

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

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Powerful Upsurge of Culture in Countries of People's Democracy

The working people in the countries of people's democracy, led by the Communist and Workers' Parties, are confidently advancing along the road of building Socialism. From countries which were mostly backward countries under the rule of the capitalists and landlords, they are developing into advanced, highly industrialised countries. At present these countries are successfully carrying out the task of rapidly developing their agriculture and increasing the output of mass consumption goods for the purpose of ensuring a speedy rise in the standard of living of the working people.

In a relatively brief space of time the working people of the countries of people's democracy achieved big success in solving the tasks of the cultural revolution, which is a component and inalienable part of the building Socialism. The struggle against the harmful influence of the ideology of the old world, for creating the new culture, national in form and socialist in content, is developing on an ever wider scale in these countries. The cultural revolution is effected here on the basis of a powerful economic upsurge, in conditions of intensified struggle on the part of the whole of progressive mankind headed by the Soviet Union for peace and the security of the peoples, for peaceful co-operation and the extension of cultural bonds between the states.

The great force in organising and directing the cultural revolution in the countries of people's democracy are the Communist and Workers' Parties guided by the immortal, all-conquering teaching of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin. They educate the masses in the spirit of love for their homeland and of proletarian internationalism, in the spirit of profound respect for their national culture and the culture of all other nations, big and small, in the spirit of sharp vigilance and irreconcilability in relation to the anti-people's ideology of the imperialist bourgeoisie. The working people in the people's-democratic countries display keen interest in the works of the classics of Marxism-Leninism, which are published in editions running into millions.

Minute attention is devoted in all the countries of people's democracy to public education. The system of compulsory elementary education has been introduced in each of them. Illiteracy, the evil legacy of the past, is being wiped out at a rapid rate. Illiteracy has been completely abolished in Poland and Bulgaria—countries in which there were hundreds of thousands of illiterates before the war.

one-fifth of the total budget expenditure in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria. What a contrast compared with the situation in the capitalist countries where the immense budgetary expenditure is earmarked for armaments, for preparing another war, while allocations for public education and the cultural needs of society are cut to the minimum!

The rise of the new, people's intelligentsia is one of the most significant results of the cultural revolution. The reform of higher education and the increase in the number of higher educational establishments are mainly responsible for this. The student body is growing and its social composition is changing. Today most of students are children of workers and peasants. People's rule creates for them all necessary conditions for acquiring knowledge.

In 1953 Poland had 85 higher educational establishments with a student body three times the prewar figure. Worker-peasant youth accounted for over 60 per cent of the total student body. In 1953, some 7,100 specialists graduated from higher educational establishments in Czechoslovakia and 6,100 in Hungary.

The new intelligentsia in the countries of people's democracy is being formed also from ranks of the leading workers, from the new section of the working class which, jointly with graduates from the higher educational establishments, constitutes the core of the working-class intelligentsia, the core of the leading staff of the new intelligentsia. The desire of the working people to master technique and their interest in gaining knowledge are growing. The people's power gives full support to these strivings of the working people.

The best part of the old intelligentsia in the people's-democratic countries is also taking an active part in socialist construction. Following the example of the Soviet scientists, workers in the realms of science and culture are combining their efforts with the efforts of the entire working people, making a worthy contribution to the fulfilment of the national-economic plans.

Literature and art in the People's Democracies are experiencing a tremendous development. A new literature, vividly reflecting the new life of the peoples in these countries and serving the people's interests, is making its appearance. A new cinematography, the form of art with the widest appeal, is coming into being. The number of daily papers and journals is increasing and radio broadcasting is being improved.

The new literature and art are making

cern for workers in the realms of science, art and literature and reward the labours of the best scientists, writers, painters, composers and artistes with national prizes.

In the countries of people's democracy special attention is given to cultural work in the countryside, where a wide network of cultural-educational establishments has been established, the material base of which is constantly being consolidated. The demand for books, daily newspapers and journals by the rural population is increasing. Popular talent is blossoming. The Communist and Workers' Parties regard cultural-educational work as a vital part of the entire ideological work of the Party organisations.

Successful solution of the tasks of the cultural revolution in the countries of people's democracy is indissolubly linked with the growing cultural exchange and the steadily developing cultural co-operation between all the countries of the camp of democracy and Socialism. It is determined also by the great help and support given by the Soviet Union. During the years of their rule the landlords and capitalists sought to separate with an iron curtain the working people of China, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania from the advanced culture of the Soviet people. These peoples now have the opportunity to make a profound study of the achievements of Soviet socialist culture. Hundreds of thousands of people in the countries of people's democracy study the Russian language, the language of Pushkin and Gogol, Herzen and Chernyshevsky, Lenin and Stalin. The working people of all countries regard Soviet culture as the most advanced culture of mankind and Soviet science as the most advanced science placed at the service of the people, serving the cause of progress and world peace.

At the same time the peoples of the USSR display great interest in and acquaint themselves with the cultural values of the people's-democratic countries, with their splendid achievements in science, education, literature, the theatre and cinema. Cultural exchange is also being developed between the countries of people's democracy in Europe and Asia. This co-operation, which is growing year by year, contributes to the mutual enrichment of the culture of each of these countries. The countries of the camp of democracy and Socialism are taking vigorous action to ensure the extension of cultural relations with all countries.

The task facing the Communist and Workers' Parties in the People's Democracies is to raise still higher the cultural level of the popular masses, to make all working people cultured and educated to educate

BERLIN CONFERENCE of Foreign Ministers of Four Powers

The Berlin Conference of the Four Foreign Ministers continued over February 5-11.

The session held on February 5 discussed the second item on the agenda "The German problem and the tasks of ensuring European security".

As is known, at the previous session V. M. Molotov put forward the view of the Soviet delegation concerning ways and means for unifying Germany and advanced proposals for the formation of a provisional all-German government and the holding of free all-German elections.

J. Dulles, who was the first to take the floor, said that he had read the statement made by V. M. Molotov and had analysed his proposals but could not find "any encouraging interpretation" of these documents. Referring to the proposal advanced by the Soviet delegation for free all-German elections Dulles said that it was unacceptable since, he alleged, it did not guarantee observance of the democratic rights of the German people. Dulles failed to produce even a single argument to confirm his assertion.

He was followed by G. Bidault who said that there were reasons which, in his view, made it impossible to implement the Soviet proposal. He asserted, in particular, that agreement between the two parts of Germany was out of the question since the Bonn Government had no intention of contacting the East German Government. Bidault added that the Bonn Government could not reject the Bonn and Paris agreements and, as he put it, isolate itself in this way from the Western Community. In saying this Bidault contradicts his former assertions that the Bonn and Paris agreements do not prevent the unification of Germany.

Eden, who followed Bidault, asserted that the stand taken by the Soviet delegation proceeded from mistrust of parliamentary institutions. He did not, however, produce arguments to prove this assertion. Following in the footsteps of Dulles and Bidault, he too found the Soviet proposal "obviously unacceptable" and added that he did not see any reason for changing his plan.

Eden was followed by V. M. Molotov who touched on the remarks made by Dulles, Bidault and Eden.

V. M. Molotov pointed out, in particular, that by distorting the stand taken by the Soviet delegation the other parties to the Conference alleged that the Soviet Union was against free German elections. This, said Molotov, might be criticised if the So-

public. In addition, the Republic has been exempted from postwar state debts to the Soviet Union including the debt for occupation expenditure since 1945.

V. M. Molotov advanced concrete proposals on this question.

Molotov was followed by Dulles who said that he would make some remarks in relation to the statement made by the Soviet delegation about easing the financial-economic commitments of Germany in connection with the consequences of the war. However, Dulles restricted this part of his speech to unsubstantiated assertions that thanks to the US so-called aid Western Germany had achieved big success in its economic development. Dulles failed to substantiate his assertion since the facts prove the opposite.

A closed session of the four Ministers was held on February 8.

At the session on February 9, V. M. Molotov made a statement which summed up some of the results of the discussion on the German problem.

The Soviet Government, he said, has put forward its proposals concerning the "Draft for a Peace Treaty with Germany". In addition, we have submitted proposals for the "Preparation of a Peace Treaty with Germany and the Convening of a Peace Conference on the German Peace Treaty". The Soviet Government proposed that a peace conference to discuss a peace treaty with Germany should be convened not later than October 1954.

V. M. Molotov pointed out that in advancing its proposals on the German problem the Soviet delegation proceeded from the fact that it is possible already this year to complete preparation of and sign a peace treaty with Germany. This is the concern both of the German people and of the other peoples of Europe particularly the Soviet, Polish, Czechoslovak, Yugoslav, French and British peoples who suffered particularly from German aggression and who made an invaluable contribution to victory over Hitlerism. It is important that in addition to our four states the other countries such as Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Greece, etc., which were most active participants in the war against Hitler Germany, should not only take part in the peace conference for examination of the draft peace treaty with Germany, but should be able to express their viewpoint in the course of its preparation.

The Governments of the three Western Powers, pointed out V. M. Molotov, have

A. Eden, who followed, said, in particular, that in his view the Soviet proposals for easing the financial-economic burden of Germany arising from the consequences of the war had no bearing on the point at issue. Eden repeated the old assertions of the US, British and French propaganda which, contrary to the facts, allege that the Western Powers had already freed Germany from its commitments. Eden even alleged that Britain had not taken any reparations from Germany. This assertion flagrantly contradicts the irrefutable fact that the Western Powers, including Britain, received from Western Germany enormous values in reparation payments, in particular, through dismantling plants and factories in West Berlin and Western Germany, confiscation of German property abroad, removing the gold from the German State Bank, securities and patents, through confiscation of the merchant fleet and compulsory exports of Ruhr coal, scrap iron, raw materials, etc.

Eden openly declared that he had no desire for a solution of the German problem on a mutually acceptable basis.

V. M. Molotov took the floor after Eden. Referring to Eden's speech in which the latter tried to sum up the results of the discussion on the second item of the agenda, V. M. Molotov said that the Soviet delegation understood these results in the sense that at this stage the Western Powers had no suggestions or proposals on the question of ensuring the security of peoples of Europe.

J. Dulles tried to refute V. M. Molotov's statement.

Following Dulles, Bidault said that, in his opinion, in view of the fact that it was impossible at present to reach any compromise, there was no need to continue the discussion of the German problem and the problem of guaranteeing European security. He suggested proceeding to deliberation of the other questions and to return to the aforesaid question at a later stage of the Conference.

Eden declared that the Western Powers had already clarified their stand, according to which the formation of the "European Defence Community" was exactly a measure against the revival of German militarism. Thus, contrary to logic, Eden asserted that the formation of a West European military bloc with the German revanchist army as its core aims at ensuring security also for the Soviet Union.

At the session held on February 10,

People's democracy are the Communist and all-conquering teaching of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin. They educate the masses in proletarian internationalism, in the spirit of and the culture of their national culture small, in the spirit of sharp vigilance and irreconcilability in relation to the anti-peoples ideology of the imperialist bourgeoisie. The working people in the people's democratic countries display keen interest in the works of the classics of Marxism-Leninism, which are published in editions running into millions.

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The Communist Party and the Government in the People's Republic of China are taking all the necessary steps to ensure the utmost satisfaction of the great strivings of hundreds of millions of people for knowledge and culture. Over 55 million children are now studying in the elementary schools of the country; tens of millions of adults are learning to read and write in a broad network of special schools and courses.

The budgets of the countries of people's democracy are vivid proof of the great concern shown by the people's power for cultural upbuilding. Expenditure on social and cultural needs accounts for more than

educational establishments, constitutes the core of the working-class intelligentsia, the core of the leading staff of the new intelligentsia. The desire of the working people to master technique and their interest in gaining knowledge are growing. The people's power gives full support to these strivings of the working people.

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The new literature and art are making headway and developing in the struggle against formalism and the attitude of bowing to bourgeois art. Books by the leading writers of the USSR, China and all the countries of people's democracy are becoming available to the broad masses. Every year tens of millions of books are printed in these countries. For example, last year in Czechoslovakia 4,754 books were published in editions totalling 51.5 million copies; in Rumania 2,875 books and brochures were printed in editions totalling 47 million copies. The Communist and Workers' Parties and the governments in the People's Democracies display constant con-

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The task facing the Communist and Workers' Parties in the People's Democracies is to raise still higher the cultural level of the popular masses, to make all working people cultured and educated, to educate them as conscious builders of socialist society, to redouble their efforts in cultural upbuilding, in the struggle against bourgeois ideology, against the "ideas" of misanthropy, of destruction and war.

The successful solution of the tasks of cultural revolution in the countries of people's democracy, the blossoming of their culture, national in form and socialist in content, is striking testimony to the strength of the Marxist-Leninist teaching, to the superiority of the socialist system over the capitalist system.

