

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

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THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACIES ON THE ROAD TO THE VICTORY OF SOCIALISM

Last year, the peoples of the socialist camp and working people throughout the world enthusiastically celebrated the tenth anniversary of the liberation of Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania from fascist bondage, and the fifth anniversary of the proclamation of the People's Republic of China and of the German Democratic Republic. This April 4 will mark the tenth year since the glorious Soviet Army liberated Hungary from the Hitler invaders and their Hungarian henchmen. On May 9, the tenth anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia will be celebrated.

The heroic struggle and the victory of the Soviet Union in World War II and the world historic feats of the glorious Soviet Army, which carried out its great liberating mission with honour, have opened up the path towards freedom and happiness for the oppressed peoples of the countries of Central and South-East Europe. The bright days of liberation, celebrated by all people, have now become unforgettable, unfading dates in the history of these countries.

In the minds of working people these memorable dates are associated with the great victory of the forces of progress over those of reaction, of the forces of democracy and peace over those of fascism and war. Wherever the working people, headed by the working class and led by the Communist and Workers' Parties, have come to power, there reigns genuine freedom and democracy, there the economy and culture are making gigantic strides, and the foundations of Socialism are being laid successfully.

From the very first days of the existence of the people's-democratic states, the enemies of peace, democracy and Socialism shouted from the rooftops that the new system would not last. History has proved that these apologists of capitalism have once again grievously miscalculated. The people's-democratic countries are firmly on the road to building Socialism and there is no power on earth that can turn them from this victorious path!

The ten years of existence of the People's Democracies graphically testify to the profound truth of the words of Lenin that "Socialism contains within itself gigantic powers, and that mankind has now

lathes, combines and caterpillar tractors. The face of the country has changed in the years of socialist industrialisation. Big new industrial cities have made their appearance, such as Kazincbarcika, Komlo, Varpalota and, above all, Szatlnvaros, the symbol of the industrial progress of Hungary.

The development of heavy industry and its kernel, machine-building, is decisive for the advance of agricultural production. In 1954 agriculture received 4,556 tractors, 371 combines, 3,130 tractor-drawn ploughs and many other agricultural machines and implements. This helped to further strengthen the producer co-operatives in the countryside, which now embrace nearly 200,000 peasant families and, together with the state farms, cultivate 30% of the entire ploughland. The socialist sector in the countryside is a firm pillar of the economy and exercises a growing attraction for the individual peasants. It is to this sector that the future of the Hungarian countryside belongs.

In old, capitalist Hungary, education was a privilege of the ruling classes: the children of the workers and working peasantry did not have access to the higher educational establishments or to many other schools. People's democracy has opened wide their doors to the people. This year enrolment in secondary schools was three times and the number of students in higher educational establishments approximately four times the 1938 level. Great progress is being made in science, literature and the arts.

Hungary, like other countries of people's democracy, has made this advance in its national economy and culture thanks to the selfless labour of the masses, the tried leadership of their Marxist-Leninist Party, and the unflinching fraternal aid of the Soviet Union.

The experience of socialist construction in the USSR, as well as that of the People's Democracies, teaches us that a new society comes to birth under conditions of sharp class struggle. The class enemy does its utmost to thwart the building of Socialism. In the struggle for Socialism and against the intrigues of the class enemy the

FRUSTRATE CRIMINAL PLANS OF ATOM MANIACS!

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Demand of Indian Public Opinion

"Down with the warmongers!", "Stop preparations for atomic war!", "Ban the atom bomb!"—these slogans now resound with growing force not only in such big Indian cities as Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay, but in the most distant states in the country. From the hot Malabar coast up to the snow-covered Himalayas, thousands and thousands of Indian men and women are actively joining in the campaign for signatures to the Appeal of the World Peace Council.

A peace conference held in March in Travancore-Cochin, southern state of India, was typical. Despite a ministerial crisis which diverted public attention, and notwithstanding blackmail and intimidation, peace partisans held the conference, after thorough local preparation. Resolutions were adopted on Asian solidarity and on the banning of weapons of mass destruction. The conference unanimously approved the Vienna Appeal, condemned U.S. aggressive actions in the area of Taiwan and ended up with a mammoth procession and rally attended by over 50,000 people.

The rally commenced with songs composed specially for the occasion by the famous young revolutionary poet Vayalar

Rama Varma of Kerala and sung by artists of the Kerala People's Theatre Association. Dr. Mulk Raj Anand declared at the meeting amidst thunderous cheers: "We are not alone. Millions and millions of people everywhere are struggling for peace. We peace fighters are everywhere, in France, in Germany, in Italy... Millions of people in war-devastated Europe will be happy to hear that in this small town of Alwaye, the people rallied for peace."

Scientists, writers, doctors, workers, students and peasants spoke at the meeting, each in his own way expressing the same thought: stay the hands of the atomic warmongers! M. N. Govindan Nair, President of the Travancore-Cochin Trade Union Congress, said that the working class of the state would take the lead in collecting signatures for the Vienna Appeal. Prof. Joseph Mundasserry reminded Catholics misled by the enemies of peace that in Rome itself thousands and thousands of Catholics, including priests, were working for the peace movement.

Messages of good will were received from Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President of India, A. K. Gopalan, M.P., and other well-known Indian personalities.

Valuable Experiences of Italian Peace Supporters

In Italy a total of 185 communal and 15 provincial councils have already given their support to the Vienna Appeal and passed resolutions demanding prohibition and destruction of atomic weapons. As many as 274 province-wide demonstrations and tens of thousands of smaller ones have been held.

Peace supporters of the Spilamberto community (Modena Province) have organised their canvassing well. They often

In Rovigo Province peace supporter Oliva Greggio and another woman visited and talked with all the residents in the small town of Granzette in a single day and collected 510 signatures. After this achievement Granzette's peace partisans set themselves the task of inducing all the residents in the town to sign the Appeal.

In Aquila (Marche Region) the peace committee announced a student competition

Reply of N. A. Bulganin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, To TASS Correspondent's Question

Questioned by reporters at a press conference on March 23 as to his opinion regarding a conference of the heads of state of the great powers, U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower replied that in his opinion such a conference might be preceded by exploratory talks at foreign minister level. With regard to a conference of the heads of the great powers the President said that one should not give up hope that at some new conference some constructive steps might be taken. In his opinion, a conference of the heads of the great powers could be convened without an agenda and could discuss any questions.

A TASS correspondent has asked N. A. Bulganin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, about the attitude of the Soviet Government to the statement of the U.S. President.

Comrade N. A. Bulganin answered as follows:

The Soviet Government, as has been the case hitherto, is favourably disposed towards the idea of a conference of the great powers as advanced by the U.S. President, if what is contemplated is a conference which would promote the lessening of tension in international relations. In this connection, it should be pointed out in the first place that the Soviet Government has already proposed the holding in the immediate future of a conference of the four powers, at which the question of a State Treaty with Austria might be settled.

World Comments on N. A. Bulganin's Reply to TASS Correspondent

The reply of N. A. Bulganin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, to a TASS correspondent has aroused wide comment throughout the world.

On March 28 all the national newspapers of the Chinese People's Republic featured N. A. Bulganin's reply on their front pages and it was broadcast several times on the Peking radio. The following day they published numerous comments from various countries.

The Polish newspaper *Trybuna Ludu* has published the reply, under a heading emphasising that the Soviet Government is in favour of convening a Four-Power conference that would contribute to a reduction of tension in international relations.

The Czechoslovak press and radio, widely commenting on the statement, emphasise the peaceful move of the Soviet Government

indicating the flexibility of present Soviet policy. The Soviet step, it noted, was taken to be tangible evidence of the desire of the Moscow Government to reduce world tension. The *New York Times* quotes Senator George, who said that Bulganin's statement showed a readiness to discuss important political problems. A number of American politicians and newspapers, however, seek to misinterpret Bulganin's statement. The *New York Herald Tribune* reports from Washington that the State Department's reaction was quick but extremely cautious.

According to Reuter, the favourable reaction of Soviet Premier N. A. Bulganin to President Eisenhower's statement on the possibility of convening an East-West conference met with approval among official circles in Britain. A Foreign Office spokes-

democracy and peace over those of fascism and war. Wherever the working people, headed by the working class and led by the Communist and Workers' Parties, have come to power, there reigns genuine freedom and democracy, there the economy and culture are making gigantic strides, and the foundations of Socialism are being laid successfully.

From the very first days of the existence of the people's-democratic states, the enemies of peace, democracy and Socialism shouted from the rooftops that the new system would not last. History has proved that these apologists of capitalism have once again grievously miscalculated. The people's-democratic countries are firmly on the road to building Socialism and there is no power on earth that can turn them from this victorious path!

The ten years of existence of the People's Democracies graphically testify to the profound truth of the words of Lenin that "Socialism contains within itself gigantic powers, and that mankind has now entered upon a new stage of development which holds extraordinarily brilliant prospects."

In the struggle for Socialism, the heroic working class of the People's Democracies, leading all working people in constructive labour, in building a new life, has displayed to the full its immense capacity for organisation as well as its inexhaustible creative talents. The working class of these countries, headed by tried and battle-tested Communist and Workers' Parties, is firmly holding aloft the victorious banner of Socialism. The alliance of the working class and working peasantry, under the leadership of the working class, is the unshakable foundation of the people's-democratic system and the guarantee of the successful and steady advance of the countries of people's democracy.

In the past, the Western imperialist powers tried to turn the countries of Central and South-East Europe into agrarian appendages supplying them with raw materials. This had a ruinous effect on their national economic development, particularly their industrial development. The Communist and Workers' Parties in the People's Democracies have directed the seething revolutionary energies of the working masses to the speediest possible elimination of the economic backwardness of their countries and, above all, to the building up and development of heavy industry—the bedrock of the national economy. The priority development of heavy industry is the only true road to the building of Socialism; it is the decisive precondition for the steady advance of agriculture and the socialist transformation of the countryside, for the further development of the light and food industries, the improvement of the well-being of the working people, and the strengthening of the might and defence capacity of the People's Democracies.

Ten years of people's democracy in Hungary provide striking proof of the great life-giving power and invincibility of the people's-democratic system. The war and the plunderous rule of the Nazi invaders did immense damage to the country. Only the people, with power in their hands and led by their Marxist-Leninist Party, could have rehabilitated the economy of the country so speedily and led it along the path of steady advance.

Celebrating the tenth anniversary of their liberation, the Hungarian working people look back with joy and pride on the road they have traversed. By 1954 large-scale industrial production in the country was approximately three and a half times the 1938 level. Compared with 1949, when socialist industrialisation was started, the output of heavy industry had risen by 296%, that of light industry by 204.3%, and that of the food industry by 272.9%. Hungary is now turning out many machines which it did not produce before 1949, including mining equipment, new types of

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The experience of socialist construction in the USSR, as well as that of the People's Democracies, teaches us that a new society comes to birth under conditions of sharp class struggle. The class enemy does its utmost to thwart the building of Socialism. In the struggle for Socialism and against the intrigues of the class enemy the united national front grows strong, the moral-political unity of the masses is forged and the people's-democratic system is consolidated.

