

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

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## FOR NEW VICTORIES OF FORCES OF PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM IN THE NEW YEAR!

In greeting the new year the common people throughout the world are thinking over the results of the passing year and, looking ahead, are assessing the prospects for the future. They are asking themselves: how far have their dreams and hopes come true and what results have they achieved in the struggle for peace and a better life.

The achievements with which all countries of the camp of democracy and Socialism are celebrating the new year inspire all people of good will and graphically prove that it is in these countries that the actual history of mankind and its happy future are being created, that the path taken by these countries is the example and model for all peoples whose most cherished desire is to live in peace and use the results of their creative labour.

In 1954 the heroic Soviet people, marching in the van of the progressive and peace-loving forces of mankind, have scored, under the leadership of their glorious Communist Party, fresh outstanding victories in the building of Communism. The strength and might of the great Soviet state have been further consolidated. The boundless vitality of the socialist system can be gauged from the fact that this year the heavy industry of the USSR—the basis of the national economy and the source of the economic might and defence capacity of the Soviet land—has increased to 3.4 times above the 1940 level.

1954 has also been a year of outstanding achievements by the Soviet people in their effort to ensure a steep advance in agriculture. Over 17 million hectares of virgin and fallow lands have been ploughed this year, as a result of which the Soviet people will have an additional 20 million hectares under crops in 1955. The passing year witnessed in the USSR a considerable increase in the output of articles of mass consumption, a wider assortment of goods and improved quality. Real wages of factory and office workers have risen 74% above the 1940 figure.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China the 600 million-strong Chinese people have stood up to their full height. They are successfully carrying out the tasks of the first Five-Year Plan of national construction and are laying a powerful economic foundation for the new socialist system which in the course of a few five-year periods will transform the backward country, only recently under merciless exploitation by the imperialists, into a mighty industrial socialist power.

A new big stride forward along the path of Socialism has been made in 1954 by the peoples of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania. Heavy industry in these countries—the basis of their socialist economies—has become more powerful and their light industry and

instigate bloody wars; it is freedom for the working people to be without work, to live in slums and to die either from hunger or on the battlefield.

This explains why a feature of the year that is just drawing to a close has been the further strengthening and broadening of the struggle waged by the popular masses against the yoke of exploitation, for bread and genuine freedom, for democratic rights and national independence, for world peace. The entire course of events during the past year has convincingly shown that selfless and stubborn struggle for peace is now becoming the sacred duty and paramount obligation of every honest man and woman.

The outgoing year has witnessed fresh, consistent and persistent efforts by the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and the other democratic countries to uphold the cause of peace, ensure security for the peoples and frustrate the criminal designs of the merchants of death.

These efforts have been crowned by many outstanding successes which have led to a certain relaxation in international tension. The Berlin and Geneva Conferences have proved that it is fully possible to settle outstanding international problems by peaceful means through negotiations. As a result, war operations in Indo-China have been stopped and thus one more dangerous seat of war has been eliminated. By its proposal for settling the German question and posals for creating a European system of collective security, which were wholeheartedly welcomed by the common people throughout the world, the Government of the USSR has shown the correct way to ensure a peaceful solution of the most acute international problems.

However, the fact that there has been some relaxation in international tension, corresponding to the aspirations of all peoples, is obviously not to the liking of the reactionary circles of the capitalist countries. Ignoring the will of the peoples for peace, the imperialists are going ahead with their criminal plans for preparing a new war, are intensifying the arms drive and building up new military alignments and blocs in both Europe and Asia. In blind adherence to their "positions of strength" policy, the U.S. imperialists and their accomplices in Western Europe are continuing to create in Western Germany a dangerous springboard for a new war and are resurrecting German militarism—the worst enemy of the European peoples. By rejecting the proposals for a peaceful settlement of the German problem and a general European system of collective security advanced by the USSR and the other democratic countries that participated in the Moscow Conference, the ruling circles in the Western countries have placed on the agenda, in defiance of the clearly expressed will of the peoples, ratification of

## PEOPLES INTENSIFY STRUGGLE AGAINST RESURGENCE OF GERMAN MILITARISM, FOR PROHIBITION OF ATOMIC WEAPONS

### Prevent Rearmament of Western Germany

The Czechoslovak people indignantly denounce the endeavours of the imperialists to rearm Western Germany. Mass meetings and rallies in defence of peace, against the ratification of the Paris agreements and for establishing a general European system of collective security are being held in towns and villages up and down the country. A 150,000-strong meeting was held recently in Prague, a 60,000-strong meeting in Plzen, 18,000 people attended a meeting in Pardubice, 50,000 in Ostrava, 100,000 in Brno, 45,000 in Olomouc, and 80,000 in Bratislava.

In numerous resolutions the Czechoslovak working people are calling on the working people of the West European countries to intensify the joint struggle against the remilitarisation of Western Germany. The workers of the V. I. Lenin works in Plzen sent a similar resolution to the working people of the Krupp works in Essen. The Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Youth Union receives dozens of resolutions from local CYU organisations addressed to the youth of Western Germany and France.

A meeting of women activists from villages of the Olomouc district sent a letter to women and mothers of Lille in France and Frankfurt on Main in Western Germany. "All women", they wrote, "must be united by one and the same aim—the struggle against the remilitarisation of Western Germany, for unification of all Germans into a peace-loving and democratic state. Fight together with all honest citizens of your towns to preserve world peace! Not only your children, but all future generations will be grateful to you for this."

### MOVEMENT IN JAPAN FOR BAN ON ATOMIC WEAPONS

Tetsu Katayama, Tomi Kora and Sumio Takakuwa, representatives of the National Council for Collection of Signatures to the Demand for Prohibition of Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, visited Prime Minister Hatoyama to inform him that the number of signatures to the demand had reached nearly 29 million in Japan.

The representatives of the Council demanded that the Government join in the efforts for a ban on atomic and hydrogen

### Against Paris Military Plot

The working people in the German Democratic Republic and Western Germany approve the Declaration of the Moscow Conference and are coming out with resolute protests against the ratification of the Paris military agreements. Meetings in the Halle region attended by over 150,000 representatives from all walks of life expressed the firm will to fight against West German remilitarisation. Some 32,000 metallurgical workers in Magdeburg signed petitions demanding that the deputies to the Bonn Bundestag reject the Paris agreements. The Central Board of the Miners' Trade Union in the GDR sent an open letter to the Central Board of the West German Miners' Trade Union and proposed that negotiations should begin for joint action against ratification.

In Western Germany the workers and trade union organisations at a number of enterprises resolved not to produce any

materials for war purposes. The local organisation of the Miners' Trade Union in Eschweiler-Mitte reported to its Central Board that they were prepared to declare a mass protest strike against ratification. Peter Claasen, second Chairman of the Amalgamated West German Trade Unions in North Rhine-Westphalia, demanded in his annual report to the delegates of the Düsseldorf trade union organisation that action outside Parliament be taken to prevent West German remilitarisation. Youth demonstrations against the rearmament of West German militarists were held by the youth in Duisburg, Düsseldorf, Cologne, Krefeld, Bremen and other towns. The representatives of all sections of the population are daily sending more and more demands to the deputies of the Bonn Bundestag to turn down ratification of the Paris agreements.

### Mask of Hypocrisy Torn Aside

The Soviet Government has made a new contribution to the cause of peace by its Note of December 20, which tears aside the mask behind which the British Government pursues a policy of hostility towards the Soviet Union.

The Anglo-Soviet Treaty of 1942 is a solemn obligation sealed in the blood of millions of Soviet people and hundreds of thousands of British citizens, who died in the common struggle against fascism. It was hailed by the British people at a time when the whole world paid tribute to the heroic deeds and sacrifices of the Red Army and the Soviet people as a pledge that Britain and the Soviet Union stand together to prevent a recurrence of Nazi aggression and prevent a third world war. In particular the Treaty laid down that Britain and the Soviet Union should take all measures in their power to render impossible a repetition of aggression and the violation of peace by Germany.

Instead of carrying out the terms of the Treaty, the British Government has deliberately embarked on a policy of rearming Western Germany and reviving the Wehrmacht under the leadership of ex-Nazi and militarist elements who boast of their aggressive aims. This policy is in flagrant contradiction to the terms of the

speaking frankly to the British people, the Soviet Government is fulfilling its duty to the Soviet people but also helps the British people, who will suffer more than any people in the world if war is waged and atom and hydrogen weapons allowed to be used. The British Government's policy of reviving German militarism gravely increases the danger of such a war and places the British people in the gravest peril.

More than ever before in its history, Britain needs friendship, peace and trade with the Soviet Union. If Britain and the Soviet Union stand together for peace a strong obstacle will be created in the way of those who would like to unleash a new war. This is why the British working people, and especially the working class, should use their united strength to force a change in the attitude of the British Government, halt the rearmament of Western Germany, insist on co-operation with the Soviet Union for peace and demand the banning of weapons of mass destruction and removal of the bans on East-West trade.

The present policy of the British ruling circles is a betrayal of the national interests of the British people, of those who died in the fight against fascism, the betrayal of the greatest ally Britain ever had—namely the Soviet Union.

### Demonstrations of Peace Supporters in Holland

The other day Amsterdam saw an impressive demonstration of workers in the realm of art. The demonstrators carried posters with striking drawings and captions calling for struggle against the resurgence of aggressive German militarism. During the demonstration a special issue of the newspaper *Never Again* was distributed. This newspaper is published by peace supporters and opposes the resurrection of the Nazi Wehrmacht. The people of the capital wholeheartedly greeted the demonstration.

Another demonstration of peace supporters under the slogans: "Down With EDC No. 21" and "No New Nazi Wehrmacht!" took place in the western part of Amsterdam. During the demonstration a meeting was held and signatures were collected against the ratification of the London and Paris agreements and German rearmament.

A mass discussion organised by those participating in the "Never Again" movement in Amsterdam was attended by numerous representatives of the most varied sections of the population—workers and housewives, intellectuals and businessmen. Among those speaking in the discussion were many members of the Federation of Dutch Trade Unions and members of the Party of Labour. It was announced at the discussion that over 40,000 Dutch people had already signed the protest against the rearmament of the German militarists.

### "TO ARM GERMANY MEANS SELLING OUT BELGIUM"

The working people of Belgium are coming out against the resurrection of the West German Wehrmacht, for a system of collective security for all European peoples.

In a recent referendum over 85% of the workers in the Aampsen collieries (Liège Province), including Socialists, Communists and Catholics, came out against the London and Paris agreements aimed at restoring German militarism.

The Communist Party of Belgium issued a poster urging that steps be taken to prevent the resurgence of a new Wehrmacht. "To arm Germany", reads the poster, "means selling out Belgium."

The newspaper *Drapeau Rouge* says in an editorial that ratification of the London and Paris agreements is not the way to negotiate for a peaceful solution of the



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Considerable successes have been achieved by the working people of the German Democratic Republic in the sphere of economic and cultural construction.

Relying on the constantly growing consciousness, political and production activity of the popular masses, all countries of the 900 million-strong democratic camp headed by the Soviet Union are confidently marching towards new victories for the cause of peace and Socialism.

Against the background of these outstanding achievements of the democratic countries the characteristic features of the doomed and decaying capitalist world with its inevitable concomitants—impoverishment of the popular masses, destruction of cultural values and wars of conquest—stand out with particular clarity.

Whereas the countries of Socialism are devoting their energies to peaceful creative labour, the capitalist monopolies, in their frantic search for maximum profits, are intensifying their unbridled plunder of the peoples, waxing rich from the blood and sufferings of the peoples and engaging in preparations for a new world slaughter. Whereas the great socialist power—the Soviet Union—has put into operation the first atomic power station in the world, the reactionary ruling cliques of the Western powers headed by the U.S.A. are engaged in plotting an atomic war and openly threatening the peace-loving countries with the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Never before has the link between the vested aims of the monopolist exploiters and their criminal schemes of fomenting war been so strikingly pronounced as now. Never before has the aggressive essence of the false speeches of imperialism's troubadours about the "defence" of the so-called free world been so obvious as now. Hundreds of millions of people in the capitalist, colonial and dependent countries are becoming daily convinced from their own experience what the "free world" and the "freedom" advocated by the Dulleses actually mean. It is freedom for the exploiters to plunder and to enslave, to foment hatred among the peoples and

result, war operations in Indo-China have been stopped and thus one more dangerous seat of war has been eliminated. By its pro-creating a European system of collective security, which were wholeheartedly welcomed by the common people throughout the world, the Government of the USSR has shown the correct way to ensure a peaceful solution of the most acute international problems.

However, the fact that there has been some relaxation in international tension, peoples is obviously not to the liking of all reactionary circles of the capitalist countries. Ignoring the will of the peoples for peace, the imperialists are going ahead with their criminal plans for preparing a new war, are intensifying the arms drive and building up new military alignments blind adherence to their "positions of strength" policy, the U.S. imperialists and continuing to create in Western Europe are a dangerous springboard for a new war and worst enemy of the European peoples. By rejecting the proposals for a peaceful general European system of collective security advanced by the USSR and the other democratic countries that participated in the Moscow Conference, the ruling circles of the Western countries have placed on the agenda, in defiance of the clearly expressed will of the peoples, ratification of the Paris agreements which have as their object the rearming of the West German revenge-seekers and the inclusion of Western Germany in the aggressive North Atlantic bloc.

In the Declaration adopted at the Moscow Conference the Government of the USSR and the governments of the other democratic countries clearly pointed out that ratification of the Paris agreements would diminish the possibility of settling the German issue and make negotiations on the German problems pointless; it would create a new threat to the security of the peace-loving peoples of Europe and compel the countries of the democratic camp to take new and decisive measures to strengthen their common defence.

It must be noted that the Western powers, and above all the U.S.A., deemed it necessary to supplement their demand for ratifying the Paris agreements with fresh atomic blackmail and intensification of atomic hysteria. But let the American generals not deceive themselves into thinking that atomic blackmail can intimidate the free peoples. The peoples of the democratic camp are strong enough to administer a due rebuff to the atom maniacs and to frustrate their criminal designs.

A daily, persistent and vigorous struggle by the popular masses in all countries for ensuring peace and security is the decisive condition for putting paid to the foul plans of the enemies of mankind, for preserving and strengthening peace. To raise still higher the vigilance of the peoples and to further intensify their activities against any manoeuvre of the adversaries of peace is the paramount and urgent task of the Communist and Workers' Parties.

The Congresses of many Communist and Workers' Parties that took place in 1954 vividly demonstrated the ideological, political and organisational strengthening of the Parties. They testified to the unbreakable and growing bonds of the Parties with the masses, to the powerful development of the international liberation movement.

Confronted with gigantic tasks in the coming year the Communist and Workers' Parties will rally their ranks still closer beneath the unconquerable battle standard of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin, they will strengthen still more their ties with the working people and their prestige among the broadest possible masses of the people. The common people throughout the world greet the new year, firmly confident of winning new victories in the struggle for freedom and democracy, for friendship between the peoples and for a lasting peace throughout the world.

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Premier Ichiro Hatoyama recently declared that his Government will spare no effort to achieve the prohibition of atomic weapons.

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Instead of carrying out the terms of the Treaty, the British Government has deliberately embarked on a policy of rearming Western Germany and reviving the Wehrmacht under the leadership of ex-Nazi and militarist elements who boast of their aggressive aims. This policy is in flagrant contradiction to the terms of the Treaty and a mockery of the British Government's statement that it favours a policy of peaceful coexistence and friendship towards the Soviet Union. By exposing this deceptive attitude of the British Government and

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speaking frankly to the British people, the Soviet Government is fulfilling its duty to the Soviet people but also helps the British people, who will suffer more than any people in the world if war is waged and atom and hydrogen weapons allowed to be used. The British Government's policy of reviving German militarism gravely increases the danger of such a war and places the British people in the gravest peril.

More than ever before in its history, Britain needs friendship, peace and trade with the Soviet Union. If Britain and the Soviet Union stand together for peace a strong obstacle will be created in the way of those who would like to unleash a new war. This is why the British working people, and especially the working class, should use their united strength to force a change in the attitude of the British Government, halt the rearmament of Western Germany, insist on co-operation with the Soviet Union for peace and demand the banning of weapons of mass destruction and removal of the bans on East-West trade.

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**HARRY POLLITT**  
General Secretary,  
Communist Party  
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The newspaper *Drapeau Rouge* says in an editorial that ratification of the London and Paris agreements is not the way to negotiate for a peaceful solution of the German problem; it means turning one's back on negotiation and handing over the destinies of the country and the destinies of mankind to the bloodstained hands of Krupp and his ilk.

## French People Will Not Give Up Struggle Against Rearmament of Western Germany

Never yet has the struggle of the French people against the rearmament of Western Germany been so widespread. Each day, throughout all the debates on the Paris agreements in the National Assembly, hundreds and hundreds of deputations from all over France made their way to the Palais-Bourbon to express the will of the nation to the deputies. No new Wehrmacht! No arms for the butchers of Oradour! Don't ratify the Paris agreements!—declared French patriots. It was a real demonstration in which the whole of France took part, a demonstration in which every demonstrator represented hundreds, sometimes thousands, of people.

Here one could see a Catholic employer at the head of a deputation from one of the districts of Paris; Jean-Paul Sartre, the writer, as a member of the Franco-Soviet Society's deputation; a deputation from Oradour-sur-Glane with a message from the town's mayor (an independent Socialist) in the name of the families of the martyrs of the town; a deputation of the blind—former Resistance fighters, and a Socialist mayor and a Socialist general councillor heading a deputation from their district. Twenty delegates from the Dordogne Department, including Socialists, members of the RPF and non-party people visited the Socialist deputies from this department. Some 138 deputations came from the Bouches-du-Rhône Department. These were just a few examples out of thousands. A continuous flow of messages and telegrams demanding that deputies should not vote for the Paris agreements streamed into the National Assembly. Some 6,345 telegrams were received on one day—December 27—alone.

As the powerful voice of the homeland resounded around the Palais-Bourbon, brief

strikes spread in factories and on construction sites. At the Fives-Lille Works (Nord) which has some 3,500 workers, two half-hour strikes were held and a two-hour strike took place at the Dassault Aircraft Works (Seine). There were brief dockers' strikes at la Rochelle, Calais, Boulogne, miners' strikes in the departments of Nord, Pas-de-Calais, Gard, the Loire and tram workers' strikes in Nice, etc., etc.

At the call of the Peace Movement a crowded meeting took place at the Winter Velodrome in Paris on December 28. Speeches were made by a Socialist general councillor from the Dordogne Department, by the vice-president of the Federation of the Radical-Socialist Party in Meurthe-et-Moselle, the vice-president of the Federation of the MRP in the Vosges Department, by Gilbert de Chambrun, Secretary of the World Peasants' Council, Claude Bourdet, Director of the newspaper *France-Observateur*, Debout, RPF Senator, Alain Le Léap, General Secretary of the CGT, and Raymond Guyot, member of the Political Bureau of the French Communist Party.

As a result of the struggle of the popular masses the National Assembly on December 24, by 280 votes to 259, voted against the rearmament of Western Germany. Thus it spoke out against the revival of the Wehrmacht twice in four months.

The vote on December 24 bore witness to the hostility of the entire population of the country towards the revival of German militarism. It was received with joy by the French people and by all peace supporters throughout the world. At the same time it caused alarm in the camp of the warmongers. Aggressive circles in Washington and London stepped up their pressure on France. Brazenly interfering in French affairs they have threatened to

revive the Wehrmacht without French agreement and used all kinds of blackmail. Even the Vatican interfered to get the deputies to vote for the Paris agreements. Mendès-France and the most zealous advocates of the rearmament of the German revanchists, docile to the orders from Washington, London and Bonn, resorted to every possible means to secure ratification of these fatal agreements at all cost. Procedural artifices, violations of the Constitution and swindling—there was nothing they did not try.

The National Assembly found itself caught between two fires: on one hand pressure from abroad and on the other pressure from the nation. All Parliamentary groups—with the exception of the Communist group, which is a resolute and consistent opponent of West German rearmament—were deeply divided. Nearly all deputies who spoke during the debate either resolutely denounced the Paris agreements or put forward substantial reservations.

In addition to the Communist deputies, many deputies belonging to other parties came out for negotiations with the East. Among them, in particular, were Edouard Herriot, Honorary Chairman of the Assembly, who spoke twice during the debate; Daladier, Badie, Forcinal (all four are Radicals), Soustelle (ex-RPF), General Aumeran (Independent), Liautey (Peasant Party). Notwithstanding the threats of Guy Mollet, 18 Socialist deputies voted against the restoration of the revanchist army in Western Germany. By doing this they expressed the sentiments of the Socialist working masses who, in ever-greater numbers, are taking part in the struggle for peace side by side with their Communist comrades.

The debate which the Premier, on the orders of U.S. ruling circles, sought to rush

through caused confusion among the champions of West German rearmament. Mendès-France boasted that he would succeed in securing ratification of the agreements within three days by a large majority. He counted on doing this by by-passing the people. But the debate was delayed, and the head of the French Government was forced to put the existence of his Cabinet at stake.

On December 30 the National Assembly, in an atmosphere of unprecedented pressure and threats on the part of the Anglo-American imperialists, ratified the Paris agreements by 287 votes (less than half of the total number of deputies in Parliament) to 260.