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Eden, who followed Bidault, asserted that the stand taken by the Soviet delegation proceeded from mistrust of parliamentary institutions. He did not, however, produce arguments to prove this assertion. Following in the footsteps of Dulles and Bidault, he too found the Soviet proposal "obviously unacceptable" and added that he did not see any reason for changing his plan.

Eden was followed by V. M. Molotov who touched on the remarks made by Dulles, Bidault and Eden.

V. M. Molotov pointed out, in particular, that by distorting the stand taken by the Soviet delegation the other parties to the Conference alleged that the Soviet Union was against free German elections. This, said Molotov, might be criticised if the Soviet Union really adhered to such a stand. However, this is not the attitude of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union stands for unification of Germany, it is against any putting off of free German elections and holds that these elections be conducted by the Germans themselves. V. M. Molotov showed that the Soviet proposal ensures Germany really free and democratic elections. Referring to the attacks by the Ministers of the Western Powers on the political system established in the German Democratic Republic, V. M. Molotov noted that these attacks reflected the desire to ignore historical facts. Molotov pointed out that the difference in systems in the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic by no means signified that ways and means of co-ordinating their actions could not be found provided both sides set before themselves, as their common goal, the task of ensuring peace and security for themselves and for other countries.

Concluding, V. M. Molotov said that the Soviet delegation adheres to the view that ways and means for establishing agreement must be sought.

The February 6 session continued the discussion of the second item on the agenda.

The statements made by the Ministers of the Western Powers at this session were again aimed at presenting the Soviet proposal as unacceptable for solving the German problem.

V. M. Molotov made a statement about easing the financial-economic commitments borne by Germany in connection with the consequences of the war.

In its Note of August 15, 1953, said V. M. Molotov, the Soviet Government addressed the Governments of the US, Britain and France with the proposal that as from January 1, 1954, Germany should be fully exempted from reparation payments and equally from postwar debts to the Four Powers with the exception of debts arising from trade obligations. In addition, the Soviet Government proposed reduction of expenditure connected with the stay of the Four-Power forces on the territory of Germany and exemption from the debts for occupation expenditure of the Four Powers since 1945.

As of January 1, 1954, V. M. Molotov continued, the Soviet Government annulled reparation payments by the German Democratic Republic, transferred the Soviet enterprises on the territory of Germany to the Republic without compensation and cut occupation expenditure to a sum which does not exceed 5 per cent of the revenue of the state budget of the German Democratic Re-

Conference on the German Peace Treaty". The Soviet Government proposed that a peace conference to discuss a peace treaty with Germany should be convened not later than October 1954.

V. M. Molotov pointed out that in advancing its proposals on the German problem the Soviet delegation proceeded from the fact that it is possible already this year to complete preparation of and sign a peace treaty with Germany. This is the concern both of the German people and of the other peoples of Europe particularly the Soviet, Polish, Czechoslovak, Yugoslav, French and British peoples who suffered particularly from German aggression and who made an invaluable contribution to victory over Hitlerism. It is important that in addition to our four states the other countries such as Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Greece, etc., which were most active participants in the war against Hitler Germany, should not only take part in the peace conference for examination of the draft peace treaty with Germany, but should be able to express their viewpoint in the course of its preparation.

The Governments of the three Western Powers, pointed out V. M. Molotov, have not yet submitted their drafts for a peace treaty with Germany. Nor have they said anything about it being possible to begin preparing such a peace treaty immediately.

We proceed from the principle, continued V. M. Molotov, that unification of Germany must be carried out by the Germans themselves and not by the foreign occupation authorities. Since the plan of the three Western Powers envisages that the holding of the all-German elections must be wholly and completely in the hands of the occupation forces it acquires a negative aspect.

The Soviet Government, said Molotov, proposed an agreement to the effect that the occupation forces with the exception of only a limited number of contingents should be withdrawn both from Eastern and Western Germany even prior to the all-German elections. The objections at the Conference to the aforesaid withdrawal are based on all kinds of far-fetched suppositions and have not been substantiated with weighty arguments.

We consider it wrong, continued V. M. Molotov, for a unified Germany to be involved in any military bloc with the East European countries against Western Europe. Equally, we think it wrong for a unified Germany to be involved in any military bloc of West European states spearheaded against Eastern Europe.

We must face the truth, V. M. Molotov said. If the "European Defence Community" comes into being Western Germany will take the road of remilitarisation and restoration of the army with Hitler generals at the head. Under such conditions no state in Europe and particularly the neighbour countries of Western Germany can be either free from anxiety or sure of the morrow. This plan undoubtedly does not correspond to the interest of the German people also.

But it is not too late, V. M. Molotov pointed out, all of us must prevent the revival of a new and dangerous hotbed of aggression in the centre of Europe.

In conclusion, V. M. Molotov said that in these circumstances it would be right to ask whether the Governments of France, Great Britain and USA have anything to say about guaranteeing European security, real security for the peoples of Europe? The answer to this vital issue concerns all the peoples of Europe.

V. M. Molotov was followed by J. Dulles who, however, took the floor for the sole purpose of declaring that he would not speak. By doing so Dulles confirmed his intention of evading an answer to the concrete Soviet proposals. Bidault, in fact, took a similar stand.

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At the session held on February 10, V. M. Molotov made the statement "The Soviet Union and guaranteeing European security".

Noting that there are essential differences between the stand taken in respect to the German problem by the three Western powers and that of the Soviet Union which expresses the viewpoint of a number of European countries, V. M. Molotov stressed that the Soviet delegation attaches importance to the discussion on this problem and considers it necessary to continue this discussion.

V. M. Molotov said in part that "efforts for reaching a possible rapprochement and co-ordination of our viewpoints should be continued. It is necessary to guarantee the solution of the German problem which should be satisfactory from the point of view of all our states and of all the peace-loving European countries. This solution must correspond to the principles of preserving peace and national freedom for Germany and at the same time to safeguarding the national interests and security of all the peoples of Europe".

The question whether there will be a third world war or not, said V. M. Molotov, depends on our countries. If the USA, Britain, France and the USSR decide on preventing another world war they certainly can do so. If we do not want another world war to break out, and this signifies at the same time preventing a new war in Europe, we must do everything to prevent the formation in Europe of military groupings of states counterposed to each other.

The Soviet delegation, continued V. M. Molotov, has repeatedly pointed to the danger of the plans for forming the "European Defence Community". These plans are incompatible with recognition of the need for guaranteeing the collective security of the European peoples. The plans of the Western Powers lead inevitably to the revival of German militarism and perpetuate the division of Germany.

Concluding, V. M. Molotov handed the Foreign Ministers of France, Britain and USA the texts of the proposals of the Soviet delegation for "Guaranteeing European Security" and the draft of the basic principles of an "All-Europe Treaty for collective security in Europe".

After statements by Dulles, Bidault and Eden, V. M. Molotov said that the Soviet delegation proposed continuation of discussion and preparation of the decisions on the German problem with a view to accelerating unification of Germany on a democratic and peaceful footing.

A closed meeting was held on February 11. The Conference of Ministers continues.

PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS TO SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR

Call of Central Committee, Communist Party of Soviet Union

to All Electors, Workers and Peasants — Men and Women, to the Soviet Intelligentsia, to the Men of the Soviet Army and Navy

The elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR will be held on March 14, 1954. The Soviet country is getting ready for this significant event in the prime of its strength, in conditions of a powerful upsurge of the economy and culture.

On February 11 "Pravda" and other Soviet newspapers published the Call of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to all electors, to working men and women, to peasant men and women, to the Soviet intelligentsia, to the men of the Soviet Army and the Navy. In this remarkable document, to which the Soviet people reacted with tremendous political enthusiasm and wholehearted approval, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union sums up the grand achievements of the peoples of the USSR during the postwar years and defines the next tasks of the Party and the Soviet people.

A great achievement of the Soviet people, says the Call, is the restoration of the industrial enterprises and the rehabilitation of the towns and villages laid waste by the German fascist aggressors during the war. In their rapid and irresistible onward march the Soviet people have left far behind the economic level reached when the war interrupted their peaceful labour. Having successfully completed the fourth Five-Year Plan (first postwar plan) the Soviet people, led by the Communist Party, are sparing no effort in carrying out the assignments of the new fifth Five-Year Plan.

What aim does the Communist Party of the Soviet Union pursue in striving for a constant increase in over-all social production, in industry and agriculture? It is

the aim of ensuring a further steady improvement in the wellbeing of the Soviet people, the fullest satisfaction of their constantly growing material and cultural requirements. Consistent realisation of this aim is the supreme law of all the activity of the Party and the Government, a vital component part of the programme of Communist construction.

The Call stresses that a vital condition for the successful construction of Communist society in the USSR is constant strengthening of the might of the Soviet socialist state—the bulwark of peace and the security of the peoples. The bedrock of the strength and solidity of the Soviet state is the indestructible alliance of the working class and the collective-farm peasantry, the moral-political unity of Soviet society as a whole, and the inviolable friendship of the peoples of the USSR. The Communist Party sees its sacred duty in ceaselessly strengthening in the future, too, the friendship of the peoples—the basis of the might and invincible strength of the socialist multi-national state.

"Our foreign policy", says the Call, "is clear and definite. It is the policy of peace and friendship between all nations. This policy was proclaimed by the great Lenin, founder of our Party and the Soviet state, who pointed to the possibility of a long-term peaceful co-existence of the two different economic systems—the socialist and capitalist systems. Only the most short-sighted politicians in the camp of capitalism can evaluate our consistent and sincere strivings for peace as a sign of weakness of the Soviet state. Having defeated Hitler

Germany, which had subjugated many of the countries of Europe, the Soviet Union demonstrated its ability to defend itself and to give a crushing rebuff to any aggressor".

"In the postwar years our country has become even stronger and more powerful. It possesses everything necessary to protect the peaceful labour of our people and to restore to his senses anyone who would dare infringe on our freedom and independence. We are not afraid of threats from any aggressors, but we firmly and consistently stand for peace in the interests of our people and the peoples of the whole world. We are convinced that there are no controversial issues in the present international situation which cannot be solved in a peaceful way."

Relying on the enormous superiority of the Soviet, socialist system, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is firmly and confidently leading the country towards the complete victory of Communism, guided in all its activity by the great teaching of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin, by the wise behests of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, the deathless founder of the Communist Party and creator of the Soviet state.

The Call expresses the firm conviction that in the forthcoming election all will vote unanimously for the candidates of the election bloc of Communists and non-party people and will again put their trust in the Party and approve its policy, and that March 14, election-day, will develop into a nation-wide festival of the working people of the Soviet Union, into a new powerful demonstration of the close unity of the Party, Government and people.

ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION OF COUNTRIES OF DEMOCRATIC CAMP

As a result of the smashing of the fascist aggressors during the second world war the powerful camp of democracy and Socialism headed by the Soviet Union was established. The peoples of the countries where the people's-democratic system has been established are successfully laying the foundation of socialist society. The magnificent economic and cultural successes achieved in these countries are due first of all to the wide application of the rich experience of the Soviet Union in socialist construction and to the Soviet Union's constant and selfless aid.

Everything new is born in the process of struggle with the old. And the new socialist society coming into being in the countries of people's democracy is emerging from the struggle with the old society. In building their new life the working people of these countries are overcoming the resistance of the internal and external enemies.

After the second world war the imperialists resorted to economic blockade of the countries of the democratic camp. In the postwar years the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy experienced severe economic discrimination on the part of the chief capitalist states—discrimination which has not yet been abandoned. Outwardly, this tactic derived from so-called "strategic considerations". In reality it signified and still signifies nothing more nor less than an endeavour by the imperialist monopolies to retard the rapid economic development of the democratic camp.

Fully valid for the present period are the words of V. I. Lenin when assessing the economic blockade against the Soviet Union at the beginning of the twenties: "As for the blockade, experience has shown that it is difficult to say whom it hits harder: the blockaded or those who are carrying out the blockade".

The policy of the ruling circles of the capitalist countries had even less chance of success because the time has long since passed when the Soviet Union was technically and economically dependent on the capitalist countries. While at the beginning of the twenties Soviet industry was still weak, today the Soviet Union is one of the biggest industrial countries in the world. The might of the Soviet Union and its aid enabled the countries of people's democracy to overcome comparatively easily the difficulties artificially created by the capitalist states. And so instead of the economic ruin and misery predicted by bourgeois propaganda, there is growing before our eyes the new world with new ties and new international economic relations.

At the same time the countries of the democratic camp are striving to extend their trade with all countries on the basis of full equality and mutual advantage.

In the postwar years the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy have consolidated their economic co-operation which had already begun to take shape during the war when the Soviet Union, despite the enormous losses and damage suffered by it in the interests of victory over the forces of fascism, extended help to the neighbouring countries immediately after the fascist troops were driven out. This was followed by the establishment of broad economic relations between the USSR and all the people's-democratic countries. Many sided trade agreements were signed between them. The volume of trade under these agreements is rising year by year and in all countries of people's democracy is now many times the volume of 1947-48.