The Communist and Workers' Parties of the People's Democracies are waging an uncompromising struggle against every deviation from the general line in socialist construction. The decision of the recent meeting held by the Central Committee of the Hungarian Working People's Party is of great significance for the further consolidation of the people's-democratic system in Hungary. The meeting resolutely exposed serious errors in relation to socialist construction in the country. The decision points out that right-wing, anti-Marxist, anti-Party, opportunist views recently gained currency in the Party, in the state apparatus and in the press. The protagonists of these views sought to frustrate socialist industrialisation and were opposed to the development of heavy industry. The right-wing deviation has done great harm to the economy and to the working people of Hungary. The meeting dealt a firm rebuff to the right-wing opportunists. The Hungarian people have voiced their unanimous support for these decisions of the Party.

At the head of the masses of the people in the People's Democracies stand the Communist and Workers' Parties, armed with the immortal ideas of Marxism-Leninism. These Parties are inseparably linked with the people, and their entire activity is aimed at serving the people and the cause of Socialism. They work untiringly to strengthen still more the firm unity of their ranks.

The working people in the people's-democratic countries, true to the principles of proletarian internationalism, are devotedly watching over and working to strengthen the indestructible friendship of the fraternal peoples of the powerful, 900 million-strong socialist camp, headed by the great Soviet Union. This friendship is the firm bulwark of peace and the security of the peoples.

The peoples of the countries of the socialist camp want to live in peace and on friendly terms with all other peoples. They are confident in their strength and their inexhaustible resources. They will do all that is needful to ensure the continuance of peaceful conditions for their advance and a due measure of security for their states. Such was the purpose of the recent consultations concerning the conclusion of a Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance among the eight countries which participated in the Moscow Conference—consultations in which the Government of the People's Republic of China likewise took part.

The forces of Socialism are powerful and united today as never before. Led by their Communist and Workers' Parties, the working people of the countries of people's democracy march confidently ahead, towards fresh successes in the struggle for peace and Socialism.

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Peace supporters of the Spilamberto community (Modena Province) have organised their canvassing well. They often meet to discuss questions relating to the Vienna Appeal and exchange opinions on how all the 8,000 residents of the community can best be drawn into these discussions. They began their work by calling a conference at which members of the local peace committees, representatives of democratic parties and organisations and many residents were present. After a reading of the Vienna Appeal the plan of the signature campaign was discussed and approved. Provision is made in the plan for organising meetings of the tenants of individual houses and streets. To date, 51 such meetings have been held, 51 street peace committees formed and 215 canvassers appointed. The latter collected 5,200 signatures within three days.

Signature Collectors' Successes in Austria

The Austrian Peace Committee reports that the Appeal of the Bureau of the World Peace Council has already been signed by over 300,000 people. Some activists of the peace movement have a thousand or more signatures to their credit. For instance, Otmar Mader, a resident in Amstetten (Lower Austria), has collected 1,004 signatures and Hedwig Gasser from Bregenz (Vorarlberg Province) 1,000 signatures.

Young people are taking an active part in the campaign. In nearly all districts of Vienna, boys and girls have stuck posters

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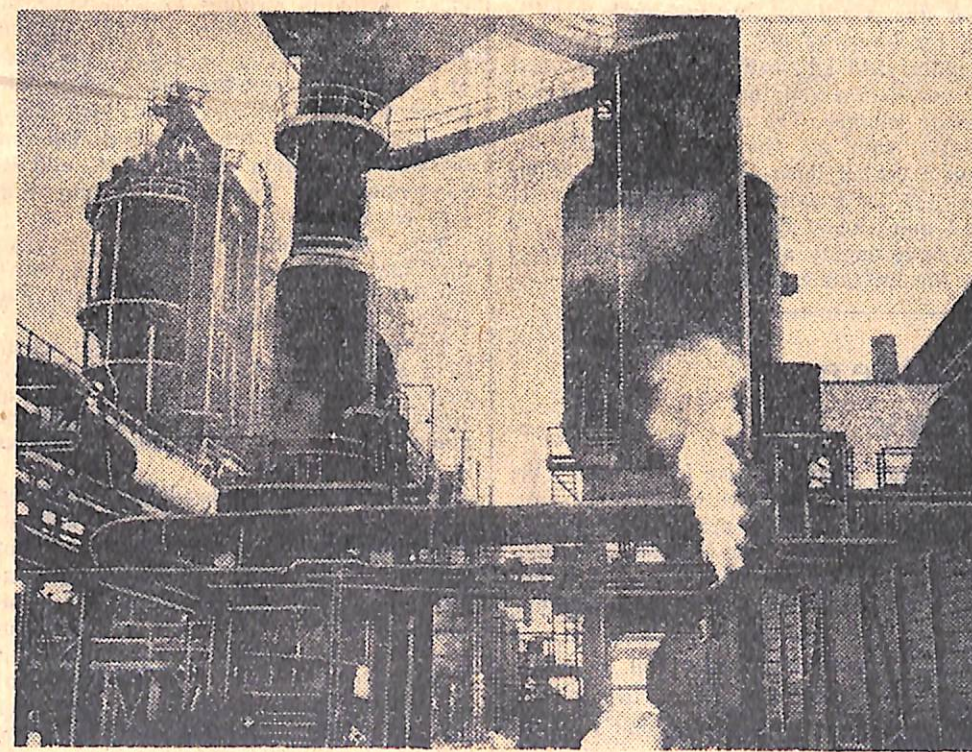
In Aquila (Marche Region) the peace committee announced a student competition for the best essay on "Peace—the Greatest Boon of the Peoples". The essay judged the best will be published.

Voicing support for a resolution submitted by Communist members of the Florence Municipal Council demanding disarmament and the employment of atomic energy solely for peaceful purposes, Florence's Mayor La Pira (Christian Democrat) proposed calling a conference this June of the mayors of all the capitals in Europe to discuss disarmament and the preservation of peace.

Italy's National Peace Committee reports that 4,770,639 signatures had been collected in the country by March 26. Bologna's canvassers have registered big success by collecting over 204,000 signatures.

on lamp posts demanding a ban on atomic weapons; they are circulating leaflets urging struggle against the preparation of atomic war and have organised a demonstration in Floridsdorf district under the slogan: fight against German militarism.

Members of the Free Austrian Youth Union have collected 15,000 signatures. The Federal Board of the Union awards a badge inscribed "Young Champion of Peace" to all young men and women who have collected over 10 signatures. Some 337 have already been decorated with the badge.



April 4 marks the tenth anniversary of Hungary's liberation from the Nazi oppression. Above: Iron and Steel Works in Sztalinvaros, built during the years of people's power.

on N. A. Bulganin's Reply to TASS Correspondent

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The Czechoslovak press and radio, widely commenting on the statement, emphasise the peaceful move of the Soviet Government which again agrees to participate in a conference of the big powers with a view to lessening world tension. The Soviet Government, writes the newspaper *Rude Pravo*, has proved by all its activities that it is a staunch defender of world peace. The policy of the Soviet Union is one of real peaceful initiative aimed at strengthening equal friendly relations among the states and relaxing international tension.

Commenting on N. A. Bulganin's reply, the Hungarian newspaper *Szabad Nep* writes that it is fresh testimony of the struggle of the Soviet Union for peace. The newspaper stresses that the firm peaceful policy of the countries of the socialist camp, combined with the growing struggle of the working masses throughout the world against the forces of war, is the great factor which will continue to prevent the realisation of imperialist aggressive designs.

In a leading article entitled "In the Service of Peace and International Co-operation", the Rumanian newspaper *Scinteia* lays emphasis on the fact that the statement represents a new and important contribution by the Soviet Union to fruitful international co-operation for the purpose of averting a new war.

The press of the German Democratic Republic warmly welcomes the new peace initiative of the Soviet Government. The German people in their overwhelming majority, like other peoples, writes the newspaper *Neues Deutschland*, are interested in a real relaxation of international tension. That is why, the newspaper emphasises, the statement of N. A. Bulganin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, on a conference of great powers has met with a warm reception in the East and West of Germany.

N. A. Bulganin's reply was also most enthusiastically welcomed by the press of Bulgaria, Albania, the Mongolian People's Republic and the Korean People's Democratic Republic.

Welcoming and warmly approving the statement made by the head of the Soviet Government, the world democratic public assesses Bulganin's reply as a document of great international importance. Many organs of the bourgeois press cannot help admitting this too. At the same time, however, some of them have no scruples about distorting its meaning, belittling its significance and representing it as a kind of "manoeuvre", thus divulging the reluctance of certain groups of the Western powers to bring about a relaxation of international tension.

The American newspaper *New York Times* gave headline prominence to the Soviet Union's favourable reception of the U.S. idea for Four-Power talks and Bulganin's reference to the possibility of lessening tension.

United Press described N. A. Bulganin's reply as a declaration of great significance,

indicating the flexibility of present Soviet policy. The Soviet step, it noted, was taken to be tangible evidence of the desire of the Moscow Government to reduce world tension. The *New York Times* quotes Senator George, who said that Bulganin's statement showed a readiness to discuss important political problems. A number of American politicians and newspapers, however, seek to misinterpret Bulganin's statement. The *New York Herald Tribune* reports from Washington that the State Department's reaction was quick but extremely cautious.

According to Reuter, the favourable reaction of Soviet Premier N. A. Bulganin to President Eisenhower's statement on the possibility of convening an East-West conference met with approval among official circles in Britain. A Foreign Office spokesman stated that Britain welcomed the proposal made by Edgar Faure, French Premier, that the Western powers should try to arrange for a conference with the Soviet Union and declared that this was fully in accord with the policy of the British Government.

At the same time there are strange attempts by some newspapers to exaggerate the difficulties of arranging a conference, to emphasise that a conference of big powers is impossible in the immediate future. For example, the *Yorkshire Post*, stating that the position of the Soviet Union gives rise to a "gleam of hope", at the same time asserts that there is a lengthy period of tiresome preparations and hard bargaining ahead.

The French newspaper *L'Humanité Dimanche* carries as front page news: "Bulganin agrees to a conference of great powers if it is to lessen international tension; the Austrian issue can be settled now." The newspaper *Journal du Dimanche* points out that the statement of the Soviet Premier "represents a new and very important element in the search for understanding between East and West". *Figaro* writes that N. A. Bulganin's statement had made "a favourable impression" in Paris. However, in defiance of common sense, certain bourgeois papers are attempting to give the impression that N. A. Bulganin's reply was merely the result of ratification of the Paris agreements. This distorted point of view is repudiated by the right-wing newspaper *Aurore*, which comments that the leaders of Soviet foreign policy "have never declared that the USSR will refuse to negotiate with the West after ratification of the Paris agreements; their refusal has always been confined to the question of Germany's reunification".

The Statement of the Foreign Ministry of the USSR on an Austrian State Treaty and N. A. Bulganin's reply to the TASS correspondent are the focus of attention in the Austrian press. Speaking on the significance of the forthcoming visit of the Austrian Government delegation to Moscow, *Neues Osterreich* writes: "The visit to Moscow may be the turning point in the history of the Second Republic, the starting point for a lessening of world tension and a great contribution to the realisation of peaceful coexistence." In an editorial *Osterreichische Volksstimme* gives a warning that the U.S.A. is putting—and will continue to do so—increasing pressure on the Austrian Government in order to prevent the conclusion of an Austrian State Treaty. The Austrian public, the newspaper writes, expects the Government to abandon the line of supporting the "positions of strength" policy and to defend the national interests.

German People Reject Paris Agreements

I.

Against the will of the overwhelming majority of our people the reactionary majority in the West German Bundestag—324 deputies—voted in favour of the Paris agreements, and thereby took a decision which, in the crudest manner, tramples underfoot our national interests and severely aggravates the situation. The German people cannot and never will recognise this decision. They cannot and never will consider it to be binding on them.

