarmed at the prospect of the defeat of the colonial regime in Indo-China and the further upsurge of struggle for freedom throughout South-East Asia, is "frantically attempting to blow up the Geneva Conference and to seek pretexts for directly entering the war in Indo-China and to spread it to China".

Warning against the American plans for a "Pacific edition of the aggressive North Atlantic Treaty", the Central Committee declared:

"The whole of Asia is menaced by this projected alliance of the imperialist powers and their puppets. Not only peace in this continent of ours but the freedom of our peoples is at stake.

"The American imperialists have hurled a challenge and an insult to the peoples of Asia striving for peace and freedom.

"The Americans are planning for united action by the colony-owners. The peoples of Asia will meet this challenge by a mighty upsurge of Asian solidarity."

Considerable advance has been made since the Party Congress in mobilising the Indian people against the war danger as is seen in the united demonstrations and conventions of many parties at many places against the US-Pakistan Arms Pact; the universal indignation of the Indian people against the H-Bomb tests and the warm support extended to Nehru's stand on these issues as also for his objection to the presence of US observers in Kashmir and for his appeal for a cease-fire in Indo-China.

The rout of the reactionary Muslim League in the recent general election in East Pakistan has upset United States calculations and has unleashed powerful forces against the US-Pakistan Arms Pact inside Pakistan. It has acted as a lever in strengthening friendship between the peoples of India and Pakistan and has weakened the game of the reactionary elements who sought to turn the anti-American sentiment of the Indian people into hatred against the people of Pakistan.

The Central Committee warned against the persistence of a sectarian outlook in the struggle for peace. The tendency to remain content by extending formal support to any positive proposals of the Nehru Government and to look upon Government declarations for peace as a substitute for mass mobilisation must be combated. Only mass mobilisation in defence of peace can force implementation of the Government's declarations for peace, isolate the pro-American elements, prevent backsliding on the part of the Government from its declared stand in face of American pressure and blackmail and create possibilities for a consistent policy of peace.

The Central Committee has, therefore, called upon the people of India to rally behind the demand for a complete banning of the hydrogen and atom bombs and to launch a powerful movement for an end to the hostilities in Indo-China on the basis of recognition of the independence of her peoples and the withdrawal of all foreign troops.

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The growing pressure of the American imperialists on India becomes all the more dangerous in view of the inherent weakness of India's economy. In this sphere, the Government of India holds on to the policies which have brought the country to the present state of impoverishment and instability. It resorts to new taxes and depends upon deficit financing, instead of taxing the rich. While in recent periods there has been an overall increase in production, most of the industries are still working much below capacity, while production in many medium and small industries has declined. Due to the growing pauperisation of the peasant masses, a marketing crisis is maturing and accumulation of stocks has become a common phenomenon.

Unemployment keeps on mounting and threatens to assume an acute form with the new rationalisation drive by big business backed by the Government. This rationalisation drive is part of the offensive of the ruling classes aiming to solve their own crisis at the expense of the people and if allowed to proceed would lead to fierce attacks on the standard of living of all sections of workers and middle class employees. The Central Committee has, therefore, warned the Government and the monopolists that any attempt to force this policy would meet with the opposition of the workers. At the same time, the Party has to show the alternative by which the country's economy can be strengthened and the people given a better deal, since this alone can really unite all progressive sections in the country.

The period under review saw a number of big mass actions. 200,000 Bombay workers staged a protest strike against Government repression; 15,000 cart pullers and shop employees of Delhi came out on strike against police atrocities. Big peasant rallies have taken place in UP, Bihar and Andhra against raising irrigation charges and the eviction of the peasantry. Then there was the significant struggle of 15,000 school teachers in West Bengal, which received active support from the democratic masses, and despite Government attempts to crush it by police terror, it was able to extract substantial concessions from the Government.

The Central Committee pointed out certain wrong tendencies which manifested themselves in this struggle. It was stressed that there was lack of a proper understanding of the partial and limited character of the struggle and that abstract and pompous slogans were raised in the course of its development. It was necessary to pay prompt attention to the concessions announced by the Government under pressure of the masses. Also, harmful and anti-social acts committed by certain elements during the struggle had to be effectively combated, for they indirectly help the enemy's plans for isolating the vanguard, confusing the masses and disrupting their unity.