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R. Dvorák
Minister of Foreign Trade,
Czechoslovak Republic

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in the countries of people's democracy with the help of Soviet specialists prove that the slogan of proletarian internationalism has become the actual content of their mutual economic relations.

Without this broad co-operation we would not have had the big success in developing the economy; Czechoslovakia would not have been able to produce and export suction-dredgers, mobile power stations and equipment for oil extraction; without this co-operation Rumania would not have been able to export tractors and drilling equipment; Bulgaria would not have been able to export machine-tools, nor would Hungary have been able to export harvester combines, self-tipping trucks, etc.

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Things are different in the capitalist countries. It is an undeniable fact that at present the capitalist countries could have helped the less developed countries in creating and expanding industry since it is precisely the engineering industry in the big capitalist countries that suffers all the time from under-capacity working. But this is not done because of the striving of the monopolists to concentrate heavy industry in their own countries, while other countries play the role, on the one hand, of markets for manufactured goods, and on the other, of sources of raw materials and agricultural produce.

The striving for maximum capitalist profit by means of the exploitation and impoverishment of the working people of the given country, by enslaving and plundering the peoples of other countries, particularly the backward countries constitutes an obstacle to expanding trade between the countries of the capitalist camp. This is also the main reason for the exceptionally slow industrialisation of the dependent and colonial countries, if it is possible to speak of such industrialisation, while in the more developed capitalist countries the industry producing means of production suffers from considerable unemployment. And so in a number of capitalist countries one can see curtailment of metallurgical and machine-building industry and a further growth of unemployment, while economically weaker countries need the products of the metallurgical and machine-building industries.

Of the many examples that could be mentioned we cite the following. At the end of 1953 utilisation of the capacity of the US iron and steel industry declined from 94.7 per cent in October to 90.1 in November and to 85 in December. For 11 months of 1953 steel output in the countries of the so-called European Coal and Steel Association reached only 86,315,000 tons as against 38,217,000 tons for the corresponding period in 1952. In Belgium alone nine blast furnaces stopped production in 1953.

The less developed countries are cutting the acreage sown to technical and food crops in view of the fact that the developed capitalist countries are buying smaller quantities of their products owing to the steady curtailment of production for civilian needs and the fall in consumption.

The policy of securing maximum capitalist profit is the chief factor determining the attempts of the capitalists to do everything to maintain the tension in international relations. The atmosphere of alarm and discord, artificially fomented and kept up, helps the imperialists to inflate war budgets and the production for war brings fabulous

will lead to further development of this co-ordinated production. The line of ensuring a more rapid rise in living standards leads in all the countries of people's democracy to a more thorough discussion of the new capital investments and to a more economic utilisation of existing capacities, to the elimination of the tendencies towards unjustified autarchy. Even the way taken for getting rid of these abnormalities fully confirms the independence of economic development in the countries of people's democracy as distinct from the state of affairs in the capitalist world where the more developed countries strive might and main to retard the industrialisation of the economically backward countries.

In the course of the industrialisation of the countries of people's democracy, and especially in recent years, the exchange of technical documents has been widely practised. In this respect the Soviet Union has given invaluable help to all these countries. This help is all the more advantageous to the countries of people's democracy since in return for the technical documents the Soviet Union takes as reimbursement only the actual cost.

While in past years the mutual economic relations between the USSR and the countries of people's democracy were reflected chiefly in deliveries of machinery, equipment, raw materials and basic food-stuffs, last year's trade was distinguished by new factors. The steady growth in output enables the population in all the countries of the democratic camp to enjoy greater purchasing power, with a resultant bigger demand for mass consumption goods. Consequently, last year, in addition to the stipulated consignments, Czechoslovakia signed with the Soviet Union and practically all the countries of the democratic camp supplementary agreements providing for mutual deliveries of mass consumption goods.

Arising from this, Poland, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria deliver extra shipments to Czechoslovakia, mainly agricultural products such as butter, cheese, vegetables and fruit, while Czechoslovakia supplies these countries with such items as motor-cycles, bicycles, radio sets and sewing machines. At the same time it became clear that exchange of this kind is also possible between countries with highly developed industry, for example, between Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic. The German Democratic Republic sent us cameras, photo-equipment, watches etc., while Czechoslovakia delivered motor-cycles, perambulators, furniture and leather goods. Czechoslovakia's supplementary exports and imports of mass consumption goods in 1953, that is, exports and imports in excess of those foreseen in the trade agreements with the countries of the democratic camp, were valued at nearly 70 million roubles.

The course taken in the Soviet Union and in the countries of people's democracy for a rapid rise in living standards provides ever increasing opportunities for a greater exchange of mass consumption goods.

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Despite the great successes of economic co-operation between the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy, co-operation which will be further developed and deepened—all countries of the democratic camp want to have more trade with other countries willing to trade on a basis of complete equality and mutual advantage. This striving meets with support in a number of capitalist countries which, fighting for their national independence, have no desire to see the foreign monopolies interfere in their internal affairs and want, therefore, to trade with the countries of the

In Communist and Workers' Parties

V. I. LENIN'S WORKS PUBLISHED IN ITALY

The newspaper "Unita" reports that this year the "Rinascita" Publishing House will begin publication of the 35 volumes of the Collected Works of V. I. Lenin. The Italian edition will conform to the fourth Soviet edition. The significance of this measure, says the newspaper, becomes clear in the light of the recent statement of the leadership of the Communist Party, which says that loyalty to the teaching, example and cause of Lenin means in the first place "studying Lenin's works, mastering his teaching, bringing this teaching to the people, to cultural workers and to all those sincerely looking for political and ideological leadership".

"Unita" points out that the publishing of V. I. Lenin's works will be a new incentive for raising the ideological level of the members of the Party.

EDUCATION IN PEOPLE'S- REVOLUTIONARY PARTY OF MONGOLIA

The South Gobi regional committee of the Mongolian People's-Revolutionary Party devotes a great deal of attention to raising the ideological-theoretical level of Party members and probationers. The committee has organised regular classes and consultations for those studying dialectical and historical materialism individually. Questions of Party education are often discussed at meetings of Party activists of the region and at general meetings of the Party branches.

Five study groups of three types function in the regional centre. All Party members and probationers are involved in Party education. Recently the work of the students has improved considerably.

Serious attention is paid by the branches of the regional centre to the preparation of tutors for classes and consultations, and to raising the ideological level of studies in the groups.

The regional committee checks on the educational work of Party organisations. The consultation centre of the regional committee gives great assistance to the members studying in the education network. It holds consultations, talks and lectures.

More than 70 members and probationers are permanent readers of the regional library. The majority of Party members and probationers have personal libraries.

Weekly seminars for members and probationers held by the regional Party organisations were conducted by experienced tutors. These seminars were on a higher organisational and ideological level than in the past. The activity of the students has improved considerably.

60th BIRTHDAY OF VICTORIO CODOVILLA

Victorio Codovilla, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Argentina, celebrated his 60th birthday on February 8th. In this connection the Central Committee of the Party has decided to publish a selection of his major works.

PARTY EDUCATIONAL WORK IN RURAL AREAS OF NORTH CHINA

Recently the North China Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party decided on detailed measures for stepping up educational work in rural areas. The decision outlines a concrete, long-term educational programme.

The Bureau stresses the necessity to develop widely among the Party branches and the peasants propaganda for the Party's general line in the transitional period, with special emphasis on the socialist industrialisation of the country, the socialist transformation of agriculture and on Party policy in relation to the movement for mutual-aid and co-operatives. The recommendations call for organising a deep and thorough study of the Constitution of the Communist Party of China and other Party manuals and for a big improvement in the method of work of the branches and of the members.

The Bureau points out that the studies are open not only to Party members, but also to non-party activists who may join voluntarily and recommends that the activists in the agricultural co-operatives and the leaders of mutual-aid teams be given every opportunity to take part in the study.

FOR PARTY CLOSELY LINKED WITH MASSES, FOR BROAD NATIONAL-LIBERATION FRONT

XIXth PLENUM OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY, CHILE

The recent XIXth Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Chile discussed the economic situation in the country, which sharply deteriorated during 1953 as a consequence of the continued deepening of the general crisis of capitalism and intensified imperialist robbery, mainly on the part of the US monopolies. The decisions of the Plenum pointed to the need to further intensify the struggle for building up a broad national-liberation front which would unite all the democratic, anti-imperialist and anti-feudal forces under the leadership of the working class.

The Plenum urged better utilisation of the favourable conditions in the country for effecting an alliance of the working class and peasantry, the basis of the movement for national liberation; it put forward the task of forming Party organisations in the countryside (since without this it will be impossible to strengthen the peasant organisations), to organise resistance to the arbitrary actions of landlords and to defend the gains already won.

A powerful Communist Party closely linked with the masses, say the decisions, is the main condition for developing the movement for national liberation and democracy. The Communist Party is growing stronger but it is a very slow growth. Consequently, the recruiting of new members must be one of the main jobs of the Party.

In order to educate the members (the majority of whom are young and inexperienced) in the spirit of Marxism-Leninism the decisions call on the local Party committees to hold training classes for their members; they also stress the need for independent political study by the members

It points out further that providing the branches with tutors is an essential step in improving the entire Party educational work among peasants. Tutors may be recruited from members of the district committees of the Party, from the Party cadres in county and district governments and popular organisations and from rank-and-file members of the branches with a relatively high political and cultural level.

The Bureau called on the Party committees to study the views of the rank-and-file as well as the educational work of the branches. The county committees should regularly check the educational work of the branches, and convene conferences every three months to discuss matters connected with improving the Party educational work and to exchange experiences. The district committees should convene conferences of the tutors attached to the branches to decide the programme for the next stage. The newspapers should popularise the best experience of the branch educational work in rural areas.

and for securing a bigger circulation for Party literature.

The Plenum devoted close attention to work among the masses. Each Party member without exception must be a member of one or another organisation of the working people, be in contact with the masses, be able to exert influence on the masses and to organise and lead their struggle.

Attention was drawn to the need for improving the methods of Party leadership in keeping with the principle of collective leadership.

A more resolute struggle against a mechanical approach to Party work was urged, and against the "practicism" which finds expression in insufficient discussion of political questions and in a mechanical allocation of Party assignments.

The decisions of the Plenum stressed the need for improving work with Party activists, developing inner-party democracy and strictly observing the principle of democratic centralism; it emphasised that in strengthening the Party the most effective and tried weapon is criticism and self-criticism which must be widely used.

The Plenum drew attention to the need for sharper revolutionary vigilance.

The Central Committee summing up the results of the fulfilment of the decisions of the XVIIIth Plenum expressed its profound confidence that the Party will have greater successes in its struggle, will overcome the shortcomings still to be found and fulfil the directives of the XIXth Plenum by developing, organising and successfully leading the movement for national liberation.

FROM COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PRESS

For Correct Attitude Towards Capitalism

countries in the world. The might of the Soviet Union and its aid enabled the countries of people's democracy to overcome comparatively easily the difficulties artificially created by the capitalist states. And so instead of the economic ruin and misery predicted by bourgeois propaganda, there is growing before our eyes the new world with new ties and new international economic relations.

At the same time the countries of the democratic camp are striving to extend their trade with all countries on the basis of full equality and mutual advantage.

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In the postwar years the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy have consolidated their economic co-operation which had already begun to take shape during the war when the Soviet Union, despite the enormous losses and damage suffered by it in the interests of victory over the forces of fascism, extended help to the neighbouring countries immediately after the fascist troops were driven out. This was followed by the establishment of broad economic relations between the USSR and all the people's-democratic countries. Many sided trade agreements were signed between them. The volume of trade under these agreements is rising year by year and in all countries of people's democracy is now many times the volume of 1947-48.

By 1952, compared with 1946, the foreign trade of the countries of the democratic camp had increased as follows: in Poland sixfold, in Czechoslovakia 3.5 times, in Hungary 13 times, Rumania 14.5 times and nearly 3 times in Bulgaria. Trade between the German Democratic Republic and the other countries of the democratic camp was 17.7 times greater compared with 1947. And in 1952 the share of the countries of the democratic camp amounted to 73 per cent of the foreign trade of the European People's Democracies, while the share of the People's Democracies in the foreign trade of the USSR amounted to 80 per cent.

Foreign trade is a vital form of economic co-operation between the countries of the democratic camp by means of which the state plans for developing the national economy are co-ordinated.

The one-year trade agreements gradually developed into a system of mutual long-term agreements which are of great help to all the countries of the democratic camp. They are of help because, on the one hand, they provide these countries with supplies of the most important items of food and raw materials, and, on the other hand, they provide those countries in which agriculture predominates with machines, machine tools and equipment for entire factories, thereby accelerating their industrialisation.

