

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

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CAMP OF PEACE AND DEMOCRACY IS POWERFUL AND INVIOLEABLE

The historic Conference of European countries on ensuring peace and security in Europe, which was held in Moscow, and the Declaration adopted by it are in the centre of attention of the world progressive public and all sections of the people in Europe who are vitally interested in preserving and consolidating peace.

Crowded meetings and rallies are being held in the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania and the German Democratic Republic. The working people in these countries unanimously and warmly approve the Declaration of the Moscow Conference and demonstrate their great unity, their inflexible will for peace and their resolve to strengthen still more the might of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism. The Declaration has the full support of the 600 million-strong Chinese people. The work of the Conference and the unanimous approval of the Declaration are a vivid expression of the solidarity of the mighty and unconquerable camp of peace, democracy and Socialism, the consistent and stubborn struggle waged by it for peace and world security, an expression of the unity of will and action of its peoples and governments.

The Declaration of the Moscow Conference is of tremendous international significance. It maps out a concrete and clear path to the preservation and consolidation of peace, to the strengthening of international co-operation, setting out in detail the tasks which now confront all peace-loving peoples. The ideas expressed in the Declaration are exerting exceptional influence on the minds and hearts of all who value peace. It is precisely thus that the democratic press of the West, European and other countries evaluate the Declaration.

The reactionary bourgeois press is doing its best to belittle the results of the Moscow Conference and to conceal the contents of the Declaration from the public. It is resorting to deliberate misconstructions and slanderous inventions. But you cannot go far on lies and misrepresentation! Truth will out! Thanks to the tireless activities of the peace supporters, thanks to the heroic struggle waged by the Communist and Workers' Parties, the ideas expressed in the Declaration, its evaluation of the situation that has arisen in Europe as a result of the decisions of the London and Paris conferences of certain Western states and the path it charts to avert the threat of war and strengthen international security are coming to the knowledge of increasing numbers of people in West European countries. The numerous comments on the

a threat to the national security of peace-loving European states, particularly to Germany's neighbours.

No matter how hard the ruling circles of Western countries attempt to camouflage their designs, they cannot hide the fact that they have embarked on the dangerous course of re-establishing German militarism, of forming military blocs, a course that aggravates world tension and greatly intensifies the threat of a new world war.

It is a fact that the states that signed the Paris agreements are extending their military and economic measures against the peace-loving nations of Europe more and more. It is a fact that they have entered into a military bloc with German militarism and are arming Western Germany. It is absolutely obvious that the further implementation of the "positions of strength" policy will rely directly on the revived German militarism and that this brings the danger of war in Europe much closer.

The most bellicose circles in the U.S.A. and Britain are daring to threaten the peace-loving countries, calling for war against them and demanding that they be enslaved. But the peoples of the camp of peace and democracy cannot be intimidated! They will be able to defend themselves and their just cause. It would be very useful for the over-zealous militarists of the Western countries to recall the instructive lessons of recent history, to recollect the crushing defeat suffered by Hitler Germany which infringed on the freedom, honour and independence of the Soviet Union. There is no doubt that if the forces of aggression try to unleash a war against the peoples of the democratic camp the invaders will be smashed and destroyed.

Now the Soviet Union is even stronger than before the second world war. With it in the battle for peace stand the People's Republic of China, the greatest country of Asia, and the people's democratic countries, which have firmly taken the path of Socialism. The powerful and monolithic camp of peace, democracy and Socialism, comprising over 900 million people, is inviolable!

The gigantic victories won by the peoples of the democratic camp are confirmed in law in the constitutions of their countries. The Soviet Constitution is a constitution of the victory of Socialism and worker-peasant democracy. It has embodied the foundations and principles of Socialism and still further consolidated the indestructible alliance of the working class and the collective farmers, the moral and political unity of Soviet society. The Constitutions of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania and the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, which was adopted this year, have consolidated the revolutionary

Policy of Peace and General European Security Corresponds to Interests of All Peoples

French Patriots Step Up Struggle Against Paris Agreements

As the debates on the London and Paris agreements draw nearer the French people are stepping up their struggle against the rearmament of the West German revenge-seekers. On December 5, rallies were organised in 17 departments and 15 more are scheduled for December 12. These rallies are generally attended by a considerably greater number of people than during the anti-EDC campaign. Tens of thousands of people of diverse views and trades gathered at a rally in Paris. The rearmament of the West German militarists has been denounced in particular by Abbé Boulter, by Debu-Bridel, a RPF Senator, and by a Socialist councillor. In Lyons where Edouard Herriot is the Mayor the rally was presided over by his deputy and the rally in Béziers by the Radical Mayor.

The peasants are also active in the movement against the resurrection of the Wehrmacht. The collection of signatures, petitions and letters to elected persons is actively taking place in 40 departments at the call of the National Peasant Committee in Defence of Peace and Agriculture. 106 canton and inter-canton meetings were organised in 21 departments. A feature of the movement against the ratification of the Paris agreements is that activists and various Socialist organisations are taking a greater part in it.

Frustrate Ratification of Paris Agreements

In the German Democratic Republic the working people are heartily welcoming the Declaration of the Moscow Conference at crowded meetings and rallies. Many of them are urging the Bonn Bundestag deputies to reject ratification of the Paris agreements; many workers are taking pledges to fulfil their production programmes ahead of schedule.

An emergency enlarged meeting of the Presidium of the National Council of the National Front of Democratic Germany was

Inflexible Will of Soviet People

The working people of the Soviet Union warmly support and approve the Declaration adopted at the Moscow Conference of European countries. Numerous meetings and rallies are taking place all over the country, at which workers, collective farmers, scientists, engineers and office workers, people of all professions, declare their firm determination to uphold peace and prevent the imperialists from unleashing a new war.

"I heartily approve the Declaration adopted at the Moscow Conference", said A. Smirnov, a turner at the Moscow Vladimir Ilyich Works. "It shows us, the workers of all countries, the road to preserving peace, the road to security. The ratification of the treacherous London and Paris agreements must not be allowed to take place. They are fraught with the threat of war, loss of human life, tears, hunger and destruction. Proletarian solidarity must be strengthened and the intrigues of the imperialists foiled."

"The simple and clear proposals of the Soviet Government and the Governments of other peace-loving European countries", said Comrade Grekhov, a team-leader at the

Stalin Works, Baku, "are aimed at strengthening peace and general security. And that is why we Soviet people fully approve the measures worked out at the Moscow Conference. By our labours we shall strengthen the great cause of peace for which, together with us, all peace-loving peoples are fighting, combining forces to ensure their security. We are not to be caught napping, the working people of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies are sure of their strength, and they are prepared to give a sound rebuff to anyone who attempts to attack them and encroach on the peaceful life of their peoples."

"The Soviet people are building a peaceful life", declared Ulyana Bashlyk, Heroine of Socialist Labour, Chairman of the Stalin Collective Farm in Skomorokhli village, Lvov region. "But let the imperialists know that the Soviet people, shoulder to shoulder with other peace-loving peoples, will be able to deal a smashing rebuff to any attempt to unleash a war."

"The peoples of freedom-loving countries will not permit the criminal plans of the warmongers to be carried out."

Mass Meetings and Rallies in Poland

Numerous rallies and meetings where the working people express their full solidarity with the Moscow Declaration are taking place throughout Poland.

A big rally has been held in Warsaw. On behalf of the Government delegation of the Polish People's Republic to the Moscow Conference, J. Cyrankiewicz, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, made a report on the work of the Conference. Those present at the rally passed a resolution which reads: The Polish people strongly condemn the adventurous and dangerous policy of reviving the aggressive Wehrmacht and establishing a militarist bloc based on a remilitarised

Western Germany. The Polish people are resolutely against arms being put into the hands of the murderers of Auschwitz and Maidanek, the destroyers of Warsaw and thieves of Polish property. Our people will never agree to a policy aimed against peace, Poland and all progressive mankind.

At a meeting of the workers of the Gdansk shipyard, Blaszkievicz, a maintenance electrician, declared: "The Moscow Conference has shown that the camp of peace is solid and monolithic and that it will be able to deal a crushing rebuff to any attempt at aggression."

Unanimous Approval of Declaration in Czechoslovakia

At mass meetings and rallies in towns, villages and factories the Czechoslovak working people are unanimously announcing their resolve to struggle against the

Wholeheartedly supporting the Moscow Declaration the working people are taking new production pledges. Workers in agriculture have responded with new successes

Prevent Remilitarisation of Western Germany

The Moscow Declaration is being discussed by the working people of Hungary at numerous meetings in town and countryside. Workers, labouring peasants, intelligentsia, housewives and representatives of other sections of the population warmly support the Declaration and strongly protest against the policy of the Western powers directed at restoring German militarism. From all parts of the country many protest letters and telegrams are pouring into the All-Hungarian Peace Council and the editorial boards of the newspapers.

A group of women workers of the foundry-shop of the MAVAG Metallurgical Combinat writes: Words cannot express how much we mothers have suffered from war. We can never forget the yoke of German militarism which plunged us into poverty and suffering. That is why we strongly oppose the revival of the West German army.

János Nagy, a peasant from the village of Egerboos, declared at the village meeting:

The second world war proved to us what German fascism was capable of. There doesn't appear to be a single person in our village who did not suffer under the fascists. This is why we shall struggle with all our might against the remilitarisation of Western Germany.

Peace-Loving Peoples Have Strength and Means to Rebuff Enemies of Peace

Mass meetings and rallies, collective newspaper readings and talks are being held throughout Bulgaria. The working people are declaring their determination to step up the fight against the remilitarisation of Western Germany.

"If the German revenge-seekers and their masters take the path of war", declared weaver Olga Ostrova, Heroine of Socialist Labour, "the peace-loving peoples will find the strength and means to curb them. Not only can we weave skilfully and build a happy life but we can also defend peace and the independence of our sunlit home-

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The decisions of the Moscow Conference have equipped the peace-loving peoples with a trenchant weapon for the fight against the revival of German militarism and for laying bare the manoeuvres and machinations of the warmongers. The struggle against the ratification of the Paris agreements is developing and broadening out in all West European countries. Militant unity of the working class, peasantry and intelligentsia and unity of the masses is forged during the course of the struggle, unity with which the ruling classes of bourgeois countries cannot but reckon.

In connection with the approaching parliamentary debates on the ratification of the Paris agreements, the enemies of peace and relaxation of international tension are redoubling their pressure on members of parliament and other public figures and intensifying their undermining manoeuvres.

Striving at any cost to rush through ratification of the Paris agreements, official circles in the West and their paid propagandists are going all out in their efforts to pull the wool over the eyes of the public. They assert that ratification of the Paris agreements will change nothing and, moreover, that more favourable conditions will be created for negotiations and the solution of outstanding international problems.

There is no need to point out how utterly false and dangerous these assertions are. In reality the ratification of the Paris agreements will be an act spearheaded against the preservation of peace and towards preparation for a new war in Europe: ratification would greatly complicate the entire situation in Europe, it would undermine the possibilities for settling all unsolved European problems, first and foremost, the German problem and would render four power negotiations on these questions pointless.

The advocates of the new Wehrmacht are trying to prove that the rearmament of Western Germany is inevitable, that for this reason it must be included in the West European military union and that this will make it possible to confine the development of German militarism within certain limits.

It is quite clear that all the talk of the authors of the Paris agreements about safeguards against the revival of German militarism are aimed at blunting the peoples' vigilance. As a matter of fact the Paris agreements open up the way to the resurrection of German militarism and are

to defend themselves and their just cause. It would be very useful for the over-zealous militarists of the Western countries to recall the instructive lessons of recent history, to recollect the crushing defeat suffered by Hitler Germany which infringed on the freedom, honour and independence of the Soviet Union. There is no doubt that if the forces of aggression try to unleash a war against the peoples of the democratic camp the invaders will be smashed and destroyed.

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Engaged in peaceful and creative labour the peoples of the democratic camp understand that in the present conditions any blunting of vigilance in respect of the danger of a new war in Europe is not to be tolerated. They vigilantly follow the warmongers' intrigues and will not let the course of events catch them unawares. In the present situation they are forced, in the interests of ensuring their security, to take urgent measures in order to counterpose to the aggressive forces of the military bloc of Western Powers the combined power of the peace-loving countries.

The states participating in the Moscow Conference declared that in the event of the Paris agreements being ratified they would carry out joint measures in the sphere of organising the armed forces and their command, as well as other measures necessary for strengthening their defence capacity, in order to safeguard the peaceful labour of their peoples, guarantee the integrity of their frontiers and territories and ensure their defence from possible aggression.

"Our peoples", the Declaration says, "have confidence in their strength, in their inexhaustible resources. Never have the forces of peace and Socialism been so powerful and united as they are now. Any attempts to attack, to unleash a new war and interrupt the peaceful life of our peoples will meet with a crushing rebuff. And then our peoples, backed by the sympathy and support of other peoples, will do everything to destroy the forces of aggression so that our right and just cause may triumph.

"Our peoples want to live in peace and maintain friendly relations with all other peoples. And that is why, while doing everything to uphold the interests of peace and general security, they will do all that is necessary to ensure their continued peaceful line of development and the proper security of their countries."