Ratification of the agreements was forced on the French people to the detriment of their national interests, to the detriment of the interests of France as a whole, notwithstanding the clearly expressed will of all French patriots.

There is no doubt that the people of France, who are deeply conscious of the extremely grave danger which the revival of German militarism means for them, will never reconcile themselves to this "ratification" because they cannot regard themselves as being bound by the criminal obligations assumed by the rulers of France and those members of Parliament who, against the will of their constituents, gave the Mendès-France Government a vote of confidence on December 30.

The French people are waging and will continue to wage an increasingly decisive fight for the further unity of all patriotic forces in the country, for the independence of their homeland, against the rearmament of the West German revenge-seekers and for the consolidation of peace and security in Europe.



# WIDELY INTRODUCE INDUSTRIAL BUILDING METHODS, IMPROVE QUALITY AND REDUCE CONSTRUCTION COSTS

## Speech by Comrade N. S. Khrushchev

at the All-Union Conference of Builders, Architects and Workers from Building Materials, Construction and Road Machine-Building Industries, Designing and Research Organisations, December 7, 1954

Under the leadership of the Communist Party, Comrade N. S. Khrushchev said, the Soviet people have scored tremendous successes in the industrialisation of our country. The working class, collective-farm peasantry and intelligentsia of the Soviet Union are proud of these successes. Our friends abroad also rejoice at these achievements.

The industrialisation of the Soviet country has been carried through thanks to the fact that our Party has unwaveringly carried out the directives of Lenin and Stalin. This was our main task and it remains our main task in the future too. We must continue to ensure the all-round development of our heavy industry. Heavy industry is the basis of the national economy, the source of the economic might of the socialist state, of its defence capacity, the source of the prosperous and cultured life of the working people. Only if we further develop heavy industry can we successfully develop all other branches of the national economy, steadily raise the well-being of the people and ensure the inviolability of the frontiers of the Soviet Union. (Prolonged applause).

This is the main thing. The further development of heavy industry—the increase in the output of metals, coal, oil, electric power, chemical products, the development of heavy engineering, machine-tool building and the increase in the production of forge and press equipment—is the powerful basis for ensuring a successful advance in all branches of industry and agriculture.

On the basis of the achievements in the development of heavy industry, the Party and the Government are devoting considerable attention to increasing the output of mass-consumption goods.

A great deal has been done this year to carry out the decisions of the Plenums of the Central Committee on the further development of agriculture. As is known, the Communist Party has advanced as one of the main tasks the increasing of grain output by raising yields in all regions of the country and bringing virgin and unused lands under cultivation.

1954 was the first year of carrying out the programme for a steep advance in agriculture. As you already know, there was exceptionally bad weather this year in a number of regions of the Ukraine, the Volga area and other southern regions. As a result of the drought we had a serious drop in the output of grain in these parts. But the country received great help this year from Siberia, in particular the Altai territory and Kazakhstan. The collective farmers and workers on MTS and state farms, the Party organisations in the Altai territory and in a number of regions in Siberia and the Kazakh Republic worked well and made a big contribution to the good of the whole country. Despite the drop in the output of grain in a number of southern districts the total amount produced in the entire country by December 5 was 271 million poods greater than at the same time the previous year.

From the report of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR published in the press on November 8, you are acquainted with the data on the results of the year's work in agriculture. You have read this report and know that in 1954 we procured much more grain, meat, milk and vegetables than in the previous year. And, indeed, the increase is very great. Some people ask: What is the explanation?

Industry, which is expanding year by year, to our builders, the workers in the building materials industry, to engineers who provide technique for the construction sites, to architects and designers and to our whole powerful army of builders. That is why the Central Committee of the Party and the Council of Ministers of the USSR decided to convene the present Conference in order to discuss the urgent problems of construction with you, to disclose existing shortcomings and to outline concrete measures for radically improving construction.

Then Comrade Khrushchev elucidated questions that had come to a head on the industrialisation of building.

Construction is being carried out on a huge scale in our country, he said. As a characteristic indication of the volume of building work it should be recalled that the Soviet state has spent more than 900,000 million roubles in the postwar period on capital construction. During this time more than 8,000 major state industrial enterprises have been restored or built and put into operation. Every year more dwellings, schools and hospitals are built. In the post-war years dwellings with a total superficial area of over 200,000,000 square metres have been completed in towns and settlements for the industrial and office workers, and some 4,500,000 houses in rural districts for collective farmers and the rural intelligentsia.

In the current year the volume of building work in the country is more than two and a half times greater than in 1946. In 1954 alone, expenditure on capital works is equal to the total expenditure for these purposes for the whole second Five-Year Plan period.

A new and great stride forward has been made in building enterprises of heavy industry, which is the fundamental basis of our economy. In the current year and for the future our attention should be focused on the construction of new enterprises for the coal, oil, metallurgical and engineering industries and new hydro-electric stations and other industrial enterprises. Alongside this, large-scale housing construction is being developed all over the country. It is sufficient to say that in the current year alone, dwelling houses with a total superficial area of more than 30,000,000 square metres will be built in towns and workers' settlements, and about 400,000 dwelling houses in the countryside.

In order to cope successfully with the tasks now confronting us in the sphere of construction, it is necessary to develop and perfect our building industry to the utmost. We must resolutely put an end to the somewhat primitive methods in building work.

At the present time we have the necessary conditions for the extensive industrialisation of construction. What are these conditions? First of all we have trained numerous cadres of skilled workers and specialists. In the building organisations of the country and in the building materials industry there are many thousands of splendid workers who are experts at their job, innovators of production. We have works that can supply builders with modern technical facilities that lighten labour and increase its productivity. A production base has been created and is being developed, a base that makes it possible to provide construction work with pre-fabricated ferro-concrete structures, parts and building materials.

As this Conference has shown, alongside definite achievements there are still many

The All-Union Conference of Builders, Architects and Workers from the Building Materials, Construction and Road Machine-Building Industries and Designing and Research Organisations convened by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR took place in Moscow between November 30 and December 7. The Conference was attended by leading workers, team leaders, construction workers, foremen, heads of construction sites and departments, heads and chief engineers of trusts, managers of plants, workers from designing and architectural organisations, from research institutes and higher educational establishments, as well as by Party, trade union and Komsomol functionaries from all over the country. Altogether 2,200 people were present.

Comrades N. A. Bulganin, K. E. Voroshilov, L. M. Kaganovich, G. M. Malenkov, A. I. Mikoyan, V. M. Molotov, M. G. Pervukhin, M. Z. Saburov, N. S. Khrushchev, N. M. Shvernik, P. K. Ponomarenko, M. A. Suslov, P. N. Pospelov and N. N. Shatalin took part in the Conference.

The Conference was addressed by Comrade N. S. Khrushchev, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, who was warmly greeted by the audience.

Below we publish extracts from Comrade N. S. Khrushchev's speech.

Together with Comrades Bulganin, Mikoyan and other members of the delegation, we saw lots of masts and posts made of ferro-concrete when we travelled through China, and well-made they were, too. We should avail ourselves of this useful experience.

Comrade N. S. Khrushchev then dwelt in detail on questions pertaining to the production of building materials, stressing the necessity for all-round development of the cement industry, for increasing the output of bricks by utilising the available reserves of functioning brick works.

The successful introduction of industrial methods and improvement in the work of building organisations, he said, depend a great deal on the organisational and technical level of management of the construction work.

Industrialisation of building work, increased tempo and reduced building costs cannot be accomplished with the forces available to small building organisations. That is why the building organisations must be enlarged.

The experience of Moscow and other towns proves that it is necessary to set up specialised building organisations, precisely specialised, and not complex, because only such organisations are capable of introducing industrial methods of building. (Applause).

Our country is putting up industrial enterprises, dwelling houses, schools, hospitals and other buildings on a big scale. This construction is vitally important. We must sharply increase the tempo, improve quality and reduce building costs. There is only one way to solve this task and that is through the most extensive industrialisation of building work.

N. S. Khrushchev devoted a considerable part of his speech to the need to eliminate shortcomings in designing work and to improve the work of architects.

He stressed that the successes of industrialisation, the improvement of quality and lowering of production costs of construction work are largely dependent on the work of the design offices, on the work of the architects and designers.

The whole country is dotted with building sites. The annual allocations made by the Soviet state for construction purposes amount to many thousands of millions of roubles; and literally every Soviet citizen has an interest in seeing that construction

say, the next five years. After that we must discuss things and, if no better standards are available, we'll have to prolong the term for another five years. What's wrong with that, comrades?

Referring then to the advantages of standard designs for industrial construction, N. S. Khrushchev stressed that the utilisation of standard designs in construction will have a tremendous effect as regards both the economy of funds and speeding up and improving the quality of building work.

The architects, like all other building trades workers, must turn their attention sharply to the economic problems of construction work, and go more deeply into this matter. They must always bear in mind that the cost of the building under construction, the cost per square metre of superficial area is one of the most important things.

The architect, if he wants to keep up with the times, must not only know how to use architectural forms, ornaments and various types of decoration, he must also have a knowledge of new and better materials, ferro-concrete structures and parts and, above all, be well versed in economic problems of construction.

Comrade N. S. Khrushchev bitterly criticised certain architects who have let themselves be carried away by unnecessary decoration of facades, put a great deal of that which was superfluous in their designs, and who, in drawing up plans for multi-storied buildings were interested primarily in the silhouette of the building, without giving a thought to the cost of construction and maintenance.

Serious shortcomings in the work of the designing offices and individual architects can largely be explained by the incorrect directives given by the Academy of Architecture and a number of leading architects.

The leading figures in architecture have always laid emphasis on the artistic side of things and speak little of the economic aspect or the amenities of the dwelling houses and other buildings. It is clear, said N. S. Khrushchev, that we shall do battle against this state of affairs in which architecture is isolated from the essential tasks of construction.

Certain architects try to justify their incorrect instructions and extravagance in design by the need of struggle against constructivism. But under the slogan of struggle against constructivism the squandering of funds is permitted.

If we go the right way about organising standard designing, if we decisively improve the work of architects and designers, turn our attention to the economic problems of construction, enhance the responsibility of our local organs and release their initiative more, we are sure to achieve further big successes in construction, in reducing costs and improving quality.

Comrade N. S. Khrushchev stressed further that to improve quality was the major task of building workers. We must, he said, not only build faster, but, of course, well and solidly and cherish our builders' standard. Our buildings must be comfortable to live in and convenient in use. Badly constructed buildings need repairing within a short space of time, and this entails additional expense. This is true of all kinds of building work.

To improve the quality of all building work, whether it is industrial, housing or any other kind of construction work, is a task of great national importance. Concern for ensuring higher quality of work must be shown both by the builders themselves, beginning with the heads of Ministries and ending up with each worker, and by all local Party, Soviet, trade union and Komsomol organisations. Given this constant and mass control, the quality of construction work will be raised to the level of the high demands made by our people.

Comrade N. S. Khrushchev then dwelt on certain planning and economic problems of construction work.

Many of the speakers at the Conference referred to the serious shortcomings in the planning of building work, to the dissipation of resources over numerous projects, the dragging out of building work schedules and to unsatisfactory supplies of building materials, which leads to dearer construction.

How are these shortcomings to be combated? The struggle against the dissipation of resources must in the first place be waged by ministers and departmental heads. The State Planning Commission of the USSR must also pay especial attention to this question. Maybe a control inspectorate ought to be set up, without increasing staffs, and its work entrusted to workers who would not just confine themselves to collecting information but would check on what use was being made of the means allocated for construction work, whether documents were properly prepared and not being violated.

The main thing is to keep strictly to the established order: construction must not be started until the design, the estimate and the working drawings are ready. (Applause).

There must be constant and profound study of questions of planning and economy in construction work. It is essential for the builders themselves to pay daily attention to the analysis of economic problems of construction and to make their own concrete proposals for improving planning practice.

Comrade N. S. Khrushchev then spoke of the need to increase productivity of labour and to train cadres of skilled builders.

In order to ensure a steady rise in the productivity of labour it is first of all essential to organise work correctly on the construction sites, to utilise the labour force and technique better, to economise on raw materials and other building materials.

Five-Year Plan, labour productivity must increase in industry by approximately 50% and in construction by 55%, with a simultaneous increase in real wages of not less than 35%.

In the course of the first four years, productivity of labour has increased in industry by 33% and in construction by 32%. At the same time real wages have increased 37%, that is, we have surpassed the level envisaged for the entire five-year period. Consequently we have greatly overspent the wage fund. This shows that there are serious shortcomings in the use of technique and in the organisation of labour in industry and construction. Failing to carry out the plans for increasing labour productivity, many heads of departments, enterprises and building organisations resort to increasing the number of factory and office workers employed, which leads to overspending the wage fund.

It is well known that there are enormous latent reserves in construction for increasing labour productivity and, consequently, for increasing the workers' earnings. There is the mechanisation of construction work, the correct use of powerful technique at the disposal of our construction sites; there is the introduction of industrial methods of construction, higher skill of the workers employed and better utilisation of the advanced experience of innovators, as well as the strengthening of labour discipline.

Specialisation and the improvement of the workers' qualifications are among the main prerequisites for increasing labour productivity. This is inseparable from the task of training stable cadres of building workers.

If we help every building worker to acquire a trade and to become a skilled worker capable of using technique effectively, then he will have a feeling for his trade and say proudly: "I am a builder!" Unfortunately newcomers still get little attention at the construction sites. There is no unemployment in the Soviet Union and the worker has no difficulty in finding work. To keep a worker on the building site it is necessary to train him and help him to acquire a trade.

Referring to the need to pay greater attention to the regulation of wages, N. S. Khrushchev spoke in detail on the ways and means of solving the problem of training stable cadres of skilled building workers.

Comrade N. S. Khrushchev then made a few remarks on road-building and construction work in the countryside.

It is necessary, he said, to lay out cement-concrete roads. They are the best. (Applause). An asphalt highway lasts for a decade, a cement-concrete highway lasts for a century. We must orientate ourselves on the development of the cement industry in order to lay out highways faced with concrete. As the saying goes, we are not rich enough to build cheaply. If you spend a lot and build a good thing, put it up. (Applause).

A great deal must be done to build production premises and dwellings on collective and state farms and at machine and tractor stations, as well as to build man-



in a number of regions of the Ukraine, the Volga area and other southern regions. As a result of the drought we had a serious drop in the output of grain in these parts. But the country received great help this year from Siberia, in particular the Altai territory and Kazakhstan. The collective farmers and workers on MTS and state farms, the Party organisations in the Altai territory and in a number of regions in Siberia and the Kazakh Republic worked well and made a big contribution to the good of the whole country. Despite the drop in the output of grain in a number of southern districts the total amount procured in the entire country by December 5 was 271 million poods greater than at the same time the previous year.

From the report of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR published in the press on November 8, you are acquainted with the data on the results of the year's work in agriculture. You have read this report and know that in 1954 we procured much more grain, meat, milk and vegetables than in the previous year. And, indeed, the increase is very great. Some people ask: What is the explanation for the fact that despite the increases in the procurement and purchase of agricultural produce this year our stores sometimes fail to have the goods the population require? Why does this happen? It is because the demand for articles of consumption has grown immensely and the population now has much more money than before. Prices have been reduced by thousands of millions of roubles and real wages of factory and office workers and the incomes of the collective farmers have risen considerably. (Applause).

And that is why, no matter how we increase the output of goods we still fail to meet the demands of the population in full. In conversations with collective farmers in different districts of the country I have often heard them wish that more sugar, footwear and woollen fabrics and, of course, of good quality were on sale. The demand for high quality goods has grown. This is because the measures carried through by the Party and the Government have created the conditions for a considerable growth in the purchasing power of the working people. Our task is to satisfy the growing requirements of the population more adequately. Hence, the struggle for increased output of grain, potatoes and other vegetables, of meat, fabrics and other goods must go ahead consistently and indefatigably.

We have laid a good foundation for greater grain output. We planned to plough 13 million hectares of virgin lands this year but 17,430,000 hectares were actually ploughed. These big successes in bringing new lands under cultivation were achieved owing to the selfless labour of the collective farmers, the workers of MTS and state farms and the working class of our country. The entire people have realised the need to solve this problem. (Applause).

We can say with certainty that in 1955 the cultivation of virgin and unused lands will enable us to sow no less than an additional 20 million hectares. (Applause).

By increasing grain production we create conditions for a further powerful advance in all branches of agriculture. This is particularly necessary for the development of animal husbandry. What we need most is fodder grain because we have enough grain for bread. Increased output of fodder grain will enable the collective and state farms to produce more meat, milk, butter, eggs and wool. We need more grain, too, so that we can have big reserves of grain in the country and also more extensive grain trade with other states.

The measures being carried out by the Party and the Government to develop industry and agriculture are aimed at further strengthening the might of the Soviet state and systematically improving the well-being of our people. An important role in this is allotted to the workers in the building in-

country side.

In order to cope successfully with the tasks now confronting us in the sphere of construction, it is necessary to develop and perfect our building industry to the utmost. We must resolutely put an end to the somewhat primitive methods in building work.

At the present time we have the necessary conditions for the extensive industrialisation of construction. What are these conditions? First of all we have trained numerous cadres of skilled workers and specialists. In the building organisations of the country and in the building materials industry there are many thousands of splendid workers who are experts at their job, innovators of production. We have works that can supply builders with modern technical facilities that lighten labour and increase its productivity. A production base has been created and is being developed, a base that makes it possible to provide construction work with pre-fabricated ferro-concrete structures, parts and building materials.

As this Conference has shown, alongside definite achievements there are still many shortcomings in building. We must resolutely disclose these shortcomings and rally all our forces to eliminate them. Shortcomings must be disclosed boldly and vigorously, the culprits concerned should be shown up because shortcomings do not have an independent existence but are brought about by these or those workers. Criticism must not be abstract. It is essential to criticise those workers who make mistakes and are to blame for definite shortcomings, as well as to criticise those who see these shortcomings but put up with them and take no steps to eliminate them.

A decisive condition for a radical improvement in construction is its continued industrialisation.

The Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR in a decision "On developing production of pre-fabricated ferro-concrete structures and parts for construction" laid down an extensive programme for increasing the manufacture of ferro-concrete items. This will ensure the transition to industrialised construction methods.

The decision of the C.C. of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR envisages the building, within the next three years, of 402 new factories and 200 open sites for the production of pre-fabricated ferro-concrete structures and parts. In these three years the production of pre-fabricated ferro-concrete parts will increase five times and in connection with this the output of cement and inert materials will increase more than one and a half times.

Speaking of the nature of building by the pre-fabricated ferro-concrete method, N. S. Khrushchev dwelt in detail on the introduction of advanced methods of building and, in particular, on the extensive use of pre-fabricated ferro-concrete parts which make it possible to cut down considerably on the use of timber and metal. It must be admitted, comrades, said N. S. Khrushchev, that we have not yet learnt to take proper care of and make economical use of such valuable materials as timber and metal. Such wastefulness can no longer be tolerated.

Many complain that there is no timber. And it's true, there is not enough of it. But at the same time a great deal of timber is used uneconomically. Let's take, for example, the Ministry of Railways. Only wooden sleepers are used on the railways, only kilometre posts made of rails are put up. Masts, small bridges and water pipes are all made of metal. Can't all this be made from ferro-concrete? Why shouldn't we, for instance, learn from the Czechs who manufacture splendid ferro-concrete sleepers and so economise on timber. Go along to them and have a look for yourselves. They are our friends and will readily share their experience.

introducing industrial methods of building. (Applause).

Our country is putting up industrial enterprises, dwelling houses, schools, hospitals and other buildings on a big scale. This construction is vitally important. We must sharply increase the tempos, improve quality and reduce building costs. There is only one way to solve this task and that is through the most extensive industrialisation of building work.

N. S. Khrushchev devoted a considerable part of his speech to the need to eliminate shortcomings in designing work and to improve the work of architects.

He stressed that the successes of industrialisation, the improvement of quality and lowering of production costs of construction work are largely dependent on the work of the design offices, on the work of the architects and designers.

The whole country is dotted with building sites. The annual allocations made by the Soviet state for construction purposes amount to many thousands of millions of roubles; and literally every Soviet citizen has an interest in seeing that construction work is done well. We cannot reconcile ourselves to the fact that building work is often delayed as a result of the sluggishness of the designing organisations and that sometimes plans for even simple buildings remain on the drawing board for two and more years.

The interests of the industrialisation of construction demand that the work of the design offices be reorganised and that the production of standard designs and the application of the standard designs available become the main feature of their work.

The wide use of the pre-fabricated ferro-concrete parts and structures, large blocks and new effective materials—this is the new thing in building techniques and it imperatively demands that out-moded designing methods be swept away. (Applause).

At the same time a large number of workers in the planning and designing offices underestimate the importance of standard designs.

I have had occasion to talk with many engineers and architects on designing matters, N. S. Khrushchev went on to say, and they all agree that the preparation of standard designs will considerably simplify and improve construction work; in practice, however, many architects and designers, and sometimes technologists in industrial construction, are attempting to work only on their own individual designs.

Why is this? One reason, apparently, lies in the facts that there are shortcomings in training our architects. Following the example of seasoned architects, many young architects, who have hardly stepped over the threshold of the Institute and who have not as yet stood firmly on their feet, want to confine themselves to designs of an individual character and are anxious to erect monuments to themselves. A. P. Pushkin left a monument which was "not fashioned by human hand", there are many architects who have an overwhelming desire to erect man-made monuments to themselves in the shape of buildings constructed according to their individual designs. (Laughter, applause).