It is precisely in the successful industrialisation of the countries of people's democracy that there is vividly seen the principled difference between the economic co-operation of the Soviet Union with the countries of the democratic camp and the so-called "economic co-operation" in the capitalist world.

The Soviet Union consistently adheres to the principle of complete equality in its relations with other countries. It helps the countries of people's democracy to lay the foundations of socialist economy and selflessly shares with them its rich experience.

The new automobile plant in Warsaw and the V. I. Lenin iron and steel combinat in Nowa Huta, the Clement Gottwald iron and steel combinat in Czechoslovakia, the Stalinvaros combinat in Hungary, the V. I. Lenin hydro-electric station in Rumania, the Stalin chemical combinat in Bulgaria, the V. I. Lenin hydro-electric station in Albania and other combinats, heavy engineering enterprises, power stations and other magnificent constructions being built

developed countries. Production suffers from considerable unemployment. And so in a number of capitalist countries one can see curtailment of metallurgical and machine-building industry and a further growth of unemployment, while economically weaker countries need the products of the metallurgical and machine-building industries.

Of the many examples that could be mentioned we cite the following. At the end of 1953 utilisation of the capacity of the US iron and steel industry declined from 94.7 per cent in October to 90.1 in November and to 85 in December. For 11 months of 1953 steel output in the countries of the so-called European Coal and Steel Association reached only 36,315,000 tons as against 38,217,000 tons for the corresponding period in 1952. In Belgium alone nine blast furnaces stopped production in 1953.

The less developed countries are cutting the acreage sown to technical and food crops in view of the fact that the developed capitalist countries are buying smaller quantities of their products owing to the steady curtailment of production for civilian needs and the fall in consumption.

The policy of securing maximum capitalist profit is the chief factor determining the attempts of the capitalists to do everything to maintain the tension in international relations. The atmosphere of alarm and discord, artificially fomented and kept up, helps the imperialists to inflate war budgets and the production for war brings fabulous profits to the monopolies.

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In the economic relations between the countries of the democratic camp such a state of affairs is impossible. The shortcomings which sometimes arise in trade between the countries of people's democracy have their source chiefly in organisational aspects and arise from inexperience in elaborating the national-economic plans which at times results in delay in delivery.

In a number of cases this is also true for our Czechoslovak Republic which, by delaying some shipments of engineering equipment, causes difficulties for the friendly countries. But this should be regarded as a purely temporary thing which, as a result of measures now being taken, will soon be completely eliminated. The vital and decisive factor is that all our relations are characterised by the mutual desire to help each other as much as possible.

In our mutual economic relations, forms of a new organisation of world economy are making their appearance, based not on the "right of the strong" but on the principles of mutual respect and genuine equality.

There is abundant proof of this. Here is some of this proof. The economy of the countries of people's democracy rests on solid foundations. These countries are insured by shipments of necessary machinery, raw materials and food from the friendly countries, plus the fact that the main bulwark of the countries of the democratic camp is the economic might of the USSR. Moreover, some of the recently signed agreements go far beyond the framework of ordinary trade agreements. For example, some of these countries mutually supplement each other by undertaking to produce those goods which are in short supply in the other country. Such exchange facilitates higher labour productivity since it is possible in this way to avoid in one or another country certain unprofitable and costly processes—for instance, in making certain kinds of rolled metal. Such co-operation also takes place in producing machine-tools and other goods.

Whereas before there was at times a tendency in some countries to produce everything with one's own forces and means, the period beginning particularly with the second half of 1953, after certain readjustments had been made in the national-economic plans, is characterised by changes which

become clear that exchange of this kind is also possible between countries with highly developed industry, for example, between Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic. The German Democratic Republic sent us cameras, photo-equipment, watches etc., while Czechoslovakia delivered motorcycles, perambulators, furniture and leather goods. Czechoslovakia's supplementary exports and imports of mass consumption goods in 1953, that is, exports and imports in excess of those foreseen in the trade agreements with the countries of the democratic camp, were valued at nearly 70 million roubles.

The course taken in the Soviet Union and in the countries of people's democracy for a rapid rise in living standards provides ever increasing opportunities for a greater exchange of mass consumption goods.

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Despite the great successes of economic co-operation between the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy, co-operation which will be further developed and deepened—all countries of the democratic camp want to have more trade with other countries willing to trade on a basis of complete equality and mutual advantage. This striving meets with support in a number of capitalist countries which, fighting for their national independence, have no desire to see the foreign monopolies interfere in their internal affairs and want, therefore, to trade with the countries of the democratic camp. There is a growing desire in business and commercial circles also in the developed capitalist countries for more East-West trade. These circles are forced to do this by growing unemployment, the difficulties in finding markets and by under-working of capacities which is connected with the first two factors.

Some positive results have already been achieved in this respect. True to its policy of peace and international co-operation, the Soviet Union firmly and consistently stands for extending economic relations with foreign countries, including the capitalist countries. Last year the Soviet Union traded with 51 foreign countries. For the first time in the postwar period the USSR concluded trade agreements with India, France, Argentina, Greece and Iceland. The USSR greatly increased its trade with a number of countries in Western Europe and in the Near and Middle East. The foreign trade turnover of the Soviet Union rose 11 per cent in 1953 and was almost four times in excess of pre-war. The recent visit to Moscow of representatives of British business circles interested in further extension of economic relations between Britain and the Soviet Union is further proof of the desire of the Soviet Union to develop trade with other countries on mutually acceptable conditions.

Czechoslovakia, in addition to existing agreements with capitalist countries, recently signed a number of new agreements, for example, with India, Argentina, Belgium, Greece and some other countries. The share of capitalist countries in Czechoslovakia's foreign trade rose 15 per cent in the second half of 1953 compared with the corresponding period for 1952. The same is true of other countries of people's democracy. We want more trade with all countries based on the principle of mutual advantage.

Experience shows that the violation of normal foreign trade, the raising of obstacles and discrimination in this sphere add to the tension in international relations. He who does not wish to contribute to the normalisation of relations in foreign trade does not want to contribute to a lessening of the international tension. The development of economic relations between all countries contributes to a lessening of the international tension, helps all the forces fighting to preserve peace and corresponds to the desires of the popular masses in all countries.

The regional work of Party organisations. The consultation centre of the regional committee gives great assistance to the members studying in the education network. It holds consultations, talks and lectures.

More than 70 members and probationers are permanent readers of the regional library. The majority of Party members and probationers have personal libraries.

Weekly seminars for members and probationers held by the regional Party organisations were conducted by experienced tutors. These seminars were on a higher organisational and ideological level than in the past. The activity of the students has improved considerably.

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the favourable conditions in the country urged, and against the insufficient discussion of political questions and in a mechanical allocation of Party assignments. The decisions of the Plenum stressed the need for improving work with Party activists, developing inner-party democracy and strictly observing the principle of democratic centralism; it emphasised that in strengthening the Party the most effective and tried weapon is criticism and self-criticism which must be widely used.

A powerful Communist Party closely linked with the masses, say the decisions, is the main condition for developing the movement for national liberation and democracy. The Communist Party is growing stronger but it is a very slow growth. Consequently, the recruiting of new members must be one of the main jobs of the Party.

In order to educate the members (the majority of whom are young and inexperienced) in the spirit of Marxism-Leninism the decisions call on the local Party committees to hold training classes for their members; they also stress the need for independent political study by the members

for sharper revolutionary vigilance. The Central Committee summing up the results of the fulfilment of the decisions of the XVIIIth Plenum expressed its profound confidence that the Party will have greater successes in its struggle, will overcome the shortcomings still to be found and fulfil the directives of the XIXth Plenum by developing, organising and successfully leading the movement for national liberation.

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FROM COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PRESS

For Correct Attitude Towards Cadres

"Szabad Nep"—Central Organ of Hungarian Working People's Party
"Partépités"—Journal of Central Committee, Hungarian Working People's Party

The articles, "Cadres are Living People" and "A More Attentive Attitude to Characteristics of Cadres", appeared in the newspaper "Szabad Nep", and in the monthly journal "Partépités" ("Party Building"), over the signature of Comrade Károly Kiss, Chairman of the Central Control Commission of the Hungarian Working People's Party. In these articles Comrade Kiss discloses a number of serious shortcomings in cadres work and urges Party functionaries and personnel departments in factories, offices and ministries to be more careful and attentive in relation to cadres, to make a more profound study of them.

Proceeding from the Stalin thesis that cadres decide everything, the Central Committee of the Hungarian Working People's Party has always devoted and devotes now special attention to selecting, training and correctly allocating cadres according to their professional and political qualities. The role of the cadres assumed particular importance after the decisions of the June and October meetings of the Central Committee and after publication of the decree of the Party and the Government about advancing agricultural production. These decisions inspired thousands of people and were of great help in advancing to leading posts large numbers of people possessing energy and initiative.

Our Party organisations, Comrade Károly Kiss writes, are becoming increasingly conscious of the need for a more careful and attentive attitude to cadres in order to ensure successful carrying out of the decisions of the Central Committee. The author points to the indisputable improvement in cadres work. At present the Party member about to be transferred to other work is interviewed personally by the secretary of his organisation who explains the reasons for this transfer. When a member is removed from his post because of his mistakes the secretary of the Party organisation helps him to see where he was wrong and shows him how to correct his mistakes. This method is also practised by good heads of personnel departments in enterprises and offices.

But very often some personnel departments, on the pretext of "studying the past", display a careless and bureaucratic attitude towards people, distort the concept of vigilance; Party organisations sometimes display tardiness in eliminating

mistakes and hinder thereby the promotion of new cadres. Comrade Kiss criticises the people in charge of cadres in the Educational Department of the Budapest City Council. Striving to obtain detailed information for their personnel files these people distributed among the teachers a questionnaire containing... 47 questions. The list included questions which the teachers were simply not in a position to answer.

Similar incorrect methods are used in the provinces too. For example, a request came from the village of Polgárdi to the Department of the Hungarian State Railways for detailed information about K. L., engine driver, to replenish the biography of... his father-in-law who happens to be a village school teacher.

Comrade Kiss also raises the question of preparing characterisations of Party members—a point of considerable importance in the work with cadres. Characterisations must be the result of detailed study of the given person, of study of his abilities, his knowledge and inclinations, the result of an examination of his successes and failures. It should always be borne in mind that the characterisation giving a picture of the Party member helps the Party organisations correctly to use this member elsewhere and in further work with him.

However, the characterisations given, for example, by the regional Party schools and the Budapest three-months' Party school do not, as a rule, reflect the knowledge and experience acquired by the cadres in Party and other work and suffer from other essential shortcomings. Many characterisations, Comrade Kiss writes, are simply the characterisations of their compilers and not of the people whom they were intended to characterise.

However, writes Comrade Kiss, this does not mean any blunting of vigilance. In this respect we make no concessions and we must stand on guard over the purity of the Party ranks. It goes without saying that the Party organisations must be aware of the social origin of their members and their relatives. But in order to have full knowledge about the member it is necessary first of all to judge him by his loyalty to the Party and the people, to take into account his honesty, his attitude towards the building of Socialism. Consequently, he "who judges a person not in this way but on the basis of information

which is often of a dubious character... is incapable of carrying out his duty properly, incapable of bringing out and training valuable cadres".

The author poses the question: What is the explanation for the fact that in some places the leaders of the Party organisations and heads of personnel departments instead of making a profound study of the cadres compile paper files? "The reason is", he answers, "that many of them fear responsibility". It is this fear of taking responsibility that explains the enormous demands of a bureaucratic character which they make on cadres, that acter which they make on cadres, that explains the strange fact that there are no "suitable" candidates for some Party and administrative posts.

Comrade Kiss criticised the secretary of one of the branches in the Gheorghiu-Dej shipyard in Budapest who informed the district committee that only two of the fifty members of his organisation were fit for leading Party work. Comrade Kiss recalls that when prior to the liberation the Party formed a branch in this plant it found among fifty non-party workers "far more comrades for underground work—work which called for undergreater heroism, determination and discipline—than the branch secretary could find for leading the work of the organisation".

The interests of the Party, the ever-growing needs of socialist construction for cadres, for capable and honest workers, demand that Party leaders and personnel departments display more boldness and confidence with regard to those who merit this. They must, Comrade Kiss writes, acquaint themselves more thoroughly with people, boldly defend them if in their view the given person really differs from the picture given by the "paper information" which is often dubious and dim... Our Party organisations will be able to work better... to work in a new way only if in assessing people they come closer to life and reject the incorrect methods that have become a habit in many places.

The rapid elimination of these incorrect views, mistakes and methods is the guarantee that, in the course of the reporting-back campaign now under way in the branches of the Hungarian Working People's Party, the hundreds of active Party members that have come forward in the recent period will be promoted to leading work in the Party organisations.