Let the enemies of peace and the security of the peoples well remember this stern warning: The forces of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism are innumerable. The peoples stand for peace. They are rising to resolute struggle in order to frustrate the criminal designs of the enemies of peace

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An emergency enlarged meeting of the Presidium of the National Council of the National Front of Democratic Germany was devoted to the results of the Moscow Conference, and a unanimously adopted statement emphasises that all Germans are confronted with the important task of preventing ratification of the Paris military agreements, preventing the rearmament of Western Germany and reaching agreement on holding free all-German elections in 1955.

Tenth Anniversary of Franco-Soviet Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance

Ten years ago, on December 10, 1944, the Soviet Union and France signed a 20-year Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance in Moscow.

The Parties declared in the Preamble that they were sure "that the conclusion of an alliance between the USSR and France corresponds to feelings and interests of both peoples..."

The Treaty defined the aims of the alliance:

"...jointly to undertake all necessary measures to remove any new threat emanating from Germany and to prevent such actions as would make possible any new attempt at aggression on her part". (Article 3);

"not to conclude any treaty or participate in any coalition spearheaded against one of the High Contracting Parties". (Article 5).

The French people received the news of the signing of the Treaty with deep satisfaction and within 15 days it was unanimously ratified by the Provisional Consultative Assembly. This was explained by the fact that in the grim years of the Nazi occupation the French people hailed every victory of the Soviet troops as a victory for France. To the tremendous feeling of gratitude to the Soviet Union for its heroic struggle was added heartfelt gratitude for its friendly attitude towards France.

In September 1941, when the Nazi armies were hurling themselves on Moscow, the Soviet Government recognised the Committee of National Liberation formed by General De Gaulle in London and declared its readiness to "help and support the French people in their struggle against Hitler Germany and its allies".

By concluding the Treaty with the USSR in 1944 France again took its place in the ranks of the great powers.

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"We want peace and are well aware that it is not enough merely to proclaim peaceful slogans", said Antonin Kredvik, a worker at the metallurgical plant in Kladno. "It is time to back up our desire for peace by resolute actions."

Western Germany. The Polish people are resolutely against arms being put into the hands of the murderers of Auschwitz and Maidanek, the destroyers of Warsaw and thieves of Polish property. Our people will never agree to a policy aimed against peace, Poland and all progressive mankind.

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Wholeheartedly supporting the Moscow Declaration the working people are taking new production pledges. Workers in agriculture have responded with new successes in labour.

The Czechoslovak Peace Committee has received over 40,000 resolutions protesting against the remilitarisation of Western Germany. These resolutions are addressed to the working people of France, Western Germany, Belgium, Holland and other West European countries and call on them to step up the struggle against the restoration of the Wehrmacht.

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The workers of the Lenin Metallurgical Plant pledged to strengthen peace by fresh successes in labour. A meeting of Sofia women unanimously adopted an appeal to the Women's International Democratic Federation, a telegram to Uno and a telegram to the Federal Court in Karlsruhe protesting against the provocative trial of the Communist Party of Germany.

Completely ignoring the lessons of history the aggressive circles of the French bourgeoisie again betray the national interests. After forcing the Marshall Plan and the Atlantic Pact on the country they are again putting German militarism back in the saddle.

The ratification of the London and Paris agreements would provide the Nazi revenge-seekers with a powerful headquarters, a 500,000-strong army, 8,000 tanks and 1,500 planes. It would perpetuate the division of Germany and create a dangerous seat of war in the heart of Europe. It would mean a refusal to join a system of collective security in Europe.

This is why opposition to these fatal agreements is mounting in the country and is making itself increasingly felt in Parliament. More and more Socialist activists are coming out against these agreements and Socialists are undertaking joint action with Communists. This is clear from the statement by nine leaders of the Paris Socialist Party, the statements of many Socialist mayors and secretaries of Socialist sections, the joint meetings of bureaus of Communist and Socialist sections and their joint appeals to the population.

The Central Committee of the League of Human Rights has demanded the immediate opening of negotiations with the Soviet Union. The General Council of the Vaucluse Department, in which only one of the 21 councillors is a Communist, has unanimously condemned West German rearmament. The General Council of the Savoie Department (3 Communists out of 29 councillors) unanimously spoke out in favour of settling the German problem by means

of negotiations. In November the General Council of the Aude Department consisting of 23 Socialists, 1 Communist and 7 Radicals demanded a four-power conference.

Opposition to the London and Paris agreements is showing itself in various forms. The tenth anniversary of the Franco-Soviet Treaty is taking place in an atmosphere of struggle against the resurgence of German militarism.

The anniversary is being celebrated at a moment when the idea of negotiations with the Soviet Union enjoys wide popularity in various political circles and even among those who a year ago considered negotiations impossible or futile. This development has been greatly helped by the repeated appeals of the Soviet Union for disarmament, settlement of the German problem and collective security.

The Soviet proposal for a conference on ensuring peace and security in Europe addressed to France and other European states was met with great satisfaction by broad sections of the French public. So all the greater was their indignation on learning that the Government had rejected this proposal. The French people attach especial importance to the Moscow Declaration, particularly to the passage which refers to the Franco-Soviet Treaty: "The establishment of a new military bloc is contrary to the 1944 Franco-Soviet Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance..." The French people do not wish to see the deterioration of relations between the USSR and France which would arise from the projected ratification of the London and Paris agreements. On the contrary, they would like to see the alliance between the two countries, the cornerstone of France's security, res-

pected and strengthened. Therefore it is not difficult to understand the statements and warnings of such people as Edouard Herriot, Edouard Daladier and General De Gaulle, who stand for negotiations with the Soviet Union.

In the opinion of some politicians the Franco-Soviet Treaty should lie forgotten in a pigeon-hole in the Quai d'Orsay. However, it lives in the hearts and minds of millions of French people.

The whole of France marks the tenth anniversary of the Treaty. A committee for celebrating this anniversary and 30 years of diplomatic relations between France and the USSR has been set up in Paris. It includes such prominent personalities as Edouard Herriot, Honorary Chairman of the National Assembly, former Ministers Paul Boncour, Pierre Cot and Jacques Soustelle, Frederic Joliot-Curie, writer Jean-Paul Sartre and many other eminent representatives of political and intellectual circles. Edouard Herriot will preside at a celebration meeting in Lyons. The Franco-Soviet Society is organising 38 mass meetings and 650 socials devoted to the anniversary. A special celebration issue of the Franco-Soviet magazine has been published in an edition of 110,000. The VIIth Congress of the Franco-Soviet Society, which is scheduled for December 10-12 in Paris, coincides with the celebration of this glorious anniversary and will make a fresh contribution to the cause of consolidating friendship between the French and Soviet peoples.

Altogether there will be more than 1,000 celebration events. They will give powerful support to the struggle against the ratification of the London and Paris agreements and clearly demonstrate the unshakable loyalty of our people to friendship with the Soviet Union.

Call for Consistent Struggle for Peace and Security of Peoples

The question of ensuring peace and security in Europe and of solving the German problem is among the most important problems of today's world politics. Two conceptions again stand out clearly in the approach to the solution of this problem.

According to the first conception, the purveyors of which are the U.S. imperialist circles, the threat to security comes from the East and to safeguard this security, therefore, it is necessary to build a unilateral bloc, which above all must incorporate Western Germany, and resurrect and arm her militarist army. Only after this "defence bloc" has been formed, they say, can negotiations for ensuring peace be commenced "from positions of strength".

This conception has found its expression in the so-called Paris agreements, ratification of which the ruling circles of the Western countries are now trying to push through.

The creator and defender of the second conception is the Soviet Union. This conception has the unanimous support of the Governments and peoples of the People's Democracies, the German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of China, a great power in Asia; it has likewise the support of millions of people of goodwill in other countries. According to this conception the problem of ensuring peace and security in Europe should be solved by concluding a General European Treaty on Collective Security with the participation of all European states, both big and small, irrespective of their social system, a treaty which is based on the principle of peaceful coexistence and which creates the prerequisites for suppressing by joint forces and at their inception any attempts to unleash another war, no matter where, when or by whom.

There is nothing new in the first conception, that of the American imperialist circles. It was advanced at one time by Hitler and the fascist circles of the Italian and Japanese warmongers. They, too, spoke of the Communist menace from the East, so "substantiating" the necessity of forming the aggressive Berlin-Rome-Tokyo axis. This, too, was a "positions of strength" policy the alleged intent of which was to safeguard peace in Europe.

All of us know what the words "peaceful negotiations" meant in the vocabulary of the Hitlerite bandits. They meant violent imposition of their will on other countries, the implementation of aggressive plans under the threat of an armed attack and new horrors of war.

The outcome of these "peaceful negotiations" was Munich for Czechoslovakia and World War II for the whole world.

Hence the lesson: whoever begins to form military blocs and pacts is not to be believed, for them all agreements, and particularly peaceful agreements, are mere scraps of paper.

This is just how Hitler acted. He attacked Czechoslovakia regardless of "peaceful negotiations" and the Munich agreement. Then he attacked Poland, and, unmindful of the non-aggression pact, he attacked the Soviet Union too. He also attacked France and other West European countries and let loose the second world war.

In the light of this experience, which cost the peoples of Europe and the world so dear, today it is essential to examine every unilateral military pact entered into. These pacts are not concluded for the defence of peace but in preparation for another world war.

It is not the object of unilateral pacts sponsored by U.S. military circles to de-

★
Antonin Zapotocky
President, Czechoslovak Republic
Member, Political Bureau,
Central Committee,
Communist Party of Czechoslovakia
★ ★

urgent measures to prevent their being carried out.

The concessions made to the Hitlerite "peaceful" policy of strength and the pressure exerted by the fascists when negotiating in Munich brought about the second world war. This must serve as a lesson to all, including France and Western Germany. That is why the American conception must be rejected. The purpose of this old fascist conception is not the establishment of peace between the peoples. Its aim is to divide the peoples and even to use allies in pursuit of imperialist aims.

The only correct conception is that of the Soviet Union. It requires an end to unilateral military pacts and calls for the conclusion of an all-European agreement on collective security with the participation of all nations, an agreement that would serve as a basis for peace in Europe and throughout the world, and for the settlement of all controversial problems by genuinely peaceful negotiations, a basis for the solution of the German problem through the unification of Germany on a democratic basis. It excludes the resurrection of the old Hitler fascism and aggressive army, the army whose existence always was and always would be a danger for European and world peace and would represent a particularly grave danger for the freedom and sovereignty of Germany's neighbours in the East and West.

It was on the basis of this conception of collective security that the Moscow Conference was convened for November 29.

The Moscow Conference showed in all its clarity that the governments of a number of European states, representing about 300 million people, with the Soviet Union at their head, are fully determined, in the interests of their peoples and the continued economic, cultural and social development of their countries, to defend the peace, well-being and happiness of their peoples and to take all measures that may be essential to frustrate the military plans of the aggressive circles of the U.S.A. and certain other European states.

The governments of the countries participating in the Conference fully realise the danger to their peoples, all Europe and the world, which would arise from the ratification of the Paris agreements. They have no wish to sit idly by and witness the criminal activities creating a threat to peace and the security of the peoples. Realising that any sharpening of world tension leads to increased armaments and worsened living conditions for the broad masses and finally creates the danger of a new war, the representatives of these countries again appealed to the peoples and states of Europe calling on them not to ratify the Paris agreements and gather around one table to discuss the establishment of an all-European system of collective security.

The People's Republic of China, a great Asian power, also fully agrees with the results of the Moscow Conference and the Declaration.

In countries where the constant raising of material and cultural standards of the

unilateral aggressive bloc of some European countries is necessary to prevent "aggression from the East" and that it thus promotes peace in Europe, is therefore a downright lie aimed at hoodwinking the broad masses in their countries.

The role chalked out for a resurrected and rearmed German army under the Paris agreements was recently revealed by Churchill, the British Prime Minister. He said that even before the end of World War II he was planning to give arms back to German POWs and use them against the Soviet Union and against the peoples of France and Italy. This also explains why before the end of the war the defeated Hitlerite troops in Germany and in Czechia fled from the Soviet Army and surrendered to the Western allied troops, preferring to be captured by the Americans or British.

Probably the plots of Churchill and the Western allies to give arms to the captured Nazi troops and use them against the Soviet Union were known in the German army. Since Churchill's statement this fact has also become clear. It is fresh confirmation of how difficult it is to believe those who nurture aggressive plans and how dangerous it would be to surrender to their "peaceful" policy determined by "positions of strength".

We have not the slightest feeling of enmity towards the peoples of France, Germany and other European countries. On the contrary, we wish to live with them in peace and friendship because we are convinced that mutual co-operation on a peaceful basis is advantageous to all. But we categorically reject the policy of those Western rulers who, being dependent on U.S. imperialist quarters and drawing no lessons from the history of the last decades, again want to stir up the European peoples against each other and once more kindle the ominous fire of war in Europe.

The "policy of strength" is no good to anybody and eventually leads to the defeat and destruction of those who carry it out. The end of Hitler and his accomplices, which is still fresh in the minds of people, is an illustration.