The majority of the West German population have rejected these agreements through protests, deputations, meetings, demonstrations and strikes; and also through a people's referendum carried out in many cities, communities and factories. During the Bundestag debates this movement assumed proportions never before attained by the struggle against the resurgence of German militarism.

Of decisive significance is the fact that in Western Germany, too, the working class for the first time since 1945 has been in the van of the national struggle. The January strike of miners and metal workers and the general strike in the Saar region showed the high level of the preparedness for struggle of the working class in the fight against militarism and in defence of their rights.

A new orientation is making itself felt among the working class of Western Germany. It finds expression in the fact that the workers are taking their stand on grounds of principle in opposing the revival of a new Wehrmacht. The workers realise that parliamentary opposition to the Paris agreements is inadequate, that the people's will must find effective expression in struggle outside the parliamentary arena—by means of protests, political strikes, demonstrations. Therefore the workers are discarding the false theories and claptrap about the "political neutrality" of trade unions.

That a new orientation is beginning to form in the ranks of the working class is further shown in the fact that trade union members are fighting ever harder for united working-class action, and they succeeded appreciably in establishing unity during the big strikes and demonstrations.

New in Western Germany, too, is the fact that the workers are more and more frequently rejecting the slanders hurled at the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic; that the proposals of the Soviet Union and the national peace policy pursued by the GDR are meeting with increasing support in Western Germany; and that, in particular, broad recognition and support are being given to the proposals to ban atomic weapons and other means of mass annihilation.

The popular referendum was of great significance for the development of the people's movement against the Paris agreements. The response to the appeal of the meeting in St. Paul's Church (Frankfurt) is proof of the vehemence of our people's protest against the Paris agreements, and of the demand for the peaceful reunification of Germany. If the leadership of the Social Democratic Party of Germany had taken a definite stand in favour of the united action of the working class, this would have encouraged the drawing of patriotically-minded bourgeois elements into the movement, and considerably more success would have been achieved in the struggle against ratification. The effort to narrow the scope of the movement through the use of anti-Communist slogans gave rise to just criticism, not only on the part of a considerable section of the workers, but also among the leadership of the movement.

Max Reimann

First Secretary, Central Board,
Communist Party of Germany

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The SDPG leadership has rejected the proposal of the People's Chamber of the GDR to hold the popular referendum throughout Germany on the basis of the St. Paul's Church Manifesto. This position does not correspond to the strivings of the members and functionaries of the Social Democratic Party and does not take into account the grave situation in which our people find themselves.

The speeches of the Social Democratic deputies in the Bundestag show that the SDPG leadership and deputies have realised the full danger implicit in the Paris agreements. The SDPG Board has declared that the fight against ratification and implementation of the Paris agreements goes on. So it is all the more incomprehensible that, despite these correct statements, the decision is taken to confine the SDPG's extra-parliamentary activities to holding meetings, and to liquidate the big movement in support of the St. Paul's Church Manifesto which had just got under way in the course of the referendum in Dortmund, Hof, Aschaffenburg and other cities.

Great harm is being done to the working class and the patriotic and democratic forces of our people by the participation of the SDPG leaders in the campaign of slander against the Communists and the German Democratic Republic. To participate in the slander campaign against the CPG, the GDR and the Soviet Union only helps in the ideological preparations for war, only makes it possible for the reactionaries to deal a blow at the trade unions and the SDPG too.

III.

As the resolution of the Conference of the West German Federation of Trade Unions of the North Rhine-Westphalia Laender quite correctly points out, ratification of the Paris agreements increases the danger of the monopolists' becoming even more high-handed. Of great importance is the following paragraph of the resolution: "If, as a result of the inclusion in the agreements of the state of emergency clause, there were to be restriction of the trade unions' right to organise alliances and hold strikes, then the trade unions would oppose such designs by every means at their disposal, including political strikes."

The trade unionists of the North Rhine-Westphalia Laender have thus drawn the proper conclusions. Among the leadership of the Federation of West German Trade Unions, however, there are views that are in complete contradiction to the decisions of the Third Congress of the Federation of West German Trade Unions in Frankfurt on Main; and it is primarily the trade union organ *Welt der Arbeit* that expresses these views. In its March 4 issue this newspaper stated that the Bundestag decision has the obligatory force of law.

The stand of the trade unions in relation to remilitarisation is determined by the rules and aims of the trade union movement and in particular by the

defending the democratic and trade union rights of the workers. And last, but not least, it means fighting every attempt to shift the armaments burden onto the shoulders of the working masses, fighting for higher wages, against soaring prices and increased exploitation.

IV.

Our Party Congress has given fresh impetus to the entire Party, it has heightened its activity and given it added confidence in its strength.

However, there are still considerable shortcomings that prevent us from fully utilising the great objective possibilities for developing the struggle of the masses. The chief cause of the defects in our work is that the Party lags behind on basic ideological problems. There has been serious remissness in studying and carrying out the Congress decisions, particularly in the Party executive committees of the Laender and districts.

As hitherto, sectarianism remains the main danger. At the same time, however, there are serious vacillations of an opportunist character that in effect negate the Party's leading role.

The greatest danger is presented by unclarity and vacillation in the question of unity of working-class action and the evaluation of the policy of the SDPG leadership, inasmuch as they prevent the Communists from strengthening their ties with their Social Democratic class comrades. Some Communists do not understand that the chief task is to achieve unity of working-class action, to develop joint struggle by Communist, Social Democratic, Christian Democratic and non-party workers against the Paris agreements, and that the stronger the people's movement for abolishing the Paris agreements, the less will certain of the Social Democratic leaders be able to take the line of co-operating in carrying out the Paris agreements.

The decisive factor for achieving unity of working-class action is to bring to the forefront the interests shared in common with the Social Democratic workers and the necessity for joint struggle for the national and social interests of the entire people. Of course, while bringing out the positive aspects in the stand of the SDPG leadership, it is also necessary to criticise all its half-way measures and inconsistencies, and, above all, the conduct of those leaders who, now that the Paris agreements have been ratified by the reactionary majority in the Bundestag, would like to call off extra-parliamentary action and collaborate in the implementation of the Paris agreements.

In 1954 we noted an absolute increase in Party membership and in the number of branches. The Thaelmann recruiting drive is now yielding gratifying results as well. To date we have admitted about 6,000 new members, among them some 2,000 young men and women workers. And the growing interest in our press is shown by the fact that we have also been able to increase the number of readers of our week-end editions by 50,000.

The fact that there is a heightening of inner-Party activity finds expression in the far greater number of meetings held by branches. Nevertheless, the process of strengthening the Party is still going too slowly and our organisational work is still

FRENCH PEOPLE WILL NOT STOP THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE POLICY OF WAR PREPARATIONS

Statement of French Communist Party

Following the endorsement of the schemes for rearming a revenge-seeking Bonn Germany by a minority vote of the National Assembly, the Council of the Republic has now approved them too.

This political act entails a grave danger to international peace and the security of France. At the same time it signifies the betrayal of our country's real interests by the representatives of the big French bourgeoisie and the temporary success of the pressure—insulting to our national honour—brought to bear by the ruling circles of the U.S.A. and Britain.

Above all else, rearming Bonn Germany means intensifying the danger of war, inasmuch as it perpetuates the division of Germany and places an army at the disposal of the German revenge-seekers, who are asserting their political and territorial claims in both the East and the West.

Ratification of the London and Paris agreements will sharpen international tension. It will be an obstacle to a peaceful solution of the German problem for a long time to come; it will lead to an arms race... The atomic bases set up in our country by the American army, and the fact that the former Nazi generals are to be furnished with weapons of mass destruction, arouse particular anxiety among the peoples of Europe...

The inclusion in the Atlantic pact of a Western Germany thus rearmed will disclose its real character as a reactionary and aggressive coalition directed against the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, against the liberty and independence of the peoples.

By putting their signature to the London and Paris agreements, the Government and its parliamentary majority are destroying the best guarantee of France's security and independence—the Franco-Soviet Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance signed in December 1944.

They are leaving our country open to joint pressure from the American, British and German imperialists. Implementation of these agreements would deprive France of her position as a great power, which is already being called in question.

The rearmament of Western Germany creates a mortal danger for France. In-

vaded by the armies of German imperialism thrice within 75 years, France again faces the risk of being placed at the mercy of the militarists from across the Rhine.

Ratification of the London and Paris agreements patently runs counter to the national interests of our country and the clearly-expressed will of our people.

Once more it has been demonstrated that for the ruling circles of the French bourgeoisie class egoism stands higher than national feelings.

Within France the policy of war preparations and the intensive arms drive entailed by the ratification and carrying out of the Paris agreements can only lead to growing poverty for the working people and the people as a whole, to a rising cost of living and heavier taxation. Moreover, this policy will bring in its train reactionary measures and violence against the people, as is already confirmed by the Government's scheme for declaring "a state of emergency"; the realisation of which would wipe out the democratic freedoms and social gains won by the working class and the democrats of our country.

The Party of the working class which is now defending the nation's future—the Communist Party—holding firmly in its hands the banner of national independence and peace, has always fought and will never cease to fight against a policy that binds the country to foreign imperialism and once again places arms in the hands of the German militarists and revenge-seekers.

From 1947 onward, all other parties without exception have contributed to this policy of national debasement and war preparations. But pressure exerted by the masses and by the national forces has caused splits within these parties.

Hence, simultaneously with the working class and its Party, representatives of all parties and all social sections have fought this policy, and it is only owing to foreign interference that the supporters of West German remilitarisation have been able to push this decision through Parliament.

Particularly great is the responsibility borne by the leaders of the Socialist Party who, together with the leaders of the reactionary parties, actively promoted the policy of ratification, to which at the last

moment the former opponents of EDC and the Paris agreements among the de Gaullists also gave their support.

The French people do not and never will consent to this policy of sacrificing the national interests, the policy of war preparations.

Never will they let themselves be drawn into an aggressive war against the Soviet Union. On the contrary, they will do everything in their power to maintain and strengthen friendly relations with the peoples of the USSR.

They are strong enough to force the imperialists, the warmongers, to retreat, relying on the Soviet Union's policy of peace and relaxation of international tension, strengthening their militant solidarity with the working people of all countries, and especially with the German working people who do not want militarism and war.

The people of France are confident of the outcome of the struggle, for they know that today is not 1938.

The rearmament of Bonn Germany may be said to be a new Munich, but the relationship of forces both within the country and on the international plane has changed profoundly, to the advantage of the forces of peace and democracy. The people's struggle in France, already powerful, will inevitably continue to develop.

It is the duty of the Communists to work unflinchingly to achieve working-class unity and the unification of all national and democratic forces, with the object of advancing the struggle of the masses:

- against implementation of the Paris agreements;
- against atomic war;
- in defence of the demands of the working class and the working masses;
- for preservation of democratic freedoms.

The Communists, marching at the head of the people, will work with all their might to defeat the Government policy of war preparations, poverty and national betrayal, and to secure the carrying through of a policy of peace.

L'Humanité, March 29.

Forthcoming Conference of Representatives of European Working People and Trade Unions

Delegates from the CGT and the Force Ouvrière organisations at the Haisnes-Saint-Pierre Steel Works in Lesquin, followed later by sections of the CGT, FO and Christian trade unions at the Lorraine-Escout Works in Maubeuge and at the Acières du Nord factories in Blanc-Misseron proposed a few weeks ago that the working people of Europe should convene a conference of European workers.