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During this period, general elections took place in two states—in Pepsu in the north and Travancore-Cochin in the far south. In both states, the Congress Party joined hands with extreme reaction and tried to consolidate the forces of the right under its banner: in Travancore-Cochin, the Catholic Church and splinter parties of the right lined up behind the Congress, while in Pepsu the Congress enlisted most of the feudal princes and the big landlords.

Against this phalanx of reaction, the Communist Party strove to build a united front of those forces which the masses considered democratic. Travancore-Cochin saw the agreement between the Communist Party together with other Left parties on the one hand and the Praja Socialist Party on the other. In Pepsu, the Communist Party formed a united front in alliance with other Left parties.

As a result, the Congress in Travancore-Cochin failed to win electoral victory, but prevented the formation of a Government of the democratic parties, because the Praja Socialists went back on their electoral understanding and formed a Government with Congress support. In Pepsu, where the democratic forces are weaker, the Congress was able to form a ministry on its own.

The elections therefore revealed that when the combining of the forces of reaction fails to bring victory to the Congress, it throws in its reserve—the Socialists—in order to retain its rule. The Praja Socialists have thus shown themselves in their true colours as the second line of defence for the ruling classes. In international matters, the Socialist leaders pursue a dangerous pro-American policy.

The Central Committee evaluated the role of the Praja Socialists and stated that every Socialist leader is to be judged not only by words but also by his actions on the concrete issues of the national and international situation. While trying for united action with local and provincial units of the PSP, the Party must resolutely expose the policy of the PSP leadership and call upon its members to fight these policies.

At the same time the PSP must not be equated with Congress. It should be borne in mind that the PSP still gathers support in the main by advancing pseudo-left slogans. The betrayal by the PSP leaders in Travancore-Cochin has led to resentment in the PSP ranks, thereby opening up possibilities for united action, possibilities which can be realised by shedding sectarian tactics and approach towards the rank and file and by sharp ideological struggle against the leadership.

While these elections registered significant strides in forging the united front, the Central Committee observed tendencies in Travancore-Cochin to submerge the Party in the united front, of not combating the anti-democratic and exhorbitant demands made by certain parties in the united front and showing the reactionary leaders before the masses as splitters.

The most significant factor in Indian politics since 1947 is the emergence of the Communist Party as the most powerful challenge to the Congress. If this had not happened, the democratic movement would have been led into reformist channels and the mass discontent with the Congress would have been utilised by the Socialist Party for compromise and betrayal. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, that every effort be made to strengthen the position of the Party among the masses and to combat opportunist concepts of the united front, which weaken the Party and the democratic movement.

On the agrarian question, while noting that unified understanding has yet to be reached on issues like the classification of the peasants, on the direction of the agrarian reform of the Congress Government, the Central Committee adopted a resolution laying down immediate tasks and tactics on this question.

(Continued on page 4)

New Stage in Development of National Committees in Czechoslovakia

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I. Salga
Member, C.C., Communist Party of Czechoslovakia

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Elections for the local, district and regional councils, known as national committees, took place in Czechoslovakia on May 16.

The elections were held in an atmosphere of great political enthusiasm—the keynote being the solidarity of the working people around the Communist Party and the National Front Government and the further consolidation of the alliance between the working class and the peasantry. The overwhelming majority of the electorate went to the polls—98.3 per cent. The National Front candidates received 93.6 per cent of the votes.

The election results, which were a striking demonstration of the strength and unity of the people of Czechoslovakia, represent another victory for the people's-democratic system, a landmark in the development of the local organs of people's power in Czechoslovakia.

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The national committees are working people's organisations of a most pronounced mass character. They originated in the heat of the battle against Hitler fascism and became an important factor in the liberation movement. The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, which led this struggle, called on the people to set up national committees everywhere. After the victory over the German occupationists national committees became the chief bulwark of the new state power. The national committees had to carry out an important task—that of rallying the working people to eradicate the consequences of war in the towns and countryside, effectively helping to develop the national economy and drawing people, on a wider scale, into governing the state.