War brings ruin, poverty and sufferings. Who can want a war? Of course not those who wish to work and live in peace.

The Moscow Declaration is, therefore, an important document for all peace-loving people. It again calls for the peaceful settlement of European problems and shows the path towards the further easing of world tension.

The German question is the key problem in deciding the question of collective measures for ensuring peace and security in Europe. German militarism has always threatened the peace and security of Europe. The Czechoslovak people, being a neighbour of Germany and a victim of Hitler fascism, realise full well this menace.

However, the policy of militarisation and aggression has always been disastrous for the German people, too. This is why the Moscow Declaration, which proclaims the principle of the reunification of Germany on democratic lines, is of immense significance for the German people too. Not the shameful occupation of Western Germany and the division of the country for many decades, as the Paris agreements provide, but the establishment of a united, democratic German state which would be included in a system of general European collective security—such is the prospect set before the peoples in the Moscow Declaration.

The Moscow Conference was a historic one. It showed that the constant economic, cultural and social advance of the countries

French Socialists and Struggle Against Paris Agreements

★
Etienne Fajon
Secretary, French Communist Party
★ ★

During his recent trip to the U.S.A., the French Premier Mendès-France promised the American rulers a speedy ratification of the London and Paris agreements for resurrecting the revenge-seeking Wehrmacht.

Apart from other factors the fulfilment of this promise presupposes the support of the Socialist Party. This support is essential in Parliament. On October 12, following the London conference, only individual deputies voted with the Communists against the decisions adopted at this conference. Since then, however, the situation has changed. Thanks to the campaign conducted by the French Communist Party and the Peace Movement the import of the London and Paris agreements is becoming clearer and clearer to the French people. Resistance to these agreements is making itself felt and is broadening out. As a result more and more bourgeois deputies are coming out against ratification or are displaying increasing hesitancy.

In view of the fact that the Socialist group in the National Assembly totals 105 deputies, ratification is largely dependent upon their attitude.

But the reactionary circles who advocate the re-establishment of German militarism are in even greater need of the support of Socialists outside Parliament than inside it. Unification of the democratic and national forces, on which, in the long run, the rejection or ratification of the agreements depends, is determined to a great degree, by the building of a **united working-class front**. With the help of the Socialist leaders Mendès-France banks on diverting the Socialist working people from the united front in order to weaken the movement against West German rearmament and facilitate ratification.

So far the attitude of the Socialist leaders towards the London and Paris agreements has been in line with the wishes of the American rulers, the German militarists and their French accomplices. On October 12 the Socialist Parliamentary group approved the stand taken by the Premier at the London Conference.

In mid-November the Socialist leaders managed to get the Party Congress to approve these agreements, dragging out the outworn theory of the "lesser evil" in their support. For example, Guy Mollet, General Secretary of the Socialist Party, believes that the resurrection of the Wehrmacht in the form envisaged in the Paris agreements is of course dangerous, but... it could be even worse in another form! Unable to ignore the common desire of the Socialist working people for disarmament, collective security and a stable peace through negotiations between all European countries, the Socialist leaders are upholding, as if it was their own, the wild idea that putting the Hitlerite generals back in the saddle would mean proceeding towards the peaceful settlement of the German question and preparing for a fruitful conference with the Soviet Union!

As a result, the majority of delegates at the Socialist Party Congress demanded that the Socialist deputies vote for ratification.

It is known, however, that the previous Party Congress instructed Socialist deputies to ratify the EDC treaty. But this did not prevent the vast majority of Socialist workers from opposing this treaty and urging their deputies to reject it. As a result,

Socialist working people in the movement against the London and Paris agreements.

As a result many Socialist deputies and organisations of the Socialist Party publicly oppose the rearmament of the German revenge-seekers in any form whatsoever and demand immediate negotiations with the Soviet Union. Despite the ban imposed by the leadership, Socialist activists and organisations are more and more frequently coming out in this decisive battle in a united front with the Communists.

Here are some fresh examples. In the Lot-et-Garonne Department an appeal for a departmental rally on December 12 against the London and Paris agreements and for negotiations was signed by 33 Socialist and 26 Communist mayors, as well as more than 100 teachers—Socialist sympathisers. In Hérault Department 41 Socialists and 41 Communists signed a joint call for a rally on December 5. In the Corrèze Department the Socialist chairman of the General Council presided at a mass rally which was attended by a number of Socialist mayors. In the Ain Department the Socialist Party Federation passed a resolution denouncing the London and Paris agreements and calling for negotiations. Pierre Bloch, former Socialist Minister, was among those who signed an appeal for a rally in the Aisne Department on December 12. In the Creuse Department 13 Socialist mayors gave their support to a call for a similar rally. Marius Moutet, former Socialist Minister and now Senator from the Drôme Department, declared: "We should first of all agree to hold a conference as proposed by the Soviet Union." In the Bouches-du-Rhône Department, 21 Socialist activists, together with Communists and members of other parties, signed an appeal calling for a departmental rally.

At many factories Communist and Socialist workers are jointly collecting signatures to the National Peace Movement petition. A joint deputation was sent from the big "Willème" works in the Paris District to Socialist deputies who support the agreements. Communist and Socialist workers are going round in pairs collecting signatures on the doorsteps in Saint-Sauveur (Oise). There has been similar co-operation in Brunemont (Nord) between the Communist and Socialist municipal councillors who, furthermore, jointly called a public meeting. In Roche-la-Molière (Loire) a joint appeal to the public was signed by the secretaries of the Socialist and Communist Party sections. The appeal was also signed by the Socialist mayor. A committee was set up in Bourg de Péage (Drôme) which included the secretary of the Socialist Party section.

Every day brings with it fresh examples which bear witness to the growing movement for Communist-Socialist unity of action in the fight against rearming the Bonn revenge-seekers.

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The Socialist working people, including those who have not yet established

European states to ensure collective security, a proposal that exposed the poor arguments of those advocating the re-establishment of German militarism and corresponded to the will of the masses for peace, created a deep impression on them. The active struggle of the working people of Germany against the London and Paris agreements and for negotiations, as well as the opposition of British workers, which led to the Parliamentary Labour Party abstaining from voting in the House of Commons, intensifies the hostility of the French Socialists to the revival of the Wehrmacht.

The illusions put about by Mendès-France on social questions are, furthermore, beginning to disperse. Unity of action by the trade unions is developing, particularly among the working people in the iron and steel industry and among civil servants; the discontent and concern of the working people have had their repercussions on the Socialist Party Congress which had to decide the question of Socialist participation in Mendès-France's Government but which advanced so many provisos that this participation did not in fact materialise.

In these conditions, the policy of our Party, aimed at bringing about unity of all patriotic forces, and the efforts made by the Communists to unite the masses against the restoration of German militarism could not but yield their first fruits. It should not be forgotten, however, that a united front in defence of national independence and peace is only beginning to take shape. The majority of that section of the working class and petty bourgeoisie under the influence of Social Democratic ideology has not as yet taken part in the common fight. No matter how numerous in this field, they only attest to the great opportunities still open to us.

The fomentors of war plan to rush through ratification of the agreements and to implement them before the developing movement against the remilitarisation of Western Germany becomes too powerful. They want to be ahead of the peace movement. They would like to hush up or to distort the essence of the Declaration of the Moscow Conference of European countries which clearly reflects the consistent peace-loving policy of the countries of the democratic camp, a policy aimed at ensuring peace and security in Europe and corresponding to the interests of all peoples, including the French people.

And that is why we must make immeasurably greater efforts to achieve unity. The French Communists, guided by the correct decisions of the 11th Congress of the Party, are striving and will continue to strive to achieve mutual understanding in relations with every Socialist faction each one of them of the benefit of a united front, to point out the disastrous nature of the agreements put before Parliament and, in particular, to convert the tide of feeling against military measures into an active fight for the preservation of peace.

As Comrade Maurice Thorez, General Secretary,

...of these peaceful negotiations" was Munich for Czechoslovakia and World War II for the whole world.

Hence the lesson: whoever begins to form military blocs and pacts is not to be believed, for them all agreements, and particularly peaceful agreements, are mere scraps of paper.

This is just how Hitler acted. He attacked Czechoslovakia regardless of "peaceful negotiations" and the Munich agreement. Then he attacked Poland, and, unmindful of the non-aggression pact, he attacked the Soviet Union too. He also attacked France and other West European countries and let loose the second world war.

In the light of this experience, which cost the peoples of Europe and the world so dear, today it is essential to examine every unilateral military pact entered into. These pacts are not concluded for the defence of peace but in preparation for another world war.

It is not the object of unilateral pacts sponsored by U.S. military circles to defend peace; they are knocked together with the purpose of preparing for a new war. The so-called Paris agreements have this object too. In the interests of upholding peace, they cannot be agreed to and if things get as far as the ratification of these agreements it will be necessary to take

participating in the conference fully realise the danger to their peoples, all Europe and the world, which would arise from the ratification of the Paris agreements. They have no wish to sit idly by and witness the criminal activities creating a threat to peace and the security of the peoples. Realising that any sharpening of world tension leads to increased armaments and worsened living conditions for the broad masses and finally creates the danger of a new war, the representatives of these countries again appealed to the peoples and states of Europe calling on them not to ratify the Paris agreements and gather around one table to discuss the establishment of an all-European system of collective security.

The People's Republic of China, a great Asian power, also fully agrees with the results of the Moscow Conference and the Declaration.

In countries where the constant raising of material and cultural standards of the people is the main object, efforts to develop peaceful co-operation between the peoples and economic, cultural and trade relations with other countries on the basis of mutual equality form an integral part of the entire policy of the state.

The allegation of the initiators of the Paris agreements that the formation of a

...the key problem in deciding the question of collective measures for ensuring peace and security in Europe. German militarism has always threatened the peace and security of Europe. The Czechoslovak people, being a neighbour of Germany and a victim of Hitler fascism, realise full well this menace.

However, the policy of militarisation and aggression has always been disastrous for the German people, too. This is why the Moscow Declaration, which proclaims the principle of the reunification of Germany on democratic lines, is of immense significance for the German people too. Not the shameful occupation of Western Germany and the division of the country for many decades, as the Paris agreements provide, but the establishment of a united, democratic German state which would be included in a system of general European collective security—such is the prospect set before the peoples in the Moscow Declaration.

The Moscow Conference was a historic one. It showed that the constant economic, cultural and social advance of the countries of the camp of peace consolidates the moral, political unity of their peoples and the international peace front. It demonstrated the firm determination of the peace-loving countries to carry on a consistent struggle against aggression, for peace and the security of the peoples to its victorious conclusion.

General Secretary of the Socialist Party, believes that the resurrection of the Wehrmacht in the form envisaged in the Paris agreements is of course dangerous, but... it could be even worse in another form! Unable to ignore the common desire of the Socialist working people for disarmament, collective security and a stable peace through negotiations between all European countries, the Socialist leaders are upholding, as if it was their own, the wild idea that putting the Hitlerite generals back in the saddle would mean proceeding towards the peaceful settlement of the German question and preparing for a fruitful conference with the Soviet Union!

As a result, the majority of delegates at the Socialist Party Congress demanded that the Socialist deputies vote for ratification.

It is known, however, that the previous Party Congress instructed Socialist deputies to ratify the EDC treaty. But this did not prevent the vast majority of Socialist workers from opposing this treaty and urging their deputies to reject it. As a result, 53 Socialist deputies voted against ratification on August 30, thus making a contribution to the victory of the French people, to the victory won by the cause of peace.

A feature of the present situation in the country is the growing participation of

the agreements. Communist and Socialist workers are going round in pairs collecting signatures on the doorsteps in Saint-Sauveur (Oise). There has been similar co-operation in Brunemont (Nord) between the Communist and Socialist municipal councillors who, furthermore, jointly called a public meeting. In Roche-la-Molière (Loire) a joint appeal to the public was signed by the secretaries of the Socialist and Communist Party sections. The appeal was also signed by the Socialist mayor. A committee was set up in Bourg de Péage (Drôme) which included the secretary of the Socialist Party section.

Every day brings with it fresh examples which bear witness to the growing movement for Communist-Socialist unity of action in the fight against rearming the Bonn revenge-seekers.

The Socialist working people, including those who have not yet adopted any attitude on the London and Paris agreements, are traditionally opposed to the arms race, to establishing a system of military blocs and the "alliance of arms dealers"—to all that would follow from the implementation of these agreements. The Soviet proposal for a conference of all

...policy of the countries of the democratic camp, a policy aimed at ensuring peace and security in Europe and corresponding to the interests of all peoples, including the French people.

And that is why we must make immeasurably greater efforts to achieve unity. The French Communists, guided by the correct decisions of the XIIIth Congress of the Party, are striving and will continue to strive to achieve mutual understanding in relations with every Socialist, to convince each one of them of the beneficial effects of a united front, to point out the disastrous nature of the agreements put before Parliament and, in particular, to convert the tide of feeling against military measures into an active fight for the preservation of peace.

As Comrade Maurice Thorez, General Secretary of the Party, recently wrote in *L'Humanité*, French Communists will redouble their efforts to ensure that all these great possibilities for working-class unity are immediately converted into actions to consolidate and extend the common struggle to prevent the crime of ratification, to win another victory for peace.