Comrade N. S. Khrushchev pointed out that many workers engaged in designing—architects and designers—are doing really creative work and introducing much that is new and useful in their work; however, there are serious defects in this respect too. A number of designers do not take into consideration the structures, parts and materials turned out by our building industry and are still guided by out-moded building methods.

It is necessary to select a limited number of standard designs for houses, schools, hospitals, kindergartens and creches, shops and other buildings and to carry out large-scale construction work based solely on these plans within,

themselves be carried away by unnecessary decoration of facades, put a great deal of that which was superfluous in their designs, and who, in drawing up plans for multi-storeyed buildings were interested primarily in the silhouette of the building, without giving a thought to the cost of construction and maintenance.

Serious shortcomings in the work of the designing offices and individual architects can largely be explained by the incorrect directives given by the Academy of Architecture and a number of leading architects.

The leading figures in architecture have always laid emphasis on the artistic side of things and speak little of the economic aspect or the amenities of the dwelling houses and other buildings. It is clear, said N. S. Khrushchev, that we shall do battle against this state of affairs in which architecture is isolated from the essential tasks of construction.

Certain architects try to justify their incorrect instructions and extravagance in design by the need of struggle against constructivism. But under the slogan of struggle against constructivism the squandering of state resources is permitted.

The struggle against constructivism, said N. S. Khrushchev, must be waged by reasonable means. We must not be carried away by architectural embellishment, by aesthetic adornment, we must not put up towers and sculptures on buildings for the sake of putting them up. We have nothing against beauty but are against extravagance.

Every design must be worked out with an eye to the economical use of resources on construction work. The buildings must be solid and economical to maintain. The architects must learn how to be careful with the people's money. This question is a very serious one.

It should be pointed out, said N. S. Khrushchev, that there are many comrades among the architects, including the workers of the Academy of Architecture, who actively combated the incorrect line taken by individual architects, but their objections were ignored. Turning to Comrade Mordvinov, President of the Academy, N. S. Khrushchev said: "You, Comrade Mordvinov, and those close to you gagged the voices protesting against extravagant decoration in architecture and against things being done just for show." (Applause).

The present Conference heard with great interest the speech made by architect Comrade Gradov, continued N. S. Khrushchev. Referring to the tasks of Soviet architecture this comrade and some others quite correctly pointed out the need to overcome formalistic distortions and conservatism in architecture. They said that it was necessary to use the classical inheritance in a critical way and that architecture must be guided by the vital needs of our society. For this, architecture must be linked more closely with modern technique and construction in all aspects, creative innovation and initiative in architecture must be widely developed and all manifestations of monopolistic tendencies and suppression of criticism eliminated. It is impossible not to agree with these conclusions and proposals.

Referring then to serious shortcomings in construction and urban improvement in Sverdlovsk, N. S. Khrushchev condemned the extravagance and the various unnecessary and expensive alterations to buildings by local workers who have lost all sense of responsibility for the work entrusted to them.

We must get rid of serious shortcomings, said N. S. Khrushchev, in town designing and planning. Our Party organisations and the Soviet organs must be daily concerned with this important job. One of the reasons for these shortcomings in the work of the architects lies in the fact that in many instances there was no control over their work and help from the local Party and Soviet organisations. We must increase the responsibility of local organs for building work and urban improvement in towns and settlements.

concerning the regulation of wages, N. S. Khrushchev spoke in detail on the ways and means of solving the problem of training stable cadres of skilled building workers.

Comrade N. S. Khrushchev then made a few remarks on road-building and construction work in the countryside.

It is necessary, he said, to lay out cement-concrete roads. They are the best (Applause). An asphalt highway lasts for a decade, a cement-concrete highway for a century. We must orientate ourselves on the development of the cement industry in order to lay out highways paved with concrete. As the saying goes, we are not rich enough to build cheaply, if you spend a lot and build a good thing, one to last, you'll forget you ever had to put it up. (Applause).

A great deal must be done to build production premises and dwellings on collective farms and at machine and tractor stations, as well as to build granaries.

Serious attention should be paid to the building of dwellings in the villages, kishlaks and auls. When the people were poor they had no opportunity of acquiring better dwellings and of making their life more beautiful and comfortable. Things are different now. The leading collective farms as a result of the advance of their economy have big incomes and high payment for work-day units. But the dwellings of many collective farmers are unsightly affairs.

It is necessary to build such dwellings as would meet the enhanced cultural requirements of the collective farmers. Today many collective farms and collective farmers have the means to build new houses but they are unable to buy the necessary building materials because they are in short production.

Let us, comrades, think how we can change the situation. Let the collective farms and collective farmers who have the means build as many production premises, cultural and communal premises and dwellings as possible and build them as well as possible. We must encourage people to build and help them to do so. (Applause). But in order to ensure successful construction in the countryside it is essential to organise production of building materials for rural construction too.

By increasing the output of building materials and placing them at the disposal of the countryside we shall considerably accelerate the modernisation of our villages and settlements, we shall make them beautiful, a joy to behold, and a pleasure to live in. (Applause).

How do things stand in relation to the increase in labour productivity?

According to the directives of the XIXth Party Congress, in the course of the fifth

Comrade N. S. Khrushchev said in conclusion:

"Comrades, the might of the Soviet state is growing from year to year. The national economy of our country is developing at a rapid tempo and the cultural and material standards of our people are steadily rising. This is the result of the correct Leninist policy carried out by the Communist Party. All our successes are vivid testimony to the monolithic unity of the Soviet people and their loyalty to the great cause of Communism.

"In the course of the 37 years that have elapsed since the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution our country has been transformed from the backward country it was under tsarist rule into an advanced and mighty socialist power. The historic victories scored by our people have really astounded the whole world. This is the result of the great superiority of the Soviet system.

"The great Lenin founded our Communist Party, tempered it in revolutionary battles and led it along the path of the great cause of Communist construction. The Party was followed by the whole people. Now the entire world acknowledges the might of the Soviet Union as a great world power and the imperialists are forced to reckon with this. The Soviet peo-

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there was exceptionally bad weather this year in a number of regions of the Ukraine, the Volga area and other southern regions. As a result of the drought we had a serious drop in the output of grain in these parts. But the country received great help this year from Siberia, in particular the Altai territory and Kazakhstan. The collective farmers and workers on MTS and state farms, the Party organisations in the Altai territory and in a number of regions in Siberia and the Kazakh Republic worked well and made a big contribution to the good of the whole country. Despite the drop in the output of grain in a number of southern districts the total amount procured in the entire country by December 5 was 271 million poods greater than at the same time the previous year.

From the report of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR published in the press on November 8, you are acquainted with the data on the results of the year's work in agriculture. You have read this report and know that in 1954 we procured much more grain, meat, milk and vegetables than in the previous year. And, indeed, the increase is very great. Some people ask: What is the explanation for the fact that despite the increases in the procurement and purchase of agricultural produce this year our stores sometimes fail to have the goods the population require? Why does this happen? It is because the demand for articles of consumption has grown immensely and the population now has much more money than before. Prices have been reduced by thousands of millions of roubles and real wages of factory and office workers and the incomes of the collective farmers have risen considerably. (Applause).

And that is why, no matter how we increase the output of goods we still fail to meet the demands of the population in full. In conversations with collective farmers in different districts of the country I have often heard them wish that more sugar, footwear and woollen fabrics and, of course, of good quality were on sale. The demand for high quality goods has grown. This is because the measures carried through by the Party and the Government have created the conditions for a considerable growth in the purchasing power of the working people. Our task is to satisfy the growing requirements of the population more adequately. Hence, the struggle for increased output of grain, potatoes and other vegetables, of meat, fabrics and other goods must go ahead consistently and indefatigably.

We have laid a good foundation for greater grain output. We planned to plough 13 million hectares of virgin lands this year but 17,430,000 hectares were actually ploughed. These big successes in bringing new lands under cultivation were achieved owing to the selfless labour of the collective farmers, the workers of MTS and state farms and the working class of our country. The entire people have realised the need to solve this problem. (Applause).

We can say with certainty that in 1955 the cultivation of virgin and unused lands will enable us to sow no less than an additional 20 million hectares. (Applause).

By increasing grain production we create conditions for a further powerful advance in all branches of agriculture. This is particularly necessary for the development of animal husbandry. What we need most is fodder grain because we have enough grain for bread. Increased output of fodder grain will enable the collective and state farms to produce more meat, milk, butter, eggs and wool. We need more grain, too, so that we can have big reserves of grain in the country and also more extensive grain trade with other states.

The measures being carried out by the Party and the Government to develop industry and agriculture are aimed at further strengthening the might of the Soviet state and systematically improving the well-being of our people. An important role in this is allotted to the workers in the building in-

be built in towns and workers' settlements, and about 400,000 dwelling houses in the countryside.

In order to cope successfully with the tasks now confronting us in the sphere of construction, it is necessary to develop and perfect our building industry to the utmost. We must resolutely put an end to the somewhat primitive methods in building work.

At the present time we have the necessary conditions for the extensive industrialisation of construction. What are these conditions? First of all we have trained numerous cadres of skilled workers and specialists. In the building organisations of the country and in the building materials industry there are many thousands of splendid workers who are experts at their job, innovators of production. We have works that can supply builders with modern technical facilities that lighten labour and increase its productivity. A production base has been created and is being developed, a base that makes it possible to provide construction work with pre-fabricated ferro-concrete structures, parts and building materials.

As this Conference has shown, alongside definite achievements there are still many shortcomings in building. We must resolutely disclose these shortcomings and rally all our forces to eliminate them. Shortcomings must be disclosed boldly and vigorously, the culprits concerned should be shown up because shortcomings do not have an independent existence but are brought about by these or those workers. Criticism must not be abstract. It is essential to criticise those workers who make mistakes and are to blame for definite shortcomings, as well as to criticise those who see these shortcomings but put up with them and take no steps to eliminate them.

A decisive condition for a radical improvement in construction is its continued industrialisation.

The Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR in a decision "On developing production of pre-fabricated ferro-concrete structures and parts for construction" laid down an extensive programme for increasing the manufacture of ferro-concrete items. This will ensure the transition to industrialised construction methods.

The decision of the C.C. of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR envisages the building, within the next three years, of 402 new factories and 200 open sites for the production of pre-fabricated ferro-concrete structures and parts. In these three years the production of pre-fabricated ferro-concrete parts will increase five times and in connection with this the output of cement and inert materials will increase more than one and a half times.

Speaking of the nature of building by the pre-fabricated ferro-concrete method, N. S. Khrushchev dwelt in detail on the introduction of advanced methods of building and, in particular, on the extensive use of pre-fabricated ferro-concrete parts which make it possible to cut down considerably on the use of timber and metal. It must be admitted, comrades, said N. S. Khrushchev, that we have not yet learnt to take proper care of and make economical use of such valuable materials as timber and metal. Such wastefulness can no longer be tolerated.

Many complain that there is no timber. And it's true, there is not enough of it. But at the same time a great deal of timber is used uneconomically. Let's take, for example, the Ministry of Railways. Only wooden sleepers are used on the railways, only kilometre posts made of rails are put up. Masts, small bridges and water pipes are all made of metal. Can't all this be made from ferro-concrete? Why shouldn't we, for instance, learn from the Czechs who manufacture splendid ferro-concrete sleepers and so economise on timber. Go along to them and have a look for yourselves. They are our friends and will readily share their experience.

only such organisations are capable of introducing industrial methods of building. (Applause).

Our country is putting up industrial enterprises, dwelling houses, schools, hospitals and other buildings on a big scale. This construction is vitally important. We must sharply increase the tempo, improve quality and reduce building costs. There is only one way to solve this task and that is through the most extensive industrialisation of building work.

N. S. Khrushchev devoted a considerable part of his speech to the need to eliminate shortcomings in designing work and to improve the work of architects.

He stressed that the successes of industrialisation, the improvement of quality and lowering of production costs of construction work are largely dependent on the work of the design offices, on the work of the architects and designers.

The whole country is dotted with building sites. The annual allocations made by the Soviet state for construction purposes amount to many thousands of millions of roubles; and literally every Soviet citizen has an interest in seeing that construction work is done well. We cannot reconcile ourselves to the fact that building work is often delayed as a result of the sluggishness of the designing organisations and that sometimes plans for even simple buildings remain on the drawing board for two and more years.

The interests of the industrialisation of construction demand that the work of the design offices be reorganised and that the production of standard designs and the application of the standard designs available become the main feature of their work.

The wide use of the pre-fabricated ferro-concrete parts and structures, large blocks and new effective materials—this is the new thing in building techniques and it imperatively demands that out-moded designing methods be swept away. (Applause).

At the same time a large number of workers in the planning and designing offices underestimate the importance of standard designs.

I have had occasion to talk with many engineers and architects on designing matters, N. S. Khrushchev went on to say, and they all agree that the preparation of standard designs will considerably simplify and improve construction work; in practice, however, many architects and designers, and sometimes technologists in industrial construction, are attempting to work only on their own individual designs.

Why is this? One reason, apparently, lies in the facts that there are shortcomings in training our architects. Following the example of seasoned architects, many young architects, who have hardly stepped over the threshold of the Institute and who have not as yet stood firmly on their feet, want to confine themselves to designs of an individual character and are anxious to erect monuments to themselves. As Leonid Pushkin left a monument which was "not fashioned by human hand", there are many architects who have an overwhelming desire to erect man-made monuments to themselves in the shape of buildings constructed according to their individual designs. (Laughter, applause).

Comrade N. S. Khrushchev pointed out that many workers engaged in designing—architects and designers—are doing really creative work and introducing much that is new and useful in their work; however, there are serious defects in this respect too. A number of designers do not take into consideration the structures, parts and materials turned out by our building industry and are still guided by out-moded building methods.

It is necessary to select a limited number of standard designs for houses, schools, hospitals, kindergartens and creches, shops and other buildings and to carry out large-scale construction work based solely on these plans within,

Comrade N. S. Khrushchev bitterly criticised certain architects who have let themselves be carried away by unnecessary decoration of facades, put a great deal of that which was superfluous in their designs, and who, in drawing up plans for multi-storied buildings were interested primarily in the silhouette of the building, without giving a thought to the cost of construction and maintenance.

Serious shortcomings in the work of the designing offices and individual architects can largely be explained by the incorrect directives given by the Academy of Architecture and a number of leading architects.

The leading figures in architecture have always laid emphasis on the artistic side of things and speak little of the economic aspect or the amenities of the dwelling houses and other buildings. It is clear, said N. S. Khrushchev, that we shall do battle against this state of affairs in which architecture is isolated from the essential tasks of construction.

Certain architects try to justify their incorrect instructions and extravagance in design by the need of struggle against constructivism. But under the slogan of struggle against constructivism the squandering of state resources is permitted.

The struggle against constructivism, said N. S. Khrushchev, must be waged by reasonable means. We must not be carried away by architectural embellishment, by aesthetic adornment, we must not put up towers and sculptures on buildings for the sake of putting them up. We have nothing against beauty but are against extravagance.

Every design must be worked out with an eye to the economical use of resources on construction work. The buildings must be solid and economical to maintain. The architects must learn how to be careful with the people's money. This question is a very serious one.

It should be pointed out, said N. S. Khrushchev, that there are many comrades among the architects, including the workers of the Academy of Architecture, who actively combated the incorrect line taken by individual architects, but their objections were ignored. Turning to Comrade Mordvinov, President of the Academy, N. S. Khrushchev said: "You, Comrade Mordvinov, and those close to you gagged the voices protesting against extravagant decoration in architecture and against things being done just for show." (Applause).

The present Conference heard with great interest the speech made by architect Comrade Gradov, continued N. S. Khrushchev. Referring to the tasks of Soviet architecture this comrade and some others quite correctly pointed out the need to overcome formalistic distortions and conservatism in architecture. They said that it was necessary to use the classical inheritance in a critical way and that architecture must be guided by the vital needs of our society. For this, architecture must be linked more closely with modern technique and construction in all aspects, creative innovation and initiative in architecture must be widely developed and all manifestations of monopolistic tendencies and suppression of criticism eliminated. It is impossible not to agree with these conclusions and proposals.

Referring then to serious shortcomings in construction and urban improvement in Sverdlovsk, N. S. Khrushchev condemned the extravagance and the various unnecessary and expensive alterations to buildings by local workers who have lost all sense of responsibility for the work entrusted to them.

We must get rid of serious shortcomings, said N. S. Khrushchev, in town designing and planning. Our Party organisations and the Soviet organs must be daily concerned with this important job. One of the reasons for these shortcomings in the work of the architects lies in the fact that in many instances there was no control over their work and help from the local Party and Soviet organisations. We must increase the responsibility of local organs for building work and urban improvement in towns and settlements.

Comrade N. S. Khrushchev bitterly criticised certain architects who have let themselves be carried away by unnecessary decoration of facades, put a great deal of that which was superfluous in their designs, and who, in drawing up plans for multi-storied buildings were interested primarily in the silhouette of the building, without giving a thought to the cost of construction and maintenance.

The main thing is to keep strictly to the established order: construction must not be started until the design, the estimate and the working drawings are ready. (Applause).

There must be constant and profound study of questions of planning and economy in construction work. It is essential for the builders themselves to pay daily attention to the analysis of economic problems of construction and to make their own concrete proposals for improving planning practice.

Comrade N. S. Khrushchev then spoke of the need to increase productivity of labour and to train cadres of skilled builders.

In order to ensure a steady rise in the productivity of labour it is first of all essential to organise work correctly on the construction sites, to utilise the labour force and technique better, to economise on raw materials and other building materials and to train stable cadres of skilled builders. Higher labour productivity will give the builders higher earnings and improved material standards.

It is generally known, N. S. Khrushchev stressed, that we always tie the raising of wages to the increasing of labour productivity. The increase in labour productivity must be ahead of the wage increases. This alone can enable our society constantly to have the socialist accumulations necessary for expanding production and, on this basis, for raising the material well-being of the people. This is the sole correct way, because we can achieve improved material standards for the working people only on the basis of an upsurge in our whole national economy. Everybody must understand that our country must observe the correct ratio between the amount of goods available and the amount of currency in circulation and in the hands of the population. Only this can ensure the stability of our currency, the stability and value of our rouble. Only in this way can we ensure a steady increase in real wages. Otherwise things won't be so good.

Consequently, in order to ensure higher real wages for the working people we must ensure a steady increase in labour productivity, an increase in productivity by each worker.

How do things stand in relation to the increase in labour productivity?

According to the directives of the XIXth Party Congress, in the course of the fifth

Comrade N. S. Khrushchev said in conclusion:

"Comrades, the might of the Soviet state is growing from year to year. The national economy of our country is developing at a rapid tempo and the cultural and material standards of our people are steadily rising. This is the result of the correct Leninist policy carried out by the Communist Party. All our successes are vivid testimony to the monolithic unity of the Soviet people and their loyalty to the great cause of Communism.

"In the course of the 37 years that have elapsed since the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution our country has been transformed from the backward country it was under tsarist rule into an advanced and mighty socialist power. The historic victories scored by our people have really astounded the whole world. This is the result of the great superiority of the Soviet system.

"The great Lenin founded our Communist Party, tempered it in revolutionary battles and led it along the path of the great cause of Communist construction. The Party was followed by the whole people. Now the entire world acknowledges the might of the Soviet Union as a great world power and the imperialists are forced to reckon with this. The Soviet peo-

is necessary to acquire a trade.

Referring to the need to pay greater attention to the regulation of wages, N. S. Khrushchev spoke in detail on the ways and means of solving the problem of training stable cadres of skilled building workers.

Comrade N. S. Khrushchev then made a few remarks on road-building and construction work in the countryside.

It is necessary, he said, to lay out cement-concrete roads. They are the best. (Applause). An asphalt highway lasts for a decade, a cement-concrete highway lasts for a century. We must orientate ourselves on the development of the cement industry in order to lay out highways faced with concrete. As the saying goes, we are not rich enough to build cheaply. If you spend a lot and build a good thing, one to last, you'll forget you ever had to put it up. (Applause).

A great deal must be done to build production premises and dwellings on collective and state farms and at machine and tractor stations, as well as to build granaries.

Serious attention should be paid to the building of dwellings on collective farms and to modernising the villages, kishlaks and auls. When the people were poor they had no opportunity of acquiring better dwellings and of making their life more beautiful and comfortable. Things are different now. The leading collective farms, as a result of the advance of their economy, have big incomes and high payment for work-day units. But the dwellings of many collective farmers are unsightly affairs.

It is necessary to build such dwellings as would meet the enhanced cultural requirements of the collective farmers. Today many collective farms and collective farmers have the means to build new houses but they are unable to buy the necessary building materials because they are in short production.

Let us, comrades, think how we can change the situation. Let the collective farms and collective farmers who have the means build as many production premises, cultural and communal premises and dwellings as possible and build them as well as possible. We must encourage people to build and help them to do so. (Applause). But in order to ensure successful construction in the countryside it is essential to organise production of building materials for rural construction too.

By increasing the output of building materials and placing them at the disposal of the countryside we shall considerably accelerate the modernisation of our villages and settlements, we shall make them beautiful, a joy to behold, and a pleasure to live in. (Applause).

ple have attained all this under the tried leadership of the Communist Party. This is the result of the realisation of the ideas of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin. (Stormy, prolonged applause).