In the comparatively short space of nine years the face of our country has changed considerably. Splendid new industrial enterprises, schools, hospitals and theatres have arisen and unemployment has been abolished once and for all. The first Five-Year Plan has been successfully carried out.

For the first time in the history of the Czechoslovak people, the interests of the working people coincide with those of the state. The supreme law of our people's-democratic state is steadily to raise the material and cultural standards of the working people by continuously advancing and perfecting production.

An important factor in carrying out this task is the national committees whose entire work is aimed at fulfilling the chief task of the people's-democratic state. That is why our people participate, on a wide scale, in the work of the national committees in all towns and villages, in all districts and regions of the country.

Notwithstanding the significant successes achieved by the national committees, there are still a number of shortcomings in their work. One of their chief mistakes was that in their activities they did not sufficiently rely on the broad masses of the working people and sometimes slipped into bureaucratic habits. A serious shortcoming likewise was that the organisational structure of the national committees was not adequate for the demands made by our socialist construction, particularly with regard to the tasks of advancing agriculture and more fully satisfying the needs of the working people.

That is why, on the initiative of the C.C. of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, our Government drew up drafts of new laws on the organisation and chief tasks of national committees and this January submitted them for broad popular discussion. These laws ensure still closer, constant contact between [illegible]

side. More than 2,500,000 citizens were present at these meetings. In the course of the popular discussion on these draft laws more than 300,000 suggestions were sent to the Government, many of them being used in the final stage before they were submitted to the National Assembly. Our working people thus helped considerably in drawing up the laws, on the basis of which they elected their best representatives to the national committees on May 16. Many of their suggestions were also used to improve the work of particular national committees.

The broad participation of the working people in the popular discussion of the draft laws on the national committees proved once again that the strength and might of our people's-democratic system is in the unbreakable link between the bodies of state power and the people, in the creative activity of millions of the working people. The working people showed, by citing at meetings and in talks concrete examples from their own experience, the extent to which their lives have changed since the rule of the capitalists had been abolished. A new attitude and love of the citizens for their state—the people's-democratic republic—came clearly to the fore during the popular discussion.

The deputies elected by the people on May 16 to the new national committees are candidates of the National Front which embodies the alliance of the workers and peasants, the firm alliance of all the working people of Czechoslovakia. The National Front—the militant bloc of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement, the Czechoslovak Youth Union, the Czechoslovak Socialist Party, the Czechoslovak People's Party, the Party for the Regeneration of Slovakia, the Freedom Party and other working people's organisations—nominated their finest workers, members of agricultural co-operatives, individual working peasants and representatives of the working intelligentsia.

The right to elect their representatives to the national committees is enjoyed by all citizens of the Czechoslovak Republic who have reached the age of 18 by election day irrespective of nationality, sex, religious beliefs, occupation, the length of residence in a particular place, social origin, property status or past activities. Every citizen who has reached the age of 21 has the right to be elected to the national committees. A characteristic feature of our electoral system is that the working people have the full right not only to nominate and elect their representatives, but also to control their work and, in the event of their not fulfilling their duties, to recall such representatives from the national committees.

Our electoral system has been worked out on the basis of that of the Soviet Union as the most democratic electoral system in the world, and it contains none of the restrictions which are characteristic of the electoral systems in capitalist countries. Elections in our country are universal, equal and by secret ballot. In capitalist countries, which bourgeois propaganda attempts to depict as democratic, there are an enormous number of restric-

apparatus which fully utilises its power to secure election results in favour of the bourgeoisie.

Elections in people's-democratic Czechoslovakia are carried out on the basis of a genuinely democratic electoral system and are conducted by the working people themselves. A graphic illustration of this is that the election campaign was prepared and organised by about 700,000 members of the election commissions, whose main task was to see to it that the elections were carried through strictly in conformity with the electoral law. The fact that there were so many members of the election commissions—representatives of the most varying sections of the population—attests at the same time to the might of our people's-democratic state and is proof that it enjoys the full support of the million-fold masses of the working people.