Results of Fulfilment of 1953 Plans for Developing National Economy in Countries of People's Democracy

Poland

According to the report published by the State Economic Planning Commission the 1953 plan for industrial output in Poland was fulfilled 103.9 per cent. Gross output of socialist industry rose 17.5 per cent in 1953 compared with 1952 and 129 per cent compared with 1949.

The plan for output of pig-iron, rolled metal, iron ore, coal, coke, automobiles, tractors, meat products, cotton and woollen fabrics, footwear, radio sets, motor-cycles, etc., was overfulfilled.

The output of pig-iron rose 29 per cent compared with 1952, steel and electric power 13 per cent, agricultural machinery 24 per cent, footwear 6 per cent, meat 25 per cent, sugar 34 per cent.

The plan for output of mass consumption goods was overfulfilled by roughly 5.7 per cent and 2.5 per cent for production of means of production.

Good progress was made in introducing modern technique into all spheres of the national economy, and mass production of about 100 new types of machines and mechanisms was begun. In addition, the machine-building industry turned out about 90 types of new machines and mechanisms highly important for the further technical progress of the national economy. Out of 210,000 rationalisation suggestions made in the course of the year 125,000 were accepted and put into use. As a result of the introduction of modern technique, higher skills of industrial workers and socialist emulation, labour productivity per worker rose nearly 10.6 per cent.

A number of important undertakings were completed and put into operation.

Owing to unfavourable weather the harvest of four grain crops, particularly rye, was less than in 1952. At the same time the potato crop rose 15 per cent and sugar beet 16 per cent compared with 1952. The

head of cattle showed a 2 per cent increase, hogs 13 and sheep 15 per cent.

In 1953 the supplies of machinery to individual peasants increased considerably. 402 villages were electrified.

The number of producer co-operatives increased from 4,900 to over 8,000. At the end of 1953 there were 401 machine and tractor stations in the country.

Last year 83,000 students graduated from secondary technical colleges and higher educational establishments.

Centralised capital investments rose almost 15 per cent as against 1952, including an increase of nearly 14 per cent in industry and about 21 per cent in agriculture.

Some 135,000 new apartments were completed.

State and co-operative retail trade increased by nearly 6 per cent. The population bought through the state and co-operative trading network 17 per cent more meat and meat products than in 1952, 38 per cent more fats, nearly 5 per cent more woollen and cotton fabrics, about 7 per cent more footwear, nearly 27 per cent more radio sets, etc.

Foreign trade was extended. Poland now trades with 71 countries. Trade relations with the USSR and the People's Democracies were considerably extended.

The national income rose approximately 10 per cent in 1953.

The partial price reductions effected last November added 4.5 billion zloty to the annual earnings of the population. In 1953 the Government carried out a number of measures which resulted in better contract terms for agricultural products and increased the nominal peasant income by more than 3 billion zloty.

A substantial rise in the standard of living of the working population took place in the fourth quarter of 1953 as a result of the initial steps taken to ensure implementation of the decisions adopted by the IX Plenum of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party.

Rumania

Socialist industry in Rumania fulfilled the 1953 plan for gross output 101.3 per cent.

Compared with 1952 gross industrial output rose 14.4 per cent. In 1953 the country generated 17 per cent more electric power than in 1952; coal output rose 5 per cent, ball-coke 20, pig-iron 17, oil 13, lead 32, ball-bearings 65, passenger cars 50, domestic goods 33, bread 29, flour products 23, sugar 12 and tinned meat 22 per cent.

In 1953 existing enterprises were expanded and new enterprises commissioned, including a ball-bearing plant, rolling mills, four electric furnaces, an agricultural machine plant, mechanised bakeries, textile mills, etc. Capacity of hydro-electric stations and thermo-electric stations increased by more than 80,000 kilowatts.

The process of introducing new technique into industry and agriculture was carried forward during 1953. New types of machines and mechanisms, compressors, concrete mixers, underground electric locomotives equipped with accumulators, new types of engines and equipment for the oil and textile industries were produced.

The number of rationalisation suggestions considered considerably. In the

end of 1953 agriculture had at its disposal 23,300 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p. units), 19,000 tractor-drawn ploughs, 474 self-propelled combines and 13,250 threshing machines. The machine and tractor stations performed over 60 per cent more work than in the previous year.

202 producer co-operatives and 192 associations for joint cultivation of land were organised in the course of the year. More help was given by the state to the individual peasant farms.

The working people received new dwelling houses with a floor space in excess of 335,000 square metres.

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The working people of Japan are waging a resolute struggle for their rights, against remilitarisation. Photo: Workers' demonstration in Tokyo with the participation of representatives from 50 trade unions. Inscriptions on posters: "Stop rearmament!", "We demand higher wages!"

Slave Conditions of Puerto-Rican Workers

According to the Puerto Rican newspaper "Pueblo" there is a special labour-hiring agency in Philadelphia engaged in allocating unemployed Puerto-Ricans to different enterprises. American employers call at this agency to select the workers needed by them. The price for an unemployed Puerto-Rican is 15 dollars. He is bought and sold like any article or a slave.

Upon getting into the clutches of these bosses their life becomes very much like life in a concentration camp. They sleep on heaps of rotten potatoes, their sole sustenance. They often suffer from a shortage of water.

The moment they finish work the unfortunate Puerto-Ricans are stripped of their overalls which are locked up or are given to the next shift. This precaution is taken because very often the Puerto-Rican, unable to endure the unbearable conditions, tries to escape; when caught he is jailed and severely beaten. Those lucky enough to return home tell their fellow-countrymen that in the course of their flight they saw dead bodies on the roadsides near plantations—people who had died from starvation or torture.

Starvation, torture and death—such is the lot of the Puerto-Rican worker in the country lauded by the hired hacks as the "citadel of democracy".

Dire Plight of Population in Occupied Areas of Viet Nam

The French colonisers and the Bao-dai puppet administration are ruthlessly exploiting the people in occupied areas of Viet Nam. Poverty and hunger are becoming more widespread. The Bao-dai authorities have imposed an unbearable tax burden on the people. The levies include a "national defence" tax, "sanitary tax", a tax "for permanent residence" and a recent tax based on... the number of windows in the house.

Prices are soaring steadily in the occupied areas. According to "Lao-Dong", organ of the Viet Nam Confederation of Labour, food prices doubled last year com-

Systematic Verification — Guarantee of Successful Fulfilment of Party Decisions

Sava Dilbokov
Secretary of Plevna Regional Committee,
Communist Party of Bulgaria

★ ★

In keeping with the directives of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bulgaria the Plevna regional organisation of the Party is more and more persistently and successfully practising the method of verifying fulfilment of decisions in all spheres of its work. The regional committee of the Party is focusing attention on selecting cadres, verifying how decisions are carried out and helping district committees and branches. This greatly helped the Plevna region to fulfil the first Five-Year Plan in four years.

The new tasks envisaged in the second Five-Year Plan and in the decision of the Central Committee of the Party concerning the further development of agriculture demand from the Party committees and organisations, state and economic bodies that they conduct operative organisational work, systematically and persistently verify the execution of decisions in order to ensure proper and timely fulfilment of the decisions of the Party and the Government.

The regional and district committees of the Party have worked out concrete measures for implementing the decision of the Central Committee and have carried out serious organisational work. Early in January a plenum of the Plevna regional committee of the Party heard a report on the fulfilment of this decision. The plenum pointed out that the improvement in organising work resulted in raising the level of the leading cadres in the producer co-operatives and machine and tractor stations. A number of better trained and more authoritative Party members were promoted to the posts of chairmen of the producer co-operatives and secretaries of rural Party organisations. 121 specialists were sent to work in agriculture in the region; 135 mechanics hitherto working on jobs that had nothing to do with their speciality were discovered. The 1954 work plans for the machine and tractor stations were prepared in good time and began to be carried out in a more organised manner. At the same time, the plenum revealed that some of the district committees of the Party including those in Lukovit and Nikopol had not organised systematic verification of the carrying out of the decisions of the Party and the Government, that they were lagging seriously in the matter of selecting and training cadres for the producer co-operatives and the machine and tractor stations.

The bureau of the regional committee regularly hears reports by the district committees, by branch secretaries and individual members holding leading posts in the mass organisations, in economic and other bodies. As a rule, a commission of the regional committee first verifies the work and then makes a brief supplementary report at the meeting of the Party bureau. For example, the bureau of the regional committee heard the report on the work of the Party groups submitted by the Svishov district committee and the supplementary report of the regional commission. This ensured a better study of the positive experience, helped to disclose all the shortcomings and to give effective help to the Party groups in improving their work.

The regional committee is working to ensure all-round and systematic verification of the execution of decisions, to ensure that the verification leads to the exact fulfilment of the decisions of the Party and the Government. This is reflected in the quarterly and monthly working plans of the regional bureau and its departments. These plans, stemming from the statements of the Party and the Government, the decisions of the Party conference and the meetings

bureau and direct their attention to the decisive tasks. All this makes it possible timely to disclose and eliminate shortcomings and bottlenecks in the work, to make a profound analysis and generalise the experience of the leading functionaries, to enhance responsibility and discipline in the Party and state apparatus, to carry out the tasks set by the Party in good time and in the best way.

Verification is successful wherever it is carried out in an atmosphere of non-tolerance of shortcomings and strict responsibility. It is precisely this method which enabled us successfully to carry out the 1953 harvesting and to ensure timely fulfilment of the plan for state deliveries.

During the harvesting the regional bureau daily analysed the work done and took measures in good time to eliminate the shortcomings. When it was discovered that the Nikopol district was lagging, the regional bureau at its meeting severely criticised the district leaders for their failure to rally the entire labour force, for their poor political work and unsatisfactory use of machinery. The decision taken by the bureau ensured elimination of the shortcomings in the work of the Nikopol district.

Experience shows that if the leaders are given greater personal responsibility, if their work is systematically verified and controlled, if they are given direct and skilful help, then the lagging organisations can be brought forward. Proof of this is the experience of the Plevna district which systematically lagged in carrying out agricultural and other campaigns. Taking this into account the regional committee established special control over the work of the district organisation of the Party with the result that its work was considerably improved. Carrying out the decision of the Central Committee for ensuring a further advance by agriculture, the district committee in good time and earlier than others found specialists and sent them to the producer co-operatives, to the machine and tractor stations and did fairly good work in carrying out other measures.

In his report to the XIX Congress of the CPSU Comrade Malenkov stressed that correct selection of cadres and verification must become the main factor in the leading activity of the central and local Party organisations, state and economic bodies in the U.S.S.R. He pointed out that even efficient functionaries when left to themselves without control and verification become rusty and bureaucratic. This is confirmed by numerous examples from our life. Here is one. Since Lovech district fulfils the state plans rather well, the regional committee temporarily slackened its control over the district committee. The district leaders began to take things easy with the result that the district lagged in the spring sowing. And only when the necessary measures were taken did the district again become the leading district in the region.

Verification of fulfilment is, simultaneously, verification of cadres, their skills and their ability to organise the work of carrying out the tasks confronting them. The introduction of verification, the main method in the work of the Party and administrative cadres in the region, made it possible

Main attention is paid by the regional committee to verifying the work of district committees and branches—the places where the decisions are carried out.

It is worth noting that many leading functionaries still fail to pay due attention to verification on the spot, or they sometimes carry it out in a perfunctory manner. For instance, the Plevna city committee believed that Vapzarov factory was doing well and did not regularly verify the activity of the Party organisation and the leading Party functionaries in the factory. But at the end of the year it became clear that the manager had become complacent with previous successes, ignored complaints by workers about shortcomings and isolated himself from the Party organisation. All this led to a falling off in discipline and to non-fulfilment of the plan. There is no doubt that if the regional and city committees had systematically controlled and verified the work of the factory, they would have disclosed the shortcomings in good time, could have helped to eliminate them and ensured fulfilment of the production plan.

Our main weakness in organisational work is the inability to ensure simultaneous fulfilment of all the tasks confronting us. While striving to carry out separate tasks we often forget about other important sectors of the work with the result that these sectors begin to lag behind.

Verification brings good results only when verification from the top is carried out together with verification from below. We devote attention to holding regular Party meetings and conferences, production meetings and rallies of the working people in the factories, machine and tractor stations, on the state farms and in the producer co-operatives. More than 50 per cent of the Party members participated in discussion at the last reporting-back Party meetings. They criticised shortcomings in the work of the leading Party bodies and advanced suggestions for improving it.

The local press is of great significance in verifying the fulfilment of decisions—the regional newspaper "Septemvriska ya pobeda", factory papers, bulletins and wall newspapers. Every day the press features the fulfilment of decisions, the experience of the leading workers, criticises the bureaucrats and the laggards and those who violate state and Party discipline.

The suggestions and letters sent by the working people to the leading Party and state organs constitute another important form of verification and rank-and-file criticism. The regional committee gives constant attention to the complaints of the working people and immediately takes the necessary measures.