Italian People Reject Plans for Rearmament of West German Revanchists

The introduction in the Italian Chamber of Deputies of a bill on the ratification of the London and Paris agreements, aimed at rearming Western Germany, urgently confronts the entire democratic movement of the country with new tasks which, in their turn, are closely linked with the more general tasks of securing a change in the country's political course.

It would be erroneous to think that the campaign now under way in the country against these new aggressive agreements is just the same as the previous successful campaign against the EDC treaty. The forces that advocate the rearming of German militarism and oppose the relaxation of international tension have resorted to new aggressive agreements precisely because, by their struggle, the peoples succeeded in preventing the ratification of the EDC treaty.

We should not close our eyes to the threat that the London and Paris agreements entail for peace in Europe and throughout the world. They are designed to serve the same end as was pursued by EDC, only without the smoke-screen of "Europeanism": the rearmament of Western Germany and its inclusion in the aggressive Atlantic Bloc. This would inevitably entail an intensified arms race, more acute international tension, a danger of a new war in the very heart of Europe.

The theory of the so-called "parallel action" advocated by Mendès-France in order to conceal the danger of West German rearmament (this theory has found its advocates in Italy too) is undoubtedly, if not a deceit, a very dangerous illusion. It is utter nonsense to assert that when the question of West German rearmament is decided the Soviet Union will be compelled to negotiate on terms more favourable for the Western imperialist powers. In the interests of peace and in order to avert a new arms race the Soviet Union has al-

ready shown its readiness to negotiate. And the Soviet Union cannot but take the necessary steps for ensuring its security if the rearmament of Western Germany becomes a reality, since it is directed against the Soviet Union.

The public in our country entered the struggle against the London and Paris agreements, which the Italian people are called upon to wage, undoubtedly better prepared than was the case in launching the struggle against the EDC treaty. The latter was launched by Italian peace supporters in May-June 1953, that is, in the course of the election struggle. And it developed in tempo and scale particularly after the formation of the Scelba Government which even at its first meeting in February last demanded that the Italian Parliament immediately ratify the EDC treaty.

The leaders of U.S. foreign policy wanted the Italian Parliament to ratify the EDC treaty in order to exert additional pressure on the French Parliament in which the trends opposing the ratification already prevailed. In his turn Scelba, taking into consideration the correlation of forces in the Italian Parliament, hoped that the debates on foreign policy would help him to consolidate and enlarge his parliamentary majority which was extremely insignificant on questions of home policy.

The task of the peace supporters and all democratic forces in Italy was to show that the above-mentioned plans of the U.S. rulers

were doomed to failure in our country too. Despite the persecution and police repression a broad mass movement developed in Italy, which blocked more and more the parliamentary manoeuvres of Scelba. This mass movement succeeded in preventing the submission of a bill on the ratification of the EDC treaty to the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate: discussion on this question was confined to commissions of the Chamber of Deputies until the French Parliament buried the treaty altogether.

The popular masses, who took the most active part in the struggle against EDC, became conscious that victory in frustrating the European Army scheme was won not only by the French people but by all peace-loving peoples and that they, too, had made an effective contribution in ensuring this victory. Following the failure of the EDC project and after the Geneva Conference showed a new, clearer prospect for easing international tension, broad public opinion in Italy, which was at first confused by the smoke-screen of "Europeanism" that concealed EDC, began searching for new ways and means to ensure a practicable solution of the problems of unity and European security, which were widely discussed in our country in the course of the debates on the EDC treaty.

The proposals of the Soviet Union concerning a treaty on collective security that would include all European countries, irrespective of their political and social system, conformed to widespread aspirations in our country which is still not a member of Uno, due to the U.S. policy of discrimination.

And bitter indeed was the disappointment at the behaviour of the Italian Government representatives at the London and Paris conferences, where they fully and obediently approved the new measures once again aimed at imposing West German rearmament on the peoples, at splitting Europe into opposing military groups, and at a new and intensified arms race.

It was difficult for the ordinary people to understand that the same plans for the division of Germany and Europe, rearmament and war, the plans already rejected, together with the European Army treaty, by the peoples, are put forward once again in a form although different from that envisaged by the EDC treaty, despite the fact that the possibility of easing world tension has lately become more concrete.

In these conditions the primary job of peace supporters was to explain to the public the real aims of the new agreements, to explain the new situation in which the struggle against West German rearmament, the division of Europe, for European security and lessening of world tension must develop. At its meeting on October 27 in Rome the National Peace Committee denounced the London agreement and issued the statement which constituted the first directive for struggle by provincial and local peace committees. A subsequent meeting of the leaders of the main provincial peace committees, sponsored by the National Peace Committee, and similar regional meetings contributed to the fact that these instructions found their practical reflection in the plan of propaganda work and political measures which have already begun to bear fruit.

It was essential first of all to explain to the broad masses the real content and political aims of the new agreements. Even before they were published and made known to the public the Government urged emergency measures in Parliament to ratify these agreements. It was necessary, more quickly than during the anti-EDC campaign, to begin publishing materials, training thousands of propagandists and discovering means for bringing the voice and actions of the peace committees to the very broad masses.

Since early in November special meetings of propagandists of the peace movement together with propagandists of all democratic organisations have been taking place, organised by the provincial and local peace committees. At the same time mass

meetings, addressed by representatives of the National Peace Committee or other democratic organisations, have been held in all major cities of the country. Meetings have been held in such provincial centres as Milan, Turin, Genoa, Bologna, Bari, Palermo, Messina and many others. Just as in the anti-EDC campaign the National Peace Committee is now directing efforts to develop propaganda activities and mass actions not only in major but also in minor centres where this work is developing more effectively, relying on the communal, district and factory peace committees. Apart from this the National Peace Committee frequently sends its representatives to major provincial towns where the development of propaganda activities is mainly left to the provincial and local peace committees. In their activities the propagandists are guided by the statements of the National Committee leaders and actively participate in the provincial peace rallies held during these weeks.

These propaganda activities, must, of course, be intensified and stepped up to a greater degree in the weeks to come in order to bring the slogans and aims of our struggle to every family in town and countryside. The achievement of this aim is facilitated by various means, such as the differentiated circulation of publications, posters of the National and provincial peace committees and other democratic organisations, wall newspapers, and so on. Good results have been obtained in Turin and other towns, for example, by the showing of films depicting the Hitler occupation and the Italian Resistance Movement, such as "Open City", which are followed by short meetings at which the danger of German rearmament and the pressing need to establish a system of collective security in Europe are explained. The proposal of peace committees in other centres of Northern Italy, which particularly suffered from the Hitler occupation, to hold a kind of mass investigations of the conse-

quences of the occupation and to explain the danger of German rearmament was warmly approved by the people. Thousands of people are compiling "notebooks of demands" in which they relate experiences during the German occupation and the liberation struggle and express their point of view on German rearmament, the London and Paris agreements and the ensuring of collective security in Europe. Special delegations hand these notebooks to Parliamentary deputies and provincial and municipal authorities. The result of such measures is that propaganda work acquires the character of political actions.

Already at this first stage of the campaign the latest international events require such propaganda work which would contribute to the quickest possible drawing of the masses into a struggle that would influence the march of events. The extreme haste with which the Italian Government is seeking to rush through Parliament the ratification of the agreements obliges us to step up mass action quicker than even obtained during the campaign against EDC.

The Soviet proposal for the convening of a general European Conference on collective security in Europe has decisively helped to bring home to the broad masses and various sections of the public the need for waging a resolute struggle against the rearmament of Western Germany and for Italy's participation in the general European collective security system, since it is only in this way that our country could be assured an independent foreign policy and an effective guarantee of her national sovereignty and peace. Since the publication of the Soviet proposals, the fight in Italy against the rearmament of Western Germany, against the London and Paris agreements has become more closely linked than ever with the struggle for unity and security in Europe. The most common form of mass activity in this direction is the collection of signatures on postcards against the London and Paris agreements, initiated by the Rome Peace Committee among the urban population.

Side by side with mass activities of a general nature other specific measures, no

Fourth Congress of Communist Party of Brazil

The newspaper *Voz Operaria* reported on November 27 that the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Brazil was held in underground conditions between 7 and 11 of November. It was an outstanding event in the life of the country and aroused widespread response among the working class and the entire Brazilian people.

The following questions were on the agenda: report on the activities of the C.C.; Programme of the Communist Party of Brazil; amendments to the Party Rules; elections to leading bodies.

The Fourth Congress, convened in accordance with a decision taken at a meeting of the C.C. in December, 1953, was preceded by meetings and conferences of all Party organisations at which the draft Programme

and the new draft Rules were discussed by almost the entire membership. These documents were also widely discussed in the Party press and were unanimously approved by Party organisations.

The discussion, which developed on the basis of democratic principles, helped enormously to strengthen the unity and militancy of the Party ranks. Delegates to the Congress were elected at regional Party conferences.

Representatives of the fraternal Communist Parties of a number of countries were present at the Congress. A message of greetings from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which was received with stormy and prolonged applause, reads as follows:

"TO THE FOURTH CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRAZIL

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union conveys its warm fraternal greetings to the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Brazil.

The Communist Party of Brazil, which expresses the vital interests of its people, is in the vanguard of the struggle being waged by the working class, the peasantry, the intelligentsia and the entire working people of Brazil for the realisation of their hopes and aspirations. Together with all the peace-loving and progressive people of the country, the Communist Party of Brazil is consistently fighting for peace, freedom and the national independence of its homeland, tirelessly exposing the aggressive plans of U.S. imperialism.

We wish the Communist Party of Brazil fresh successes in the fight for the vital interests of the working people, for peace and the independence of Communism, training Party members in the spirit of loyalty to the great cause of the working people for strengthening the Party ranks and rallying the broad masses of the working people of Brazil for carrying out the tasks laid down by the Communist Party in its new Programme.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION"

Messages of greeting were also received from the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China and from Communist and Workers' Parties of the European countries of people's democracy, from the Communist Parties of France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal, the U.S.A., Japan, India and a number of other countries.

Greetings from the Communist Parties of Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and other countries of Latin America were enthusiastically received.

In his report on the activities of the C.C. Comrade Luiz Carlos Prestes, General Secretary of the Party, analysed Brazil's position in home and international affairs, stressing the growing might of the peace camp headed by the Soviet Union. He exposed the part played by American imperialism in the military coup of August 24, which resulted in the overthrow of the Vargas government and by means of which the reactionary forces tried to suppress the working-class and democratic movement in Brazil.

Comrade Luiz Carlos Prestes, speaking on the Party Programme, analysed its main principles which in essence are as follows: concentrating the main blow at American imperialism; the transference, free of charge, of the latifundist lands to the peasants on the basis of private ownership; guarantee of ownership of property, capital and enterprises of the Brazilian bourgeoisie, confiscation of the capital and enterprises belonging only to those big capitalists who have betrayed the national interests and entered into an alliance with the American imperialists; fight for a democratic people's state and a democratic people's government of national liberation.

Touching on the immediate tasks arising out of the implementation of the Party Programme, Comrade Prestes pointed to the urgent necessity of creating, expanding and strengthening the democratic front of national liberation—the social force which is

tion, it is essential to organise a popular struggle in defence of liberties and the Constitution, against fascist terror, for exposing and overthrowing the government of the latifundists and big capitalists in the service of the United States.

In the concluding part of the report the General Secretary, on the basis of criticism and self-criticism, summed up the activities of the Party since the Third Congress and analysed the ideological basis of the errors made by the Party. Comrade Prestes pointed out that to reinforce the Party both qualitatively and quantitatively it was necessary to carry out the following measures: to ensure that the Party ranks grow regularly; to set up Party organisations, chiefly at the big enterprises; to see that cadres increase their knowledge; to improve agitation and propaganda, mainly through the press; and to wage a struggle against ideological tendencies alien to the Party; to direct all Party activities towards helping the Party assimilate and implement its new Rules.

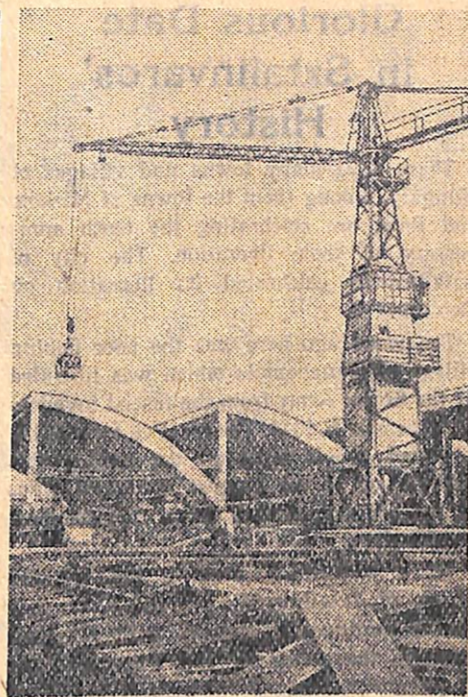
Congress unanimously approved Comrade Prestes' report.