During the preparation for the elections tens of thousands of nomination meetings were held in the electoral areas. At these meetings our working people nominated the very best representatives of the National Front. The election campaign cemented the unity of the people, consolidated the people's-democratic system and at the same time was a great political school for all citizens; it was accompanied by the development of creative initiative on the part of the masses, manifested in the broad scale of the socialist emulation and in the labour pledges taken in honour of the forthcoming Xth Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

On May 16, election day, the electorate voted for the National Front candidates and charged them with the honourable duties of members of the national committees. During the election campaign, in all regions and districts, in all towns and villages meetings between candidates and electors took place. The candidates outlined the programme of action of the national committees; this was not a matter of empty election promises—the usual thing in the capitalist countries—it was a question of work aimed at constantly raising the material and cultural level of the people, improving communal services, building more houses, developing public health and education, improving the trade network and helping in the matter of developing agriculture. The enormous number of suggestions made by the electors in relation to the tasks of the newly elected national committees shows that the electors not merely approve these tasks but are actively helping and will continue to help in their realisation.

For the newly elected national committees to cope successfully with their tasks it is essential that, right from the very beginning, care be taken to carry out this programme. Correct organisational structure of the national committees and their apparatus, in conformity with the new law and their tasks, is one of the vital questions facing them. Their structure must fully correspond with the tasks which they are called upon to fulfil. It is extremely important, likewise, to draw the newly-elected members into work among the electorate and to see that they take part in the work of sub-committees, etc. For this purpose arrangements are being made to ensure training to enable them to function successfully as committee members.

The elections for the national committees in people's-democratic Czechoslovakia took place in conditions of the very widest democracy and freedom such as our peoples had never known before. By means of their

Third Congress of Dimitrov League of People's Youth

The Third Congress of the Dimitrov League of People's Youth held in Sofia over May 12-15 was attended by 857 delegates including young workers in industry and transport, innovators and agricultural workers. The Congress discussed the reports of the C.C. of the League and its Auditing Commission, amendments to the Rules and elected the leading bodies of the League.

The delegates listened with close attention to the message of greetings from the C.C. of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

The report given by Comrade L. Avramov, secretary of the C.C., and the report of the Auditing Commission were subjected to lively discussion. The tasks arising for the League from the decisions of the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party and set forth in the greeting of the C.C. of the Party were the centre of attention.

The Congress adopted a resolution on the report of the C.C., the new Rules and elected the leading bodies of the League.

The delegates warmly applauded the greetings from the glorious Leninist Komsomol conveyed by Comrade Zaluzhny, secretary of the C.C. of the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League, greetings brought by Comrade Hsu Kuang, representative of the Chinese youth, and by representatives from youth organisations in the People's Democracies and a number of capitalist countries.

With great enthusiasm the Congress adopted the text of a letter to the C.C. of the Bulgarian Communist Party and messages to the C.C. of the CPSU and the C.C. of the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League.

Statement by Lausman, Former Social Democratic Leader in Czechoslovakia

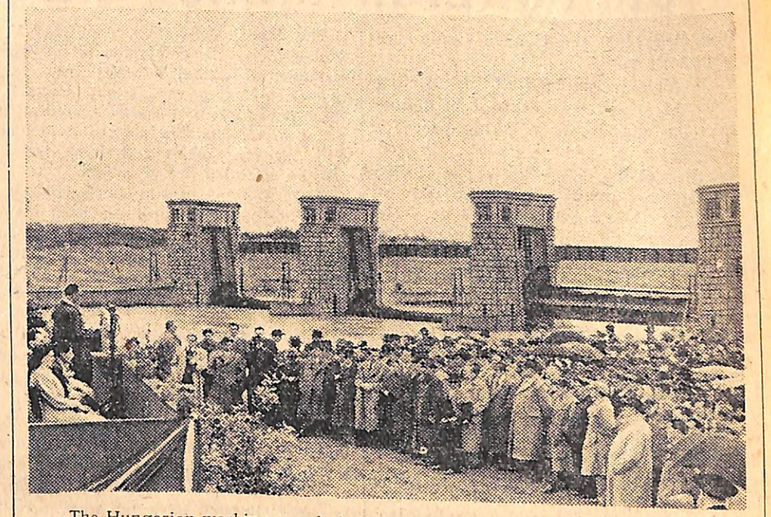
Bogumil Lausman, one of the former leaders of the Social Democratic Party of Czechoslovakia, who voluntarily gave himself up to the Czechoslovak authorities, made a statement at a press conference in Prague on May 15.