"By relying on our achievements, continuing the all-round development of heavy industry, we shall unflinchingly strengthen the might of our homeland, shall work for a further advance in the national economy, for the improved well-being of the people. In carrying out this great creative work of Communist construction the powerful army of builders is called upon to play a big part...

"In conclusion, comrades, I want to say that I am confident that the builders, architects, designers, the workers of the building materials, construction and road machine-building industries and designing and research organisations will fulfil with honour the tasks set them by the Party and the Government, will raise still higher the level, tempo and quality of our construction work, will more rapidly put plants, pits, power stations and factories into commission, will build better and more beautiful dwellings, schools and hospitals at lower cost. Good-bye until the next conference of builders. We wish you new successes, comrades!" (Stormy, prolonged applause. All rise).



## Rumanian People Firmly Stand Guard Over Peace

December 30 marked the 7th anniversary of the proclamation of the People's Republic of Rumania. This outstanding event constituted a new and glorious page in the country's history.

As is generally known, after March 6, 1945, the democratic coalition government enacted and carried through a number of important reforms: the agrarian reform, the conversion of the National Bank of Rumania into the State Bank, the currency reform and the establishment of industrial boards. All these reforms were aimed at ending the economic and financial chaos in the country and at opening up the path to socialist transformations.

These reforms and many other measures at that time were carried out in conditions of bitter struggle by the progressive and democratic forces of the country led by the Communist Party of Rumania against the bourgeois-landlord reaction which sought to carry out economic sabotage and engineer anti-popular plots. The democratic forces carried on a fight against the monarchy which was the rallying point for the reactionary forces, which nurtured plans for frustrating social transformations in our country and sought to bring Rumania within the scope of the Marshall Plan which had as its aim the economic and political enslavement of European countries.

The proclamation of the People's Republic in Rumania crowned a whole series of economic and political transformations in the country, led to the old regime being finally abolished and foiled the predatory plans of the Western imperialists. The proclamation of the Rumanian People's Republic was the result of a change in the correlation of forces within the country, the result of the strengthened alliance between the working class and the working peasantry.

Having taken power completely into their hands, the Rumanian people led by their Workers' Party confidently stepped out along the road of building Socialism. Our people's democratic state has drawn up and is successfully fulfilling the Five-Year Plan for the Development of the National Economy and also the Electrification Plan.

Our country has now become a vast construction site: great strides have been made in industrialising the country, in developing agriculture, in the sphere of cultural up-building and in developing public health.

Our people are greeting 1955 with further successes in the development of the national economy. Workers, peasants and intellectuals are working with great enthusiasm to carry out to the full the wise decisions of the August (1953) Plenum of the C.C. of the Party.

On the basis of our achievements in industrial development we are unwaveringly carrying out the tasks of advance in agricultural production. The bumper yields of maize and grain crops this year facilitated the development of animal husbandry and consequently helped to increase the amount of meat, fats and other products necessary for supplies to the population. This made it possible to abolish rationing and proceed to extensive trade which is an important event in the country opening up new vistas of a further steady advance in the standard of living of the people.

As a result of peaceful creative labour, the life of our people is becoming ever more beautiful and rich with every passing month and year. Our people are confidently marching onward to new successes in building up a free and happy life.

The establishment of the Rumanian People's Republic has been of tremendous significance not only for our country. It played an important role in the development of the

★  
**Petru Groza**  
Chairman, Presidium  
of Grand National Assembly,  
Rumanian People's Republic

★ ★

the world are stepping up their struggle against ratification of the London and Paris agreements, against the revival of the Wehrmacht. In defiance of the provisions of the Potsdam Agreement of the Four Great Powers, in defiance of the Anglo-Soviet and Franco-Soviet Treaties, and rejecting the concrete proposals that the Soviet Government has repeatedly advanced for establishing a system of collective security in Europe, the imperialist circles of the U.S.A. and their accomplices have taken the line of remilitarising Western Germany and including it in the military North Atlantic bloc, of converting Western Germany into the main jumping-off ground for aggression against the countries of the socialist camp, against all peace-loving peoples.

All honest people now see that the plans to remilitarise Western Germany are the main obstacle to uniting Germany, that the settlement of the German problem along peace-loving and democratic lines, on the basis of a peace treaty with a united Germany, is the main task for consolidating peace in Europe.

All people of good will are becoming increasingly conscious of the threat to the peace-loving peoples inherent in the military alliance of aggressive forces of the U.S.A., Britain and France with the West German militarists.

All honest people throughout the world should know that the U.S. aggressive circles and their allies are not seeking the peace about which they repeatedly indulge in hypocritical talk, but are striving to step up the preparations for war, to convert Western Germany into the main shock force of aggression against the peace-loving peoples, to unleash an atomic war. These constitute the real aims of the American warmongers.

Peace-loving peoples are realising more and more profoundly that the prospect of the ratification of the Paris agreements is a prospect for undermining peace in Europe. They are becoming increasingly conscious of the fact that another prospect exists—that of peace in Europe. The Declaration of the Moscow Conference of European countries clearly shows the way to making this prospect a reality, a way which corresponds to the interests of the peoples, the way to setting up a general European system of collective security.

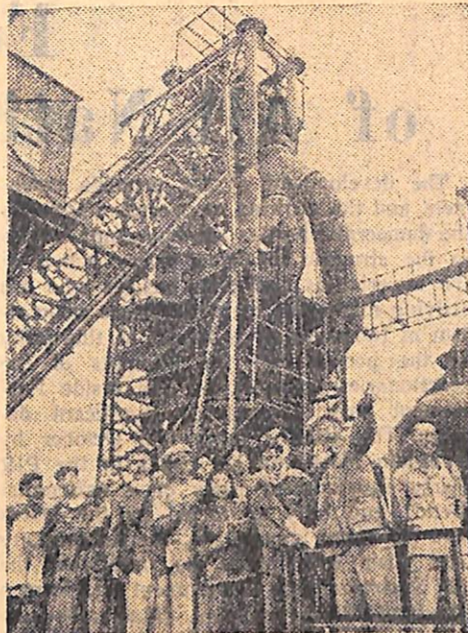
The European peoples can and must live in peace on the basis of the principle of peaceful coexistence of states, irrespective of their social system, on the basis of non-interference in the affairs of other states and respect for their independence.

The Rumanian people, like the peoples of all countries of the great camp of democracy and Socialism, stand firmly on guard over peace. The decisions of the Moscow Conference has met with wide response among our people who do not want a return to the past and desire neither exploitation nor war.

The Rumanian people enthusiastically welcome the decisions of the Moscow Conference. We shall march firmly along the path of rallying the working people of our homeland. The imperialist aggressors will not intimidate us. We shall enhance our vigilance against the intrigues of the warmongers.

Their own master, the Rumanian people are fully determined to march forward to further victories. They are grateful to the Soviet Union, the great country of Socialism and peace, which has helped the Rumanian people to march on the path of

Our people were marking the anniversary of the proclamation of the Rumanian People's Republic at a time when the progressive and peace-loving forces in Europe and throughout



Over 260,000 students of higher educational establishments and technical colleges in the People's Republic of China have done their bit of practical training in the workshop this year. Photo: Students in the third grade of the Harbin Engineering Institute are familiarising themselves with the Anshan Metallurgical Combinat.

## Fresh Achievements of Chinese People

The big Futseling reservoir has just been completed on the Piho River (Anhui Province). It is the fifth and the biggest reservoir in the giant project to tame the Huai River.

Tens of thousands of hectares of fertile farmland along the Piho River has been removed from the disastrous flood menace. Moreover, blue-prints are ready for the construction of an irrigation system that will bring irrigation to 46,000 hectares of cultivated land along the Piho.

The Futseling reservoir has taken two years and nine months to build and was constructed with the aid of powerful machinery made in China.

A hydro-electric station, the first of its kind along the Huai River, is now under construction. Its first turbine generator has already begun working.

## 1955 National Economic Plan for Developing the Korean People's Democratic Republic

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Korean People's Democratic Republic has endorsed the KPDR National Economic Plan for 1955. According to this plan, the prewar level in a number of branches of the national economy will be surpassed and large-scale capital construction will be carried out. The total volume of capital investments will exceed the 1954 level by 34%, and will be used in the main to develop industry, agriculture, culture, public health and communications, as well as to improve housing conditions for the working people.

## VICTORIES OF WORKERS IN BIG JAPANESE COAL COMPANIES

For some time the workers of eight large coal companies have been fighting for new year bonuses of 14,400 yen per man. Recently the Coal Industry Workers' Trade Union of the Mitsubishi Company compelled the administration to satisfy the workers' demands. Following this the workers of the Sumitomo, Yubetsu and Furukawa companies succeeded in winning bonuses.

Minors of the Hokutan, Mitsui, Taisei

## FRUSTRATE ATOM MANIACS' CRIMINAL PLANS

The recent Paris session of the council of the aggressive North Atlantic bloc took a decision, veiled in all kinds of verbiage, to prepare plans for an atomic war. Acting on the orders of the aggressive circles, the reactionary Western press is giving every possible publicity to this decision. Seeking to fan atom hysteria more and more the mercenary observers and commentators are eulogising the atom bomb, praising the "new NATO strategy" and the atomic "new approach".

What is the essence of this "new strategy" and the "new approach"?

It is that the members of the aggressive North Atlantic bloc have openly taken the course of preparing for an atomic war. This course aggravates the international situation and is directed against the peace-loving peoples, against the whole of contemporary civilisation.

The final communiqué of the session of the North Atlantic Council (NATO), which was couched in deliberately abstruse terms, was calculated to deceive the popular masses, to conceal from them the main thing—the decision to prepare for an atom war. An example of such diplomatic shifts is the wording of the main question of the agenda. "The council", states the communiqué, "considered a report by the military committee on the most effective pattern of NATO military defensive strength over the next few years, taking into account modern developments in weapons and techniques. It approved this report as a basis for defence planning and preparations by the NATO military authorities."

What is at the back of this decision and what preparations are involved was quite openly explained by Dulles, Eden and Spaak, participants in the session.

Commenting on the results of the Paris session at a press conference, Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, declared that the current policy would gradually involve the use of atomic weapons as they replaced conventional weapons. The evolution of weapons, continued Dulles, always influenced strategy and tactics and this should always bring about adaptations in policy. In other words, the policy of U.S. ruling circles will now be "adapted" even more to unleashing an atomic war.

Eden, British Foreign Secretary, speaking in the House of Commons on December 22, urged the continued development of the NATO armed forces. At the same time he stressed that the NATO forces were beginning to be equipped with new weapons.

Belgian Foreign Minister Spaak was even more candid. He declared that the decisions taken by the North Atlantic Council on the use of atomic weapons "met exactly the wishes" of the command of the armed forces of the North Atlantic bloc. Spaak further elucidated that the military were authorised to prepare "for a possible atomic war".

It is obvious from what Dulles, Eden and Spaak have said that the NATO Council really has taken a criminal decision to arm the North Atlantic bloc troops with atomic weapons and to use them in the war that is being prepared by the imperialists.

The North Atlantic militarists have already begun to implement the directives given it. The army, navy and air force are being adapted to the requirements of the future atomic war. Western newspapers state that atomic weapons are now installed on American aircraft carriers, are at American air bases and at the disposal of regular army units, that atomic guns are in position in Western Germany and that tactical units of atomic jet bombers are based at airfields in Britain.

All these facts prove over and over again the aggressive nature of the North Atlantic bloc, lay bare the hypocrisy and duplicity of the policy pursued by the ruling circles

atomic power for "peaceful purposes", recognised the need of making further attempts to find ways of solving the problem of reducing armaments and the atomic problem, they voted for a resolution recommending that efforts be continued to reach agreement on the basis for an international convention on reducing armaments and banning weapons of mass extermination.

At the session of the North Atlantic Council that same Dulles and other "peacemakers" of the Western countries adopted a decision that was absolutely contrary to this: to continue the arms race, to go ahead at once with preparations for an atomic war.

It is clear to everyone that such action is in flagrant contradiction to the statements made by Dulles and his partners at the session of the UN General Assembly. It is absolutely obvious that the "peaceful" speeches were made at the UN by the delegates of the Western countries to deceive public opinion, and that their real thoughts were expressed behind the closed doors of the North Atlantic Council.

At the command of the aggressive circles the bourgeois press is waging a large-scale campaign of lies and slander. Seeking to deceive the public in general and the peoples of their own countries the imperialist propagandists are proclaiming that the preparations for atomic war are being carried out for "defence" against a "menace" from the USSR. Western ministers and the bourgeois hacks are trying to slander and distort the consistent peaceful policy of the Soviet Union. But you cannot blot out the sun! The Soviet Union has proved, in all its actions, that it has always pursued a policy of peace and friendly relations among the nations.

The Soviet Government put forward its well-known programme of measures for averting war and safeguarding collective security. The Soviet Union, which has both atomic and hydrogen weapons at its disposal, is making persistent efforts to get the great powers to pledge, solemnly and unconditionally, not to use atomic, hydrogen or any other weapons of mass destruction. At the last session of the General Assembly the Soviet delegation submitted a draft of the main principles for an international convention (treaty) for banning atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction, withdrawing them from the armaments of states, considerably reducing armaments and establishing international control over the implementation of these decisions.

These facts are widely known. It will be impossible to conceal them from the world public. The Western ruling circles will not succeed in putting over their aggressive actions for the preparation of an atomic war as defence measures. The final communiqué of the NATO session and the statements of Dulles and Eden have over-worked the word "defence" to exhaustion. And this shows that the aggressive Atlantic wolf is trying to dress himself up in sheep's clothing in order to confuse public opinion and to convey the idea that the preparations for an atomic war are being made for the "defence" of West European countries against the alleged threat of attack, although this myth has long since been exploded. The decisions taken by the recent NATO session are as far from being "defensive" as the earth is from the sun. And in fact they are aimed not at defence but at unleashing an atomic war against the USSR, the countries of people's democracy and all peace-loving peoples.

That the Western countries will use atomic weapons in a new world war now being prepared by the aggressive imperialist circles is a matter to which the bour-

that any decision on the use of atomic weapons will only be taken after consultation with all members of the North Atlantic bloc. A different line is taken by the American press, which writes openly that the decisions adopted by the session of the North Atlantic Council do not bind the U.S.A. to consult its allies. A Chicago Tribune correspondent wrote from Paris on December 17 that according to a high-ranking American spokesman the U.S.A. does not intend to have anything but a free hand on the question of using atomic weapons.

Moreover, many newspapers write that atomic weapons will be used by the Western powers from the very outbreak of war and that the right to use them has been given to the military command. The Christian Science Monitor states that from now on the military commanders have the right to decide whether or not to use atomic weapons.

This means that weapons of mass destruction are being put into the hands of such misanthropists as the American General Gruenther, who has been working for a considerable time on the so-called "long-range strategy" based on a preventive war in which atomic and hydrogen weapons will be used, as the British Field Marshal Montgomery, who regards war as a jolly good party and who is preparing to kill lots of people, and as the former Hitler generals whose dream is to destroy Europe once again, with the help of the atom bomb, and set up there a regime of slavery, the whip and the gallows.

All who cherish peace and civilisation, who love life and culture, cannot but protest against the monstrous designs of the aggressors. In all countries of the world and, above all, in the European countries which are threatened with direct danger, the broad popular masses are voicing their powerful protests against the decisions of the Paris NATO session. The peoples are well aware that atom and hydrogen bombs are weapons of mass extermination of the civilian population, weapons for destroying towns, productive forces, all that has been created by man.

Prevent the irreparable from happening! Curb the atom maniacs!—this demand of the peoples is resounding more and more loudly everywhere—from New York to Peking, from Coventry to Sydney, from Stockholm to Pretoria.

Peace-loving mankind has expressed its firm will to achieve the complete banning of weapons of mass extermination. 600 million people—one third of the world's adult population—have signed the Stockholm Appeal for a ban on atomic weapons and declared that they would regard as a war criminal the government that first uses atomic weapons against any country. The large-scale campaign launched by all peoples around the Stockholm Appeal prevented atom bombs from being used in Korea and Indo-China.

The interests of peace and security are urging the peoples, with even greater energy and determination, to continue the struggle for prohibiting weapons of mass destruction, for frustrating the imperialist plans for an atomic war.

The criminal plot of the atom maniacs is directed against the life and well-being of every person in whatever country and whatever continent he happens to be, no matter where he lives, in town or country. It is directed against the whole of mankind. That is why the peoples of all countries are faced with the task of stepping up their activity to the utmost in the struggle against the incendiaries of a new war. And if the peace-loving peoples enhance their vigilance and rise to resolute struggle against the criminal designs of the U.S. atom maniacs they can frustrate



Our people are working with great enthusiasm to carry out the full wise decisions of the C.C. of the August (1953) Plenum of the C.C. of the Party.

On the basis of our achievements in industrial development we are unwaveringly carrying out the tasks of advance in agricultural production. The bumper yields of grain and other products necessary for the development of animal husbandry and other products necessary for the development of the people.

As a result of peaceful creative labour, the life of our people is becoming ever more beautiful and rich with every passing month and year. Our people are confidently marching onward to new successes in building up a free and happy life.

The establishment of the Rumanian People's Republic has been of tremendous significance not only for our country. It played an important part in international life and has been a substantial contribution to strengthening the front of peace and democracy. Rumania is now an active force in this front. She is stronger than ever before, because bonds of indissoluble fraternal friendship bind her to the great Soviet Union, to all the countries of people's democracy.

...making this prospect a reality, a way which corresponds to the interests of the peoples, the way to setting up a general European system of collective security.

The European peoples can and must live in peace on the basis of the principle of peaceful coexistence of states, irrespective of their social system, on the basis of non-interference in the affairs of other states and respect for their independence.

The Rumanian people, like the peoples of all countries of the great camp of democracy and Socialism, stand firmly on guard for peace. The decisions of the Moscow Conference has met with wide response among our people who do not want a return to the past and desire neither exploitation nor war.

The Rumanian people enthusiastically welcome the decisions of the Moscow Conference. We shall march firmly along the path of rallying the working people of our homeland. The imperialist aggressors will not intimidate us. We shall enhance our vigilance against the intrigues of the warmongers.

Their own master, the Rumanian people are fully determined to march forward—to further victories. They are grateful to the Soviet Union, the great country of Socialism and peace, which has helped the Rumanian working people to embark on the path of socialist construction. Our people have been strengthening in every way the inviolable friendship with the peoples of the great camp of peace, democracy and Socialism, with the peace-loving peoples of the entire world.

### 1955 National Economic Plan for Developing the Korean People's Democratic Republic

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Korean People's Democratic Republic has endorsed the KPDR National Economic Plan for 1955. According to this plan, the prewar level in a number of branches of the national economy will be surpassed and large-scale capital construction will be carried out. The total volume of capital investments will exceed the 1954 level by 34%, and will be used in the main to develop industry, agriculture, culture, public health and communications, as well as to improve housing conditions for the working people.

### VICTORIES OF WORKERS IN BIG JAPANESE COAL COMPANIES

For some time the workers of eight large coal companies have been fighting for new year bonuses of 14,400 yen per man. Recently the Coal Industry Workers' Trade Union of the Mitsubishi Company compelled the administration to satisfy the workers' demands. Following this the workers of the Sumitomo, Yubetsu and Furukawa companies succeeded in winning bonuses.

Miners of the Hokutan, Mitsui, Taiseino and Meiji companies have also forced the administration to meet their demands. Thus the struggle of the workers in the coal industry for new year bonuses ended in success.

House of Commons on December 22, urged the continued development of the NATO armed forces. At the same time he stressed that the NATO forces were beginning to be equipped with new weapons.

Belgian Foreign Minister Spaak was even more candid. He declared that the decisions taken by the North Atlantic Council on the use of atomic weapons "met exactly the wishes" of the command of the armed forces of the North Atlantic bloc. Spaak further elucidated that the military were authorised to prepare "for a possible atomic war".

It is obvious from what Dulles, Eden and Spaak have said that the NATO Council really has taken a criminal decision to arm the North Atlantic bloc troops with atomic weapons and to use them in the war that is being prepared by the imperialists.

The North Atlantic militarists have already begun to implement the directives given it. The army, navy and air force are being adapted to the requirements of the future atomic war. Western newspapers state that atomic weapons are now installed on American aircraft carriers, are at American air bases and at the disposal of regular army units, that atomic guns are in position in Western Germany and that tactical units of atomic jet bombers are based at airfields in Britain.

All these facts prove over and over again the aggressive nature of the North Atlantic bloc, lay bare the hypocrisy and duplicity of the policy pursued by the ruling circles of the U.S., Britain and France.

At the session of the UN General Assembly, Dulles and other U.S. representatives, as well as the British and French representatives, held forth about using

national convention (treaty) for banning atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction, withdrawing them from the armaments of states, considerably reducing armaments and establishing international control over the implementation of these decisions.

These facts are widely known. It will be impossible to conceal them from the world public. The Western ruling circles will not succeed in putting over their aggressive actions for the preparation of an atomic war as defence measures. The final communiqué of the NATO session and the statements of Dulles and Eden have over-worked the word "defence" to exhaustion. And this shows that the aggressive Atlantic wolf is trying to dress himself up in sheep's clothing in order to confuse public opinion and to convey the idea that the preparations for an atomic war are being made for the "defence" of West European countries against the alleged threat of attack, although this myth has long since been exploded. The decisions taken by the recent NATO session are as far from being "defensive" as the earth is from the sun. And in fact they are aimed not at defence but at unleashing an atomic war against the USSR, the countries of people's democracy and all peace-loving peoples.