In view of the fact that a large number of enterprises throughout Europe have declared themselves in favour of this

initiative, worker and trade union delegates from various European countries recently met in Berlin and decided to invite representatives of European working people and trade unions, of all trends, to a conference against the revival of German militarism, in defence of the living conditions and rights of the working people, for prosperity and friendship among the peoples and for peace, to be held in Leipzig from April 22 to 24. An international committee was elected, comprising workers from France, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland

and the German Democratic Republic and Western Germany.

The organising committee has issued an appeal to all men and women workers of Europe and all trade union organisations, making preparations for the conference in factories and trade unions. Elect your delegates. Collect funds for their trip. Divided we are nothing; united we are invincible. Let us by our joint efforts lay the stone on the road to a future of peace and happiness for Europe."

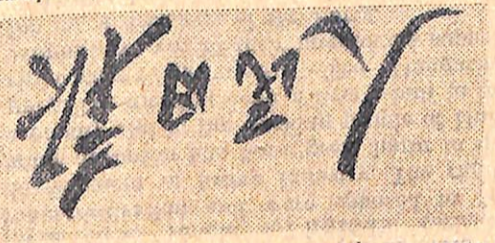
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PRESS REVIEW

Co-operative Movement in Chinese Countryside
Jemninjhpao—organ of C.C., Communist Party of China
Under the leadership of the working class and its militant vanguard, the Communist Party, China's peasant masses have been firmly taking the path of uniting in agricultural producer co-operatives. More than 225,000 producer co-operatives were set up in China during the latter half of 1954; by February there were 600,000, embracing 15 million peasant households or 13% of the total.
Jemninjhpao, organ of the C.C. of the Communist Party of China, devotes a great deal of attention to the co-operative movement, draws general conclusions from the experience acquired in setting up co-operatives and criticises shortcomings. The paper recently carried a series of articles in which, on the basis of a thorough study of the situation in the countryside, it sharply criticised shortcomings and mistakes in the work of co-operatives and mistakes by rural Party organisations.



In a leading article entitled "Step up the fight against undermining activities in the co-operative movement", the paper recalls that the measures taken by the Party and the people's Government for putting agriculture on a socialist basis, backed by the broad peasant masses, are encountering fierce opposition from the class enemy. There are no lengths to which counter-revolutionary elements will not go to hamper the co-operative movement. The class enemy is striving to undermine the leadership of agriculture by the working class and its Party, to destroy the basis of the people's democratic system—the worker-peasant alliance—and to bring about conditions for restoring the imperialist domination of the U.S.A. and its hangers-on—the treacherous Chiang Kai-shek clique.
This, Jemninjhpao emphasises, shows that the development of the co-operative movement is accompanied by sharp and complex class struggle.
Underestimation of this struggle would be a grave error. The newspaper calls on Party organisations to heighten political vigilance and to wage a constant struggle against the counter-revolutionary attacks of the class enemies.
An article under the heading "Strengthen political and ideological work in agricultural producer co-operatives" states that the bulk of rural Party functionaries give able leadership in the organisation of co-operatives. It stresses, however, that the scope of the peasant co-operation movement has turned some people's heads. Certain Party functionaries, carried away by success, have forgotten that political work must be conducted among the peasants efficiently and regularly. Being carried away with success often led, in the establishment of co-operatives, to the adoption of plans that had no basis and did not reflect the true situation in the countryside.

The complex task confronting Party organisations in the countryside, the paper points out, can only be solved if they discard their self-complacency and pay close attention to the feeling of the masses. If they help the peasants to solve their urgent problems and settle their doubts, step up the work of organisationally and economically strengthening the producer co-operatives and politically educating the peasants. It is only by taking this path that the Party organisations can correctly carry out the Party's policy for the socialist re-organisation of agriculture.

even more high-handed, or great importance in particular, broad recognition and support by the GDR are meeting with increasing support in Western Germany; and that the agreements of the state of emergency clause, there were to be restriction of the trade unions' right to organise alliances and hold strikes, then the trade unions would oppose such designs by every means at their disposal, including political strikes."
The trade unionists of the North Rhine-Westphalia Land have thus drawn the proper conclusions. Among the leadership of the Federation of West German Trade Unions, however, there are views that are in complete contradiction to the decisions of the Third Congress of the Federation about 6,000 young men and women workers. And the growing interest in our press is shown by the fact that we have also been able to increase the number of readers of our week-end editions by 50,000.

The fact that there is a heightening of inner-Party activity finds expression in the far greater number of meetings held by branches. Nevertheless, the process of strengthening the Party is still going too slowly and our organisational work is still lagging far behind the requirements of our political tasks.
What, then, is the first thing we must do? We must persistently activate the branches, especially the factory branches; we must help the leading Party bodies to have a correct understanding of the tasks facing us; to explain these to the membership and make the branches centres of work among the masses.
Our Party must bear in mind that acts of terrorism and attacks upon our Party offices and the homes of our active members may grow more frequent. This places our Party under a serious obligation to heighten revolutionary vigilance in order to promptly lay bare before the people all enemy attempts to harm our Party by means of provocation.

Big and important tasks face our Party: we must secure abolition of the Paris agreements so as to clear the way for an agreement on the peaceful unification of our country. And the main task in this connection is to develop explanatory work among the masses and win their support, especially in the measures taken by the great idea of a people's referendum.
All the measures hitherto taken against the Paris agreements—every referendum, every protest, every delegation, every meeting, every strike and every demonstration—have been of great value. If we do not relax our efforts now, if we do not fear the sacrifices involved and mobilise all the forces of our Party, our work will rapidly yield still better results; the cause of our nation and the cause of peace will finally triumph. The national forces of our people, with the German Democratic Republic behind them—a firm bastion in the struggle for a united, democratic, peaceable and independent Germany—are great. And we have mighty allies and friends, headed by the invincible Soviet Union.

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Statement of National Committee, Communist Party of Uruguay

In connection with the coming into power of a new National State Council, the National Committee of the Communist Party of Uruguay has published an appeal in the paper Justicia to the working class and the people.
Describing the old government, the National Committee emphasised that it had defended the interests of big landowners and big industrial and commercial capital dominated by the dollar. It had undertaken national sovereignty, pursued a U.S.-inspired policy of war and colonialism, only realisable by a government re-

presenting all progressive forces led by the working class in alliance with the peasants. The Communist Party called on the people to intensify the struggle for ending the military agreement with the U.S., for a ban on atomic weapons, and their destruction, against West German remilitarisation, for lower prices of foodstuffs and consumer goods, for an expansion of trade with the Soviet Union and the Peoples Democratic Republic, against U.S. monopoly domination, for agrarian reform, industrialisation and democratic freedoms.

And if the masses ask—what are we to do next?—we reply: the only way to Paris agreement is by way of struggle against the main obstacle to the peaceful reunification of Germany on a democratic basis is thereby removed; we can only go forward by broadening and strengthening the front of struggle against the revival of German militarism, for the peaceful solution of the German question. This struggle at present finds its broadest reflection in the movement for a popular referendum throughout Germany.
Our big task is, therefore, to do our utmost to strengthen realisation of the need for such a popular referendum in the workers' mass organisations, trade unions, the SPD, peasant and middle class organisations, youth and women's organisations.

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In Communist and Workers' Parties

PUBLICATION OF CLASSICS OF MARXISM-LENINISM IN CHINA

Last year 6,087,000 copies of 34 Marxist-Leninist classics came off the press in the People's Republic of China. This year the People's Publishing House will issue 32 works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin in the Chinese language. Already on sale are Karl Marx's "Critique of Political Economy", Frederick Engels' "Dialectics of Nature", a symposium "Marx and Engels on Religion", selected writings of Engels on military matters, V. I. Lenin's "Report on the Substitution of Taxes in

Kind for Assessment System" and Volume 3 of J. V. Stalin's Collected Works.

Volume I of V. I. Lenin's Collected Works, Volumes 11 and 12 of J. V. Stalin's Collected Works, Karl Marx's "Introduction to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Law", F. Engels' "Condition of the Working Class in England", separate chapters of Lenin's notes on philosophy and a number of other works will be translated and published this year in China.

FORTHCOMING CONGRESS OF DUTCH COMMUNIST PARTY

The Central Committee of the Dutch Communist Party met on March 21 to discuss preparations for the Party Congress. The following agenda was approved: Report of the C.C. on the political situation and the work of the Party (by Comrade

Paul de Groot, General Secretary of the C.C.); preparations for the election campaign (Comrade Harry Fergey, Secretary of the C.C.); election of the Central Committee.

The Congress will open on April 8 in Amsterdam.

ACTIVISTS OF SUPG STUDY TEXTBOOK ON POLITICAL ECONOMY

Leading workers of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany in Party, state and administrative bodies of the German Democratic Republic are now studying the textbook on political economy recently published in the German Democratic Republic in an edition of 300,000 copies. In accordance with a decision of the Political Bureau of the C.C. of the Party,

seminars are regularly held to help those studying political economy. Introductory lectures are also given on particular chapters of the textbook. Every student is supplied with a booklet which contains introductory notes, study plans and dates of classes, basic outlines of seminars to be held and a list of the main literature to read.

ANNUAL CONFERENCES IN RUMANIAN WORKERS' PARTY

District and city conferences are being held in the Rumanian Workers' Party with members of the Central Committee taking part. The level of this year's district and city Party conferences is higher than last year. Delegates are giving a good deal of attention to improving the style and methods of Party work.

techniques and raise the productivity of labour in mines.

Delegates to the conferences held in agricultural areas stress the necessity of improving political work among the peasants in order to fulfil the task set by the Party to harvest ten million tons of wheat and maize this year.

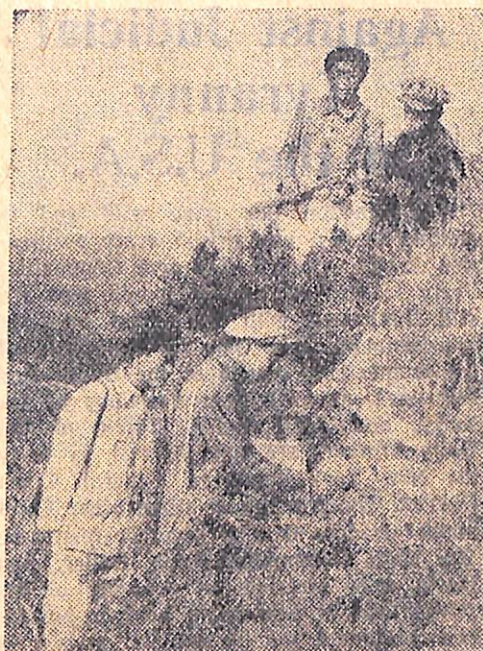
At the Alexandria district conference it was noted that the average of 2,200 kg. of maize grain per hectare harvested in the district in 1954 was far below the actual potential. All the speakers stressed that it was possible for the district to average not less than 3,000 kg. of maize grain per hectare.

The district and city conferences also discuss the work of the district Party committees in popularising the principles of Marxism-Leninism and in guiding Party studies and mass political work among the population.

The criticism and proposals made by the delegates are taken into account in the resolutions adopted at the conferences and concrete measures mapped out for improving the work of the Party organisations.

CONFERENCE OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE SECRETARIES IN HUNGARIAN WORKING PEOPLE'S PARTY

In the discussion that followed, the delegates pointed out that all members of the district committee should be



Geological prospecting is well under way in the Korean People's Democratic Republic. Above: A group of geologists at work.