It then heard a report by Comrade Diogenes Arruda, Secretary of the C.C., on the Party Programme and a report by the Comrade Joao Amazonas, Secretary of the C.C., on amendments to the Party Rules, which were endorsed by the delegates.

The Fourth Congress unanimously endorsed the Programme and Rules of the Party and elected a new Central Committee of which, at its first meeting, elected Comrade Luiz Carlos Prestes, General Secretary of the CPB. The Presidium and Secretariat of the Central Committee were also elected at this meeting.

Amidst thunderous applause, the Congress sent a message to the C.C. of the CPSU stating that the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Brazil, which received the greetings of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which provided them with a new powerful stimulus in their struggle for peace, freedom and national independence.

The message emphasises that the Fourth Congress of the CPB, reflecting the unanimity of the Party in Brazil, once



The industry of Lodz, the biggest textile centre in Poland, is steadily developing. Photo: The construction of a new big spinning factory. Putting this factory into commission will make it possible to raise the production of fabrics and knitted goods considerably.

Meeting of Central Committee, Socialist Unity Party of Germany

The 22nd meeting of the Central Committee of the SUPG held on December 7 heard Comrade Walter Ulbricht's report on the Moscow Conference. Thirteen comrades took part in discussion. The Central Committee unanimously approved the report, the statement of the Government delegation of the German Democratic Republic at the Conference and the Conference Declaration, and decided to take measures for the fulfilment of the tasks set out in the Declaration.

Meeting of Central Committee, Communist Party of Czechoslovakia

A meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia held on December 7-8 discussed the following questions:

1. Plan for the development of the national economy in 1955. (Report by Comrade O. Simunek).
2. Results of the elections to the National Assembly and the Slovak National Council and the next tasks of the Party. (Comrade A. Novotny).

The meeting also heard a report on the results of the Moscow Conference. The Central Committee stressed the immense significance of the Moscow Conference Declaration and endorsed the position of the Czechoslovak Government delegation at the Conference.

The draft decree on the state plan for the development of the national economy in 1955 was approved.

EVE OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

Active preparations for the forthcoming National Conference have been taking place in all organisations of the Italian Communist Party. At meetings of the leading

Collective Security in Europe—Vital Necessity for Bulgarian People

★
Todor Jivkov
First Secretary, Central Committee,
Communist Party of Bulgaria

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The recent Moscow Conference of European countries on ensuring peace and security in Europe is an important contribution to the cause of strengthening peace in Europe and throughout the world. Its Declaration, which sets out the main tasks facing the peoples of the world, is a historic document whose influence on international events can be gauged to the full only in the course of time. The Conference is justly regarded as representing a new stage in the struggle for peace, for a system of collective security in Europe.

The whole proceedings of the Moscow Conference and its Declaration testify to the unity and solidarity of the peace-loving peoples, their mighty strength and their unflinching determination to struggle tirelessly to strengthen peace in Europe, prevent the resurrection of German militarism and reinforce their own security. The Declaration, a profound analysis of the present situation in Europe, which has arisen since the signing of the London and Paris agreements, as well as the measures proposed by the Conference for settling the German problem and strengthening peace in Europe—all this reflects the historical experience accumulated by the European peoples over recent decades. The tremendous world-wide significance of the Moscow Conference can be judged by the fact that millions of peace-loving people in all countries followed its proceedings with keen interest and welcomed its Declaration with profound satisfaction. And this is quite natural. Their memories of the horrors of World War II are still green and they cannot be indifferent to the attempts to give a free hand to the West German militarists.

The Declaration clearly shows that there are two paths before the world: the path of peaceful development or the path of war; the path of ensuring collective security, leading to peaceful co-operation between all European countries and the lessening of international tension, or the path of building up closed military groupings, of ratifying the Paris agreements with the consequent division of Europe and the arms race.

Historical experience in recent decades shows that the policy of building up military blocs, now pursued by the U.S.A. and the powers following in its footsteps, is profoundly alien to peace, and leads inevitably to fomenting a new war. Such was the outcome of the creation of military blocs at the end of the XIXth century and at the beginning of the XXth century, such was the result of the so-called "anti-Comintern pact". The U.S.A., Britain and France are stubbornly following this path. The London and Paris agreements envisaging the incorporation of Western Germany into NATO and the "West European Union" lead to the lining up of one group of European countries against the others and to the intensification of the danger of a new world war.

Nobody doubts that in the event of ratification of the London and Paris agreements German militarism would get a completely free hand and the most aggressive and militarist forces of Europe would again be active in the world arena. Nobody doubts that ratification would provide atomic weapons for the armed forces of Western Germany. And everyone understands that the "guarantees" stipulated in the Paris agreements are nothing but paper guarantees for the sole purpose of deceiving the public. They will not stop German militarism or prevent Western Germany from becoming a danger centre of

ensuring their security is the absolutely correct path for averting aggression and bringing about the solution of the German problem, for strengthening peace in Europe and throughout the world.

A system of collective security is a vital necessity for all peoples in Europe, including the Bulgarian people. From their own historical experience the people of Bulgaria know the outcome of building military blocs and opposing one group of European peoples to the others, the outcome of the policy of reviving German militarism.

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Bulgaria was always one of the main objectives of expansion on the part of the German militarists, of their aggressive "Drang nach Osten" policy. German militarism is the age-old enemy of the freedom and independence of the peoples in the Balkans, the freedom and independence of the Bulgarian people. In less than thirty years German militarism has twice trampled on the Balkans, enslaved the peoples of Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Albania and Greece and plundered and destroyed the economy of these countries.

For many years the German imperialists, helped by the treacherous monarcho-fascist clique, ruled the roost in Bulgaria, mercilessly plundering the country's wealth and draining its vital strength. German monopolists held our national economy in their rapacious clutches and in the years of World War II plundered it with particular zeal. The German monopolies such as the Todt Building Trust, the Hermann Goering Concern, IG Farben, the AEG and Siemens electrical trusts, the Balkan-Tobacco Trust etc., controlled almost the whole of Bulgarian industry. The big German banks such as the Deutsche Bank and the Dresden Bank occupied a dominant position in the sphere of Bulgarian credit and controlled the country's banks. The German occupationists took foodstuffs, consumer goods and raw materials out of Bulgaria, either without payment or at rock-bottom prices. According to official data Hitlerite Germany left a debt to Bulgaria amounting to the enormous sum of more than 70 billion leva.

The invasion of the Balkans by German imperialism brought the Bulgarian people untold hardships and sufferings, severe exploitation and unprecedented poverty; it resulted in two disastrous national catastrophes for the country, in 1913 and in 1918, and faced it with a third, even greater national catastrophe which was only avoided thanks to the people's victory on September 9, 1944. Over 100,000 of the best sons and daughters of the Bulgarian people gave their lives in the struggle against fascism and German occupation, in the struggle for freedom and national independence.

Every Bulgarian finds it painful to recall the hardships and sufferings inflicted by the German militarists. The fact that things are being repeated again, that the ruling circles of the U.S.A., Britain and France are again pushing Europe onto the old fatal path of military blocs and re-establishing German imperialism—all this arouses the deep concern and wrath of every honest man or woman. The Bulgarian people cannot remain indifferent when they see the West German revenge-seekers once

addressed an appeal to the members of European parliaments calling on them to oppose the Paris agreements and, in the interests of their peoples, to urge that the governments of all European powers take part in a general European conference. The participation of the Bulgarian delegation in the Moscow Conference and its full support for the position of the Soviet Union also reflected the will of the Bulgarian people.

A system of collective security in Europe corresponds to the vital interests of our people and their never-failing endeavours for peace, security, co-operation and normal international relations. It would ensure for our people real and effective safeguards against possible aggression, guarantee the freedom, national independence and state sovereignty of our socialist country. Our unwavering policy of peace and international security is closely linked with the desire for the further development of the country and the building of Socialism.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party the working people are successfully fulfilling the second Five-Year Plan and devoting all their energies to the development of industry, ensuring the continued advance of agriculture, raising the output of consumer goods, the improvement of material conditions and the flourishing of culture. Only in conditions of peace can we advance rapidly along the path of Socialism. This is why the Bulgarian people are vitally interested in seeing that a climate of peace, mutual understanding and co-operation prevails in the Balkans and throughout Europe, that their peaceful labour be guaranteed.

The Bulgarian Government considers that the main task of its foreign policy is to promote the lessening of world tension, the settlement of outstanding questions through negotiations between the countries concerned and the consolidation of peace and security of the European peoples. Treaties of alliance and mutual assistance link our country with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies for all time. In the interests of peace in the Balkans our Government has strained every effort to improve relations with the neighbouring Balkan countries and to consolidate peace in Europe.

But the course of events in Western Europe, particularly in recent times, shows that the ruling circles of the U.S.A., Britain and France seek at any cost to secure ratification and bring the Paris agreements into effect. Our people, as well as the other peace-loving peoples, are well aware that this act is directed against peace, that it will undermine the possibilities for the peaceful settlement of outstanding European problems, lead to a serious worsening of the situation and increase the danger of a new war in Europe.

This is why the countries that participated in the Moscow Conference, including our country, declared that in the event of the Paris agreements being ratified they would carry out joint measures in the sphere of organising the armed forces and their command, as well as other measures necessary for strengthening their defence capacity, safeguarding the peaceful labour of their peoples, guaranteeing the integrity of their frontiers and territories and ensuring defence from possible aggression.

Our people are absolutely confident of the strength, granite-like firmness and unity of the camp of peace and Socialism. They will further strengthen the economic power and defence capacity of their country. With the enthusiasm and selfless-

imperialism... 24, which resulted in the overthrow of the Vargas government and by means of which the reactionary forces tried to suppress the working-class and democratic movement in Brazil.

Comrade Luiz Carlos Prestes, speaking on the Party Programme, analysed its main principles which in essence are as follows: concentrating the main blow at American imperialism; the transference, from the hands of the latifundist lands to the peasants on the basis of private ownership; guarantee of ownership of property, capital and enterprises of the Brazilian bourgeoisie, confiscation of the capital and enterprises belonging only to those big capitalists who have betrayed the national interests and entered into an alliance with the American imperialists; light for a democratic people's state and a democratic government of national liberation.

Touching on the immediate tasks arising out of the implementation of the Party Programme, Comrade Prestes pointed to the urgent necessity of creating, expanding and strengthening the democratic front of national liberation—the social force which is to lead the anti-imperialist and agrarian anti-feudal revolution in Brazil to victory. The foundation of this broad united front must be the alliance of the working class and peasantry which, under the guidance of the proletarian, will unite the main and decisive forces of the Brazilian people. To create a democratic front of national libera-

less important and covering particular sections of the population, are also being carried out. In the aggregate these measures make it possible for the masses, who come out against ratification of the agreements and for collective security in Europe, to exert pressure on Parliamentary deputies. In this connection the southern provinces conference on the relaxation of world tension and disarmament, which took place in Salerno and Naples on November 14 and 15, is particularly important. The slogans put forward at the conference urging struggle against the London and Paris agreements and for collective security in Europe were closely linked up with the question of natural disasters from the effects of which the population in the southern provinces suffer greatly. Those present at the conference stressed the need to counterpose the rearmament of Western Germany by a demand for a reduction of the war budget and the diversion of these funds for urgent work in the agricultural sphere and for measures to safeguard the lives of the population from natural disasters.

In other regions peace supporters and various democratic organisations are exerting no less effort in the attempt to link up the fight against the London and Paris agreements and for collective security in Europe with the concrete vital problems of the local population. In Milan, for instance, the provincial peace committee, in conjunction with the trade unions, held a conference on December 4 to discuss the economic and political consequences of the new agreements and the action to be taken against them.

For Italian industry, the prospect of the implementation of the London and Paris agreements means the prospect of a catastrophic degradation. The working masses and business circles are gravely concerned over the fact that one of the results of the implementation of these agreements would be that Italian and foreign militarists would interfere in the country's economic life and even in the internal affairs of the factories.

to wage a struggle against ideological tendencies alien to the Party; to direct all activities towards helping the Party assimilate and implement its new Rules. Congress unanimously approved Comrade Prestes' report.

It then heard a report by Comrade Diogenes Arruda, Secretary of the C.C., on the Party Programme and a report by Comrade Joao Amazonas, Secretary of the C.C., on amendments to the Party Rules, which were endorsed by the delegates.

The Fourth Congress unanimously endorsed the Programme and Rules of the Party and elected a new Central Committee which, at its first meeting, elected Comrade Luiz Carlos Prestes, General Secretary of the CPB, The Presidium and Secretariat of the Central Committee were also elected at this meeting.

Amidst thunderous applause, the Congress sent a message to the C.C. of the CPSU stating that the Communists of Brazil at their Fourth Congress enthusiastically received the greetings of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which provided them with a new powerful stimulus in their struggle for peace, freedom and national independence.

The message emphasises that the Fourth Congress of the CPB, reflecting the unanimous will of all Communists in Brazil, once again expresses its gratitude to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and its Central Committee for its fraternal friendship and gives assurances of unflinching loyalty and boundless devotion.