That the Western countries will use atomic weapons in a new world war now being prepared by the aggressive imperialist circles is a matter to which the bourgeois press refers as something that is already settled. Opinions differ only as to who is entitled to give the go-ahead for atomic weapons to be used. The West European newspapers are seeking to prove

the people is resounding more and more loudly everywhere—from New York to Peking, from Coventry to Sydney, from Stockholm to Pretoria.

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OBSERVER

# Ideology of West German Revenge-Seekers and Militarists

Fred Oelsner  
Member, Political Bureau,  
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During the first debate on the Paris agreements in the West German Bundestag Federal Chancellor Adenauer declared that "German militarism is dead" and that the Paris agreements alone could prevent its revival.

Adenauer knows very well that in making this assertion he deliberately pulled the wool over the eyes of the West German Parliament in order to induce it to ratify the Paris agreements. Erich Ollenhauer, representative of the Social Democrats, stripped Adenauer's lie bare during the debates and drew attention to the recent manoeuvres of the West German Border Guards, which clearly proved that German militarism in Western Germany has not been eradicated.

The Bonn ratification debates thus also manifestly confirmed the formulations of the Declaration of the Conference of European countries on ensuring peace and security in Europe. The spirit of German militarism lives on in the West German police troops, in the so-called auxiliary troops and the militarised auxiliary organisations numbering about 250,000 men, in the numerous militarist traditional associations. It is alive, first and foremost, in the militarist ideology which, as a result of encouragement from the Adenauer Government, is becoming more and more widespread in Western Germany. This spirit would exercise complete sway in the new 500,000 West German army envisaged by the Paris agreements. Such an army would in no way differ from the Hitler Wehrmacht, it would constitute the same threat to peace and security in Europe as did Hitler's army. That is why the most important task falling to the peoples of Europe at present is to prevent the restoration of German militarism. An important part of this task is to lay bare and smash the

ideology of the German revenge-seekers and militarists.

The economic roots of the danger of restoring German militarism in Western Germany lie in the restoration of the German imperialist monopolies in this part of Germany. The interests of the U.S. imperialists in raising a West German aggressive army are interlinked with the interests of the West German monopolists who again wish to obtain an armed force in order to suppress the working class and other democratic forces within the country and to carry out their aggressive aims.

The former representatives of monopoly capital are again occupying key positions in the economic and political life of Western Germany. Similarly it is intended to put the former generals, officers and N.C.O.s of the Hitlerite Wehrmacht once again in control of the new West German Wehrmacht that is being set up. The new West German army would be the successor to the old aggressive German militarism.

From this economic, political and military continuity in Western Germany, follows too the continuity of ideological remilitarisation which has already been carried on over a number of years in Western Germany. The ideas which the West German militarists and revanchists are now using in their war preparations are by no means new or original ones. In the main they are taken from the arsenal of the old German nationalist ideology with the help of which the German imperialist bourgeoisie had more than once prepared aggressive wars. In the sphere of ideology German militarists have always been the most extreme rabid defenders of chauvinism and racism. It is sufficient for any experienced and objective observer to take a look at the militarist ideology now current in Western Germany and he will see with the utmost clarity that the West German army envisaged by the Paris agreements is nothing new, nor is it any less dangerous, but means the restoration of the very same aggressive German militarism which has already twice plunged the peoples into bloody world wars.

Every form of weapon from the arsenal of both Kaiser and Hitler Germany is now being made use of in Western Germany for the purpose of ideological preparations for war. Here we meet the quite well-known falsehood about protecting Western culture, which Adenauer and his myrmidons in particular link up with the so-called "European idea" and which, in the long run, is embodied in the principal component of the present militarist ideology—anti-Communism. It is these same ideological means that were used by Hitler in engineering the second world war. In the name of "Western culture", he made a bonfire of the works of world literature and destroyed the invaluable cultural treasures in many European countries. In the name of "Western culture" Hitler implanted in Europe a "new order" which consisted of enslaving other peoples, mass murders and destruction. Anti-Communism was used by Hitler to engage in bloody outrages against the democratic forces in Germany and to knock up by means of the anti-Comintern pact his aggressive military bloc.

The West German militarists are following in Hitler's bloody footsteps. They are suppressing the peace movement and have

framed up a trial with the object of banning the Communist Party of Germany. Progressive humanist literature is being subjected to persecution in Western Germany. During the debate in the Bundestag Adenauer made an anti-Communist speech after the style of Hitler's addresses to the Nazi congresses in Nuremberg. Once the West German militarists took over or better to say continue to realise Hitler's slogans, the former SS troops began to proclaim themselves the "bearers of the European idea" and the "best soldiers in Europe". This shows quite clearly that the "European idea", the twaddle about "Western culture", and anti-Communism are once more being used as a smoke-screen to cover up the preparations for an aggressive war against the Soviet Union and other peace-loving countries.

Under the slogan of anti-Communism—the common slogan of all imperialist warmongers—the West German militarists are at the same time preaching the old ideas of German imperialism: "Drang nach Osten" and revanchist war against France. The notorious "Geopolitik" which was once used to prepare and justify Hitler's criminal attack on the Soviet Union is once again being disseminated on a wide scale in Western Germany. The "Geopoliticians" are preaching with the same arrogance as they did under Hitler, the theory of "lebensraum" and openly declare that "Europe" must "obtain by force" the "lebensraum" in the East and particularly in the Soviet Union. At the same time they, of course, keep mum on the historical experience which teaches that in the past every German aggression in the East encountered a crushing rebuff.

The old spirit of revenge on France is likewise hailed in militarist circles and openly preached by militarist journals and books. And if propaganda of revenge on France is at present relegated somewhat to the background in the mass propaganda

of the militarists, this can be explained only by tactical considerations and is aimed at weakening French resistance to the restoration of German militarism. Former SA Hauptsturmführer Oberlaender, now one of the Bonn Ministers, declared at a closed Party meeting early in December that the creation of a million-strong army would make it possible to "talk to Paris in another manner"; it would be possible to regain the Saar with the help of this military force within the next two or three years; with this force it would likewise be possible to speak with the Eastern zone (that is the German Democratic Republic—F.E.) in a completely different language. Such are the real plans of the West German militarists.

In making use of arguments from the old arsenal of the German imperialists the West German militarists do not ignore the fact that German militarism has already been twice defeated in the wars unleashed by it. This fact runs counter to the argument put forward by the warmongers to the effect that the German soldier is the best soldier and that he is "invincible on the battlefield". In view of this, after the first world war the German militarists concocted the legend of the "stab in the back", i.e. distorting history they cooked up the lie that the Kaiser German army was defeated not at the front and not because of the superiority of the allied armed forces but as a result of a "stab in the back", that is as a result of the November revolution of 1918. Notwithstanding the fact that the defeat suffered by the German troops in the second world war was even more striking than in the first world war and that the Soviet Army drove the fascist Wehrmacht from Stalingrad to Berlin and forced it to capitulate in Berlin, the militarists have now again produced the tale of the "stab in the back" which alleges that it was not the superiority of the Soviet Army in 1941 but the winter that decided the outcome of the battle at Moscow. The crushing defeat sustained by the Wehrmacht at Stalin-

grad resulted allegedly not from the heroic struggle waged by the Soviet Army but from the lack of fighting ability on the part of the divisions of the then Hitlerite allies. The authors of this latest legend are trying by all means to whitewash the Hitler generals in order to place the German youth at their disposal again.

With the help of the military ideology taken from the arsenal of Kaiser Germany and the Hitler Reich and adjusted to the new conditions the West German militarists are having a certain influence on the old nationalist circles and particularly on the former Hitler soldiers organised in numerous "soldiers' unions" and "traditional associations" which cultivate the old "frontline spirit". One of the major tasks of these organisations is to justify, after the event, the crimes committed by the Hitler militarists in almost all European countries and to cover them with glory. Thus, for example, they brazenly declare that it was not the fascist bandits but... the French Resistance fighters who were guilty of the crimes perpetrated by the German troops in Oradour. The old Nazi spirit with its racist hatred, which has already led to many anti-semitic outrages in Western Germany and West Berlin, openly prevails in the countless militarist unions in Western Germany. The same spirit imbues the majority of the former officers and N.C.O.s who announced their desire to volunteer for the projected army and impatiently await the moment when they will once again get the German youth in their clutches. It is they who will, in the main, determine the character of the new West German army.

Up till now militarist propaganda, however, has failed to gain anything like a serious influence over the working class and the working youth. This is borne out by many examples.

The remilitarisation plans were unequivocally rejected both by the Third Congress of the Amalgamated West German

(Continued on page 4)



# Important Landmark in History of Soviet and World Literature

(AFTER SECOND CONGRESS OF SOVIET WRITERS)

The Second Congress of Soviet Writers was a significant landmark in the development not only of Soviet literature but also of progressive literature of the whole world, which serves the peace and freedom of the peoples. The discussion which took place in the Hall of Columns in Moscow has opened up new and even broader vistas to all writers who wish to serve their peoples and make literature a weapon for establishing peace and happiness in the whole world, for creating a society free from war and exploitation of man by man.

Just as the Soviet Union is heading the camp of peace and democracy, and the progress of mankind, so does Soviet literature take the lead of progressive literature of the whole world. Progressive writers throughout the world regard the works by Soviet writers as the best example of how to make the art of writing and the art of putting life and feelings into words a useful weapon for educating and inspiring the peoples.

The message of greetings of the C.C. of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union read by Comrade Pospelov at the opening meeting of the Congress at the Grand Kremlin Palace charted with full clarity the correct path for Soviet literature. "The Soviet people", reads the message, "wish to see in their writers passionate fighters who actively intervene in life and help the people build the new society where all sources of public wealth will stream forth in abundance, where the new man will grow up, a man whose psychology will be free from the survivals of capitalism. Our writers are called upon to educate Soviet people in the spirit of Communist ideas and Communist morals, to promote the all-round and harmonious development of personality, the full flowering of all the creative talents and abilities of the working people. The duty of Soviet writers is to create a true art, an art of great ideas and feelings, which profoundly reveals the rich intellectual world of Soviet people, to embody in characters the whole diversity of their labour activities and social and personal life in inviolable unity. Our literature is called upon not only to reflect all that is new but also to help forward in every possible way its victory."

Analysing the present international situation the C.C. of the CPSU message also pointed out to Soviet writers such tasks of literature as strengthening the camp of peace and democracy, promoting friendship among the nations and proletarian internationalism.

Armed with the ideas set out in this message the Soviet writers held their Congress in an atmosphere of wide and free discussion where different views on all aspects of creative activity were expressed. At the same time one could clearly sense the wholehearted and powerful unity of views with regard to the nature and tasks of Soviet literature. This inviolable ideological unity of Soviet writers reflects the unconquerable unity, firm as never before, of the Soviet people.

The report of the poet A. Surkov, Secretary of the Board of the Soviet Writers' Union, "The state and the tasks of Soviet literature", and the reports on prose, poetry, theatrical and cinema writing, children's literature, criticism, translation of fiction, and the modern progressive literature of the world presented a comprehensive pic-

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**Jorge Amado**  
President of Brazilian Writers' Association  
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ture of the development of Soviet literature over the twenty years since the First Congress in 1934.

During these twenty years, which have been of great importance to the history of mankind, years in which the peoples of the USSR built Socialism and began the gradual transition to Communism, in which the Soviet Army defeated German fascism, and China, like a number of countries in Europe and Asia, now building Socialism, liberated itself from centuries-old slavery, in which over 900 million are living under the banner of Socialism and peace—Soviet literature has traversed a great path and many splendid works, which influenced hundreds upon hundreds of millions of people, have come off the press. During these twenty years Soviet literature has created a number of works which are the pride of contemporary literature, works which will always stand side by side with the creations of the immortal classics of the past. Such writers as Fadeyev, Fedin, Tvardovsky, Ehrenburg, Leonov, Wasilevskaya and Sholokhov are indisputable masters of the art of great literature, stirring the hearts of the peoples and awakening noble sentiments. The names of Alexei Tolstoy, Serafimovich, Nikolai Ostrovsky, who have created literary chefs d'oeuvre of our time, will remain in the memories of peoples alongside the beloved names of Gorky and Mayakovsky. We feel their presence through the influence of the books they have written, an influence which death will not wipe out because these writers promoted the all-round and harmonious development of personality.

In these twenty years Soviet literature, with the paternal help of the Party, came out the victor in the big battles against the leftist theories, against the corrupting influence of cosmopolitanism, against decadent formalism and schematism which leads to the destruction of artistic qualities and the impoverishment of literature.

As concerns schematism, it can be said this was dealt its death blow by the Second Congress. The ideas of socialist realism as a broad method of creation, the only suitable one for showing, in rich artistic form, the beautiful nature and greatness of the ideas of Communism, reproducing life in the works of art, for not only reflecting the new but also helping forward in every possible way the victory of all that is new—these ideas ran like a red thread through the discussions which developed at the Congress. Here the advocates of lack of conflict in literary works and the advocates of simplifying and embellishing life and restricting human feelings were soundly rebuffed by the real creators of literature.

Hundreds and hundreds of new Soviet writers have appeared during these twenty years and they have honourably taken the place of those who perished heroically on the battlefield in defending their homeland and the future of mankind from the Nazi invaders. These are young writers who have grown up under the Soviet system. Their

works show the new man of the Socialist era and his achievements. Some of these works which are becoming universally known are part of the best literature of our days. I am speaking of such writers as Polevoy, Kazakevich, Nikolaeva and Simonov. Polevoy's book, "The Story of a Real Man", stirs the feelings of many readers in dozens of countries; it shows us how Soviet power has made possible the emergence of people who are superior to the heroes of classical epics.

I was particularly moved by the appearance on the rostrum of such writers as, for instance, Protodyakonov, the delegate from the Yakutsk writers, who spoke of the literature of their peoples, peoples who, prior to the October Revolution did not even have a written language. The victorious proletariat brought these people out of the darkness of obscurantism, saved them from the destruction to which they were doomed by the national oppression of tsarism and gave them access to all the achievements of culture. The fraternal help accorded by the great Russian literature in developing the literature of Soviet nationalities is a remarkable example of proletarian internationalism and fraternity between peoples. Under the aegis of Russian literature, both classical and Soviet, the literature of the dozens of peoples who inhabit the great Soviet homeland, work and live happily in it, is developing and gaining in strength.

Soviet literature as a whole is now influencing the writers in all countries—those in the People's Democracies, who enrich themselves by the mature and fruitful experience of Soviet writers, progressive writers in capitalist and dependent countries, who see in Soviet literature a great example of how their noble mission should be carried out. The method of Socialist realism is being studied, and writers of all countries and all those who are creating the great literature of our epoch are now beginning to apply it.

The unseen inspiring presence of Maxim Gorky, the founder of Soviet literature, the solicitous teacher of the writers of our time, was felt throughout the Second Congress. At the First Congress he set out the basis of the whole work that has been done during these twenty years. The words spoken by him at that time, which were quoted by speakers from the rostrum of the Second Congress, still preserve their whole truth, their sublimity. It is as if Gorky, the immortal teacher, still lives among the Soviet writers and foreign writers who came to the USSR to attend the Congress and to learn from the lessons of Soviet literature. Every morning when the meetings of the Congress opened, it seemed as if Gorky were entering the hall, stooping slightly, with laughing eyes and wiry moustache, and taking his place at the top table.

Soviet literature is advancing along the path which it itself is charting. Strong in the powerful support of the peoples of the USSR, who love their writers, in the constant paternal help of the Party and the feeling of responsibility possessed by Soviet writers, Soviet literature, the foremost literature of our time, the highest literature created by man will march on to new victories, to the creation of new immortal works.

Moscow, December, 1954.

# For Broad Unity of All National Forces in Indonesia

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**D. N. Aidit**  
General Secretary, Central Committee,  
Communist Party of Indonesia  
★ ★

of the Use by the People of Estate Land". It is a fact that, in general, this decree is advantageous to peasants who already occupy foreign estate lands, but the number of peasants who obtain land by this decree is small. Tens of millions of peasants are still land hungry and are still exploited by the landlords and money-lenders. In some places, they are still being driven off the land, and are being arrested. These facts place a heavy responsibility on the shoulders of our Party which must more actively organise the peasants and assist them in the struggle against the exploitation of the landlords and money-lenders. Just as is the case with work in the ranks of the workers, so too, work among the peasants is the most important sphere of Party activity. It is this which will, above all else, provide the guarantee for the attainment of still greater successes by our Party and by the entire democratic, national forces.

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The conclusion from all this is that during the past six months or so, progress has been made in the struggle which has been waged by the people, a fact which was made possible by the political situation in our country. This can be seen from the foreign policy being pursued by the Indonesian Government, a policy which favours peace and mutually beneficial international co-operation, based on the five principles of co-existence agreed upon by Chou En-lai and Nehru, and by Chou En-lai and U Nu. Progress is also discernible from the fact that at home the democratic people's movement is developing day by day, and from the progressive measures taken by the Government in several spheres. But it is still a fact that many government officials both at the centre and in the regions as well are still hostile to the democratic movement. Apart from that, measures which the Government has taken in certain spheres cannot be said to have had any important bearing on the need to improve the conditions of the broad masses of the people.

Our Party has the important and difficult task of further developing the domestic and international political victories which have been won so far, of developing the people's movement and further consolidating the Party, of assisting the Ali Sastroamidjojo Government and encouraging it to take measures which are more advantageous to the national interests.

The possibility of further developing the fairly progressive foreign and domestic policies being pursued by our country depends on the extent to which the broad masses of the people will struggle in an organised way for their demands. We must not forget that, apart from the millions of people who are already conscious of the need to defend peace and to take progressive measures in home affairs, there are still millions, both organised and as yet unorganised, who are still under constant pressure from those

This does not mean that we can afford to underestimate other parties and trends whose influence among the masses is only very slight. The right-wing Socialist trend, for example, which has managed through its party, the PSI, to place many of its people in the leadership of some of the Nationalist and Islamic parties and in the civil and military apparatus of the state, must be consistently resisted, and, at the same time, efforts must at all times be made to establish unity and co-operation with the masses which are still under their control.

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The task of building broader national unity cannot be separated from the work of strengthening the unity in the Party, unity in the political, ideological and organisational spheres.

Our Party is expanding and becoming more deeply rooted among the Indonesian people; it is a major force in the task of uniting the people to resist every criminal plan to plunge the world into a new war, of uniting the people to resist the foreign imperialist forces and the oppressing forces at home. Our Party is a great force in the struggle to bring the Indonesian people to power in their own country, to put them in control of Indonesia's natural wealth and of the results of their own labour and their cultural heritage.

According to provisional reports received by the Secretariat of the Central Committee, at the end of October this year our Party had a membership of about 500,000 members and candidate members. The success achieved so far in the expansion of Party organisation and membership is, in the first place, due to the correctness of the Party's policy and tactics as well as to the correctness of the organisational line adopted at the Fifth National Congress. The fact that the Party's work among the peasants has begun to improve is an extremely important factor in the expansion of membership and organisation. The correctness of the Party's programme and tactics has aroused greater confidence in the Party among the people, not only in the ranks of the workers and peasants but also among the intellectuals and increasing numbers.

With Party membership and organisations growing in size and number the work which now confronts every Party cadre is exceptionally widespread and difficult. Our Party will become weak and impotent if it does not consolidate itself politically, ideologically and organisationally. We are compelled to forge ahead with what is at hand; we must carry all this out with the cadres which the Party has at present. This is both feasible and possible so long as Party cadres work harder and more seriously than up to the present, so long as they work harder to organise and educate the members and to raise the theoretical understanding and ideological level of the cadres themselves.

The Communist Party is a party which lives right in the midst of society. We should be mistaken if we thought that bourgeois ideology and influences only exist outside our Party; even more so is this wrong considering the fact that many of the people joining our Party bring with them bourgeois and feudal ideological survivals and habits. Apart from that, enemies of the Party are undoubtedly trying to do it,



among the nations and proletarian internationalism.

Armed with the ideas set out in this message the Soviet writers held their Congress in an atmosphere of wide and free discussion where different views on all aspects of creative activity were expressed. At the same time one could clearly sense the wholehearted and powerful unity of views with regard to the nature and tasks of Soviet literature. This inviolable ideological unity of Soviet writers reflects the unconquerable unity, firm as never before, of the Soviet people.

The report of the poet A. Surkov, Secretary of the Board of the Soviet Writers' Union, "The state and the tasks of Soviet literature", and the reports on prose, poetry, theatrical and cinema writing, children's literature, criticism, translation of fiction, and the modern progressive literature of the world presented a comprehensive pic-

ture of the nations and proletarian internationalism as a broad method of creation, the only suitable one for showing, in rich artistic form, the beautiful nature and greatness of the ideas of Communism, reproducing life in the works of art, for not only reflecting the new but also helping forward in every possible way the victory of all that is new—these ideas ran like a red thread through the discussions which developed at the Congress. Here the advocates of lack of conflict in literary works and the advocates of simplifying and embellishing life and restricting human feelings were soundly rebuffed by the real creators of literature.