Communist Party of Japan Prepares for Elections

The leadership of the Communist Party of Japan has held a meeting to discuss its preparations for the local elections. Those present at the meeting analysed the results of the parliamentary elections in a self-critical way, pointing out that the links of the Party with the masses were still inadequate.

The meeting outlined the measures to be taken by the Party prior to the local elections. Afterwards Comrade Shochi Kasuga, Chairman of the Central Executive Board of the Communist Party, announced these measures at a press conference. He pointed out that the Party would nominate joint candidates with the reformist forces. If the left and right-wing socialist parties nominated joint candidates with the conservative parties the Party would put forward its own. It would not withdraw any of its candidates in the course of the election campaign.

Comrade Kasuga said that the Hatoyama Cabinet had gone back on its pre-election promises and that the Party would do its best to see that even stronger pressure was put on the Government to make it fulfil its undertakings.

WORKING PEOPLE OF BELGIUM GIVE REBUFF TO REACTIONARY PROVOCATIONS

The Christian Social Party, representing the most out-and-out reactionary section of the Belgian bourgeoisie, recently organised provocative actions in a number of Belgian cities, following an unbridled campaign lasting many months under cover of demanding increased funds for schools controlled by the church and to prevent the Government passing a law proposing a slight reduction of these funds.

The real purpose of these provocations instigated by Belgian reactionaries was primarily to hold back the growing unity of the working people in the struggle for their immediate demands and against the revival of German militarism, to divert the masses from the struggle against West German rearmament and the threat of atomic war, and to put the Christian Social Party once again in power. This

For the Xth Anniversary of Liberation of Hungary A GLORIOUS DECADE

★
Bela Illes
Hungarian Writer,
Twice Kossuth Prize Winner

★ ★

Ten years ago, when the victorious Soviet Army crushed the Nazi occupation troops in Hungary, and their armed hirelings, the Nyilas bands, the centuries of oppression endured by the Hungarian people came to an end.

Horthy Hungary had entered World War II as the vassal of Hitler Germany, sending an army of several hundred thousand against the Soviet Union. But when it became clear to Horthy and his politicians and generals that Hitler had lost the war, they tried to save the situation by switching to a different master. Through various channels they established contact with ruling elements in Britain and the U.S.A., asking for their assistance against the Soviet Union and against the Hungarian people themselves.

Those British and American groups which, even before the second world war had ended, were eager to prepare for another war—against the Soviet Union—would readily have complied with Horthy's request, had not the military and political situation prevented them from doing so. Willy-nilly they had to advise Horthy that if he wanted to get out of the war he had better address his request for a truce directly to the Soviet Union, whose victoriously advancing troops had already reached the Hungarian frontier. At the same time they hinted that Horthy could, of course, count on their assistance later.

In October 1944 Horthy's representatives undertook, on behalf of the government, to break off relations with Germany and join the Allies in fighting the Nazi army. But instead of taking steps to carry out these commitments, and accepting the assistance offered by the Soviet armed forces, Horthy treacherously informed Hitler's agents of the agreement and of his plans to "get out of the war". In this way he gave the Nazis the opportunity openly to set up a "Hungarian" Nyilas government and, under cover of this, to officially establish the dread terrorist rule of the Gestapo.

At the time of its liberation by the Soviet Army, our country lay in ruins, poverty-stricken and weak. It was awakened, raised to its feet, revitalised, returned to life and labour by the mighty force which since 1918 had been consistently battling against exploiters and oppressors for the freedom and independence of the Hungarian people. This force was the Hungarian working class and its vanguard—the Hungarian Communist Party which had just emerged from underground activity. Even when Hungary was plunged into the darkest period of its history, the period of Nazi bondage, when it was in a worse state of decline than it had ever known, the Hungarian Communists foresaw and proclaimed the approach of a new chapter—the brightest ever in the history of the Hungarian people. The Hungarian Communist Party guided the rehabilitation of the plundered, devastated, scorched land. On the initiative of the Communists, hundreds of thousands of acres were transferred from the landlords to the working peasants; the Communists directed the reconstruction of transport services and of the country's industrial areas; taking their place at the head of the people, they secured the conversion of the factories and mills owned by the big capi-

talists into public property; under their guidance, the Hungarian people are now laying the foundations of Socialism.

From the moment it set foot in Hungary, the Soviet Army of liberation helped the Hungarian people in every possible way. While fighting was still going on in Western Hungary, Soviet engineering units were already repairing railway lines and building new bridges in the eastern parts of the country. Millions of Hungarians energetically took up the work begun by the Soviet forces. The Soviet Union helped by providing food and supplying transport to deliver it where it was most needed, thus saving hundreds of thousands of people from starving to death.

Within three years, working under the guidance of the Party and with the help of the Soviet Union, the Hungarian people rehabilitated their country; while in the ten years since liberation they have advanced further towards general well-being and a high standard of true culture than they had previously been able to do in centuries.

After the liberation the Hungarian people were obliged to wage a hard struggle against their inveterate enemies at home and abroad. They had to defeat the Hungarian bourgeoisie, which employed every possible means to combat the people's power; they had to defend the country against the intrigues of reactionary groups of Western powers, who resorted to the bloodiest and dirtiest methods of helping the exploiting classes, in the hope that if these were again "in the saddle" Hungary would become a colony of the imperialist Western countries, and the Hungarian people cannon fodder to be used in carrying out their expansionist plans. As was often the case in past centuries, this time too the struggle against the "home-bred" exploiters and the foreign expansionists, who still support each other's intrigues against the Hungarian people, became an all-people's struggle. After the liberation, however, a new factor arose in determining our country's international position; we had the support of the great Soviet Union, and our people were led by the Communist Party with a purposefulness and wisdom never seen before. It is to this friendly assistance of the Soviet Union and to our Party's leadership that we are indebted for all our successes.

Today, celebrating the anniversary of our historic victory, the Hungarian people can look back with pride on the path they have traversed. In ten years, socialist industrialisation and the co-operative movement in the countryside—where collective and state farms now cultivate 30% of the ploughland—have radically changed the economic structure of the country. Chimneys of new factories equipped with up-to-date machinery have appeared on the skyline. Industrial enterprises have sprung up in previously backward regions such as the Tisza area and the Hungarian plain.

The culture and well-being of the people have improved. Whereas in 1945 the country had 8 doctors for every 10,000 people, now it has 13. The number of children in nurseries is 18 times greater than in 1938. The monthly growth of the population last year was the greatest for forty years.

Availing themselves of their freedom, the Hungarian people have shown by deeds that they are capable of overcoming the terrible, poisonous heritage of centuries of oppression by foreign exploiters and of the 25-year rule of fascism. The Hungarian people have cultivated a true sense of patriotism and a high degree of socialist consciousness.

In the ten years since liberation our people have truly achieved great victories. But their struggle is not yet over, nor their work complete: the remnants of the crushed exploiting classes are offering desperate resistance. The remnants of the defeated bourgeoisie and the kulaks are exerting strong pressure upon the worker-peasant alliance, the base of the people's-democratic system, led by the working class. Views reflecting the influence of the class enemy were recently current even within the Party, as well as in other spheres of social life. Their protagonists, the right-wing opportunists, sought to belittle the historic victories of the Hungarian people, to weaken the working class and to retard, or even to check if possible, socialist construction. It is hardly necessary to say that had these attempts been successful they would have jeopardised all the victories of the past ten years: the achievement of freedom, division of the land among the peasants, nationalisation of industrial enterprises and the banks, and a new, happy, joyous life.

These attempts were thwarted by the Party and the working class.

★

One of the deluding phrases often repeated by the Hungarian fascists was: we stand alone. This falsehood was often repeated so as to incite chauvinist feeling, to drive a wedge between the Hungarian people, enslaved by German militarism, and the victims of German militarism in neighbouring countries. The history of the past ten years has shown that we do not stand alone: we have nine hundred million brothers and sisters.

The Hungarian people, who by the will of the exploiting classes and oppressors lived for centuries in artificial isolation, are now equal members of the mighty, invincible camp of peace, to which many free nations belong. This camp is led by the same powerful socialist country whose armed forces drove the foreign invaders from Hungary's soil: and the labour of the Hungarian people, their efforts to defend their liberty and independence and to build a bright future, are directed by the same force that has now devotedly defended the interests of the Hungarian working people for more than three and a half decades. That force is the Communists, steeled and purposeful men and women, loyal to the people, true patriots and internationalists.

Ten years of persevering efforts and glorious struggle have shown the Hungarian people the road to a happy future, the road to all they have longed for through the centuries.

attention is being paid to the development of heavy industry, to widening the experience of advanced workers, and to improving Party work among the masses. The Cricov district Party conference discussed the successful fulfilment of the oil output plan. Thanks to the efforts made by the district Party committee to improve the organisation of the production process and secure widespread application of advanced methods, the workers of the "June 11" oil well overfulfilled their 1954 output plan. Many delegates to the Petroșani district conference spoke of the experience gained by their branches and discussed their efforts to employ advanced

CONFERENCE OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE SECRETARIES IN HUNGARIAN WORKING PEOPLE'S PARTY

A conference of secretaries of district committees of the Hungarian Working People's Party was held in Budapest on March 25-26 to discuss ways and means of carrying out the tasks set by the March meeting of the Party's Central Committee.

The report was delivered by Comrade Lajos Acs, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee. He urged a struggle against anti-Marxist views that express an underestimation of the role of heavy industry, relegate producer co-operatives in the countryside to the background and underestimate the leading role of the Party.

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The district and city conferences also discuss the work of the district Party committees in popularising the principles of Marxism-Leninism and in guiding Party studies and mass political work among the population.

The criticism and proposals made by the delegates are taken into account in the resolutions adopted at the conferences and concrete measures mapped out for improving the work of the Party organisations.

In the discussion that followed, the speakers pointed out that all members of the Party and the broad masses acclaimed the decision of the Central Committee's March meeting with the greatest satisfaction and approval.

Speaking in the discussion, Comrade Matyas Rakosi, First Secretary of the C.C. of the Hungarian Working People's Party, stressed that the way to advance agricultural production and the peasants' well-being was through co-operation. However, until an individual peasant voluntarily decided to join the co-operative, the Party would give him all-round help to develop his farm to the greatest possible extent.

WORKING PEOPLE OF BELGIUM GIVE REBUFF TO REACTIONARY PROVOCATIONS

The Christian Social Party, representing the most out-and-out reactionary section of the Belgian bourgeoisie, recently organised provocative actions in a number of Belgian cities, following an unbridled campaign lasting many months under cover of demanding increased funds for schools controlled by the church and to prevent the Government passing a law proposing a slight reduction of these funds.

The real purpose of these provocations instigated by Belgian reactionaries was primarily to hold back the growing unity of the working people in the struggle for their immediate demands and against the revival of German militarism, to divert the masses from the struggle against West German rearmament and the threat of atomic war, and to put the Christian Social Party once again in power. This is proved by the fact that the participants in these provocative demonstrations first attacked the premises of working-class and democratic organisations, and that the slogans used during their demonstrations were of a fascist character.