Following Milan's example similar measures on a region-wide scale are being carried out in such big industrial centres as Genoa and Turin, very keen attention being given to rallying the working population. All over the country the struggle against the rearmament of Western Germany is being waged in close connection with the measures under way to mark the tenth anniversary of the Resistance Movement. Particular attention in this regard is devoted to the associations of former Italian POWs in Germany, to civilians who returned from concentration camps and so forth.

The opening of debates on the London and Paris agreements in the commissions of the Chamber of Deputies once again poses the question of the need to develop mass activities more rapidly, and all democratic organisations must be rallied for this purpose. Joint action by the Communist and Socialist Parties is the best guarantee for developing these activities among the masses of workers and peasants, among youth and women, among workers in the field of culture and the middle classes.

The resolutions of the recent Session of the World Peace Council are a guide to action in our work. These decisions and the Moscow Declaration open up clear prospects of struggle. They show us that in the fight against the London and Paris agreements and for European security the Italian peace supporters can count not only on the fraternal co-operation of the peace supporters in France and other European countries, but also on the co-operation of peace supporters all over the world.

We know that the battle will be a hard one, but we are sure that the Italian people, this time too, will make their contribution to the struggle, which is waged not only with the aim of achieving the security and peace of Europe, but also with the aim of easing world tension and for the security of peoples of all continents.

Communist Party of Czechoslovakia

A meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia held on December 7-8 discussed the following questions:

1. Plan for the development of the national economy in 1955. (Report by Comrade O. Simunek).
2. Results of the elections to the National Assembly and the Slovak National Council and the next tasks of the Party. (Comrade A. Novotny).

The meeting also heard a report on the results of the Moscow Conference. The Central Committee stressed the immense significance of the Moscow Conference Declaration and endorsed the position of the Czechoslovak Government delegation at the Conference.

The draft decree on the state plan for the development of the national economy in 1955 was approved.

EVE OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

Active preparations for the forthcoming National Conference have been taking place in all organisations of the Italian Communist Party. At meetings of the leading committees of the federations, at provincial conferences and section and branch meetings held in more than 50 federations since the July meeting of the C.C., there has been discussion on questions to be raised at the National Conference. A city conference of Communist women, which discussed the policy of the Christian Democratic local authorities, was held in Florence. Delegates exchanged their experiences in the struggle for their vital demands and, first and foremost, for solving the housing and school problems.

Such questions as the defence of democratic rights, wage increases, economic and legal rights of women working at home and the question of maternity protection are being widely discussed at meetings of branches, sections and women's commissions.

The Party press is devoting a great deal of attention to the preparations for the National Conference. Since November 27, discussion has been going on in *Unita*, the central organ of the Italian Communist Party. Provincial Party newspapers are publishing articles, suggestions and letters on improving the work of Party organisations, as well as reports of meetings of leading Party bodies.

Local Elections in Poland

Elections to regional, city, district, county and rural people's councils took place in Poland on December 5 amidst great political enthusiasm.

Out of an electorate of 16,811,905, 15,766,373, or 93.78% took part in elections to the people's councils of Warsaw, Lodz and regional people's councils. National Front candidates polled 15,389,658 votes or 97.98% of the total. In regional people's councils 2,762 were elected councillors and 820 deputy councillors. 2,739 of the people standing as councillors and 818 as deputy councillors received more than 90% of the votes in their electoral districts.

The Polish people once more demonstrated their unity and the complete support of the policy of the Polish Unified Workers' Party and the Government, their unity in the struggle for carrying out the programme of building Socialism and for world peace.

Historical experience in recent decades shows that the policy of building up military blocs, now pursued by the U.S.A. and the powers following in its footsteps, is profoundly alien to peace, and leads inevitably to fomenting a new war. Such was the outcome of the creation of military blocs at the end of the XIXth century and at the beginning of the XXth century, such was the result of the so-called "anti-Comintern pact". The U.S.A., Britain and France are stubbornly following this path. The London and Paris agreements envisaging the incorporation of Western Germany into NATO and the "West European Union" lead to the fining up of one group of European countries against the others and to the intensification of the danger of a new world war.

Nobody doubts that in the event of ratification of the London and Paris agreements German militarism would get a completely free hand and the most aggressive and militarist forces of Europe would again be active in the world arena. Nobody doubts that ratification would provide atomic weapons for the armed forces of Western Germany. And everyone understands that the "guarantees" stipulated in the Paris agreements are nothing but paper guarantees for the sole purpose of deceiving the public. They will not stop German militarism or prevent Western Germany from becoming a danger centre of war. Official circles in Bonn and the newly-appointed generals and officers of the revenge-seeking army, which is being restored, even now make no secret of their aggressive intentions.

In contrast to the U.S.A., which is taking Western Germany along the path of militarism, the Soviet Union tirelessly and consistently adheres to the policy of building a system of European collective security. Since the war the Soviet Government, in full accord with its peace-loving policy, has repeatedly advanced concrete proposals aimed at building a European system of collective security, as well as at establishing a united, democratic and peace-loving Germany. This year alone U.S. ruling circles and their allies have three times rejected the Soviet proposals for a system of general European collective security. They did this because the Soviet proposals are at variance with their foreign policy in Europe. This can be the only possible explanation why the Governments of the U.S.A., Britain and France refused to take part in the Conference of European countries on ensuring peace and security in Europe. Under pressure from the U.S.A., Britain and France, the governments of certain other European countries also refused to participate in this Conference.

The Moscow Conference has confirmed once again that the path of collective efforts of the European peoples aimed at

of Bulgarian credit and controlled the country's banks. The German occupationists took foodstuffs, consumer goods and raw materials out of Bulgaria, either without payment or at rock-bottom prices. According to official data Hitlerite Germany left a debt to Bulgaria amounting to the enormous sum of more than 70 billion leva.

The invasion of the Balkans by German imperialism brought the Bulgarian people untold hardships and sufferings, severe exploitation and unprecedented poverty; it resulted in two disastrous national catastrophes for the country, in 1913 and in 1918, and faced it with a third, even greater national catastrophe which was only avoided thanks to the people's victory on September 9, 1944. Over 100,000 of the best sons and daughters of the Bulgarian people gave their lives in the struggle against fascism and German occupation, in the struggle for freedom and national independence.

Every Bulgarian finds it painful to recall the hardships and sufferings inflicted by the German militarists. The fact that things are being repeated again, that the ruling circles of the U.S.A., Britain and France are again pushing Europe onto the old fatal path of military blocs and re-establishing German imperialism—all this arouses the deep concern and wrath of every honest man or woman. The Bulgarian people cannot remain indifferent when they see the West German revenge-seekers once more openly advancing territorial claims and holding forth about their "natural" spheres of influence in the Balkans.

Fully realising the danger of reviving German imperialism the Bulgarian people wholeheartedly support the Soviet proposals for a system of collective security in Europe and the unification of Germany on peaceful and democratic lines as envisaged in the Potsdam Agreement. They wholeheartedly welcome the Declaration of the Moscow Conference and give it their full approval and support. The Bulgarian workers, peasants and intelligentsia are most strongly expressing their determination to prevent the revival of German militarism.

Expressing the will of the people the Bulgarian Government has repeatedly declared its readiness to contribute to the cause of strengthening world peace and ensuring collective security. Last March the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the National Council of the Fatherland Front and the Government issued a declaration supporting the Soviet proposal for a system of collective security in Europe. In November a joint meeting of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the Bureau of the People's Assembly, the National Council of the Fatherland Front and the People's Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee

ran countries and to consolidate peace in Europe. But the course of events in Western Europe, particularly in recent times, shows that the ruling circles of the U.S.A., Britain and France seek at any cost to secure ratification and bring the Paris agreements into effect. Our people, as well as the other peace-loving peoples, are well aware that this act is directed against peace, that it will undermine the possibilities for the peaceful settlement of outstanding European problems, lead to a serious worsening of the situation and increase the danger of a new war in Europe.

This is why the countries that participated in the Moscow Conference, including our country, declared that in the event of the Paris agreements being ratified they would carry out joint measures in the sphere of organising the armed forces and their command, as well as other measures necessary for strengthening their defence capacity, safeguarding the peaceful labour of their peoples, guaranteeing the integrity of their frontiers and territories and ensuring defence from possible aggression.

Our people are absolutely confident of the strength, granite-like firmness and unity of the camp of peace and Socialism. They will further strengthen the economic power and defence capacity of their country. With the enthusiasm and selflessness with which they are today building a new and beautiful life they will, if necessary, defend their gains, their peaceful labour and socialist homeland.

It is precisely because of this that the Bulgarian working people received the Moscow Declaration with satisfaction. They draw from it strength and inspiration for building a new and happy life. At thousands of meetings and rallies in factories, offices and villages the working people, in an atmosphere of great patriotic enthusiasm, are actively discussing the Declaration and giving it their full support. They unanimously declare that the Declaration corresponds to the interests of peace in Europe, with which Bulgaria's security and the possibility of its further peaceful development are inseparably linked.

Closely rallied around their people's Government and the beloved Communist Party the Bulgarian people are firmly determined to do everything necessary to protect their peaceful labour from aggression and ensure the continued flourishing of their country. The Bulgarian people—an integral and inseparable part of the powerful front of peace led by the Soviet Union—together with other peoples will take all necessary steps in the interests of preventing a new war, maintaining and strengthening peace and establishing a system of collective security in Europe.

FIGURES TALK

What German Militarism Meant for the Peoples

The two world wars unleashed by German militarism meant immense losses, sufferings and deprivations for the peoples.

★ In World War I about 10 million people were killed at the front and more than 20 million wounded or crippled.

★ World War II took toll of some 50 million human lives. The Hitlerites indulged in unrestrained plunder of the population of the occupied territories. From May 1940 to October 1944 they took out of the enslaved countries (not counting the occupied regions of the Soviet Union) valuables (apart from plundered private property) to the sum of 128,000 million marks.

★ The greatest casualties and material losses were suffered by the Soviet Union.

Some 7 million Soviet citizens perished during the war. The Nazi invaders completely or partially ruined or burnt down 1,710 towns and over 70,000 villages. As a result of the Hitler invasion 6 million buildings were destroyed and about 25 million people rendered homeless. Direct damage inflicted by the fascist barbarians totalled 679,000 million roubles.

★ The fascist butchers murdered more than 6 million Poles. Some 1.6 million were completely or partially incapacitated. During the six years of occupation 11,229 buildings were totally destroyed and 14,209 partially. Approximately 20,000 industrial enterprises and about 467,000 farms were destroyed or damaged.

★ During the second world war 700,000 French people were killed and 585,000 disabled. 225,000 were sent to the Hitler death camps and 780,000 for slave labour in Germany. The Hitlerites completely destroyed or inflicted considerable damage on 250,000 farms, about 2 million buildings and 49,500 enterprises. The Nazi invasion caused damage to the sum of 1,440,000 million francs (in 1939 prices).

★ The British people lost 305,308 dead and 363,175 wounded.

★ The second world war ended in national catastrophe for the German people. Some 8 million killed, millions of wounded and crippled—this is what German militarism meant for Germans in the years of the second world war.

Movement Against Ratification of Paris Agreements in Western Germany

A new situation is developing in connection with the signing of the Paris agreements which envisage the intensified revival of German militarism and the incorporation of Western Germany into the military North Atlantic bloc and the so-called West European Union, and as a result of the refusal of the Governments of the U.S.A., Great Britain, France and certain other countries to participate in a conference on ensuring peace and security in Europe. The ratification and implementation of these shameful agreements would directly jeopardise peace and add to the danger of a new war because the experience of the past, especially the bloody rule of Hitler fascism, shows that German imperialism is the sworn enemy of European civilisation. Such a situation would necessitate urgent collective measures by the peace-loving countries in order to protect and defend themselves.

The Paris agreements have as their aim the building of a new Wehrmacht under the command of the Hitler generals, the liquidation of the remaining vestiges of democratic rights of the working class and other sections of the working people and clearing the way for military dictatorship. They are incompatible with the establishment of Germany as a united, democratic and peace-loving state. The inclusion of Western Germany into the aggressive NATO means its transformation into a jumping-off ground for the plans of the U.S. imperialist forces to conquer the world and use the new West German army as a striking force against the democratic and peace-loving forces within Germany and against the camp of peace and Socialism.

The Moscow Conference drew attention to the danger of the Paris agreements and the resurgence of German militarism and stressed the need to reach agreement between the countries concerned on the reunification of Germany on democratic and peaceful lines, which would promote the establishment of lasting peace and security in Europe. This demand corresponds to the vital interests of the German people and strengthens the mounting opposition of the masses in Western Germany to the implementation of the Paris agreements.

The present situation in Western Germany is also characterised by the fact that the monopolies and militarist forces are becoming more aggressive, particularly in relation to the working class and its organisations. As a result of capitalist rationalisation and the extension of the working day the exploitation of the working people assumes ever sharper forms. Bourgeois economic institutes in Western Germany note that the average daily working time there is eleven hours and five minutes and that there can now be no question of an eight-hour working day. As a result of the constantly rising prices for goods of mass consumption the standard of living is deteriorating. To strengthen their rule the monopolists and militarists are curbing democratic freedoms still more, violating the rights of assembly and to strike, increasing pressure on the trade unions and resorting more frequently to fascist methods. The West German economy is geared more and more for preparing war. The occupation expenditure and remilitarisation costs are soaring, absorbing the greater part of

West German militarists are ready to sell the Saar in order to secure France's consent to the creation of a new Wehrmacht, calculating that later on, when the army is in being, they can talk to France in another language.