Hundreds and hundreds of new Soviet writers have appeared during these twenty years and they have honourably taken the place of those who perished heroically on the battlefield in defending their homeland and the future of mankind from the Nazi invaders. These are young writers who have grown up under the Soviet system. Their

Congress, still preserve their whole truth, their sublimity. It is as if Gorky, the immortal teacher, still lives among the Soviet writers and foreign writers who came to the USSR to attend the Congress and to learn from the lessons of Soviet literature. Every morning when the meetings of the Congress opened, it seemed as if Gorky were entering the hall, stooping slightly, with laughing eyes and wiry moustache, and taking his place at the top table.

Soviet literature is advancing along the path which it itself is charting. Strong in the powerful support of the peoples of the USSR, who love their writers, in the constant paternal help of the Party and the feeling of responsibility possessed by Soviet writers, Soviet literature, the foremost literature of our time, the highest literature created by man will march on to new victories, to the creation of new immortal works.

Moscow, December, 1954.

## Annual Meetings in Producer Co-operatives of Poland

Annual general meetings of producer co-operative members throughout the country are summing up the results of the year's collective labour, analysing and discussing errors made and difficulties encountered in their work.

Meetings have already been held by more than 100 producer co-operatives in the Rzeszow region. A considerable number of these co-operatives have achieved high in-

comes. The members of many co-operatives in the Wroclaw region have received high payments per work-day unit. In the Wadroz Male co-operative, for instance, the members received over 2 kg of rye, nearly 3.5 kg of wheat, over 0.5 kg of barley, nearly 8.5 kg of potatoes and over 25 zloty in cash per work-day unit. Owing to the correct organisation of labour and high discipline the co-operative members in Kos-

trze, Swidnice county, had an income of almost one million zloty.

The successes of the advanced co-operatives are more and more convincing the broad masses of individual peasants of the superiority of collective forms of farming and at the same time are stimulating all co-operatives to step up their struggle to be among the advanced co-operatives in the country.

## Ideology of West German Revenge-Seekers and Militarists

(Continued from page 3)

Trade Unions and the Conference of West German Young Trade Unionists. The attempts of Blank, candidate for the post of War Minister, to persuade the West German youth to serve in the future army also met with strong resistance. During the debates in the Bonn Parliament on ratification of the Paris agreements a representative of the government party had to admit quite openly that the youth in Western Germany refuse to join the planned army of mercenaries. This resistance of the West German workers to militarism has seriously frightened the warmongers. In numerous speeches and statements, Bonn ministers have declared that it is impossible to build up an army against the will of the working class and that therefore the workers must be persuaded to be a "party" to this.

The Blank Office in Bonn, which is in charge of the preparations to remilitarise the country, has now launched a big ideological offensive. In the course of this offensive the militarists have put their old arguments into the background and have resorted to a new swindle. Now the official militarist propaganda tries to picture the new army as "acceptable to the masses", alleging that the new army will be a "democratic Wehrmacht". They assert that the army will be free from barrack-square drilling and that the men will enjoy civic democratic rights and be free to spend their leisure time at their own discretion, etc. The militarist "soul catchers" even assert that fresh life will be given to the hierarchical order of commands and obedience "by providing outlets for initiative". The object of this new manoeuvre on the part of the militarists is to weaken, with the help of demagogic prom-

ises, resistance to the ratification of the Paris agreements and above all to persuade the youth to join the projected army. But once the agreements have been ratified and the youth driven into the barracks then they will taste the true meaning of the Prussian-German army to the full.

This new manoeuvre of the militarists is all the more dangerous since it signifies a rapprochement with the point of view of certain Social Democratic leaders who, while rejecting remilitarisation, at the same time allege that in the event of failure to avoid remilitarisation "it is necessary to build up new military organisations on a democratic footing and to exercise democratic control over them".

It is clear that the talk of the German militarists about a "democratic Wehrmacht" is nothing but flagrant deceit. The resurrection of the German army in Western Germany can be nothing but the restoration of German militarism, which is inseparable from imperialism. But imperialism and militarism are the enemies of any kind of democracy. The German army in the hands of the German and American imperialists is a tool spearheaded not only against the peoples of Europe but also against the German people themselves and in the first place against the German working class. No "democratic control" can change this. It has been clearly confirmed by history. After the collapse of the Kaiser empire in 1918 the Social Democratic leaders actually helped to build up the so-called democratic Reichswehr, also under the command of the old Kaiser generals and officers. It soon turned out to be a hotbed of reaction and a state within a state. In 1923 and 1932 the democratic lander governments in Germany were smashed with the help of the

Reichswehr and in 1933 Hitler took power into his hands. This experience of German history teaches us that German militarism cannot be tamed, it must be eliminated.

Militarism has its own laws, conditioned by its class nature. The forces which are now working to restore German militarism do not want and are unable to create any type of democratic army, any type of people's force, since they want an armed force they can use against the interests of the people and against the people themselves.

The main task now facing the peace forces is to struggle against the restoration of German militarism. The immediate task as defined by the Moscow Conference of European countries for ensuring peace and security in Europe is to prevent ratification of the Paris agreements which are designed to restore German militarism. This is also a task of the ideological struggle, particularly in the conditions existing in Western Germany. For the masses will become fully aware of the immense danger inherent in the Paris agreements only when we defeat the ideology of the revanchists and the militarists, when we expose their arguments one by one. Hence, the exposure of the militarist ideology is a major task for rallying the masses in struggle against ratification of the Paris agreements, against restoration of German militarism.

The German working class and its parties—the Socialist Unity Party and the Communist Party—are confronted with the task of widely developing the struggle against the ideology of the revenge-seekers and militarists as a major part of the fight against ratification of the Paris agreements. At the same time it is necessary to popularise in this ideological struggle the really peaceful and humanitarian idea of friendship of the peoples which lies at bedrock of the Soviet proposal for the establishment of a general European system of collective security in Europe.

A very heavy task which confronts the Indonesian people and Government is the restoration of security. The fact that the Government has begun to display sufficient courage to suppress the conspiracies of the Dutch and the Kuomintang is of great significance for the restoration of security. The resolute attitude adopted and the firm measures taken in relation to these conspiracies are no less important than the military operations waged against the terrorist gangs in the forests and mountains, because these conspiracies represent an important facet of the activities being undertaken by disruptive elements in our country. Every success in the struggle to restore security is a blow to the foreign imperialists and their accomplices.

In the sphere of economic affairs, we see that the Government has also taken some measures such as the earmarking of 80% of the entire foreign currency reserves for Indonesian traders (previously the major part was divided among the foreign traders, mainly Dutch). In addition the Government has urged that distribution of the output of foreign-owned factories should be handled by Indonesian traders, and it has imposed a control on the import of textiles. These measures are relatively progressive, but at the same time they are only half-way measures and have not been accompanied by the appropriate political and organisational preparation.

Other, more positive, measures taken in the sphere of economic affairs which must receive our full attention are the refusal to hand the Northern Sumatran oil-wells back to the BPM (Anglo-Dutch Shell) and the development of normal trade relations with the People's Democracies. The fact that the Northern Sumatran oil-wells are under Government control is very important because this is a direct blow at the foreign imperialists and will provide a profitable source of income for the Republic of Indonesia.

Normal trade relations, which still need to be very much expanded, are the only way open to Indonesia to free itself of all forms of binding "aid", of burdensome debts and of dollar and sterling gaps. Regular normal trade relations on a large-scale with the countries of the socialist camp will expand imports and exports and will make the development of industry possible in our country; it will thus stimulate improvement in Indonesia's economy.

In the present situation, resolute action to reduce the privileges of the landlords, money-lenders and foreign monopolists, and to establish extensive and regular trade relations with the Soviet Union and the people's-democratic countries is the only way to alleviate the present economic difficulties, the effects of which are being severely felt by the masses of the people.

No significant measures have in effect been taken to improve the lot of the workers. Although the Ministry of Labour sometimes adopts a reasonable attitude towards the demands of the workers, thus often making it possible to avert strikes, the disastrous Tedjasukmana Emergency Decree which, in effect, virtually prohibits strikes is, nevertheless, still in force. This decree is still a weapon to defeat action taken by the workers and throw workers' leaders in prison. It is therefore the task of the democratic movement and principally of the trade unions and our Party to continue the struggle for the repeal of this decree.

Last June, the Government issued the "Emergency Decree to Settle the Question

cannot be said to have any political bearing on the need to improve the conditions of the broad masses of the people.

Our Party has the important and difficult task of further developing the domestic and international political victories which have been won so far, of developing the people's movement and further consolidating the Party, of assisting the Ali Sastroamidjojo Government and encouraging it to take measures which are more advantageous to the national interests.

The possibility of further developing the fairly progressive foreign and domestic policies being pursued by our country depends on the extent to which the broad masses of the people will struggle in an organised way for their demands. We must not forget that, apart from the millions of people who are already conscious of the need to defend peace and to take progressive measures in home affairs, there are still millions, both organised and as yet unorganised, who are still under constant pressure from those propagandists and newspapers which support the Dutch colonial policy and the U.S. policy of war. Thus, a responsibility rests with the Communists to urge the people to give expression to their thoughts and feelings so that these may eventually be victorious. This is the prerequisite for developing a strong movement and for broadening the unity of all national forces for peace, better conditions and full national independence in our country.

In the main, the Indonesian people are influenced by three political trends: the Communist trend with its revolutionary and heroic traditions, the Nationalist trend and the Islamic trend. Apart from these three trends, there are others, such as Protestantism and Catholicism which have a certain influence in some parts of the country. There is, too, the right-wing Socialist trend represented by the PSI which does not exert an influence of any significance among the masses of the people.

Some of the Nationalist and Islamic parties are reactionary in character, and have been set up or are financed by reactionaries for the express purpose of gaining control of the Nationalist masses and the Islamic masses and of inciting them against the Communists and the Communist masses. In the struggle to build a broader united national front, every effort must be made to establish unity of action and co-operation between the Communist masses, the Nationalist masses and the Islamic masses based upon a definite, concrete programme. Those joint mass actions will at the same time unmask the real intentions of these Nationalist and Islamic parties and leaders who are defending the interests of the landlords and money-lenders and supporting the Dutch colonial policy and the United States' policy of war. In this way, the people can be educated into refusing to be split or to be incited against other groups by those Nationalist and Islamic leaders who shout their "anti-Communist" slogans in the hopes of practising McCarthyism and who want to plunge this country back into the hell of war and colonialism.

These circumstances, peculiar to Indonesia, must be handled in their own special way, and if this is done, it will help very greatly in the task of building the alliance of the workers and peasants and of creating a broader unity of all the national forces in Indonesia.

For us, co-operation between the Party and Communist masses and the Nationalist and Islamic parties and masses is not something which is to last only until the forthcoming elections have been held, as Nationalist and Islamic leaders often declare. We favour co-operation after the elections as well, whoever wins.

not only ideologically and organisationally. We are compelled to forge ahead with what is at hand; we must carry all this out with the cadres which the Party has at present. This is both feasible and possible so long as Party cadres work harder and more seriously than up to the present, so long as they work harder to organise and educate the members and to raise the theoretical understanding and ideological level of the cadres themselves.

The Communist Party is a party which lives right in the midst of society. We should be mistaken if we thought that bourgeois ideology and influences only exist outside our Party; even more so is this wrong considering the fact that many of the people joining our Party bring with them bourgeois and feudal ideological survivals and habits. Apart from that, enemies of the Party are undoubtedly trying to enter it, to damage its organisation from within and weaken the ideology of Party members. All this demands that the Party members, and in particular the leading cadres, increase their vigilance and intensify ideological work.

One thing cannot be allowed to continue, and that is the position in which the most important discussion and resolution of the Fifth Congress, which concerns the alliance of workers and peasants and the united national front, has not yet been adequately understood by many Party cadres. There are still many Party cadres who understand the alliance of workers and peasants and the united national front as something purely formal, who think that decisions can be implemented just by issuing formal statements on trade union solidarity with the actions of the peasants, or vice versa, and who think that the united national front is already established once the leaders of the Communist Party have held meetings and issued statements jointly with the leaders of other parties and organisations. An incorrect understanding of the alliance of workers and peasants does not help the Party to become properly acquainted with the character of agrarian relations in the villages.

Further successes of our Party and the national struggle depend to a very great extent on the Party's cadres, right down to the lowest functionaries, having a correct understanding of what exactly the Party means by the alliance of workers and peasants and the united national front.

The highest principle of Party leadership is the method of collective leadership. This is the Leninist principle of leadership and it is one of the most important provisions in our Constitution. Our experiences up to the present show that there are weaknesses in the Party in just those places where the method of collective leadership is not operating. In all places where this method is not loyally adhered to, the Party is weak in the ideological and organisational spheres, it is not militant and has not established close ties with the masses. If this method is not applied, the rights of the members as defined in the Constitution are violated, the sense of responsibility among the members is diminished and the role of leadership underestimated and the victories already scored are not developed further.

There is no other way of making our Party into a party of the Lenin-Stalin type, a militant party of the working class, which actively thinks, which has an independent attitude and lives an active life, than by Party members and cadres consistently applying the method of collective leadership. With such a party, the broader unity of all the national forces will definitely become a fact.



# In Communist and Workers' Parties

## MEETING OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, RUMANIAN WORKERS' PARTY

A plenary meeting held by the C.C. of the Rumanian Workers' Party on December 25 discussed and unanimously approved a statement by the C.C. of the Party and the Council of Ministers of the Rumanian People's Republic on the abolition of the rationing system.

The C.C. and the Council of Ministers decided, as from December 26, to begin full-scale trade in foodstuffs and manufactured goods at unified state prices and abolish rationing. The general level of state prices is established in accordance with the level of the current prices existing in the socialist sector of trade. Prices for a number of goods (maize flour, kerosene, children's clothing and shoes, medicines, agricultural machinery and implements etc.) have been cut by 10%, 20% and more.

Cash compensation for workers, employees, pensioners and their families will make good the difference between the new unified state prices and the prices which existed during the rationing system.

## ON EVE OF FOURTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

The 97 provincial federations of the Italian Communist Party have wound up the discussion carried on in preparation for the Fourth National Conference of the Party to be held over January 9-14, 1955. The federation committees in the provinces held special meetings of section secretaries to sum up the discussion and formulate concrete proposals. Over a thousand delegates have been elected to the National Conference at these meetings.

The National Conference will consider and discuss the experience of work of thousands of Communists and of the struggle waged by millions of working people for peace and the social and political renovation of the country, experiences which have already been discussed at thousands of meetings in branches and sections and at numerous provincial meetings and conferences.

The discussion dealt with urgent problems of the Italian people: the foreign policy of the Government—the policy of renouncing national independence and promoting the rearmament of German militarism—and the need to replace it by a policy of national independence, by a policy aimed at easing international tension; the observance of the Republican Constitution and respect for the rights of citizens in all spheres; the economic situation and the necessity to fight against the monopolies in order to impose a change in the direction of economic policy; defence of the working people's interests in the struggle for structural reforms, for the democratic renovation of the country; activity for broadening the democratic front against the anti-Constitutional policy pursued by the Government of Scelba and Saragat.

During the discussion great attention was devoted to questions of Party organization, to propaganda questions, to the political and ideological education of Party members and to the methods of leadership and activity of the leading bodies of the Party.

## CONGRESS OF COMMUNIST PARTY OF GERMANY

The Congress of the Communist Party of Germany opened in Hamburg on December 28.

The Congress met in a time of terror and persecution of progressive forces in Western Germany who are coming out against the ratification of the Paris military agreements and for the reunification of the country on democratic and peaceful lines. The Bonn reactionary forces have not relinquished their plans to ban the CPG.

As a result of the anti-democratic activities of the Adenauer Government a number of delegates were unable to take part in the Congress. Half of the members of the Secretariat of the Central Board of the CPG were unable to be present, including Comrade Max Reimann, Chairman of the Party, a warrant having been issued for his arrest.

The Congress was attended by 850 delegates and guests, as well as representatives

of fraternal Communist and Workers' Parties. Among the guests were Hermann Matern and August Froelich, representatives of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, Rosa Thaelmann, the widow of Ernst Thaelmann, visitors from enterprises in the German Democratic Republic, representatives of the fraternal Parties of France, Italy, Great Britain, Denmark, Holland, Austria, Switzerland and Finland.

Comrade Willi Mohn, member of the Secretariat of the Central Board, delivered the report of the Board of the CPG.

Messages of greetings from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China were read out at the Congress on December 29. The messages were read amid stormy applause from the delegates.

The message of the C.C. of the CPSU reads as follows:

## TO THE CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GERMANY

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

The Communist Party of Germany is waging a tireless struggle for the vital interests of the working people of Germany, for the unity and national independence of their homeland, for preserving and consolidating peace, against the military plot of the West German militarists with foreign imperialists who are seeking to convert Western Germany into a dangerous hotbed of war in Europe and to plunge the German people into a new catastrophe.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union wishes the Communist Party of Germany success in strengthening its ranks, in the struggle against militarism and imperialist reaction, for the unification of Germany and a peace treaty, for unity of the ranks of the working people, for peace and friendship between the peoples of Germany and the Soviet Union in the interests of peace in Europe and the whole world.

Long live the Communist Party of Germany!

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

CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY, SOVIET UNION

Greetings from the fraternal Parties of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Italy and Albania were given thunderous applause. Comrade H. Matern, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, handed the Congress a message from the C.C. of the SUPG.

## MEETING, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY OF SYRIA AND LEBANON

A meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Syria and Lebanon, held in Damascus, discussed the political situation in the country and the results of the September and October parliamentary elections.

The resolution passed at the meeting says that a feature of the election campaign was the determination of the Syrian people to step up their struggle against the plans of enslavement and war pursued by the American and British imperialists, particularly against the aggressive Turkey-Pakistan pact, bilateral treaties with the U.S.A., against attempts to convert the inter-Arabian security pact into a military bloc serving the aims of imperialism and against the so-called American military "aid".

The resolution points out that despite all the efforts of the American and British imperialists and their Turkish lackeys, despite the enormous sums of

money paid out by their banks and companies to reactionary candidates and the pressure of the feudal lords on the peasants, the Syrian people succeeded in electing to Parliament a considerable number of representatives of the patriotic and democratic forces. In particular Comrade Khaled Bagdache, General Secretary of the Communist Party, was elected as representative from Damascus.

## ENLARGED MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY OF ARGENTINA

In conclusion the resolution sets out the tasks facing Party organisations after the election campaign. These are to reinforce still more the links with the masses and the positions of the Party among the working class, to strengthen the trade union movement and the struggle for trade union rights, improve work among peasants, consolidate the mass organisations of the people and step up the struggle for an anti-imperialist national front, for democratic liberties and the people's demands.

The enlarged meeting held recently by the Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Argentina heard the report of Comrade Victorio Codovila. Referring to the grave danger for universal peace, inherent in the London and Paris agreements and in the "pact" signed by the Kuomintang and the U.S. Government, he said that the situation thus created required that the Communists take a more active part in the

struggle for peace, linking it up with the fight for national sovereignty, economic independence and democratic liberties. Comrade Codovila pointed out that the Party must be even more active in carrying out the policy of unity of action.

The meeting also summed up the outcome of the 1954 recruitment campaign. Some 10,116 people, of whom 70% were workers and 25% women, have joined the Party.

# Economic Situation in France and Working People's Fight for Their Vital Interests

★  
Jean Pronteau  
Member, Central Committee,  
French Communist Party

★ ★

The experience of the past few years has shown the workers and the working peasantry that the fight for their demands is inseparable from the struggle for a complete change in the policy pursued by the ruling circles in France since the country was Marshallised and, above all, from the struggle for a change in its foreign policy.

Of decisive significance today is the struggle against any attempts to rearm revanchist Germany since they put peace, security and the future of our country in jeopardy. Not only conditions of life, but the very life of millions of people is threatened. It is not surprising therefore that the French working people are so resolutely fighting against West German rearmament. By electing hundreds of deputations at their enterprises to go to the Palais-Bourbon, by increasing the number of short-term strikes, they demonstrate their firm will to save peace and the security of France and to obtain satisfaction of their just demands.

★  
After last year's decline, there has been a slight increase in industrial production during the first nine months of this year. Compared with 1952 this increase amounts to only 4.5%.

As far as can be judged at the moment, capitalists' profits are continuing to increase and are considerably higher than before the war. Taking the level of profits in 1929 to be 100, the index of officially admitted profits which in 1937 were 105 advanced to 303 in 1952.

It would be quite erroneous, however, to conclude from this that French economy has entered a period of upsurge. The occasional nature of this "economic expansion", as it is called in official circles, becomes perfectly obvious if it is recalled that according to official data about 15% of the entire industrial production is accounted for by military production partly financed by American orders, and that the budget deficit will be 1,000 billion francs this year, i.e., more than 25% of the entire national budget. And this is despite the crushing burden of colossal taxes, particularly indirect taxation, with which the people are saddled.

Grave symptoms are developing in the economy, direct outcome of the situation in which it has been placed by the Schuman plan: there is a tendency to wind up production in many regions, particularly in the south-west, but also in the centre and south of France. This fact is all the more alarming for the national economy because it concerns precisely those regions in whose agriculture the small and middle peasants, hit by the difficulties in marketing their produce, predominate.