The regional committee displays constant concern for developing wide rank-and-file criticism and raising inner-Party democracy to a higher level. However, it is worth noting that some district committees and Party organisations do not take serious measures against those guilty of suppressing criticism. This militates against more active participation by the Party and non-party masses in the work of the leading bodies, against rallying the working people for fulfilment of the decisions adopted by the Party and the Government, against fulfilment of the economic plan.

The carrying out of the new and grand tasks in building Socialism, in effecting a steep rise in the material and cultural

output rose 14.4 per cent. In 1953 the country generated 17 per cent more electric power than in 1952; coal output rose 5 per cent, coke 20, pig-iron 17, oil 13, lead 32, ball-bearings 65, passenger cars 50, domestic goods 33, bread 29, flour products 23, sugar 12 and tinned meat 22 per cent.

In 1953 existing enterprises were expanded and new enterprises commissioned, including a ball-bearing plant, rolling mills, four electric furnaces, an agricultural machinery plant, mechanised bakeries, textile mills, etc. Capacity of hydro-electric stations and thermo-electric stations increased by more than 80,000 kilowatts.

The process of introducing new technique into industry and agriculture was carried forward during 1953. New types of machines and mechanisms, compressors, concrete mixers, underground electric locomotives equipped with accumulators, new types of engines and equipment for the oil and textile industries were produced.

The number of rationalisation suggestions and inventions rose considerably. In the course of the year about 16,800 rationalisation suggestions were accepted which yielded an economy totalling more than 260 million lei.

The 1953 harvest for all crops was higher than in the previous year. During the year agriculture received additionally 2,535 tractors, 148 self-propelled combines, 778 threshing machines and other machines. At

25,000 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p. units), 19,000 tractor-drawn ploughs, 474 self-propelled combines and 13,250 threshing machines. The machine and tractor stations performed over 60 per cent more work than in the previous year.

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In 1953 the state allocated 24.4 per cent more funds for public education, health protection, physical culture and sport and for social insurance as compared with 1952.

Over 445,000 working people and children spent their vacations at health-resorts and in sanatoria. The carrying out of the decisions of the August Plenum of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party resulted in higher incomes for the working people.

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Prices are soaring steadily in the occupied areas. According to "Lao-Dong", organ of the Viet Nam Confederation of Labour, food prices doubled last year compared with 1952. In 1953 clothing prices went up 90 per cent. Price increases for other goods ranged from 30 to 100 per cent.

Unemployment has reached a high figure. In Hañol, for example, half the handicraftsmen are jobless. Unemployed and homeless people are met with all over the city. Entire families are forced to beg on the streets.

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The regional committee is working to ensure all-round and systematic verification of the execution of decisions, to ensure that the verification leads to the exact fulfilment of the decisions of the Party and the Government. This is reflected in the quarterly and monthly working plans of the regional bureau and its departments. These plans, stemming from the statements of the Party and the Government, the decisions of the Party conference and the meetings of the regional committee, provide for verification of the most important tasks. Each decision of the regional bureau defines the time necessary for carrying out one or another measure and names the functionary responsible for its realisation. The secretaries of the regional committee regularly brief the staff of the committee, acquaint them with the decisions of the

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Verification of fulfilment is, simultaneously, verification of cadres, their skills and their ability to organise the work of carrying out the tasks confronting them. The introduction of verification, the main method in the work of the Party and administrative cadres in the region, made it possible to raise the qualifications of the cadres, to bring forward and promote many new and valuable functionaries.

The regional and district committees of the Party use various forms of verification: verification on the spot, reporting-back at bureau meetings of the Party committee, study of protocols and other documents.

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The carrying out of the new and grand tasks in building Socialism, in effecting a steep rise in the material and cultural standards of the working people demands from the regional committee better political and organisational work, further improvement in verifying how decisions are carried out at all levels of Party, state, economic and cultural work. Daily, all-round verification is vital for ensuring exact fulfilment of the decisions of the Party and the Government.

Thirtieth Anniversary of "Unita"

At the beginning of 1924 the working-class movement in Italy experienced a difficult period of stagnation. A year earlier the fascists had seized power in the country with the result that the state and factory owners unleashed a fierce wave of legal and non-legal violence against the working masses.

The Communist Party, founded in 1921, had been weakened by the internal struggle against the Bordiga "Left Communism", the consequences of which made themselves felt even after Antonio Gramsci took over leadership of the Party. The Socialists were split up into three parties: the Social-Reformists, Socialist-Maximalists and Socialist-Third Internationalists. The leadership of the General Confederation of Labour was concentrated in the hands of the Social-Reformists.

Such was the state of affairs on February 12, 1924, when "Unita" unfurled its militant battle standard.

All the Communist newspapers had been banned in November, 1922. Late in 1923, trying to get the approval of the majority of the people, the Government decided to hold a general election so as to get the whole world to believe that the election was "free and democratic". It gave a pledge that the newspapers of the opposition parties would not be subjected to violence on the part of the fascist gangs.

In these conditions the Communist Party decided to take advantage of the minimum of legality and launched publication of "Unita". At first "Unita" was the joint organ of the Communist Party and the parliamentary group of Socialist-Third Internationalists who fought the election on the basis of joint lists of candidates named "Proletarian Unity". This explains why, on the initiative of Gramsci and Togliatti, the name "Unita" ("Unity") was preferred to all others including, for instance, "Ordine Nuovo", the title of the

*
Ottavio Pastore
First Editor of "Unita"

* *

first Communist daily in Italy which under the leadership of Gramsci became a newspaper of national significance. The title "Unita" was mainly designed to stress the need for unity of the working class, not a formal and weak unity as a result of the combination of divergent ideas and trends but a real, revolutionary unity established on the basis of Marxist-Leninist ideology.

Unity of the working class, as an aim, had been advanced earlier by the "Ordine Nuovo" group. The Communist Party of Italy in the course of its thirty years' struggle strove for the unity which now, in the main, has been realised: the vast majority of the working class of Italy is now rallied around the Communist Party and its central organ—the newspaper "Unita".

"Unita" received its baptism of fire during the general election in April 1924. The outcome of this battle was satisfactory. Despite assassinations, violence and all the fraud practised by the fascists, the Communist Party polled only slightly fewer votes than the Social-Reformists and Maximalists, and secured 19 seats in Parliament.

The outcome of the battle was satisfactory for another reason—only a relative minority of the electors in big cities such as Milan and Turin voted for the national-fascists. The popular masses, drawn into the struggle mainly by the Communists who compelled the other opposition parties which tended to stand aloof from the struggle also to take part in the election, abandoned their apathy and became convinced that it was possible to bar the way to fascism.

Thus the situation which developed was in many respects different from that which

the fascists tried to bring about as a result of the election. A month later a political crisis set in, caused by the assassination of Matteotti, a Social-Reformist deputy. A second battle ensued, led by "Unita": the battle for the removal from power of the "government of assassins", against the impotence of the bourgeois-democratic and socialist opposition who evaded a direct popular struggle and declined to conduct a struggle in Parliament. This was a battle for the formation of "worker-peasant committees to fight fascism," which would become organs of the united proletarian front—the first step towards unity and, finally, a battle for imparting to the Communist Party the spirit of proletarian opposition, fighting against both fascism and bourgeois democracy. "Unita" became a newspaper of national significance.

Fighting against the survivals of the Bordiga influence, "Unita" propagated the principles of Marxism-Leninism and popularised the decisions of the Congresses of the Communist International and actively participated in the preparations for the Third Congress of the Italian Communist Party at which the Bordiga influence was completely smashed.

We also recall the nation-wide collection of money launched by "Unita" to help the British miners then on strike, a campaign which in the conditions of intensified fascist reaction was an event of great international significance.

Then came the 1924-26 period when the broad masses began to recognise the Communist Party as the party of the working class, the period when the Italian working people, on the basis of their own experience, began to realise that the "Communists are right" and when a long and difficult process began as a result of which the working class and considerable sections of the working people in 1945 openly rallied round the banner of the Communist Party. "Unita" contributed in a big way to the

growth of Communist Party influence among the working masses.

But the bourgeois opposition led the people of Italy to defeat in 1926. Fascism was able to effect a revival, to grow stronger and in November 1926 took the offensive, banning all the opposition parties, driving the anti-fascist deputies out of Parliament. The Communist deputies were thrown into prison and all the newspapers that did not belong to the fascists and did not bow to them were suppressed. For "Unita" this signified the beginning of nearly 20 years of underground activity.

To write the history of "Unita" for this period would be tantamount to writing the history of the Italian Communist Party. "Unita" was the only anti-fascist paper which never ceased to appear, although sometimes it appeared only once a fortnight.

"Unita" was at first published in Italy in underground conditions and later abroad. It reached the country by thousands of channels and was reproduced and multiplied completely or partially on the initiative of groups of Party members or individual members, using lithographs; it was passed secretly from hand to hand and secretly read and was always met with joy and enthusiasm. "Unita" always succeeded in bringing to the vanguard of the Italian proletariat the Marxist-Leninist teaching, the slogans of the Party, the fighting experience of the Italian and international working-class movement. It told its readers about the victories of the Soviet peoples in building Socialism. This paper, to which the leading Party workers headed by Comrade Togliatti devoted all their strength, most effectively fulfilled the role of collective organiser, propagandist and agitator.

Heavy sacrifice was inevitable. Dozens and dozens of Communists paid with long years of imprisonment for their part in printing and circulating "Unita". During the years of partisan warfare "Unita" was published in Italy in different editions and was the most vital weapon of the Communist Party in the struggle for

effecting national unity, for intensifying the war against the fascist regime, against the Nazis who then occupied the country.

"Unita", which was circulated among the workers in Milan and Turin, prepared and led the general strikes of 1943-44. The strikes in 1943 were the first powerful blows dealt openly against the fascist regime and, undoubtedly, greatly influenced the monarchists in their decision to remove Mussolini; the 1944 strikes, fought under the direct threat of fascist and Nazi submachine-guns, brought the working class to the forefront of the liberation war.

It is said that when a British colonel in the liberated part of Italy told the Communist leaders that after the liberation only one daily newspaper would be allowed in Northern Italy and that it would be under Allied control he was informed that by the time the Allies got to Milan and Turin they would find "Unita" on every bookstall. This was exactly what happened.

In addition to a legal edition of "Unita" in Rome it was printed in Turin, Genoa and Milan in the biggest print-shops which fell into the hands of the partisans on the day of the liberation, that is, even before the Germans had been completely driven out and before the Allies arrived. To write the history of "Unita" for this period would be to write also the history of the struggle waged by the people of Italy.

"Unita" consistently and tirelessly battled for the Republic and for a democratic constitution, for a higher standard of living for the working masses; it actively fought the election struggle of 1946-47, and since the spring of 1948 the struggle against the political monopoly of the Christian Democrats, which was crowned with the victory of the democratic forces in the elections on June 7, 1953.

The newspaper wages a resolute and consistent struggle for strengthening the unity of the working class and all working people, for national solidarity of all democratic and patriotic forces of the country, for peaceful development of the Italian national economy. It rallies the peasantry in the struggle for a democratic land reform.

"Unita" has fought and is fighting daily for peace, against the intrigues of US imperialism. It popularises the peaceful foreign policy of the Soviet Union and of the countries of people's democracy, fights resolutely against the enslavement of Italy by the US monopolies, against the aggressive schemes for building the "European Army" and reviving German imperialism, for a peaceful settlement of the outstanding international problems.

Today the Communist Party of Italy is a powerful mass Party, constantly growing in numbers and in strength. "Unita", its central organ, has become one of the most important newspapers. Its Sunday edition has a sale of over one million copies; it has the support of the big "Friends of Unita" organisation whose wide network of volunteer sellers takes the paper to every corner of Italy. The annual "Unita" festivals have become a national tradition, with thousands of people, even in the most remote villages, coming together every year to express their solidarity with the organ of the Communist Party.

The everyday tasks of "Unita" are: to propagate the Marxist-Leninist theory, correctly to orientate the Party cadres, to co-ordinate the activity of the Party organisations, to raise cultural problems, to lay bare the intrigues and the anti-people's activity of the clericals which constitutes a threat to the interests of the country, and to rally the working people for intensified economic and political struggle. Simultaneously, it strives to be understandable to the less advanced sections of the working people. Its tasks are extremely difficult and mistakes and shortcomings are inevitable. But the shortcomings are being consistently disclosed and overcome.

"Unita", which has grouped around itself a staff of young cadres, the majority of whom have gone through the school of partisan warfare and who have become skilled journalists and good Communists, is performing these tasks successfully and with honour.

Deeds and Designs of Bonn Revanchists

(Letter from Western Germany)

I am writing you this letter at a time when in Western Germany the voices of the former Hitler generals are heard more and more in the noisy chorus of advocates of the "European Defence Community" and the "European Army".