The political leaders of the Christian Democratic Union—the Adenauer war party—speak of this quite openly now. The Christian Democratic Union is the party of the monopolists and militarists. It carries on the most aggressive imperialist and anti-popular policy. On the Hitler pattern they direct the onslaught of reaction within the country and more frequently resort to authoritarian and fascist methods of rule. By encroaching on the legality of the Communist Party, which most consistently defends the interests of peace, national reunification and social progress, they are seeking to suppress the growing opposition of the workers and broad sections of the population to the resurgence of German militarism, make free all-German elections impossible and launch an attack against other democratic organisations such as the trade unions and Social Democratic organisations.

Carrying on a reactionary onslaught at home, in foreign policy the Adenauer war party and the monopolies are pursuing a course of planting a "new order in Europe".

The Christian Democratic leadership speculates, in a most shameless manner, on the religious feelings of people and whips up chauvinistic and militarist aspirations. But this "policy of strength", just like Hitler's policy, is doomed to failure since it encounters the more and more resolute resistance of the workers and broad popular masses. The demand for a radical change in policy, the demand for peace, unity, democracy and social progress is sounding louder and louder among the workers and other sections of the West German population.

The important changes that have taken place in Western Germany consist in the fact that the working class is becoming increasingly aware of its great responsibility, of its national and social tasks and it has begun to fight against the re-establishment of German militarism. This year 3,000,000 workers took part in the struggle for higher wages and in strike action. They came out against increasing exploitation, deteriorating living standards and against the burden of war preparations being pushed onto the shoulders of the working people. The political character and the sharpness of these actions emerged during the fight for higher wages, particularly during the strike of the Bavarian metal workers. The police and state apparatus took ruthless action against the strikers. From their own experience the workers realise that the Bonn state is a tool in the hands of the big capitalists and militarists for suppressing the working class and democratic forces. The majority of the working people in

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Paul Verner
Member, Central Committee,
Socialist Unity Party of Germany

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Youth Congress of West German Trade Unions unanimously adopted a decision condemning any recruitment of young people. In the middle of October 15,000 young Ruhr miners held a demonstration under the slogan: "A better youth labour-protection law instead of the military conscription law", "Build young people homes not barracks". Campaign Committees against Recruitment have already been set up in a number of places. Workers and young people are demanding that trade union leaders and factory trade union functionaries should hold lander congresses against recruitment. The leader board of the "Friends of Nature" organisation in the Lower Rhine and Westphalia, on the proposal of many of its groups, have decided to hold an Anti-Recruitment Week from January 6 to 16. Participants in numerous demonstrations have publicly burnt dummy call-up papers to the new fascist Wehrmacht.

A great many trade union organisations have decided to hold protest meetings and demonstrations. In many towns and at various enterprises the trade unions have set up committees against remilitarisation, to fight for the demand that not a single young person should wear the military uniform of the new Wehrmacht. Hamburg woodworkers have pledged themselves to see to it that not a single worker is conscripted from their factories. The Print and Paper Workers' Union in Düsseldorf has decided not to print call-up notices.

Hundreds of women in different towns, together with their children, have taken part in demonstrations against the rearmament of Western Germany envisaged by the Paris agreements. Blank, the Adenauer Government's War Minister, who, for purposes of camouflage is called "Government representative on security matters", suffered an obvious defeat during the election campaign in Bavaria. In Nuremberg he was prevented from speaking by the protests raised by 4,000 people present, and in Augsburg he felt the impact of the workers' fists.

The Bonn government recruiters of soldiers are making efforts at meetings and in "explanatory talks" to win over the population, particularly the youth, to the side of the German monopolists' war policy. Representatives of various sections of the public are resolutely coming out against these recruiting agents.

These facts are evidence that the movement against the resurrection of German militarism is developing. The slogan—"Not a single man and not a farthing for this regime!"—is becoming increasingly popular, particularly among the working class and young workers.

In the face of the grave danger threatening Western Germany and the entire German people as a result of the signing of the Paris agreements, the success of the fight against the rearmament of German militarism depends on unity of action of the working class and the democratic and peace-loving forces in Western Germany. The constructive proposals of the Moscow Conference are meeting in Western Germany with the approval of all those to whom peace and the future of Germany are dear, who do not wish Western Germany

Glorious Date in Sztalinvaros' History

These days many towns and villages of Hungary, among them the towns of Miskolc and Pees, are celebrating the tenth anniversary of their liberation. The city of Sztalinvaros celebrated its liberation on December 6.

Ten years ago here was the poor fishing village of Dunapentele which was liberated by the Soviet Army from the fascist invaders on December 6, 1944. The creative force of the liberated people built on the site of this village one of the biggest industrial cities of the country, with a large metallurgical combinat.

At a celebration meeting the working people of Sztalinvaros pledged that they would continue to support with all their strength the policy of the Party and the Government, pledged themselves to defend peace and the free and happy life of Sztalinvaros and the country.

Reactionary Measures of Italian Government

Under the pretext of fighting Communism the Italian Government has adopted a series of measures establishing a police regime and bringing to naught the much-vaunted bourgeois freedoms. In conformity with the Government decisions the Communists are to be dismissed from the state apparatus and state-owned enterprises.

In this connection Palmiro Togliatti, General Secretary of the Italian Communist Party, said: "First of all I consider that it would be a mistake to speak of 'anti-Communist' measures. It is a question of anti-democratic and anti-liberal measures. The Government is seeking to secure the right to introduce, by means of administrative measures, political discrimination against citizens and make it universal, as well as to liquidate freedom of assembly and the press."

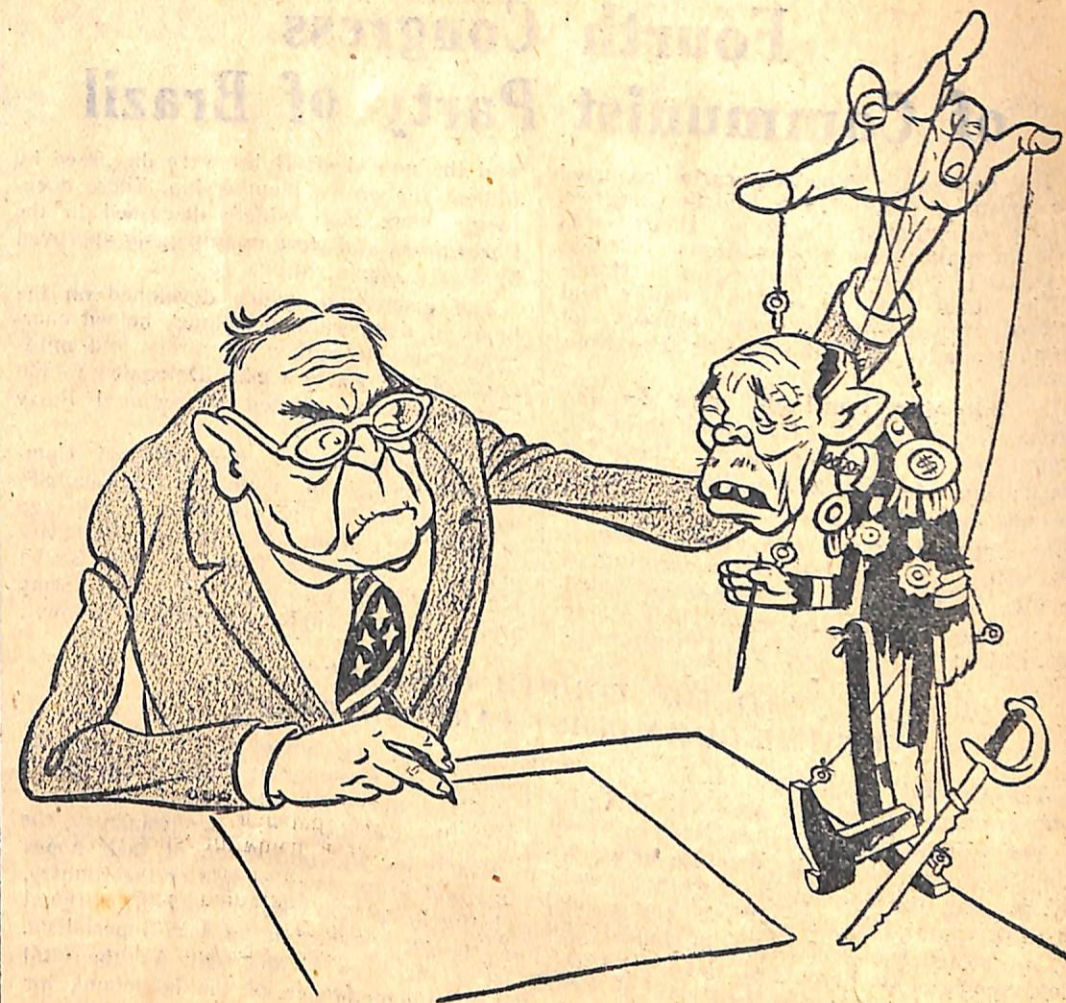
The overwhelming majority of Italians, Togliatti went on, cannot but express indignation at the attempt to push Italy, more and more openly, from democracy to a regime of police and reactionary tyranny. The consequences of the repressive measures will not be slow in making themselves felt, but, after a more or less considerable period of time, they will have an effect opposite to that anticipated by those who put forward these measures and try to carry them out. To think that the development of the Communist Party in Italy can be hindered by persecution is absurd.

This new provocative act against the progressive forces of the Italian people and civil liberties has given rise to indignation in the country. At meetings in many towns and factories the working people and sincere democrats are protesting against the Government's anti-democratic measures.

CALL FOR JOINT ACTION BY TUNISIAN PEOPLE

Statement by Tunisian Communist Party

The Political Bureau of the Tunisian Communist Party recently issued a statement saying that the French colonisers,



U.S. PUPPET IN ROLE OF "HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY"

Drawing by J. Novak

U.S.-Chiang Kai-Shek War Deal—Grave Threat to Peace

The eyes of the world public are once more turned to the Taiwan question. All peace-loving people fully appreciate that the security of Asian countries cannot be consolidated while the Chinese Island of Taiwan remains the nest of Chiang Kai-shek's clique of political has-beens and the bridgehead of American aggression against the People's Republic of China. The just desire of the Chinese people to liberate Taiwan meets with profound sympathy from all peoples who see in the realisation of this mission the correct path to preventing war and ensuring peace in the Far East.

Mr. Dulles has different views as to the ways and means of ensuring peace. Speaking in Chicago on November 29 the U.S. Secretary of State called for "seeking peace not only with the heart, but also with the mind". And exactly two days later he signed the "Mutual Security Treaty" with the Chiang Kai-shekites. For the purpose of camouflaging the aggressive nature of this treaty the "Voice of America" described it as... purely "defensive".

And the treaty really does speak of "defence". But what are the American troops preparing to defend with Chiang Kai-shek's gangs? Why, the Island of Taiwan, which has been Chinese from time immemorial, the Pescadores Isles and other territories. George Yeh, Kuomintang Minister, a shady individual who claims to be a Chinaman, but who has cast off everything that is Chinese and has even lost part of his Chinese name, with one stroke of his pen granted the American brass-hats the "right" to make themselves at home on these territories for an indeterminate period. In other words, they are trying to perpetuate the occupation of Taiwan in "legal form".

The aggressive nature of the new creation of Washington diplomacy stands out a mile in the light of the provocative campaign against People's China.

At the same time more than 800 American instructors are drilling the Kuomintang cut-throats. U.S. men-of-war are racing backwards and forwards along the Chinese coast and taking part in piratical attacks on British and other countries' merchantmen.

It is obvious that in these circumstances the signing of the U.S.-Chiang Kai-shek new acts of aggression against the People's Republic. In this U.S.-Chiang Kai-shek war deal the peace-loving peoples see a grave threat to peace.

This new deal in relation to an integral part of China represents a gross interference in the internal affairs of the CPR. The liberation of Taiwan and the Pescadores is the affair of the Chinese people and their affair alone. China has as much right to these territories as, say, the U.S.A. to Pennsylvania. What would the rulers in Washington say if any foreign power were to wrench Pennsylvania from the U.S.A. and, in addition, were to threaten to bomb Washington?