As for the growth of industrial production, this is above all manifest in the undoubted strengthening of capitalist monopolies and in the substantially increased export of their capital. Its reverse side has shown a sharp deterioration in the situation of the masses of working people and, primarily, of the entire working class. The declining home market which resulted from this makes the insignificant expansion in industrial production even more precarious and increases the danger of a future crisis.

This is why the fight of the workers and peasants for improved living standards not only corresponds to the demands of millions of exploited but is in keeping with the national interests and is essential therefore to the strengthening of the French economy.

A comparison of the correlation of the index of officially admitted profits, as given above, with the hourly wage index of a fitter, will give an idea of the relative and absolute impoverishment of the French workers: having risen from 100 in 1939 to

must be added hundreds of thousands of partially unemployed who receive no benefit at all.

The French capitalists, following the example of the U.S. monopolists, have succeeded in introducing quite arbitrary methods of payment. They have instituted a complicated wage system with numerous bonuses, under the false pretext of the need to keep an account of the growth of labour productivity. In fact it is a question of new methods of increasing exploitation of wage earners by means of an extreme intensification of labour. In addition to this, by complicating to the extreme the methods of calculation of labour, the employers make any check impossible and in many cases they have succeeded in swindling and cheating the workers on a large scale.

At some enterprises these "bonuses" led to the practice of paying "wages according to the personal worth" of this or that worker which the employer works out on the basis of "conduct", "appearance", "moral worth", "helpfulness" and so on. It is not rare to find dozens of "bonuses" at one and the same factory, most of which are granted subject to certain conditions. The first condition is that no demands should be made and that the workers should be as submissive as possible to exploitation in its numerous forms.

This differentiation in the wage scale in the shop, factory and at factories of one and the same locality is aggravated still further by maintaining "wage zones" where actual differences in payment are often twice or three times above even the legal differences, which in themselves are in no way justified. It should be also noted that in violation of the legislation there is still a difference between men and women's wages for equal work.

Class relations in the countryside are characterised by an accentuation of the difference in the position of small working peasants on the one hand, and big landowners, capitalist farmers and rich peasants on the other.

While the conditions of the working peasants are deteriorating, a small group of big landowners are getting richer and strengthening their economic position as a result of the intensified exploitation of agricultural workers, the accelerated modernisation of their farms and the ousting of small peasants on an increasing scale.

The postwar increase in agricultural production has been profitable mainly to the capitalist producers. For example, 40,000 big capitalist farms sell the same quantity of wheat as 1,260,000 peasant farms. Inequality of productivity of labour among various groups of agricultural producers and the concentration of agricultural production for the market are rapidly growing.

The increased modernisation of the big farms has led to the ousting of many agricultural workers. The number of small peasants, especially the youth, who leave the land to become unskilled workers in the towns increases each year. At the same time the small peasant households are rapidly being ruined.

That is why the overall share of agriculture in the national income is diminishing. The difficulties in selling agricultural products and the depression of agricultural

people took part and which was finally betrayed by the leaders of the splitting organisations, the government was forced to retreat. It had to repeal a large number of emergency decrees which infringed on the rights won by civil servants and abandoned a number of others that were projected. The first months of 1954 were marked by the preparations for two great days of struggle for immediate demands—January 29 and April 28. On the latter day over 2,500,000 working people came out forced the employers to raise the low wages to a certain extent and to grant increases in various enterprises, which meant that wages rose by an average about 5%.

In the forefront of the August 1953 movement were the civil servants and public utility workers whose living conditions have deteriorated considerably compared with the prewar years. Thereafter the continued a many-sided struggle against sanctions and for payment for the days they were on strike. On June 23, 1954, they held their own day of struggle, which was a great success and advanced the cause of unity. Their various trade union federations signed a national agreement on their demands and slogans of action.

The breadth of the movement of teachers and university professors and tutors—more and more closely united in the struggle for the satisfaction of their legitimate professional demands, in defence of French culture and extension of its influence—should also be noted as a characteristic feature.

Finally, in the central, south-western and southern parts of France, which have been most seriously hit by the agrarian crisis and the curtailment of industrial production, the year 1954 has seen the development of a powerful movement of handicraftsmen and small traders against abuses of financial control and restraints on property by the state. Objectively directed against the policy pursued by the Government in the service of the monopolies, this movement has brought into action sections of the population that have for a long time been inactive.

This period in the struggle is characterised by the fact that the solidarity maintained by millions of working people of the most varied social status, who fought for their own demands, has strengthened their mutual understanding and sympathy.

The development of the economic struggle was accompanied by the intensification and extension of the struggle for a cease-fire in Indo-China, against EDC and now against the London and Paris agreements for the rearmament of the German revenge-seekers. This confirms the fact that the working people are aware that their mounting difficulties result from the Atlantic policy of intensifying the arms drive and setting up different aggressive blocs, from the policy of reaction and war; and they link their particular demands with the general demand for a complete change in French policy.

The successes won during the summer in this sphere imbued the working people with confidence in the need and effectiveness of their struggle. The events of 1954 show that changes are taking place in the consciousness of the Socialist working people and working people who are influenced by social democracy. New relations, which can only extend and step up the movement for united action at the base—in factories, offices and the countryside—are beginning to be established between them and the Communist workers.

Last October the Government decided on a small increase in the lowest wages and



The discussion dealt with urgent problems of the Italian people: the foreign policy of the Government—the policy of renouncing the national independence and promoting the rearment of German militarism—and the need to replace it by a policy aimed at easing international tension; the observance of the Republican Constitution and respect for the rights of citizens in all spheres; the economic situation and the necessity to fight against the monopolies in order to impose a change in the direction of economic policy; defence of the working people's interests in the struggle for structural reforms; activity for broadening the democratic front against the Government of Salas and Saragat.

**PUBLICATION IN INDIA OF VOLUME II OF SELECTED WORKS OF MAO TSE TUNG**

The People's Publishing House in Bombay has printed Volume II of the Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung in English translation. This volume is now on sale in all bookshops in India.

The resolution passed at the meeting was the determination of the Syrian people to step up their struggle against the plans of enslavement and war pursued by the American and British imperialists, particularly against the aggressive Turkey-Pakistan pact, bilateral treaties with the U.S.A., Arabian security pact into a military bloc serving the aims of imperialism and against the so-called American military "aid".

### ENLARGED MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY OF ARGENTINA

The enlarged meeting held recently by the Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Argentina heard the report of Comrade Victorio Codovila. Referring to the in the London and Paris agreements and clique and the U.S. Government, he said that the situation thus created required that Communists take a more active part in the struggle for peace.

Comrade Codovila pointed out that the U.S. imperialists have stepped up their attack on the economic independence and national sovereignty of Latin American countries. Having analysed the situation in which Argentina now finds herself, he sought to adjust the national economy to the military economy of the U.S.A. and stressed that in conditions of reactionary

paid out by their banks and companies to reactionary candidates and the pressure of the feudal lords on the senate, the Syrian people succeeded in electing to Parliament a considerable number of representatives of the patriotic and democratic forces. In particular Comrade Khaled Bagdache, General Secretary of the Communist Party, was elected as representative from Damascus.

In conclusion the resolution sets out the tasks facing Party organisations after the election campaign. These are to reinforce the positions of the Party among the working class, to strengthen the trade union movement and the struggle for trade union unity, improve work among peasants, consolidate the mass organisations of the people and step up the struggle for an anti-imperialist national front, for democratic liberties and the people's demands.

onslaught it was necessary to intensify the struggle for peace, linking it up with the fight for national sovereignty, economic independence and democratic liberties. Comrade Codovila pointed out that the Party must be even more active in carrying out the policy of unity of action.

The meeting also summed up the outcome of the 1954 recruitment campaign. Some 10,116 people, of whom 70% were workers and 25% women, have joined the Party.

The Executive Committee pointed out that the recruitment campaign was weak in the countryside and that it was necessary to overcome the survivals of sectarianism which hold back the growth of the Party.

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Grave symptoms are developing in the economy, direct outcome of the situation in which it has been placed by the Schuman plan: there is a tendency to wind up production in many regions, particularly in the south-west, but also in the centre and south of France. This fact is all the more alarming for the national economy because it concerns precisely those regions in whose agriculture the small and middle peasants, hit by the difficulties in marketing their produce, predominate.

As for the growth of industrial production, this is above all manifest in the undoubted strengthening of capitalist monopolies and in the substantially increased export of their capital. Its reverse side has shown a sharp deterioration in the situation of the masses of working people and, primarily, of the entire working class. The declining home market which resulted from this makes the insignificant expansion in industrial production even more precarious and increases the danger of a future crisis.

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Despite a longer working day, increased numbers of workers and the often monstrous speed-up of work, the index of total wage earnings amounts to about the same as the 1938 level of 100, whereas the index for consumer-goods production has reached 130 and the overall industrial production index (including the Saar) has risen to 160. This means that the share of the wage earners in the national income is becoming increasingly smaller.

These general figures, however, do not reveal to the full the picture of the present deterioration of the living conditions of the workers. The new technological methods of production, which have been introduced recently under the pressure of the monopolies and are being increasingly applied, have given rise to serious changes in conditions of different sections of the working class. Henceforth, in working out proper slogans in the fight for immediate demands, we must take more account of this.

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a difference between men and women's wages for equal work.

Class relations in the countryside are characterised by an accentuation of the difference in the position of small working peasants on the one hand, and big landowners, capitalist farmers and rich peasants on the other.

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The deterioration of the living conditions of the workers and middle classes, the process of capitalist concentration in industry, trade and agriculture are not taking place without resistance and struggle. We have already observed the struggle waged by the peasants which reached such a pitch that roads were barricaded in 40 Departments south of the Loire.

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Today it is possible to secure the satisfaction of the most pressing demands of the working population without an increase in prices, by taxing the profits of the capitalist monopolies, by a return to a peace policy, by the establishment of collective security.

### FROM COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PRESS

## Newspaper Readers' Groups in Chinese Countryside

Jenminjhpao—Organ of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party

The newspaper Jenminjhpao, organ of the C.C. of the Chinese Communist Party, pays considerable attention to stepping up propaganda and agitation work among the peasants. Recently in the Party life section it carried an article on newspaper readers' groups.

Since China's liberation, particularly since the agrarian reform, the article reads, the organisation of the network of these groups has been an important means of making the broad peasant masses active in politics and bringing culture to them. It goes on to say that the groups are of immense significance for acquainting illiterate peasants, of whom there are as yet not a few in the Chinese countryside, with important materials in the Party press. In these groups the peasants learn how to run co-operative, farming and familiarise themselves with the best agrotechnical methods and the decisions of the Party and the People's Government on developing agricultural production.

The importance of readers' groups can be gauged from the following. In June last year in Honan Province the circulation of Honanijhpao (the provincial newspaper) was only one to every 6,400 peasants. In some villages of up to 200 farmsteads there was nobody who would subscribe to a newspaper.

The number of readers' groups has of late noticeably risen. They developed particularly swiftly during last winter and spring when the co-operation movement was launched in the country. Great help in the organisation of groups is given by graduates from secondary and primary schools. For instance, in the Holan District (former Ningsia Province) there was not a

single literate young man who would not act as a reader or lead a readers' group. Last April there were 126 groups in 6 hsiangs of the district; 107 of them function in mutual-aid teams and producer co-operatives.

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The readers' groups promote the circulation of the press among the rural population because they make it possible to subscribe to newspapers on a collective basis, the cost being shared among the peasants or allocated by the co-operatives.

Jenminjhpao stresses that these groups are an integral part of propaganda work in the countryside. Many peasants who attend these readings themselves become active propagandists for the policy of the Party and the Government among the peasant masses. Discussion and study of the newspaper's materials which relate to the path of socialist transformation of the countryside and the development of agricultural production greatly promote the organisation of co-operatives and mutual-aid teams, their economic strengthening and the expansion of production.

The article emphasises the necessity of organising readers' groups among individual peasants. Here, stresses the paper, we should strictly adhere to the voluntary

principle and take into account the level of the listeners. To interest the peasants the materials for reading must be chosen skilfully and thoughtfully so that they answer all the questions which mostly concern the peasant masses and help them to understand the superiority of co-operative farming.

An important factor in the development of the network of readers' groups is the everyday attention and concrete leadership given by Party organisations, above all by rural Party branches.

As a rule there are now propagandists or propagandists' groups in mutual-aid teams while in producer co-operatives the chairmen or their deputies are responsible for political work among the peasants. It is precisely through them that Party branches must direct the activities of these groups. The participation of Communists in these groups is the indispensable condition for strengthening Party-political guidance of the peasant masses, for stepping up all the Party work in the countryside.

At present many local Party newspapers feature, under a special headline, materials summing up and popularising the experience of the best groups and readers.

The principle of voluntary participation in the groups, the newspaper concludes, does not mean that the extension of the network of these groups can be left to itself. The Party organisations must persistently guide educational work among the peasants and give them daily help to raise their political level.





of meetings in branches and sections and at numerous provincial meetings and conferences.

The discussion dealt with urgent problems of the Italian people: the foreign policy of the Government—the policy of renouncing national independence and promoting the rearmament of German militarism—and the need to replace it by a policy of national independence, by a policy aimed at easing international tension; the observance of the Republican Constitution and respect for the rights of citizens in all spheres; the economic situation and the necessity to fight against the monopolies in order to impose a change in the direction of economic policy; defence of the working people's interests in the struggle for structural reforms, for the democratic renovation of the country; activity for broadening the democratic front against the anti-Constitutional policy pursued by the Government of Scelba and Saragat.

During the discussion great attention was devoted to questions of Party organisation, to propaganda questions, to the political and ideological education of Party members and to the methods of leadership and activity of the leading bodies of the Party.

### PUBLICATION IN INDIA OF VOLUME II OF SELECTED WORKS OF MAO TSE TUNG

The People's Publishing House in Bombay has printed Volume II of the Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung in English translation. This volume is now on sale in all bookshops in India.

A meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Syria and Lebanon, held in Damascus, discussed the political situation in the country and the results of the September and October parliamentary elections.

The resolution passed at the meeting says that a feature of the election campaign was the determination of the Syrian people to step up their struggle against the plans of enslavement and war pursued by the American and British imperialists, particularly against the aggressive Turkey-Pakistan pact, bilateral treaties with the U.S.A., against attempts to convert the inter-Arabian security pact into a military bloc serving the aims of imperialism and against the so-called American military "aid".

The resolution points out that despite all the efforts of the American and British imperialists and their Turkish lackeys, despite the enormous sums of

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Today it is possible to secure the satisfaction of the most pressing demands of the working population without an increase in prices, by taxing the profits of the capitalist monopolies, by a return to a peace policy, by the establishment of collective security.

## Conference of Party Activists, Communist Party of Austria

A conference of secretaries of area Party organisations held recently in Vienna was attended by members of the Political Bureau of the C.C. of the Communist Party of Austria and by secretaries of the provincial Party committees. Comrade Rudolf Richter, Secretary of the C.C., dealt with three main questions in his report to the

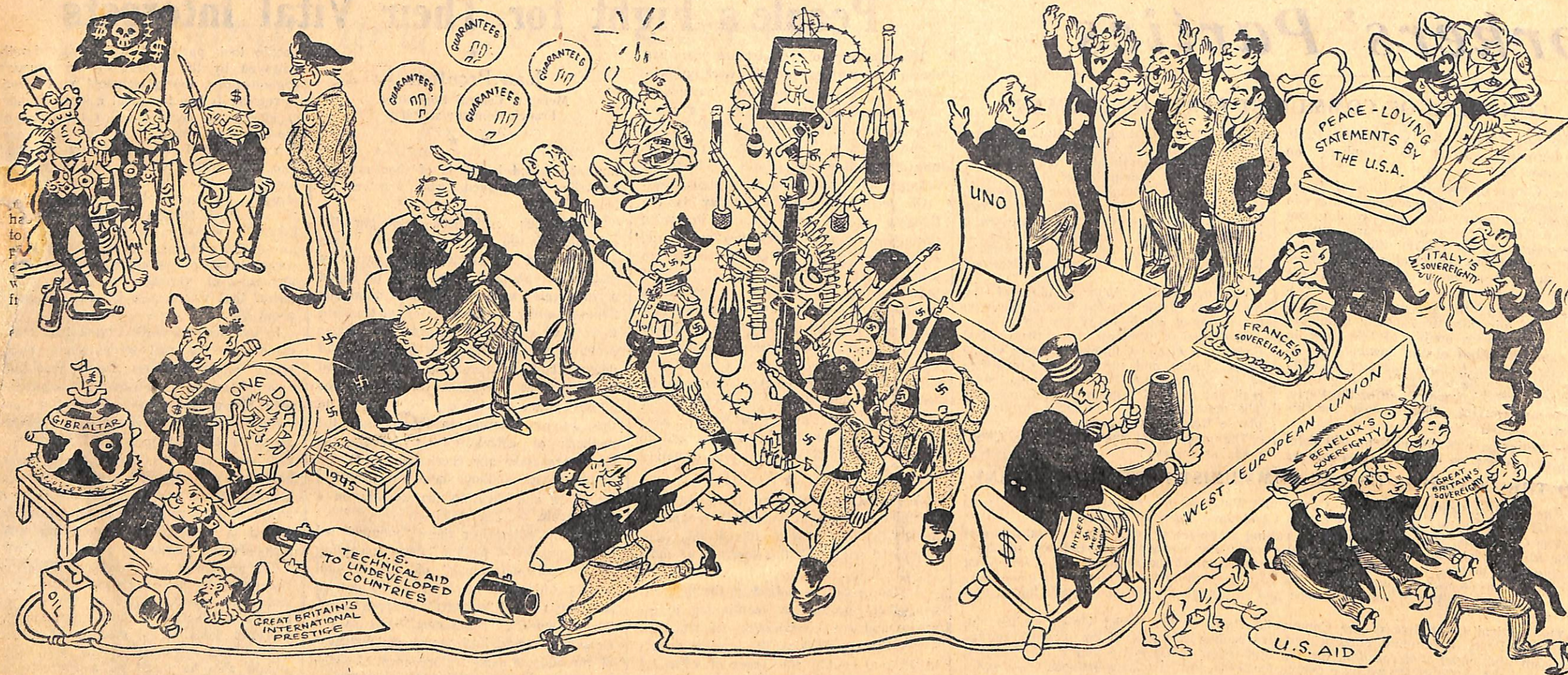
conference: the Party's struggle for a free and independent Austria; the work of the Party in the factories and trade unions; growth and strengthening of Party organisations.

Some 52 people took part in the discussion which was imbued with the spirit of

criticism and self-criticism. Those present at the conference made a number of valuable suggestions for improving Party work. The conference was addressed by Comrade Johann Kopenig, Chairman of the Party, who spoke on the international situation and the tasks facing the Austrian people in this connection.



# NEW YEAR'S NIGHT



In the centre the reader will see a warmongers' new year tree decorated à la Paris agreements. The soldiers of the new Wehrmacht are marching around the tree to the accompaniment of the nationalistic anthem "Deutschland, Deutschland, über Alles". They are led by one of Hitler's generals, a released war criminal. Herr Adenauer, West German "führer", is directing them along the path of revenge. Mr. Dulles is applauding them. The aged Churchill is preparing to hand over to them the arms which, for reasons beyond his control, he was unable to give them in 1945. Bringing up the rear of the column is British Field Marshal Montgomery who is brandishing the American

atomic bomb. The soap bubbles of Anglo-American guarantees are whirling around and bursting over their heads with a bang. Right. Uncle Sam is sitting at the "West European Union" table getting ready for his new year supper. He is going to stuff himself with the Gallic cockerel, Italian spaghetti, "Benelux" jellied fish and British pudding. Somewhat higher up is the American Uno jazz ensemble. It is easy to guess that it is not the tune that interests the American conductor but the votes of the singers expressed by automatic hand raising. In a corner behind the cardboard canard of peace-loving U.S. statements, guardian angels from the Pentagon are busy

working out the plans for the further provocations against peace and the security of the peoples. Left. Syngman Rhee, Chiang Kai-shek and Bao Dai, prepared for any gambles, are standing at attention before the American instructor. A little below General Franco is sharpening a knife on the American dollar and licking his chops at the sight of the tempting Gibraltar cake. And finally, down below a decrepit John Bull is amazed to see through a magnifying glass how rapidly the international prestige of the British lion is diminishing.

Drawing by J. Novak

## POLITICAL NOTES

### Dollars and Friendship

The last leaf of the calendar is being torn off. 1954 is a thing of the past. American diplomats and congressmen, who have been scurrying about all the continents throughout the year, are reviewing the results of their campaign for "proper information" about the United States. The results are melancholy. The past year has brought the transatlantic sowers of discord much grief and disappointment. There are stronger anti-American sentiments in West Europe now than at any time before the U.S.A. entered the world war, dolefully admits the American newspaper *New York Journal and American*. The newspaper has calculated that the U.S. rulers have had to spend round about 30 billion dollars since the end of the war to "gain the loyalty" of their West European allies, but the "friends of the U.S.A." in Europe are becoming fewer and fewer. Nobody likes us, says the *Chicago Tribune*, and not a single foreigner likes the political leader who is meekly submissive to us.

Quite a lot of U.S. dollars have been spent to acquire the good will of the British people. And all for nothing. Broad masses of British people not only cherish no kindly feelings for their transatlantic "benefactors", but are more and more forcefully demanding that they get out of the British Isles good and quick. Americans in Britain, says the *Manchester Guardian*, find themselves in a world apart because not only does no Englishman want to get on terms of friendship with them but no one even wants to talk to them.