The notorious Albert Kesselring, former Field Marshal and Hitler hireling and now president of the "Steel Helmets" organisation in Western Germany, addressing a recent meeting of this fascist organisation in Munich, declared to the accompaniment of the stormy applause of the out-and-out cut-throats: "If you want to know what I think about the 'European Defence Community' treaty I will tell you quite frankly that already during my prison days I was an ardent supporter of the 'European Defence Community' and I shall always, from the depth of my convictions, stand by it!"

Explaining to his fascist fellow-travellers in the "Steel Helmets" the essence of the "European Defence Community" Kesselring wrote in No. 11 (1953) of "Der Stahlhelm" journal: "...Once again I refer to the German Wehrmacht which was a classical example of the development of supra-state armed forces... How can one be dissolved in the 'European Defence Community' when one is aware of such a predecessor?"

On the eve of the opening of the Berlin Conference of the four Foreign Ministers Kesselring spoke at a meeting of the "Steel Helmets" in Braunschweig and, taking his cue from Adenauer, demanded the release of all Nazi war criminals, since in his view they and none other, as "experts", can "impart the proper spirit to the 'European Army'".

In addition to Kesselring the "European Defence Community" and "European Army" are zealously supported by many former SS men. Among the turgid stream of revanchist and militarist literature circulating in Western Germany, mention should be made of the book entitled "The SS Troops in Battle" by Paul Hauser, former SS Oberstgruppenführer, that is, Colonel-General.

In a foreword the former Colonel-General Guderian goes out of his way to laud the "valour" of the SS men in the second world war. According to Guderian the "European idea was first realised in these troops" and "contact was established among the nations of Europe which should not have been destroyed".

Claiming that practically all the nations of Europe were represented in the SS troops during the war, the author writes: "It was here that the idea of European unity was given its baptism of fire". The author quotes at length from Peiper, former officer of the SS tank formations who was sentenced to death for his crimes but whose sentence was subsequently commuted to life imprisonment. From his prison cell in Landsberg this hardened SS man calls on "all who remain loyal to the great idea of the SS units": "don't stop halfway. The European idea is the sole political ideal worth fighting for today. Never have we been closer to its realisation than we are today".

To complete the picture it is necessary to quote another passage from "Wiking-Ruf", organ of ex-SS men, published in Hanover. In its issue of June 21, 1953, this vile rag advanced the following justification of the right of SS men to a leading role in the future "European Army": "Those who served in the former SS troops have the right to speak about Europe, about the 'European Community' and the defence of Europe. In our

served for a long period as military "adviser" to the US Occupation Authorities.

All the thoughts of this brazen Hitlerite, however, are concentrated not on the past but on the future. In order to raise the fighting spirit of the participants of the "March on the East", which Guderian regards as something already settled, this frantic revanchist unblushingly declares: "All that we have to do in order to win victory over the Soviet Union is to attack it in the right way". On every page of this book there is reflected the fangs of the beast of prey anticipating the blood-stained plunder for which he is ready once again to take a toll of millions of German lives. The aggressive meaning of Guderian's schemes is: Given the military bases of the US around the USSR, given the US airforce and navy, all that is needed is the German army to launch a third world war secure in the belief that the "mistakes of the previous strategists" will not be repeated.

Simultaneously this ill-starred Hitler strategist gives away the real intentions of the Bonn revanchists as regards their future partners in the "European Army". In particular he reprimands Hitler for launching the war against the Soviet Union without first achieving decisive victory in the West. Guderian regrets that immediately after the defeat of France the opportunity for "finally dealing with Britain" was lost. It follows that in the future Guderian and his masters have no intention of losing similar opportunities.

In this connection it is worth recalling Kesselring's "Notes on the War in the Mediterranean", also published in this book. Kesselring rebukes Hitler: "Because of their continental way of thinking the Germans devoted too much to the war in the East and were unable to use all their means and forces for the war in the Mediterranean". The author immediately gives his grounds for this rebuke: "What", he asks, "did the Mediterranean area mean for us Germans? It was the realisation of a dream... opening the way to markets". In planning future marches by the "European Army" Kesselring has no intention of making the same "mistake".

Comment on these cannibalistic contemplations would be superfluous. Hardened Hitlerites nurtured and supported by the Americans and the West German monopolies are eagerly waiting for the day when they shall once again set out on a bloody march across Europe. What is more, they are hastening with all the means at their disposal the approach of this day, taking refuge meanwhile behind the screen of the "European Defence Community".

The activity of the Nazi generals is accompanied by similar activity on the part of the Bonn Government where the ministerial chairs are occupied both by representatives of the big monopolies and by rabid Hitlerites. The Bonn Ministers Oberländer, Kraft and Preusker were prominent SS men; Schröder, Minister for the Interior, and Schäffer, Minister of Finance, were prominent Nazis.

With the direct support of the Western occupation authorities a handful of monopolists, war criminals and Nazi criminals has seized power in Western Germany and is using this power for building an aggressive army in order to attack neighbouring countries.

It is not fortuitous that while millions of Germans from the West and the East of the country have addressed the Berlin meeting of the four Foreign Ministers with the demand for a peace treaty which would ensure the development of Germany in a peaceful, democratic way, Adenauer has demanded from the meeting that order be

formed) or regiment of the former Hitler army. Among these organisations special significance attaches to the "Steel Helmets", resurrected in February 1951 with the consent of the American High Commissioner and Lehr, the then Bonn Minister of the Interior. It unites special organisations of war veterans, "persons holding the same views" who did not serve in the army, and the youth; it also includes the reformed militarist "Union of Queen Luise", the women's section of the "Steel Helmets".

The Bonn Government and the West European monopolies provide enormous sums for militarist and chauvinist propaganda, fomenting hatred for other peoples. Hundreds of thousands of displaced persons whom the Bonn Government keeps in barracks, dooming them to privation and hardship, are told that only a war of revenge can ease their plight. In this way they are being got ready to become mercenary soldiers for future aggressive marches. The press, cinema and radio tell the West German population about the "advantages of the soldier's life", about the "invincibility of German generals". In the schools the teachers, former Nazis, tell the children about "great Germany". A special circular issued by the Bonn Minister of the Interior, No. 1254/53 and dated December 1st, 1953, demands that in all official premises only those maps be displayed which show the frontiers of Germany as of 1937. All other maps must be removed.

Recently in a stationer's shop in Würtemberg I saw how pupils from a nearby school were pestered to buy coloured post-cards of the "German history" series. The cards depicted Hitler, Göring and Goebbels in parade uniform, and also the "victorious" marches of the Hitler army under the banner of the swastika. Adenauer's picture in the series is a fitting supplement to this company. It is not at all fortuitous that neither the police nor the officials from the "Board for Defence of the Constitution" take no action against this brazen Nazi propaganda. This is understandable since they are busy persecuting the supporters of peace and the unity of Germany.

A typical example of this persecution was the recent trial in Cologne of Hilde Muschiolik on a charge of "attempting to commit high treason" and "slander against the Bundestag Chancellor and the Bonn Government". Her sole "crime" was that she circulated among the population the text of the "Programme for the National Reunification of Germany" issued by the Board of the Communist Party in November 1952. This true patriot was held in jail for three months before the trial. She was sentenced to nine months imprisonment, fined 500 marks, and deprived of electoral rights and the right to occupy a public post for a period of five years.

This fact shows that should anyone speak about peace and the unity of Germany he is threatened with imprisonment. In this way the Bonn militarists and revanchists seek to suppress the sentiments growing among the population of Western Germany in favour of peace and the democratic reunification of the country, seek to ensure for themselves cannon fodder for the aggressive campaign of a future Wehrmacht.

But these plans have been compiled without consulting the master,—that is, without consulting the German people who have their own view in the matter.

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Towards Further Advance in Wellbeing of Working People of Bulgaria

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bulgaria has issued the draft directives of the VIth Congress on the second Five-Year Plan 1953-57 for the development of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The primary task of the second Five-Year Plan is, on the basis of the successes achieved during the first Five-Year Plan, to secure a radical improvement in the material and cultural wellbeing of the working people. To achieve this it is essential to ensure a rapid advance by agriculture and to eliminate the lag in animal husbandry; in the sphere of industry it is necessary first of all to ensure the development of electrification, non-ferrous metallurgy, to raise coal output and achieve a steady increase in production of consumer goods. To facilitate realisation of these aims capital investments will be practically doubled compared with the first Five-Year Plan: in agriculture they will be 2.3 times greater, in industry as a whole twice as great and in the coal industry five times greater; capital investments in electrification will be 90 per cent greater and 2.2 times greater in light industry and in the food industry. Capital investments in the spheres of education, culture, health protection and municipal construction will be 2.7 times greater and 3.7 times more funds will be allocated for housing.

Compared with the first Five-Year Plan capital investments aimed at developing the agricultural producer co-operatives will be increased threefold.

It is anticipated that by 1957 industrial output will have increased by 60 per cent as against 1952, including output of electric power 100 per cent, coal 89, tractor-drawn cultivators 88, sowing machines 59, artificial fertilisers 60, cotton fabrics 33, woollen fabrics 42, meat products 86, fish 62 and sugar 150 per cent.

By 1957 the total output of agriculture will be 66 per cent greater.

By the end of the second Five-Year Plan there will be 2,100,000 head of cattle, 2,200,000 hogs and 9,700,000 sheep and goats.

For the purpose of going ahead with the mechanisation of agriculture the tractor park will rise to 23,000 while the number of combines will be 3.8 times greater.

By the end of the Five-Year Plan retail trade turnover will be up 70 per cent and real wages of factory and office workers and peasant incomes will have risen 35-40 per cent.

The directives also envisage a further improvement and extension of the network of health establishments and the medical service.

In the sphere of public education the chief thing is a radical improvement in school work and a further extension of the school network. The over-all number of pupils will rise by 13 per cent, with the number of secondary school pupils rising by 30 per cent. 40 per cent of the children of pre-school age will attend kindergartens.

Compared with the first Five-Year Plan the national income will go up 50 per cent.

Building Power Stations in China

1953 was a year of rapid development of the power industry in the People's Republic of China. Big power stations were built and put into operation in Siang, Tihwa and Chengchow. Construction of power stations in Chungking, Taiyuan and the erection of a high-voltage main line in North-East China have begun. Many power schemes in different areas of the country were enlarged and reconstructed.

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The noise raised recently by Franco's claim to Gibraltar serves as a screen for the US expansionist designs for seizing this British base.

(Press item)



THE APPLE OF DISCORD

Drawing by E. Taru

POLITICAL NOTES

Occupation and Its... "Blessings"

February is an anniversary of a kind—three years ago this month US troops arrived in Britain for a three months' stay. According to official data there are now 38,000 US troops in Britain and according to unofficial and, consequently, more trustworthy data, their number exceeds 50,000.

Involuntarily, this invasion gives rise to melancholy meditation among the people of Britain. All the more so since the American occupation authorities, with their usual complete disregard for the feelings of the "natives", decided to mark this altogether remarkable date with magnificent celebrations and even invited prominent Britons to special evening parties.

With the idea, apparently, of preparing public opinion for these sad celebrations the Labour newspaper "Daily Herald", at the end of January, featured a series of articles on the US troops quartered in Britain.

After three years experience of the GI's in many areas of the country it is no longer quite safe in Britain to say openly that the American occupation is a good thing. One may be beaten up for saying so. But if it appears in print it can be thrown into the waste paper basket unread. However the "Daily Herald" wants its stories to be read and so it is at pains to give the impression of being truthful. It prints half-truths about the occupation so that it can at the same time supplement them with distortions.

But even this half-and-half picture in the "Daily Herald" suffices to give the

The newspaper frankly calls the presence of the American troops in Britain nothing but occupation.

It would seem that the collation of these facts would lead to the drawing of correct conclusions, to the exposure of those guilty of the disgraceful occupation, to demands for the US bases in Britain.

It would be futile, however, to expect this from the organ of the Labour Party whose leaders played no small part in ensuring the occupationists easier access to the country. The "Daily Herald" is silent about the fact that the American bases in Britain constitute a menace to peace in Europe and add to the international tension. Instead, the author is at great pains to show that in the long run not all American soldiers are criminals and debauchers.

But the most amazing of the "Daily Herald's" revelations are its reasons for main cause of the trouble lies with... British girls with no visible means of support who flock to towns near the air bases. The real culprits are "the stupid girls from villages who see in any American a Hollywood hero".

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In a foreword the former Colonel-General Guderian goes out of his way to laud the "valour" of the SS men in the second world war. According to Guderian the "European idea was first realised in these troops" and "contact was established among the nations of Europe which should not have been destroyed".