The aggressively-minded American politicians have short memories. They are again engaged in the dangerous game of playing with fire having forgotten, apparently, that five years ago they burnt their fingers when their intervention in China failed. Now, when the 600-million strong Chinese people have risen to their full gigantic height, when their might has grown immeasurably, the signing of an agreement from... China attests to the authors of this agreement having lost all sense of reality. Even such a reactionary journalist as Stewart Alsop, *New York Herald Tribune* correspondent, is forced to comment ironically on the stupid and ridiculous statements that are made by some American politicians about the war.

the monopolists and militarist forces are becoming more aggressive, particularly in relation to the working class and its organisations. As a result of capitalist rationalisation and the extension of the working day the exploitation of the working people assumes ever sharper forms. Bourgeois economic institutes in Western Germany note that the average daily working time there is eleven hours and five minutes and that there can now be no question of an eight-hour working day. As a result of the constantly rising prices for goods of mass consumption the standard of living is deteriorating. To strengthen their rule the monopolists and militarists are curbing democratic freedoms still more, violating the rights of assembly and to strike, increasing pressure on the trade unions and resorting more frequently to fascist methods. The West German economy is geared more and more for preparing war. The occupation expenditure and remilitarisation costs are soaring, absorbing the greater part of the national income. All this retards the development of the civilian economy, the production of means of consumption and, in a climate of the general crisis of capitalism, sharpens the internal contradictions in the country. The monopolists and militarists are using the Paris agreements as an instrument for seizing emergency powers and introducing emergency decrees. The Bonn state apparatus and its organs are packed with representatives of Big Business, militarists and Nazis. Every concern is represented by one or two deputies in the West German Bundestag.

The Paris agreements signed by Adenauer mean that upwards of 500,000 young Germans will be recruited to the new Wehrmacht under American supreme command. German military units numbering several hundred thousands have for a long time been attached to the American and British occupation apparatus. Together with some 700 militarist and fascist organisations they constitute a reserve for the expansion of a West German mercenary army. The Paris agreements provide the revenge-seekers with all kinds of weapons of mass destruction, including atomic, bacteriological and chemical weapons. Western Germany is the only country in Western Europe where American atomic guns have been set in position.

Save Alvaro Cunhal!

Alvaro Cunhal, prominent leader of the Portuguese working-class movement, has been languishing in the Lisbon prison Penitenciaría for 5 years and 8 months.

In difficult underground conditions Alvaro Cunhal tirelessly directed the struggle for the liberation of the Portuguese people from fascist oppression and the yoke of foreign imperialism. He is the pride of the Communist Party and the working class of Portugal. This is why he meets the deadly enmity of the Salazar clique and its American masters, who cannot forgive his loyalty to the working class and the Portuguese people, his ardent love for his country.

When he was arrested on March 25, 1949, the secret police, which harboured treacherous plans for the foul murder of the best son of the Portuguese people, declared in the press that he was seriously ill. Shortly afterwards the police, with the help of a

fact that the working class is becoming increasingly aware of its great responsibility, of its national and social tasks and it has begun to fight against the re-establishment of German militarism. This year 3,000,000 workers took part in the struggle for higher wages and in strike action. They came out against increasing exploitation, deteriorating living standards and against the burden of war preparations being pushed onto the shoulders of the working people. The political character and the sharpness of these actions emerged during the fight for higher wages, particularly during the strike of the Bavarian metal workers. The police and state apparatus took ruthless action against the strikers. From their own experience the workers realise that the Bonn state is a tool in the hands of the big capitalists and militarists for suppressing the working class and democratic forces. The majority of the working people in Western Germany reject the harmful policy of non-resistance to the employers pursued by reformist trade union leaders. They are beginning to take up a critical attitude to the rotten theories of "class harmony" and the policy of "labour collaboration" and to unmask them.

At conferences of various industrial trade unions, over the past few months, at the Youth Conference and the Congress of West German Trade Unions the delegates have succeeded in carrying resolutions against the revival of German militarism, against the call-up of youth in Western Germany and for the peaceful reunification of Germany. The Paris agreements and the plans to mobilise young people into the army have aroused serious concern and indignation among the working class and other sections of the population in Western Germany. The protest movement is gaining in scope. The working people are expressing their determination to fight against the militarists and revenge-seekers. Carrying out the decisions of the Congress of West German Trade Unions, the workers and young people are engaging in the most diverse forms of opposition to militarism and are dealing a rebuff to the Adenauer government recruiters of soldiers. On September 26, for instance, the Third

faked X-ray, tried to convince one of his relatives that Cunhal was dangerously ill with tuberculosis.

The Salazar clique did not abandon its perfidious intentions even after this foul plot was frustrated. It resorted to the most sadistic form of subjecting Alvaro Cunhal to a lingering death. For some four and a half years he was kept in the strictest isolation. In addition the secret police put him on an appropriate "diet". As a result he became seriously ill with avitaminosis and for more than two years has suffered from a constant high temperature.

In August 1953, as a result of the pressure of the people and the international solidarity movement, Alvaro Cunhal was moved to the prison hospital where he was "examined" by some doctors enjoying the trust of the police. In October 1953 Cunhal was examined by Prof. Pulido Valiente, a prominent Portuguese doctor, who advised

Representatives of certain sections of the public are resolutely coming out against these recruiting agents.

These facts are evidence that the movement against the resurrection of German militarism is developing. The slogan—"Not a single man and not a farthing for this regime!"—is becoming increasingly popular, particularly among the working class and young workers.

In the face of the grave danger threatening Western Germany and the entire German people as a result of the signing of the Paris agreements, the success of the fight against the rearmament of German militarism depends on unity of action of the working class and the democratic and peace-loving forces in Western Germany. The constructive proposals of the Moscow Conference are meeting in Western Germany with the approval of all those to whom peace and the future of Germany are dear, who do not wish Western Germany to be converted into an aggressive militarist state by the Paris agreements. It follows from this that there are big opportunities to develop broad national opposition to the Paris agreements.

If the leaders of the Social Democratic Party sincerely assert that the reunification of Germany is an urgent task, they should be in the vanguard of the fight against the Paris agreements. Taking the real facts and the seriousness of the situation into account, they could have expressed their opposition to the Paris agreements not by parliamentary opposition alone, but, above all, by action outside Parliament. Whoever really aspires to the reunification of Germany cannot but come out for negotiations between the corresponding bodies in Western Germany and the German Democratic Republic. Without such negotiations the reunification of Germany cannot be achieved.

The Communist Party of Germany and the progressive forces have appealed to the popular masses in Western Germany to prevent the ratification of the Paris agreements, to do everything to ensure peace by establishing a system of collective security in Europe and to take the path leading to the reunification of Germany on a democratic basis, to free all-German elections in 1955.

that he should be quickly moved to a hospital where he could be given proper medical aid. But despite the Professor's instructions the Salazar clique continues to deprive Cunhal of adequate medical attention.

Moreover, the Government intends to transfer Cunhal and his Central Committee comrades—Manuel Rodrigues da Silva, Francisco Miguel (whose term expired long ago), Pedro Soares, Antonio Dias Lourenco and Joaquim Campino—to the Ango'a concentration camp. In this camp, farther away from the people, it wants to kill them off gradually.

To rescue Alvaro Cunhal and his militant comrades-in-arms from prison it is necessary to step up the struggle, enhance the vigilance of the Portuguese people and increase the active solidarity of the working people of all countries.

Victor FALCAO

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CALL FOR JOINT ACTION BY TUNISIAN PEOPLE

Statement by Tunisian Communist Party

The Political Bureau of the Tunisian Communist Party recently issued a statement saying that the French colonisers, unwilling to cease hostilities, declare an amnesty and raise the siege, plainly showed that they intended to maintain and aggravate the situation of force which they have already created, in particular, by launching military operations against Tunisian patriots.

The statement goes on to say that "the Tunisian people have grave reasons for anxiety... because the French Government is directing its policy more and more against freedom and peace (the policy of terror in Algeria and Morocco, the rearmament of Adenauer Germany, expansionist plans in Africa under the aegis of the West European Union and so on)".

The Political Bureau urges all patriots, members of the "Old Destour" and "New Destour" Parties, Communists and non-party people to be vigilant and undertake common action for the cessation of military operations, the return of troops to the localities where they were billeted, for the withdrawal of the reinforcements, the abandonment of all repressive measures, a general amnesty, the raising of the siege and for civic and individual liberties.

The statement stresses that the future can be faced with confidence provided the Tunisian people "act under the sign of national unity, realising that their just cause enjoys the support of all democratic forces in the world, particularly the French working people".

Facts Expose...

American Doughboys' Associated Press "Passion for Curios" recently reported with some bitterness that many American sailors in Hong Kong and other Asian ports, feeling no particular interest in their calling, were far too keen on engaging in commercial transactions. They were doing a brisk business by trading military supplies for curios, liquor and drugs.

When his subordinates' "passion for curios" came to the ears of Admiral Robert Carney, Chief of Staff, U.S. Navy, he politely warned his marauders and black-marketeters "to display dignity, prudence and good taste" and not to grab at whatever came first to hand.

U.S. Secretary of State called for peace not only with the heart, but also with the mind". And exactly two days later he signed the "Mutual Security Treaty" with the Chiang Kai-shekites. For the purpose of camouflaging the aggressive nature of this treaty the "Voice of America" described it as... purely "defensive".

And the treaty really does speak of "defence". But what are the American troops preparing to defend with Chiang Kai-shek's gangs? Why, the Island of Taiwan, which has been Chinese from time immemorial, the Pescadores Isles and other territories. George Yeh, Kuomintang Minister, a shady individual who claims to be a Chinaman, but who has cast off everything that is Chinese and has even lost part of his Chinese name, with one stroke of the pen granted the American brass-hats the "right" to make themselves at home on these territories for an indeterminate period. In other words, they are trying to perpetuate the occupation of Taiwan in "legal form".

The aggressive nature of the new creation of Washington diplomacy stands out a mile in the light of the provocative campaign against People's China which the dollar press and certain influential American officials have been fanning sky high during the past few weeks. Knowland, Republican leader in the Senate, is shouting for the implementation of a plan which even the reactionary New York Post could only describe as a programme of thunder and threats. This zealous Senator is urging a blockade of the Chinese mainland and even an attack on the CPR. Knowland's bellicose demands are being seconded by Admiral Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, by Robertson, Dulles' assistant, and, of course, by McCarthy. While they're hurling their thunderbolts in Washington, vessels with cargoes of war supplies are leaving U.S. ports in the direction of Taiwan. A few days ago the Kuomintang gang received a consignment of American F-86 Sabre jet planes and, somewhat earlier, motor tor-

people and their affair alone. China has as much right to these territories as, say, the U.S.A. to Pennsylvania. What would the rulers in Washington say if any foreign power were to wrench Pennsylvania from the U.S.A. and, in addition, were to threaten to bomb Washington?

The aggressively-minded American politicians have short memories. They are again engaged in the dangerous game of playing with fire having forgotten, apparently, that five years ago they burnt their fingers when their intervention in China failed. Now, when the 600-million strong Chinese people have risen to their full gigantic height, when their might has grown immeasurably, the signing of an agreement on the "defence" of China's territories from... China attests to the authors of this agreement having lost all sense of reality. Even such a reactionary journalist as Stewart Alsop, New York Herald Tribune correspondent, is forced to comment ironically on the stupid and ridiculous statements that are made by some American Senators about the weakness of People's China, to the effect that it will be easy to overcome it if only the Americans beat the big drum loudly enough.

Well, it's up to them. Those who want to complicate the situation in the Far East are beating the big drum, but the walls of great China stand and will continue to stand firm.

The Chinese people are adamant in their determination to bring about their national reunification to its completion. In his recent statement Chou En-lai, Chinese Foreign Minister, once more confirmed that the Chinese people are fully determined to liberate the Island of Taiwan. The Chinese people, said Chou En-lai, strongly oppose a war but we cannot be intimidated or brought to our knees by threats of war.

No provocations can break the inflexible will of the Chinese people for the defence of their sovereignty and territory, for the defence of the cause of peace.

Fred HALL

Under Bayonets and Police Bludgeons

(PRESIDENTIAL "ELECTIONS" IN CUBA)

Presidential elections were recently held in Cuba, the Vice President, the new Congress and municipal councils being elected at the same time.

The elections, in which a mere 30% of the electorate participated, were highly undemocratic and took place in a climate of violence, blackmail and anti-Communist slander.

Apart from Batista himself, only the name of Grau San Martin, representative of the so-called Revolutionary Party, was permitted by the Batista-puppet Government to appear on the voting papers in the Presidential elections. All other opposition parties were denied the right to put up candidates.

Just before the elections some 20,000 troops took up "strategic" positions. Through-

out Cuba mass searches and arrests were made and the worn-out shibboleths about "riotous elements" from abroad dragged out... It turned out, too, that the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires met Grau San Martin a day before the elections and hinted to him that Batista "must not suffer defeat". Things even went so far that the Supreme Election Tribunal refused to grant Grau San Martin's request that his supporters be allowed to be present at the count.

The situation that obtained forced Grau San Martin to withdraw his candidature. Accusing the Government of intrigues, he called on the voters to boycott the elections. Thus, with the help of bayonets and police bludgeons and the interference of U.S. diplomats, Batista—true lackey of U.S. imperialists—at last "legalised" his Presidency.

B. K.

Militarist Literature and its Publishers

During the past two years at least 200 books have been published in Austria, containing malicious slander against the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies and overt appeals for Anschluss. The authors of this revenge-seeking literature are prominent Quislings, war criminals, generals and colonels of the Hitler army.

The appearance of this ideological poison on the book market is quite understandable

when we take into account the fact that the publishers of this militarist literature—the "Burgfried Verlag" and many others—are branches of big publishing houses in Western Germany, set up by the Americans and Adenauer authorities for the purpose of spreading propaganda for a new war.

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