The working people resolutely defended the premises of their organisations, and held big counter-demonstrations in Brussels and other cities. In many places Communist and Socialist working people fought shoulder to shoulder against the reactionary provocations.

and its vanguard—the Hungarian Communist Party which had just emerged from underground activity. Even when Hungary was plunged into the darkest period of its history, the period of Nazi bondage, when it was in a worse state of decline than it had ever known, the Hungarian Communists foresaw and proclaimed the approach of a new chapter—the brightest ever in the history of the Hungarian people. The Hungarian Communist Party guided the rehabilitation of the plundered, devastated, scorched land. On the initiative of the Communists, hundreds of thousands of acres were transferred from the landlords to the working peasants; the Communists directed the reconstruction of transport services and of the country's industrial areas; taking their place at the head of the people, they secured the conversion of the factories and mills owned by the big capi-

ternational position; we had the support of the great Soviet Union, and our people were led by the Communist Party with a purposefulness and wisdom never seen before. It is to this friendly assistance of the Soviet Union and to our Party's leadership that we are indebted for all our successes.

Today, celebrating the anniversary of our historic victory, the Hungarian people can look back with pride on the path they have traversed. In ten years, socialist industrialisation and the co-operative movement in the countryside—where collective and state farms now cultivate 30% of the ploughland—have radically changed the economic structure of the country. Chimneys of new factories equipped with up-to-date machinery have appeared on the skyline. Industrial enterprises have sprung up in previously backward regions such as the Tisza area and the Hungarian plain.

lived for centuries in artificial isolation, are now equal members of the mighty, invincible camp of peace, to which many free nations belong. This camp is led by the same powerful socialist country whose armed forces drove the foreign invaders from Hungary's soil; and the labour of the Hungarian people, their efforts to defend their liberty and independence and to build a bright future, are directed by the same force that has now devotedly defended the interests of the Hungarian working people for more than three and a half decades. That force is the Communists, steeled and purposeful men and women, loyal to the people, true patriots and internationalists.

Ten years of persevering efforts and glorious struggle have shown the Hungarian people the road to a happy future, the road to all they have longed for through the centuries.

Czechoslovakia Again Cuts Prices

A joint meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the Government took place on March 29. It heard a report by Comrade L. Jankovcova, Deputy Premier and alternate member of the Political Bureau, "On measures for further improvement in the living standard of the working people, and on the tasks of the Party". After the report and discussion, the Central Committee and the Government agreed to effect a new reduction—the fourth—in retail prices of foodstuffs and manufactured goods.

State retail prices have now been cut as follows: fats by 10%, rice 8.5%, condensed milk 17.1%, tea 9.7%, beer from 5 to 20%, cotton fabrics from 6 to 21%, flax fabrics between 8 and 20%, woollen fabrics by 13%, readymade clothes and overalls from 8 to 12%, women's siron garments 10%, footwear between 5 and 10%, soap from 10 to 17.8%, furniture 5%, wireless sets 9%, electric washing machines 10%, vacuum cleaners 30% and so on.

The reductions embrace over 16,000 items. As a result the population will save about 1,300 million crowns a year. This will mean a rise in real wages and, consequently, a further advance in the standard of living.

The meeting also decided to raise wages of workshop foremen, teachers in higher educational establishments and technical schools and senior doctors by a total of 133 million crowns a year.

REPLIES TO READERS' QUESTIONS

Combating Sectarianism—One of the Chief Tasks of the Communist and Workers' Parties

The rich experience of the glorious Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the international Communist movement teaches us that the strength of the Communist and Workers' Parties lies in their inseparable ties with the masses. It is the prime duty of every Communist and Workers' Party to strengthen its ties with the broad masses, to make a thorough study of all questions agitating the minds of the working people, to know their needs and their hopes, to help them to formulate their urgent demands, to educate them, to guide their struggle for peace, freedom and progress, their struggle to smash the chains of capitalism. In carrying out these tasks, the Communist and Workers' Parties wage an implacable struggle against every possible manifestation of opportunism and sectarianism.

Sectarianism is a variety of "left-wing" opportunism in the working-class movement. Its characteristic features are: a negative attitude towards the tactic of a united popular front, an underestimation of work in trade union, co-operative, peasant, women's and youth organisations, in ex-servicemen's associations, sports, cultural and other mass organisations and in parliaments, and a supercilious, distrustful attitude to Social Democratic and Catholic working people, workers of various political views and religious beliefs and non-party people.

Sectarianism cloaks itself with pompous phrases and "ultra-revolutionary" talk, but in reality the "left" deviation is merely the companion to the right deviation. Right deviationists and "ultra-left" deviationists are twins; they stem from the same social root. Both deviations stand on opportunist positions, and the sole difference between them is that the right deviationists do not always cloak their opportunism, while the "left" ones invariably

Readers of our journal in Liège (Belgium), Birmingham (Britain), Dacca (Pakistan), Casablanca (Morocco), Havana (Cuba) have asked us to explain what sectarianism in the Communist and labour movement is, and why it has to be fought. We publish our reply below.

ably use "revolutionary" phrases as a cloak.

The immense harm of sectarianism is that it leads to the Communist and Workers' Parties being divorced from the masses, to their being isolated and weakened. The Party cannot become a truly mass party expressing the real interests of the proletariat and of the entire working people without waging a determined struggle against and overcoming sectarianism. Without this the Party cannot strengthen its bonds with the proletarian and non-proletarian masses and carry out its historic tasks.

From the outset of the struggle to create a party of a new type, the great Lenin strenuously opposed both the right and the "left" opportunists. In his brilliant work "Left-Wing" Communism, An Infantile Disorder he subjected to severe criticism the doctrinarism of the "lefts" and their opportunist, anti-Marxist way of posing and dealing with revolutionary tasks, as well as their refusal to work among the broad masses of the people.

At the same time Lenin strongly emphasised that victory could not be achieved by the vanguard alone. The Communist Parties are called upon to rally around them the working class and working masses, to keep in close touch with them. Lenin wrote that the Communist Party should be able

"to link itself with, keep in close touch with, and, to a certain degree, if you will, merge itself with the broadest masses of the toilers—primarily with the proletarian but also with the non-proletarian toiling masses". Lenin teaches us that it is necessary to guide the masses skilfully in the revolutionary struggle, to educate them on the basis of their own political experience, taking account of the particular concrete historical conditions of this or that country, and stresses that the strategy and tactics of the Communist Parties must be flexible to the utmost degree. The Parties must master all means and methods of struggle capable of bringing success to the labour movement, must be able to combine illegal forms of activity with legal forms; to attack boldly and retreat in an organised manner, without losing their heads; to compromise with various parties and groups; to turn to account all kinds of disagreements, collisions, and differences in the enemy camp; quickly to replace one form of struggle by another if the situation demands it.

These Leninist principles, proved by the rich experience of the CPSU and the whole international Communist movement, are just as valid in present conditions.

Today, when the Communist and Workers' Parties in the capitalist countries are fighting for working-class unity, to unite in a national front the broad masses of the working people and all progressive forces, for national independence—at such a time it is necessary to take determined steps to expose sectarianism, to show unflinching concern for the purity of the Party's ranks, for further strengthening its political, ideological and organisational unity.

The Communist and Workers' Parties cannot put up with self-satisfied sectarianism, with its narrowness and divorce from the life of the masses, with its over-

simplified methods of settling complex problems of the labour movement.

The XIth Congress of the Communist Party of Belgium, held at the end of last year, subjected to severe but just criticism the sectarian mistakes committed in the Party. It recognised that the Party leadership had been guilty of such mistakes, above all in trade union work. Sectarianism found expression, for instance, in the vacillations on the question of recognition of the Belgian CGT. This Confederation, despite its right-wing leadership which pursues a policy of class collaboration, is a mass trade union organisation; and the Communists have the duty to work and fight within this organisation. The Congress of the Communist Party of Germany stressed that sectarianism was hindering co-operation with Social Democratic workers and the working people of other parties and the trade unions.

The leading bodies of certain Communist Parties in Latin American and in other capitalist countries are paying attention to similar sectarian errors which are very harmful to the Party's work. Certain organisations of the Communist Parties in Chile and Argentina have insufficiently promoted the development of a wide struggle for the urgent demands of the working people.

It has been proved conclusively that wherever Communists underestimate work in the mass organisations or, although belonging to them, fail to come out as the best defenders of demands advanced by the working people, the reactionary elements expand their pernicious influence. Sectarianism and passivity on the part of the Communists enable the reactionary elements to steer these organisations on to a wrong course, to disrupt the struggle for satisfaction of the workers' urgent demands and solution of the most vital problems, to obstruct the struggle for peace.

Serious sectarian mistakes are committed by organisations and Communists who fail to differentiate between right-wing Socialist leaders of the type of Guy Mollet and Saragat—notorious traitors to the working class and agents of the warmongers—and the working people who are members of Social Democratic parties or are influenced by social democratic ideas. We cannot tolerate the erroneous views of those Communists who see no difference

between Catholic workers and the Catholic masses in general on the one hand, and the reactionary leaders of their organisations on the other.

The Fourth National Conference of the Italian Communist Party stressed that work among Catholics is only just beginning, that it is not carried on systematically, is still very restricted and is conducted with excessive caution. Individual Communists and Party organisations still display a harmfully overbearing attitude towards Catholic working people or are far too passive in regard to them.

Party organisations which in this or that political campaign, instead of doing patient and systematic work to mobilise the masses, tend to supplant the mass organisations themselves (the peace committees, trade unions etc.) are also guilty of errors of a sectarian nature. Practises of this kind fail to activate the mass organisations and develop their initiative.

Sometimes particular Party organisations withdraw into themselves, refusing to carry on mass work or confining themselves to propaganda activity. In such organisations the strange notion has gained currency among some Communists that we must save our strength for the "decisive conflicts" to come, because "you can't do much" at the present moment owing to "the low political level" of the working people etc. All this is alien to the spirit of Marxism-Leninism. Narrowing down the Party's work to inner activity and abstract propaganda of a general nature means lack of belief in the possibility and necessity of winning over the majority of the working class and the entire working people to the side of the movement for peace, democracy and Socialism.

There is a particular form of "leftism" that is not typical of one or another organisation as a whole but nevertheless harms its work substantially. The reference here is to the behaviour of individual Communists at work or during visits to factories, mills, offices, farms, schools or any other place where people live and work. The Communist who does not approach a particular man or woman, a particular worker, to sign the Vienna Appeal for the sole reason that he or she goes to church every week and reads reactionary newspapers; the Communist

who in the course of a day's work in his factory or office does not exchange a few words with his neighbour on the job, who is worried by the same problems as himself, only because that fellow-worker happens to be a Social Democrat or Catholic and is not a member of the trade union movement; the Communist who in a tram or club hears people defaming the Communist Party and the working class and keeps quiet under the pretext that "it is not worth while getting involved in conversation with people who don't understand anything"; the Communist who when he has a moment to spare prefers to go to the cinema, a sports contest or a club only in the company of Communists, avoiding that of other people who are unquestionably honest but with whom it is "hard to talk" because they do not always share our views—that Communist in plain fact differs very little from the sectarians.

Communists infected with sectarianism avoid contact with the masses. They prefer to take the line of least resistance, for work among the masses is hard and takes a great deal of effort. Ability to conduct mass work and to put the Party's policy into effect, with due regard for local conditions and the particular situation, is the best test of the capability of any individual Communist or any Party organisation as a whole. It is the energetic activity of Communists and Party organisations among the masses that makes it possible to bring to light and successfully overcome sectarian tendencies. These are forestalled, overcome and eradicated by raising the ideological level of Communists and increasing the political activity of Party organisations.

The struggle against sectarianism, against every form of opportunism, the organisational, ideological and political strengthening of the Communist and Workers' Parties in the capitalist countries on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism—this is the most important condition for successful struggle for working-class unity, for achieving the solidarity of all national patriotic forces and for national independence, peace, democracy and Socialism.