Claiming that practically all the nations of Europe were represented in the SS troops during the war, the author writes: "It was here that the idea of European unity was given its baptism of fire". The author quotes at length from Peiper, former officer of the SS tank formations who was sentenced to death for his crimes but whose sentence was subsequently commuted to life imprisonment. From his prison cell in Landsberg this hardened SS man calls on "all who remain loyal to the great idea of the SS units": "don't stop halfway. The European idea is the sole political ideal worth fighting for today. Never have we been closer to its realisation than we are today".

To complete the picture it is necessary to quote another passage from "Wiking-Ruf", organ of ex-SS men, published in Hanover. In its issue of June 21, 1953, this vile rag advanced the following justification of the right of SS men to a leading role in the future "European Army": "Those who served in the former SS troops have the right to speak about Europe, about the 'European Community' and the defence of Europe. In our ranks this 'European Community' found its first practical realisation on the field of battle".

Much becomes clear from these quotations. In any case who knows better what is meant by the "European Defence Community" and the "European Army" than those who according to the organisers of this aggressive war machine are scheduled to become its main commanding force? The picture of how the Hitlerites "set about realising the idea of the 'European Community'" is still fresh in the memory of the peoples of Europe and of all the peace-loving peoples of the world; it can be seen in the ruins of London, Coventry, Warsaw and many other European cities; it can be seen in Oradour and Lidice, the death chambers in Oswiecim and Maidanek where the ashes of men and women, aged people and young children—representatives of nearly all the nations of Europe—were mixed.

The highly paid transatlantic and West German propagandists write at length about the "purely defensive character" of the future "European Army", which, it is alleged, is being formed for genuinely "peaceful aims". But what do the former Hitler generals and SS men, who are now trying on uniforms of US design, say on this score?

The Gerhard Stalling Publishing House (Oldenburg), which in the days of the Nazis was known for its fascist and militarist publications, has issued a bulky book entitled "Results of the Second World War". The "expert" contributors who relate their "experiences of the war in Russia" include the former Colonel-General Guderian who during the war served as General Inspector of the tank troops and was Chief of Staff of the ground troops, and who, after the war,

has no intention of making the same "mistake". Comment on these cannibalistic contemplations would be superfluous. Hardened Hitlerites nurtured and supported by the Americans and the West German monopolies are eagerly waiting for the day when they shall once again set out on a bloody march across Europe. What is more, they are hastening with all the means at their disposal the approach of this day, taking refuge meanwhile behind the screen of the "European Defence Community".

The activity of the Nazi generals is accompanied by similar activity on the part of the Bonn Government where the ministerial chairs are occupied both by representatives of the big monopolies and by rabid Hitlerites. The Bonn Ministers Oberländer, Kraft and Preusker were prominent SS men; Schröder, Minister for the Interior, and Schäffer, Minister of Finance, were prominent Nazis.

With the direct support of the Western occupation authorities a handful of monopolists, war criminals and Nazi criminals has seized power in Western Germany and is using this power for building an aggressive army in order to attack neighbouring countries.

It is not fortuitous that while millions of Germans from the West and the East of the country have addressed the Berlin meeting of the four Foreign Ministers with the demand for a peace treaty which would ensure the development of Germany in a peaceful, democratic way, Adenauer has demanded from the meeting that major war criminals and Nazi criminals sentenced to life imprisonment be released.

The Bonn revanchists are striving might and main to build a new Wehrmacht. According to the "European Army" agreement West Germany must supply contingents of troops of various arms totalling about 500,000. Although official Bonn circles have denied the existence of a regular army in Western Germany its armed forces already number 419,000. These include first of all the so-called police forces numbering 174,000 and armed with heavy machine guns, mortars and even field guns; they also include the so-called "German auxiliary units" under the command of the officers of the occupation troops and numbering 145,000; they include auxiliary military organisations such as the "Union for Anti-Aircraft Defence" numbering 30,000 and "Technical Aid" numbering 70,000.

In order to speed up the building of a regular army the Bonn Bundestag on January 14 opened a debate on the Conscription Act. On February 9 the juridical committee of the Bundestag and the "European Security" committee discussed this draft in order to rush it through the Bundestag this month.

The Bonn Government is in a hurry. With its help and with its direct support more and more military organisations are springing up like mushrooms after a shower all over Western Germany, representing a source of cadres for the future Wehrmacht. The "German Calendar for Soldiers, 1954", put out by the Schild Publishing House in Munich, enumerates 463 soldiers' unions in Western Germany. By now their number exceeds 500. The majority of these units unite officers and men of the same division (89 such organisations have already been

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But these plans have been compiled without consulting the master,—that is, without consulting the German people who have their own view in the matter.

Recently the Bonn Minister for the Interior delivered himself of a long speech full of wrath and indignation. At first glance the pretext for this speech was an altogether insignificant event. Fifteen pupils who had just finished one of the West German middle schools wrote a composition on the subject: "Do you think there is anything for which it would be worth-while laying down one's life?" The replies were much the same, in the spirit of the one who wrote: "Only a few years ago no one would hesitate to say 'Yes' if asked whether he was ready to sacrifice his life for the fatherland. Today, however, this question is immediately answered in the negative, and that is how I reply too. The concept of the fatherland has become so obscure nowadays that it is difficult to see what lies behind it". In other words, these school pupils openly express unwillingness to give their lives for the Bonn Republic which they do not regard as their true fatherland.

In this connection the newspaper "Deutsche Universitätszeitung" bitterly commented that such views "can be regarded as being symptomatic of the attitude of the greater part of the generation which studied or is now studying in the colleges and the higher schools of the Federal Republic". This was the thing that infuriated the Bonn Minister.

The fight of the progressive democratic forces in Western Germany for peace, for the democratic reunification of the country and against reviving German militarism, despite the terror of the Bonn Government, meets with increasing support among the population of the Federal Republic. This struggle is merging in a single powerful stream with the struggle of the peoples of Europe against the realisation of the plans of the "European Defence Community" and "European Army" which are screens for reviving the German Wehrmacht headed by Hitler generals.

G. KORN

Cologne, February.

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Last year alone the power generated by the new state-owned stations increased by 19.2 per cent. In addition a big increase in output was achieved as a result of improved use of equipment. A widespread movement for fuel economy and lowering the cost of production launched by the power industry workers led to a considerable saving.

This year, too, close attention is being given to the industry. A number of big automated power stations will be commissioned in the spring. Smaller units will be built in Taiyuan and Chungking. Production capacity of the big power station in Tientsin has been increased.

FACTS EXPOSE...

Music Businessmen Like A gramophone record which recently appeared in New York is advertised as a "nice present for those back from the battlefield since the armistice". The record, with a title something like Korean Battlefield Roar, reproduces such "pleasant" sounds as the crackle of machine-gun fire, the rumble of tanks, soldiers marching, shell bursts and the shrieking of bombs.

The publicity is a downright lie. For this "music" gives no comfort to those who have experienced the horrors of war. It will be only to the liking of the merchants of death who have amassed millions from the slaughter in Korea.

Aristophanes Censored On the grounds that they advocate... Communist ideas the American censors have deleted a number of passages from the comedies of Aristophanes who lived some 2,400 years ago. The censor's hatchet fell, for instance, on "Lysistrata", the famous comedy of the ancient Greek playwright.

The London "Daily Mail" commenting on this censorship and recalling that the McCarthy clique has also denounced Robin Hood as "Communist", says that should you hear Homeric laughter shaking the firmament you will know that it is the laughter of the gods on Olympus. And Aristophanes himself, continues the newspaper, would laugh at this, the funniest of comedies which has appeared since his time.

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Involuntarily, this invasion gives rise to melancholy meditation among the people of Britain. All the more so since the American occupation authorities, with their usual complete disregard for the feelings of the "natives", decided to mark this altogether remarkable date with magnificent celebrations and even invited prominent Britons to special evening parties.

With the idea, apparently, of preparing public opinion for these sad celebrations the Labour newspaper "Daily Herald", at the end of January, featured a series of articles on the US troops quartered in Britain.

After three years experience of the GI's in many areas of the country it is no longer quite safe in Britain to say openly that the American occupation is a good thing. One may be beaten up for saying so. But if it appears in print it can be thrown into the waste paper basket unread. However the "Daily Herald" wants its stories to be read and so it is at pains to give the impression of being truthful. It prints half-truths about the occupation so that it can at the same time supplement them with distortions.

But even this half-and-half picture in the "Daily Herald" suffices to bring home the hardships and sufferings which the American occupation has brought to the people of Britain.

The towns near the 19 American bases have become places where no one feels safe because of the wild behaviour of the occupationists. A US airman in Essex was found guilty of ten charges of theft and burglary and also of criminal assault on a girl. At Great Yarmouth a US airman hit another over the head with an enamel jug and strangled him. In Ayr, Scotland, court cases revealed that American airmen have been going to brothels with girls of fifteen. In King's Lynn they used taxis as "roving brothels". Margate, which has an American base nearby, has become a blackspot. The owners of the hotels in this town had to refuse to admit Americans. In Norwich girls keep away from certain streets behind the market in order to avoid being accosted by Americans.

Crime, lewdness and wild debauchery have become so widespread in the vicinity of the American bases that they have now reached the proportions of a real national calamity. Even high-ranking officials are forced to speak about it. Thus, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Goddard, commenting on one case said it revealed "a deplorable and shocking state of affairs in King's Lynn due to the presence of an American camp in the neighbourhood".

The articles in the "Daily Herald" are accompanied by expressive illustrations: a "GI" in the street with his girl-friend in the company of drunken friends; American soldiers lording it in the pubs while Britons are forced into the corners; a group of American soldiers, looking like conquerors, disporting themselves on a bench in the park.

WORKING PEOPLE OF TUNISIA FIGHT FOR HIGHER WAGES

On February 9 the working people of Tunisia conducted a day of struggle for higher wages. Responding to the appeal of the three trade union bodies 7,000 railwaymen declared a 24-hour strike. Work was stopped for a day in the pits in Moulare and Redeyef.

It would seem that the drawing of correct facts would lead to the exposure of those guilty of the disgraceful occupation, to demands for bridling the American criminals and closing the US bases in Britain.

It would be futile, however, to expect this from the organ of the Labour Party whose leaders played no small part in ensuring the occupationists easier access to the country. The "Daily Herald" is silent about the fact that the American bases in Britain constitute a menace to peace in Europe and add to the international tension. Instead, the author is at great pains to show that in the long run not all American soldiers are criminals and debauchers.

But the most amazing of the "Daily Herald's" revelations are its reasons for the wild behaviour of the Americans. The main cause of the trouble lies with... British girls with no visible means of support who flock to towns near the air bases. The real culprits are "the stupid girls from villages who see in any American a Hollywood hero".

Another reason which, in the view of the "Daily Herald", explains the wild behaviour of the American troops, is the unfriendly and even hostile attitude of the Britons. The author doesn't like, for example, a notice which one witty publican in Oxford has on his door: "Ladies will not be admitted in company of US forces". The newspaper urges the people to be kind to the occupationists, to invite them to their homes and in this way cure them of their evil habits,—advice worthy of the organ of the Labour Party...

Losing all sense of dignity and shame the author points to the "advantages and gains" accruing from the occupation. He quotes the statement of a Lancashire trader who said: "The American occupation has meant good trade" and he adds: "In fact, Britain gets about £42,000,000 a year from the American troops". The "Daily Herald", however, keeps silent about other figures provided recently by the American themselves. According to these data the upkeep of the US bases in Britain will cost the people £22,000,000 in cash plus £74,000,000 for equipment and services. In addition, Britain has spent £28,000,000 on the construction of an oil pipe-line and is paying for its use. These figures, however, do not give the full picture of the losses sustained by Britain from the American occupation since not everything is covered by pounds although these, too, amount to quite a lot...

No, the ordinary Briton will not be lured by the "advantages and gains" derived from the American occupation promised by the "Daily Herald". They will not follow the advice to pacify the insolent GI's with heart-soothing talks on abstract topics. The course of events is such that more and more the doors in Britain will be closed to the Americans and the demand that they clear out will be heard louder and louder.

Jan MAREK

French People Urge Peaceful Solution of German Problem

The majority of the French people are resolutely opposing the Bonn and Paris military treaties. More and more deputations are visiting their Deputies to demand an end to remilitarisation of Western Germany and more and more people are signing petitions protesting against the formation of the "European army". Letters, postcards and telegrams expressing the ardent desire of the French people to achieve a

peaceful solution of the German problem are pouring in to Foreign Minister G. Bidault. For example, during one week alone 5,000 cards urging the settlement of the German problem on a peaceful basis were sent from the Gironde Department.

Big public meetings addressed by people of various political affiliations are being held in many cities and towns. In Lyons

and its suburbs alone 50 public meetings have been held. A meeting in Saint-Denis (Seine Department) was addressed by Jacques Duclos, Secretary of the French Communist Party; René Capitant, former Minister, member of RPF; André Denis, Catholic Deputy from Dordogne Department; and J. P. May, member of the World Peace Council.