The American newspapers write with unconcealed alarm about the mounting anti-American feeling in Western Germany, Holland, Denmark and Norway. In Iceland the American occupation authorities, inflamed by the protests of the Icelanders in their country, have been compelled to enclose the American military bases with barbed wire.

The U.S. dollar has become a symbol of shame in all countries favoured by the U.S.A., including Greece. Early this month, 5,000 students in Salonika smashed up the U.S. Information Centre, publicly hauled down the Stars and Stripes and stoned the American consul's car. Anti-American demonstrations also took place in the majority of the most popular slogans were "Shame on dollars!" We don't want their

And not only is this so in Europe. Chester Bowles, former director of the Economic Stabilisation Board and U.S. Ambassador to India between 1951 and 1953, said recently that the Americans were confronted with an inevitably difficult situation in Asia. Though they were lavishly supplying money and war equipment they could not, however, set up an effective anti-Communist front under American guidance and their greatest failure was in South-East Asia and the Middle East. In his new year forecast, Adlai Stevenson, leader of the Democratic Party, complained that in regions of Asia Americans have by no means won the ideological battle. According to the *Times of India*, Wall Street bankers decided to assign 500,000,000 rupees for combating anti-American sentiments in Pakistan.

The increasing anti-American sentiments in Europe, Asia and the Latin American countries are striking feelings that the

## IN COUNTRIES OF SOCIALISM AND DEMOCRACY

### I. ECONOMY ON THE UPSURGE

- Industrial output in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has increased by 63% in four years (1951-54). The output of manufactured goods for ten months this year was more than 12% higher than in the same period last year. Three times more electricity has been produced in 1954 than in 1940.
- In the People's Republic of China the Harbin Measuring Instruments and Cutting Tools Plant, the first state textile factory in Peking, the biggest creamery in Chengchou and many other enterprises have been put into commission this year. The Chinese aircraft industry has turned out its first home-produced plane. Compared with 1953, this year seven times more oil wells have been drilled in the Yumen oilfields, the biggest in the country, and five times more oil has been extracted compared with 1949.
- In the Polish People's Republic gross output for 1954 is estimated to be four times greater than in 1938, and output per capita of the population nearly 5.5 times greater. Output of electricity per inhabitant is estimated to have increased five times during this period.
- In the Hungarian People's Republic the production of mass-consumption goods during the first eight months of this year was 12.4% higher than in the same period last year. The output of the food industry was 13.7% above the corresponding period of last year.
- In the Rumanian People's Republic the production of cotton fabrics this year was more than 2.5 times higher than in 1953.

## New Year's Thoughts

Lozan Strelkov  
Bulgarian Writer,  
Dimitrov Prize Winner

On New Year's Eve people usually voice the hope that the coming year will bring them something better than the old one. This was so during the war years when the guns roared out on the battlefields, and it is so today, when the dark forces of reaction are again undermining peace, which was won by incalculable sacrifices of the peoples.

The relaxation in world tension which was to be observed in 1954 warmed the hearts of millions of ordinary people. The peaceful efforts at Geneva eliminated the last hotbed of war—Indo-China. The peoples heaved a sigh of relief mingled with hope. But at the turn of the year the warmongers are again trying to dim the bright hopes of the people.

Dark war clouds are again gathering over the world. In the West—the London and Paris agreements on rearming Western Germany, the decision of the latest NATO session to use atomic weapons against the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies; in South-East Asia—SEATO plot, so-called mutual defence treaties between the United States of America and the treacherous Syng-

for I. G. Farben... The greater the number of planes in these raids of destruction, the more fuel was required and the more profitable was this for I. G. Farben.

During the Korean war the newspaper *Chicago Daily News* pointed out that the war was a real slice of luck for the war profiteers, who raked in 36,000,000 dollars on beans alone, 14,000,000 on cotton, 11,000,000 on wheat and 13,000,000 dollars on maize. If such enormous profits were obtained on the most ordinary commodities from one local two-year's war, then it's easy to get some idea of the profits accumulated during the six years of the second world war. It is common knowledge that the greed of the capitalists knows no bounds. It is common knowledge that for 100% profits capitalists trample underfoot all human laws and for 300% there are no crimes they will stop short of, even at the risk of the gallows.

The owners of Standard Oil, General Motors, Royal Dutch Shell etc.—the Du Ponts, Morgans, Mellons and their accomplices in other countries—engineered the second world war. The same criminals are now endeavouring to prepare a third world war with

## IN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES

### I. SIGNS OF ECONOMIC CRISIS

- The signs of crisis are becoming increasingly evident in the economies of the capitalist countries. Militarisation of the economy, which is presented by ruling circles as the panacea for the crisis, does nothing but aggravate the antagonistic contradictions in capitalist production.
- In the U.S.A. the value of overall industrial output has been cut by 9 billion dollars compared with last year. Last October the index of industrial production was 9% lower than the 1953 figure.
  - The drop in industrial production takes place simultaneously with the growth of war production. War orders over the period of July 1, 1954, and July 1, 1955, will increase almost threefold (from 4,300 million dollars to 12,300 million dollars) compared with the corresponding period in 1953-54. U.S. exports went down 6% in the first nine months of 1954 as against the corresponding period last year.
  - In Western Germany the output of war industries is going up, while production in a number of civil industries is either dropping off or marking time. Thus, according to the official figures cited by the Economic Commission of Uno for Europe, food and tobacco production was curtailed by 30% and textile production by 9% between December 1953 and July 1954.
  - In Japan the crisis of overproduction is becoming manifest on an increasing scale, as a result of the American imperialists ruling the roost in the country. Last summer nineteen big companies cut their production...



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✦ In the Rumanian People's Republic the production of cotton fabrics this year was more than 2.5 times higher than in 1938, woollen fabrics and leather footwear more than twice and glassware 2.5 times. The output of foodstuffs has risen sharply too.

## II. SUCCESSES IN DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE

✦ Areas sown to seed in the Soviet Union increased this year by 13% compared with 1950. The 1954-55 plan for developing virgin and unused lands in Kazakhstan, Siberia, the Urals, the Volga area and the North Caucasus has been fulfilled. More than 17 million hectares of virgin and unused lands have been ploughed against the planned 13 million hectares. Huge quantities of agricultural machinery have been sent to the collective farms, MTS and state farms this year.

✦ In the People's Republic of China the grain yield this year was 3% higher than the 1953 harvest.

In the summer and autumn some 225,000 producer co-operatives were set up. Today 60% of the peasant households are united into producer co-operatives and mutual-aid teams. The country has 103 large mechanised state farms, 43 of which were established this year.

✦ In the People's Republic of Bulgaria the number of machines and tractors in the third quarter of this year increased by 455 tractors (in terms of 15 h. p.) and 176 combines (of which 142 are home produced). The head of cattle in co-operative farms was 6.3% higher in the third quarter of this year than in the same period in 1953 and on state farms 17.6% higher.

## III. WELL-BEING OF POPULATION GROWS

As a result of the concern displayed by people's power for the needs of the working peoples, the well-being of the population is improving in the countries of the socialist camp.

✦ In the Soviet Union retail prices have been reduced seven times between 1947 and 1954. As a result the 1954 retail prices are 2.3 times lower than the 1947 ones. Real wages of workers and office workers are about 74% higher than in 1940.

✦ In the People's Republic of China 66% more mass-consumption goods were sold through the state trade network during the first six months of this year than during the first half of 1953. The purchasing power of the population in the countryside has registered a particular increase.

✦ In the Czechoslovak Republic real wages of the working people have grown more than 20% during the last eighteen months.

Retail prices for mass-consumption goods during the same period have been reduced 15% (including manufactured goods by 22%). Retail trade turnover in August last was 28% higher than in August 1953.

✦ In the German Democratic Republic the average wage of industrial workers in the third quarter of this year was 10.2% higher than in the same period last year. The sixteenth price reduction for mass-consumption goods took place last September. In the democratic sector of Berlin alone 15,276 new apartments were completed in the postwar period. The Government has given the working people long-term credits to the extent of 15 million German marks for private and co-operative house-building.

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Dark war clouds are again gathering over the world. In the West—the London and Paris agreements on rearming Western Germany, the decision of the latest NATO session to use atomic weapons against the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies; in South-East Asia—SEATO plot, so-called mutual defence treaties between the United States of America and the treacherous Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai-shek cliques, violations of the Geneva agreements on peace in Indo-China; insolent U.S. and British interference in the home affairs of the Near and Middle East countries, unflagging attempts on the part of the aggressors to form off-shoots of NATO and SEATO. And the purpose of all this is to threaten, with fire and sword, atom and hydrogen bomb, the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies who are building up a happy life.

"Illness gallops in on a horse, but crawls out on a wheelbarrow", says a wise Bulgarian proverb. Now, in the age of technique, the horse has been replaced by the motor. At one time the Hitler hordes made a "blitz" advance on motors against the land of Socialism, but could not get back even on wheelbarrows. The time has passed when wars could be easily engineered. Now the peoples are not to be fooled. They have understood that wars are not waged for a better future for ordinary people, nor are they waged for freedom or in the interests of civilisation, but in the interests of the monopolists. It has become as clear as daylight that the wrecked lives of millions of people, the rivers of blood, the ruined houses, the ravaged fields and orchards, the freedom that has been trampled underfoot and the beggarly existence of broad masses of working people are converted into countless riches for those who prepare and unleash war. The words "nation", "sovereignty" and "freedom" have long ago lost their proper meaning for the warmongers. They place profits above all else. Even when their countries are at war, the imperialists continue to maintain close contact with each other through their cartels and trusts. And no matter who wins or loses the war, profits flow into the safes of capitalists.

There is no need to study the history of all wars. It's quite enough to point to such an example. Long before the second world war an agreement was concluded between the U.S. Standard Oil, the British Royal Dutch Shell and the German I. G. Farben to set up the Catalytic Refining Association. When the war began, bombers blitzing both Britain and Germany used fuel supplied by this criminal association. As Albert Norden writes in his book "Lessons of German History", it turned out that "a big quantity of aviation fuel produced in America was sent to Britain". This meant that I. G. Farben drew its share of dividends on every gallon of petrol received by the British air force. A queer situation arose: every British air raid over German towns brought profits

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The owners of Standard Oil, General Motors, Royal Dutch Shell etc.—the Du Ponts, Morgans, Mellons and their accomplices in other countries—engineered the second world war. The same criminals are now endeavouring to prepare a third world war with the same object in view. They want to accomplish this by the same means as was used by Hitler in the attempt to attain his goal. But now those who have taken over his policy intend to go even further: they are preparing to fall upon the freedom-loving peoples with atomic, hydrogen and bacteriological weapons. This is what they are frankly proclaiming over the radio and in the press. Here is an example. The Times-Herald wrote that the Americans would rise to a height of 40,000 feet and drop atom and bacteriological weapons and incendiaries, kill children in their cradles, old people at their prayer and men at their work. And if there are any who would take this to be the cynical pronouncement of an irresponsible scribbler, the decisions of the recent NATO session, signed by Dulles, Eden, Mendès-France, Spaak etc, have officially confirmed this crazy policy of the governments and the general staffs of the U.S.A., Britain, France and their junior partners. This is why they want to rely on tested cadres like the West German death dealers and the surviving Hitler generals; this is why they are so hastily seeking to rearm Western Germany, to restore its bloody Wehrmacht under the command of those who have destroyed the lives of millions of people and laid waste hundreds of thousands of villages and towns.

The peoples have experienced much and seen a great deal; they have learned much and become aware of their strength. They can be neither deceived nor frightened.

The peoples of the Soviet Union were the first to set an example of heroic struggle against the dark forces of reaction. The peoples of the People's Democracies are following their lead and the peoples in all parts of the world are learning from their example.

The French National Assembly was forced by the will of the French people to reject EDC imposed by the warmongers. And when Mendès-France recently sought to disguise the revival of German militarism in the garments of the London and Paris agreements the French people confirmed over and over again their firm determination to uphold peace.

On the eve of the new year the inviolable unity of the peoples and their unconquerable force are giving rise to the firm belief and hope that although the new year portends a serious struggle it will bring fresh victories in preserving and promoting peace throughout the world.

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✦ In Japan the crisis of overproduction is becoming manifest on an increasing scale, as a result of the American imperialists ruling the roost in the country. Last summer nineteen big coal companies cut their production by 10% compared with 1953, and the main textile, engineering, metallurgical and automobile companies by 10-30%. As a result of the deepening of the crisis a large number of firms have closed down. Of the 59 shipbuilding yards in the country only nine were working last summer.

## II. AGRICULTURE ON WAY TO CRISIS AND DEGRADATION

This year the wheat harvests in four capitalist countries—U.S.A., Canada, Australia and Argentina, the main wheat exporters—dropped to roughly 10% below the 1953 figure.

✦ In the U.S.A. agriculture is in a serious crisis. Particular proof of this is the fact that the U.S. Commodity Credit Corporation increased allocations for the purchase of surplus agricultural products from 8,500 to 10,000 million dollars. The area sown to wheat has already been reduced by 30% and that sown to cotton by 19.3%. The incomes of American farmers have been cut by 10% compared with 1953.

✦ In Italy wheat and rye production went down from 9.17 million in 1953 to 7.86 million tons in 1954. In Greece it dropped from 1.47 million to 1.26 million tons and in Turkey from 8.89 to 5.5 million tons in the same period.

✦ In Spain annual wheat production has dropped by an average of 720,000 tons under the Franco regime as compared with 1900, when the population was roughly 10.5 million less than it is now.

## III. DETERIORATION OF LIVING STANDARDS OF WORKING PEOPLE

The policy of militarisation of the economy and the arms drive carried through by the ruling circles in the U.S.A., Britain, France and other capitalist countries forces up the cost of living, intensifies the speed-up, increases the incidence of occupational disease and industrial accidents, aggravates the housing crisis etc.

✦ In the U.S.A. the official figures show that the subsistence minimum has risen to 15% above the 1949 figure whereas last June the general wage fund was 4,700 million dollars lower than in the same period last year.

The number of fully unemployed has been systematically increasing and is now over the 5 million mark. In the past year alone the army of unemployed has increased two and a half times.

✦ In Britain the October subsistence minimum was 8.7% higher than the January 1952 figure whereas food prices were 16.1% higher and rents and rates 12.5%.

✦ In colonial and dependent countries the plight of the working people is even more serious.

The domination of American monopolies has brought ruin to the Latin American countries and hunger to their population. For example, due to the appalling living conditions in Peru, 30% of the population aged from 17 to 20 have tuberculosis. In Ecuador half the population suffers from malaria. The average expectation of life in these countries is 32 years. In Brazil the prices of 13 kinds of staple foods have been increased since August last. The prices for some of them, for example fats and milk, rose 100%. The prices of other goods of prime necessity are expected to rise.

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According to the Times of India, Wall Street bankers decided to assign 500,000,000 rupees for combating anti-American sentiments in Pakistan.

The increasing anti-American sentiments in Europe, Asia and the Latin American countries are striking testimony to the fact that the peace-loving peoples are rejecting with increasing determination the American plans for forming military groupings of certain states against others, together with their plans for world supremacy. The peoples of all countries and continents wrathfully condemn the American atomic blackmail, they do not want to subordinate themselves to the policy of diktat and are stepping up the struggle against ratification of the London and Paris agreements. At the same time in all countries of the world the ordinary people's feelings of sympathy are growing towards the progressive forces of the American people who, under the difficult conditions of McCarthy terror and persecution continue to fight more and more resolutely against the reactionary policy of their leaders.

All this necessarily puts a damper on the new year frame-of-mind of the American "benefactors". Instead of new year can "blessings" and traditional wishes of good cheer, angry threats and abuse are being hurled from across the ocean at the "ungrateful allies" in Europe.

Talking unctuously of "decency in international affairs" American aggressive circles are trying to aggravate the international situation, to bully and bamboozle the public in countries whose governments are obedient to U.S. commands. At the same time they by no means intend stopping dollar injections to raise the "prestige" of the U.S.A. They still believe that trust and friendship can be bought for dollars, and that dollars can win the sympathy of the people. One needn't be particularly bright to foresee that just as many disappointments await them in the coming year.

True friendship, as we know, cannot be bought or sold for any dollars.

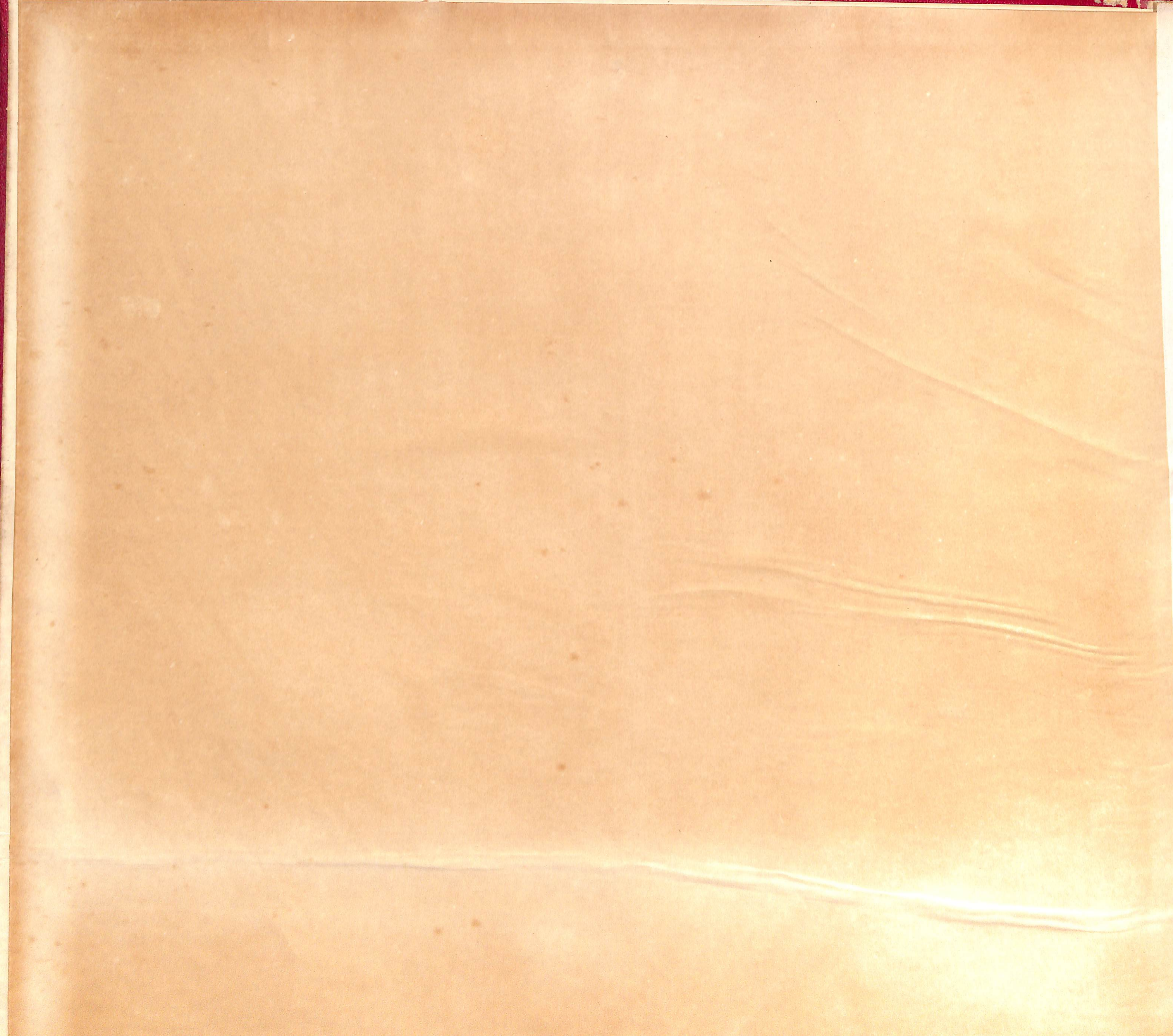
Jan MAREK

## FACTS EXPOSE...

Hollywood "Good Deeds" Some 300 Hollywood films and only 60 British ones were shown in the cinemas of Britain in 1954. And although the British films were the most popular, Hollywood film magnates, bringing insolent pressure to bear, have almost ousted their competitors from the British screen. This has resulted in two more British film studios shutting down and 30% of the British film actors losing their jobs.

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## EDITORIAL BOARD

Some 300 Hollywood films in the cinemas of Britain and although popular, the British film industry is being ousted their pressure to meet the more British film has resulted in the loss of 90% of the British film export jobs.

## FACTS EXPOSE

"Good Deeds"

The market for Hollywood films in the U.S.A. is being flooded by the U.S. government's policy of subsidizing the film industry. This policy is designed to protect the U.S. film industry from foreign competition. The U.S. government has provided a subsidy of \$1.5 million per year to the U.S. film industry. This subsidy is paid to the U.S. film industry in the form of a loan guarantee. The U.S. government has also provided a subsidy of \$1.5 million per year to the U.S. film industry in the form of a loan guarantee. This subsidy is paid to the U.S. film industry in the form of a loan guarantee. The U.S. government has also provided a subsidy of \$1.5 million per year to the U.S. film industry in the form of a loan guarantee. This subsidy is paid to the U.S. film industry in the form of a loan guarantee.