Federico ROSSI

Chilean Patriots Strengthen Their Organisation and Unity

(Letter from Santiago)

Under powerful pressure from the democratic and national forces of the country, the General Ibañez Government, on December 29 last, was forced to lift the state of siege which had been declared in Chile on September 20 on the pretext of "internal unrest". Its introduction had been opposed by everyone from the Communists to the Liberals, and rejected by both Chambers of Parliament. It is quite obvious that the cry of "internal unrest" served to conceal the real state of affairs in Chile; the handing over of the country for plunder by the avaricious U.S. imperialists, the economic crisis and the failure of the government clique's pro-American policy.

During the election campaign which put him in office on September 4, 1952, and in the first months of his rule, President Ibañez promised to accede to certain basic demands, around which ever-increasing numbers of Chilean patriots and democrats are uniting. He pledged himself to repeal the repressive laws of his predecessor, González Videla, to retrieve the country's rich raw material resources now in the hands of the American monopolies, to trade with all countries of the world, to carry out agrarian reforms and annul the military pact chaining Chile to the war chariot of the American aggressors. The people were promised abundance, low prices for prime necessities, and well-paid work.

But none of these promises was kept. As a result of the fact that many mills and factories have been closed down for lack of imported materials and that sales by small traders have fallen because of inadequate purchasing power, unemployment is mounting steadily, especially in the textile and metal-working industries. Instead of the promised respect for the rights of trade union organisations, we have incessant repressive measures; under the decree introducing the state of siege more than thirty trade union leaders, members of different political parties, have been exiled to remote parts of the country over the recent period. At the same time attempts are being made—true, without the slightest success—to split the Chilean trade union movement. No steps are being taken to settle unresolved conflicts, such as those concerning the railwaymen, or the workers in the saltpetre, coal and other industries.

Thus on the one hand, there are the empty promises and shameless demagoguery of a handful of vernal rulers acting at the dictation of Wall Street billionaires; on the other, there is the bitter truth of the nation's impoverishment through imperialist plunder.

As a consequence of U.S. imperialist domination in the basic branches of the Chilean economy (copper, saltpetre, iron ore mining and the exploitation of water resources), and U.S. monopoly of our country's foreign trade, Chile's national income is steadily diminishing. On the export of copper—the country's chief source of revenue—Chile has lost hundreds of millions of dollars within the past few years.

Inflation has reached fantastic proportions, especially since November 10, when the latest currency devaluation took place. Whereas the exchange rate formerly stood at 110 pesos to the dollar, it now stands at 200. The result is a further general rise

in prices and an aggravation of the economic crisis.

In 1953 when Minister Herrera boosted the exchange rate from 74 to 110 pesos to the dollar, the cost of living rose by 56%; in 1954 the rise averaged 80%. In Santiago the prices of vegetable oil, coffee, tea, vermicelli, beans, oatmeal, rice, paraffin-wax candles, soap and similar commodities more than doubled between December 1953 and December 1954. The present high prices have caused meat consumption in Santiago to drop to 75% below the 1946 level, despite the substantial increase in the capital's population since then.

Why, in view of all this, did the Chilean Government again devalue the currency? Clearly, because of the crude pressure once again exerted by the U.S. monopolies.

The entire economic policy of the Ibañez Government is subordinated to the U.S. imperialists' plan to shift the burden of the imminent crisis in the U.S. economy on to the shoulders of the dependent peoples. The object of this anti-popular and anti-national policy (epitomised in the Government plans of "economic reformation", which the people justly call plans of "economic suffocation") is to wipe out the economic and social gains of the working people, particularly their right to strike; to further reduce wages and pensions and to introduce new burdensome taxes, especially the three and ten per cent sales taxes (and this at a time when, as part of the "new course", the taxes imposed on U.S. copper ore and saltpetre companies are being cut). This policy leads to reduced consumption, increased hunger and poverty for the Chilean people and, consequently, to a still greater contraction of the domestic market.

The situation might have been totally different had government policy followed a different course. If the Chilean Government had accepted the advantageous proposal of the Soviet Union to purchase Chilean products, the output of copper alone could have increased by approximately 100,000 tons in the course of a single year. (Statistics show that in 1948 425,000 tons of copper were mined, in 1952 383,000 and in 1954 280,000.) As for saltpetre, its production could be doubled if it were exported to the Chinese People's Republic, which is prepared to purchase the whole of Chile's present output of this commodity. Unquestionably, the expansion of sales of Chilean products on all the world's markets would have improved the country's economic situation, which, as things stand, the London *Financial Times* describes as chaotic.

In this catastrophic economic situation, with the people living in dire poverty, with the country being increasingly deprived of national independence and subordinated to U.S. war plans, pro-Yankee and putschist elements are attempting, at the direct instigation of the U.S. Ambassador to Chile, Wilard Beaulac, to abolish even those meagre civil liberties which still remain in our country and to establish a terrorist dictatorship directed against the people.

In face of the threat of a blatantly pro-U.S. dictatorship being established, the

desire of all patriotic national forces to unite their efforts in the fight for democratic freedoms and for Chile's independence is growing.

Last November a huge mass meeting took place in the Caupolicán Theatre in Santiago, sponsored by the Communist, Socialist and Democratic Parties (these three comprise the People's Front), the Labour, People's Democratic and Radical Parties, the National Falange (Catholics), the United Trade Union Centre of Working People, women's, youth and other public organisations. Addressing that meeting, Clotario Blest, Chairman of the United Trade Union Centre of Working People, declared that the trade union centre had for the first time in its history broken with established tradition and "united with the parties that have their roots in the people, in order to oppose tyranny", for without freedom there could be neither a trade union movement nor social gains.

Those present at the meeting strongly condemned the state of siege, the Government's repressive measures and its attempts to dissolve Parliament and destroy the country's democratic institutions.

Similar meetings were held in the provinces.

A hard blow to the plans of the Yankee imperialists and their Chilean servitors was the great success of the democratic and patriotic forces in the election in Santiago this February. The election was held in the city's first district, where Ibañez's followers formerly had the greatest influence. Despite that, the opposition candidate got 65% of the votes.

Hundreds of committees in defence of civil liberties are springing up all over the country to combat the threat of a terrorist, pro-U.S. dictatorship being set up in Chile. Chilean Communists are in the forefront of this broad popular movement. The Communist Party, raising still higher the banner of national independence, is carrying out its noble patriotic duty. It is increasing its activity for the unification of Chilean patriotic forces around the working class in order to create a powerful, democratic national liberation front, defend democratic freedoms and prevent the warmongers from exploiting the country's rich national resources for the preparation of an atomic slaughter; in order to put an end to the U.S. monopoly of foreign trade, introduce agrarian reforms and prevent the Antarctic from being converted into an A and H-bomb proving ground of the American militarists.

"The people have taken the offensive again", declared Elias Lafertte, Chairman of the Communist Party and Vice-Chairman of the People's Front, at the meeting in the Caupolicán Theatre. The raising of the state of siege is a victory for the people, a victory won through persistent struggle against a foe who has not abandoned his criminal designs upon our people and our homeland. Upon the organisation and unity of all Chilean patriots, upon their vigilance, tenacity and resoluteness depends the success of the difficult battles to come in the struggle for peace, happiness, progress and the national independence of Chile.

José IRIBARREN

Santiago, March.

Against Judicial Tyranny in the U.S.A.

U.S. reaction has gone wild and is seeking to cast into prison every progressive in the country. The five Communist Party leaders released a month ago are still threatened with a second term of imprisonment, this time on the basis of the membership clause of the Smith Act. Eugene Dennis, General Secretary of the Party, and John Gates, Editor of the *Daily Worker*, are not allowed to leave the New York Southern Federal Court District. The freedom of three other Communist leaders is also severely restricted. The sixth Communist Party leader, Ben Davis, was arrested on the day of his release and is now being held in jail for two additional months on the pretext of "contempt of court".

Protests are mounting in the U.S.A. and other countries against the prosecution of American progressive public figures. Even the newspaper *Washington Star* called recently for the freedom of anyone convicted on Matusow's testimony. "Certainly", the newspaper writes, "no one should be held guilty of any offense on the testimony of a self-confessed liar." *Congress Weekly*, published by the American Jewish Congress, *Textile Labor*, official paper of the Textile Workers' Union of America, *National Guardian*, progressive weekly, and other publications strongly denounce the system of paid informers used by the American court in the prosecution of Communist leaders and other progressive public figures.

The Civil Rights Congress is active in the struggle for the release of Smith Act victims, and against the prosecution of the Communist leaders, urging all Americans to send protests to courts considering Smith Act cases.

STRIKE ACTION IN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES

In the U.S.A., the major strike so far this year began on March 14 in nine south-eastern states when 50,000 workers of the Southern Bell Telephone Co. stopped work in order to thwart the employers' attempts to deprive workers of the right to strike and for higher pay for some 5,000 employees. On that day, too, about 25,000 employees of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Co. called a strike to uphold their social insurance demands.

In Britain's capital the strike of electricians and engineers employed by members of the Newspaper Proprietors' Association, which began on March 25, is still on, and no morning or evening papers have been published in London for some days. The workers are demanding a wage increase. During the past few months thousands of British dockers and workers in the engineering and building industries, in transport and in the mines have taken part in strike action.

In Western Germany, following the January strike of over 800,000 miners and metal workers, more than 355,000 miners of the Rhineland and the Ruhr, i.e. 93.7% of all those questioned, have now expressed their desire for strike action in support of the demands for higher wages.

In Japan 140,000 miners stopped work on March 28, demanding higher wages.

President Eisenhower has appointed Harold Stassen as special adviser on policy with regard to disarmament proposals, with cabinet rank. The purpose of this appointment is to divert public attention from the U.S. Government's policy of conducting a frenzied arms drive and preparing for an atomic war.

(Press item)



DISARMAMENT SECRETARY ON THE JOB

Drawing by J. Nowak

POLITICAL NOTES

Crude Interference in Syria's Internal Affairs

The Turkish Government, acting in the interests of certain imperialist powers, has of late considerably stepped up its acts of provocation against Syria. Making liberal use of threats and blackmail—notorious methods taken over from the Americans—the Turkish reactionaries are trying to force the Syrian Government to become a party to the recently concluded Turkish-Iraqi military treaty. With a view to intimidating Syria Turkey has concentrated large military forces on her border and is openly threatening her with armed intervention.

The tone of the offensive against Syria was set by the U.S. State Department. James Moose, the U.S. Ambassador, handed the Syrian Foreign Minister a memorandum on February 26—one day after the Turkish-Iraqi treaty was signed—in which he demanded that Syria refuse to participate in the new inter-Arab alliance and that it become a party to the infamous Turkish-Iraqi Treaty.

Following the U.S. move, the Turkish reactionaries immediately took the offensive against Syria. Desirous of currying favour with its transatlantic masters, the Turkish Government sent Syria two notes demanding in sharp terms that it

obviously inspired from outside. A torrent of lies, slander and threats rained down on the Syrian people. The newspaper *Hürriyet*, Syrian Government insolently declared that the liking and that the Syrians must get rid of this "obstacle" which "interferes with their living on friendly terms with Turkey"; in other words, that they should overthrow the present Government.

Attempting to carry out its threats, the Turkish Government is resorting to all sorts of acts of provocation on the Turkish-Syrian border. Just in the last few days Turkish aircraft have several times encroached on Syria's air space. Cases of Turkish border patrols violating the Syrian frontier have become more frequent.