My four years in Western Europe, Lausman said, "represented for me spiritual suffering and at the same time a political school... I have come back despite the fact that I had on my conscience grievous crimes against the people's-democratic regime both before and during the time I was out of the country.

"On returning to Czechoslovakia I consider it my duty first of all to declare publicly that the overwhelming majority of the emigres, especially the so-called political representatives, serve foreign interests, selling themselves for money allocated by the Americans for espionage, terror and sabotage." According to Lausman the "imperialists use for their war designs even the scum of society. Among them are murderers, gangsters, etc...".

"That the US is plotting against Czechoslovakia", Lausman declared, "is confirmed first of all by the fact, and of this I satisfied myself, that in their secret camps they train not only spies, terrorists and saboteurs whom they send to Czechoslovakia and the other People's Democracies, regardless of international custom, but they train in special courses selected officers, primarily

TIPZALÖK DAM—NEW MAJOR CONSTRUCTION IN HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC



The Hungarian working people have won another new and important victory—the Tipzalök Dam has been put into commission. The erection of this dam in the upper reaches of the River Tisza completes the first stage in the construction of the Tipzalök hydro-electric scheme. The dam ensures the irrigation of large areas in the Hajdu, Szabolcs and Szolnok regions. The arid Hortobágy steppe will now receive water and from now on the spring floods in the districts through which the Tisza flows will be averted.

Another important structure has been completed—the building of the Tipzalök hydro-electric plant where three turbines, each with a capacity of 4,000 kilowatts, are now being assembled. Next year the Tipzalök hydro-electric plant will provide the national economy with power. With the raising of the level of the water the upper reaches of the Tisza will be navigable up to the town of Zahony. Hitherto this part of the Tisza was navigable only at certain times of the year.

Photo: Official opening of dam. Water flows for irrigation.

POLITICAL NOTES

Mean Trick of French Authorities

Not a single cultural event, not a single concert ever held in Paris evoked such interest as the anticipated appearance of the Soviet ballet dancers. Writers, painters, sculptors, artistes and members of Parliament, numerous organisations and the ordinary public expressed in a thousand ways their sympathy for the envoys of Soviet art.

Even before daybreak one could see queues forming outside the ticket offices, queues which grew larger every hour and how these packed queues stretched right round the Grand Opera House; and so it continued for more than a week. Many people came from other countries of Western Europe solely to see the Soviet ballet. Over 10,000 tickets had been sold.

Parisians waited with impatience for the curtain to go up in the Grand Opera House, for the wave of the conductor's baton, for the splendid music and to see the Soviet ballet, rightly regarded as the best in the world.

But this did not take place. On May 10 the French Government, completely ignoring the wishes and desires of the public, issued an order postponing the concerts of the Soviet artistes "indefinitely", that is, they virtually banned the show. In this connection it is essential to recall that the Soviet artistes came to Paris at the express invitation of the French Government as a return gesture for the visit to Moscow and Leningrad of the artistes of the "Comédie Francaise".

not mean that the French public are not aware of the real reason for the risky tight-rope act of the French authorities, that they do not see the conductor's baton the wave of which prevented the curtain from going up in the Grand Opera House. At the time of the visit of the "Comédie Francaise" to Moscow and Leningrad the reactionary American press, enraged by the warm and hearty welcome extended by the Soviet people to the French artistes, began to sound the alarm about the growing Franco-Soviet cultural relations. The strengthening of these relations is not to the liking of the influential circles in the USA who are doing all in their power to sow discord and hatred between the peoples. And for that matter how could the American Government which not so long ago feared to let a small group of Soviet chess players into the United States "agree" to concerts by Soviet artistes in Paris? On the other hand the fact of the decision of the French authorities to ban the concerts being hailed with glee by the reactionary American press shows best of all who it was that vetted this decision.

All the greater then is the indignation of the French people arising from this decision which is an insult to the national honour of France. This indignation found expression in statements and declarations by leading French writers and art workers: Louis Aragon, Picasso, Jean-Paul Sartre, Francois Mau[illegible]