The world public, and particularly that of the Arab countries, is protesting vehemently against the provocative activities of the U.S.A. and Turkey against Syria. Denouncing this crude interference in Syria's domestic affairs, the Egyptian newspaper *Al-Goumhouria* comments that the method of threats and intimidation resorted to by the imperialist

men, or the workers in the salt-petre, coal and other industries.

Thus on the one hand, there are the empty promises and shameless demagoguery of a handful of venaal rulers acting at the dictation of Wall Street billionaires; on the other, there is the bitter truth of the nation's impoverishment through imperialist plunder.

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and in 1954 (30,000.) As for salt-petre, its production could be doubled if it were exported to the Chinese People's Republic, which is prepared to purchase the whole of Chile's present output of this commodity. Unquestionably, the expansion of sales of Chilean products on all the world's markets would have improved the country's economic situation, which, as things stand, the London *Financial Times* describes as chaotic.

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In this catastrophic economic situation, with the people living in dire poverty, with the country being increasingly deprived of national independence and subordinated to U.S. war plans, pro-Yankee and putschist elements are attempting, at the direct instigation of the U.S. Ambassador to Chile, Wilard Beaulac, to abolish even those meagre civil liberties which still remain in our country and to establish a terrorist dictatorship directed against the people.

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country's rich national bourgeoisie, in violation of an atomic slaughter, in order to put an end to the U.S. monopoly of foreign trade, introduce agrarian reforms and prevent the Antarctic from being converted into an A and H-bomb proving ground of the American militarists.

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José IRIBARREN

Santiago, March.

MILITANCY AND SOLIDARITY OF GENOESE PORT WORKERS

The heroic fight of the Genoese port workers against a ruling of the port Consortium has been in progress for more than 70 days. According to this ruling shipowners and owners of port enterprises have again been given the right, after a lapse of half-a-century, to "hire workers at choice". This means that they can take on workers at their own discretion, and that the basic rights of the port

workers and their trade unions are thus virtually abolished.

Some 67,000 port workers are taking part in this fight which has assumed unprecedented proportions. Repressive measures are being taken against the strikers: the police have detained 65 workers, arrested over 30 and sent 60 up for trial. These measures did not, however, weaken the militant spirit and solidarity of the strikers.

Workers of other Italian ports have held numerous strikes in token of their solidarity with the Genoese port workers, and 20 million lire have already been contributed to the solidarity fund. A meeting with an attendance of 100,000 was held in Genoa on March 15, addressed by Giuseppe Di Vittorio, General Secretary of the CGIL.

PRESS REVIEW

In Defence of the School and Public Education

L'Ecole et la Nation—Monthly Journal of the French Communist Party

There are 160,000 teachers working in the French public educational system. Understanding that their interests are inseparable from those of the nation, of which the working class is the leading force, they are more and more actively joining in the struggle against the reactionary big bourgeoisie and against the intrigues of U.S. imperialism.

To unite the teachers in this fight, to serve the interests of the nation, is precisely the aim of the monthly journal *L'Ecole et la Nation* (School and the Nation), which was founded more than three years ago by the French Communist Party.

One of the merits of this journal is that it directs the struggle of the teachers toward the defence of the public educational system.

The public school in France is one of the institutions used by the bourgeoisie in its own interests. That is why the Communists are working to transform it into a genuinely people's school, one that would correspond to the revolutionary ideals of the working class, whose interests are identical with those of the nation.

Unlike that of some other European capitalist countries, the French school is a secular one: in accord with principles which the progressive bourgeoisie in its day counterposed to feudal ideology, the church has no right of control over the school. The secular school is thus a serious obstacle to the obscurantist designs of the Vatican; and it is no accident that the reactionary forces which are working to enslave the peoples of Europe have included in their plan the abolition of this original achievement of the French people, the secular school.

This achievement is directly threatened by the agreement on cultural co-operation concluded on October 23, 1954, between France and Western Germany. Putting this agreement into effect would mean subjecting France's school and university youth to the

retrograde influence of mysticism which reigns in education in Western Germany. More than that, Article 13 of the agreement stipulates that "The High Contracting Parties shall see to it that... in all spheres of education questions of interest to the other Party are presented with the utmost objectivity, and that all biased estimations, which might be harmful to good understanding between the two peoples, shall be expurgated from school textbooks, and particularly history books." In other words, there should be no more reminders, and certainly no stigmatising, of the three invasions of France by the German militarists; and Hitler's crimes should be buried in oblivion, just as is done in the history books of Western Germany!

French educationists of course cannot acquiesce in this sordid piece of bargaining that is based on exploiting the just idea of understanding between the German and French peoples. Voicing the true feelings of these peoples, the Congress of the Federation of National Education has demanded that the French National Assembly should not ratify the cultural co-operation agreement of October 23 whose immediate aim is to provide some sort of moral ground for the ratification of the Paris military agreements. This is one of the reasons why teachers, having done their utmost to assist in the struggle against EDC (in July, 1953, the Congress of the National Autonomous Trade Union of Teachers rejected EDC by 1,500 votes to 16), are today overwhelmingly opposed to the Paris agreements.

L'Ecole et la Nation gives its support to everything in France that helps to defeat the warmongers.

Contrasting the liquidatory schemes of the reactionary bourgeoisie with the national programme of cultural expansion for which the Communists are fighting, the journal shows the happy prospects which a policy of independence and peace would open up for the creative powers of the French people and, consequently, for science and education.

As a political journal, *L'Ecole et la Nation* deals with the most important problems on which the future of the country and of the school depends. That is why it has not confined itself to denouncing the unjust and ruinous war in Indo-China or to exposing the evils of colonialism in North Africa. On the basis of the Marxist conception of the nation, and raising the banner of proletarian internationalism, it subjects to consistent criticism the colonialist prejudices which still exist among teachers influenced by social democratic ideology.

The journal provides its readers with an explanation of the measures of the Soviet Government aimed at ensuring collective security in Europe, lessening international tension, and securing the prohibition of atomic weapons and a reduction in armaments.

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The principal condition for rallying teachers to the side of the working class is effective unity of Communist and Socialist teachers. True to the counsel of Maurice Thorez, *L'Ecole et la Nation* is making a special effort to achieve this unity. It is campaigning to get all Communist teachers to work actively in the Autonomous Trade Union, which embraces 90% of French teachers. It stresses the point that there will be greater progress towards unity if Communist teachers overcome every element of opportunist narrowness, every

concession to the anti-Leninist practice of being "an active minority", which means renouncing mass struggle. The prestige of Communist teachers among their colleagues is mounting, thanks to their ability to defend the teachers' interests at all levels of the trade union organisations, their efforts to unite all trade unionists notwithstanding political differences in the struggle to win common demands, and lastly, thanks to patient struggle against the obstacles which the Social Democratic leaders try to put in the way of unity.

The journal studies the various needs of French schools—credits, buildings and higher wages for teachers—and works for an increase in the number of teachers, for opening more preparatory classes in elementary schools etc. It popularises not only the speeches of the Communist deputies in Parliament, but every action initiated by teachers and parents even in the remotest villages. It gave special space to the preparations for and analysis of the two splendid 24-hour strikes against the government policy which the teachers held on November 9, 1953, and March 31, 1954, with the support of the working people.

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With each issue *L'Ecole et la Nation* gives fuller treatment to questions relating to the cultural life of the country and to pedagogical activity.

Exposing the manifestations of capitalist decay and combating obscurantism, the journal popularises the great classics of French and world literature. It takes up the defence of works by authors such as Aragon, Eluard, Jougllet and others, which help the teacher to see the contemporary world as it really is and to take part in the struggle to transform it.

The works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Maurice Thorez, which every progressive teacher needs to study, are fre-

quently featured; studies and articles relating to them are published in its pages.

Criticising the idealistic views current in pedagogics, the journal, in accordance with the principles of dialectical materialism, stresses the decisive significance of the content of teaching.

It widely features the work of the Soviet school, problems of polytechnical education and research based on Pavlov's teaching; it informs its readers about cultural developments in the People's Democracies.

In September 1953 and April 1954 the Central Committee of the French Communist Party organised study days, in each of which several hundred Communist teachers participated. *L'Ecole et la Nation* took an active part in preparing for these days and in their work. In its columns it popularised the rich experience which the Communist teachers reflected in their contributions.

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The readers of *L'Ecole et la Nation* believe that its influence will grow to the extent that it shows in a broader way the historical role of the French public school system, the national creation which is a hindrance to the plans of the grave-diggers of the homeland and the enemies of peace; to the extent that it discloses more concretely and upholds the best aspects of secular education and is able to draw all teachers into the struggle through which the French people, led by the working class and the Communist Party, are evolving a new humanism.

Its readers likewise believe that the journal should deal more thoroughly with questions relating to the material and cultural requirements of schools and teachers; publish more informative reports of the demands of rural teachers, who are the most numerous, and also of beginners and substitute teachers whose living conditions are sometimes appalling, and of students at teachers' training colleges, who are turning more and more towards the Communist Party; and it should publish articles on

methods taken by living words, that the present Government.

Attempting to carry out its threats, the Turkish Government is resorting to all sorts of acts of provocation on the Syrian border. Just in the last few days Turkish aircraft have several times encroached on Syria's air space. Cases of frontier border patrols violating the Syrian frontier have become more frequent.

The world public, and particularly that of the Arab countries, is protesting vehemently against the provocative activities of the U.S.A. and Turkey against Syria. Denouncing this crude interference in Syria's domestic affairs, the Egyptian newspaper *Al-Gomhouria* comments that the method of threats and intimidation resorted to by the imperialist states "cannot break the opposition of the peoples of Egypt, Syria and other Arab countries to the Turkish-Iraqi or any other military treaty".

The Syrian public is filled with burning indignation at the provocative activities of the imperialist states. The newspaper *Al-Nour* declares the people of Syria "will continue to fight stubbornly and courageously to turn down the Turkish-Iraqi treaty—the symbol of slavery, enmity and war".

Jan MAREK

questions of pedagogics, taking up all the aspects of teaching the various subjects. They want each issue to contain articles on psychological and pedagogical questions, and on the state of education in the USSR. They would like the journal to draw on a larger circle of correspondents.

L'Ecole et la Nation can do all this only if it takes the necessary steps to expand its editorial board and its network of correspondents. Yet it must be said that the journal's efforts so far to get reports on the experience gained by teachers in their struggle (in the first place, experiences in achieving united front action of Communists and Socialists) are still inadequate. The journal and its work must become the concern of all its readers, those in the remotest hamlets as well as those in the capital.

It is equally important that the journal's circulation be considerably increased. True, measures are now being taken to get not less than 10% of the teachers in each department to subscribe to it, and to increase its retail sale. But these efforts will be fruitless unless each Communist teacher takes an active part, as our Political Bureau urges, in mass work and, first and foremost, in work in the trade union. The Communist teacher must, in a friendly manner, day by day, discuss various questions with his colleagues and with the help of *L'Ecole et la Nation* show them the correctness of the line of the French Communist Party. It is the task of the federations and sections of the Communist Party to pay more attention to the journal's circulation and to bring about a decisive improvement in this respect in the next few months.

If this is done, *L'Ecole et la Nation* will be fully able to carry out its tasks. It will become a potent weapon in the national struggle which French teachers are waging, together with their people, for a policy of independence and peace, for democracy and social progress.

Guy BESSE

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