

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

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TEN YEARS OF THE WORLD-HISTORIC VICTORY OVER GERMAN FASCISM

These days mark the great tenth anniversary of the world-historic victory over Hitler Germany, a victory that brought about a fundamental change in the whole international situation.

At anniversary rallies and meetings, in the press and in other ways honest people of all countries and continents are expressing their deep love for and heartfelt gratitude to the Soviet Union, whose heroic people and valiant Armed Forces played a decisive part in crushing Hitler Germany, liberated millions of people from the fascist yoke and saved world civilisation from the fascist pogrom-makers. Having routed Hitler Germany, the Soviet Union turned the power of its army against militarist Japan, smashed its 1,000,000-strong Kwantung army and helped the fraternal Chinese people in their just war against the Japanese invaders. With each year that passes the grandeur of the feat of the Soviet people reveals itself in deeper, more varied ways. It will live through the ages, and all the generations to come will sing its praises!

The lessons and results of the second world war are highly instructive. They make it possible for the peace-loving peoples to realise more deeply wherein lies their strength, and what must be done to prevent imperialist aggression; they are a stern warning to new claimants to world domination.

The second world war was unleashed in the West by Hitler Germany. In this it was assisted by the former ruling groups in the Western countries. They refused to take steps together with the Soviet Union to curb the German militarists, prevent them from plunging the European and other peoples in the abyss of a second world war. Moreover, the Western reactionaries in fact assisted the German monopolies in rearing and arming Hitler fascism, furthered it in every conceivable way and encouraged Hitler aggression, seeking to direct it to the East, against the Soviet Union. For the sake of this criminal aim Austria was sacrificed, and the shameful Munich deal was carried through as a result of which Czechoslovakia was placed at the mercy of the Hitlerites. In spite of their "guarantees" the Western rulers gave no help to Poland and gave the country over to be plundered by the German militarists. The peoples of the West European countries

days of war. It was heavy industry that made it possible to arm the Soviet Army with first-class modern weapons, and provided the base for building up an impregnable defence. Without heavy industry the Soviet Union could not have retained its independence, could not have defeated the enemy. The Communist Party directed all the efforts of the Soviet people, all the country's power and resources towards the common aim of defeating the enemy. It sent more than a million and a half Communists into active service; they welded the army into one whole, inspired the men to heroic feats and set a high example of supreme service in defence of all that Socialism had achieved.

The Soviet people's war for their country's freedom merged with the struggle of the peoples of Europe, Asia and America for their independence and for democratic freedoms. The fervent hatred of the peoples for the fascist barbarians, and their common interests in the struggle against fascism resulted in the formation of a powerful anti-Hitler coalition which ensured victory over the aggressor. The peoples of France, Britain and the U.S.A. and their armies waged a selfless struggle against Hitler Germany. In all the countries occupied by Hitler's forces there operated a Resistance Movement that undermined the rear of the Nazi armies. Progressive mankind pays due tribute to the heroic partisans of France, Italy, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Albania, Yugoslavia, Greece and other countries. Never will the peoples forget the heroic feats of the valiant men of the Polish and Czechoslovak divisions who fought shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet Army against their common enemy, never will they forget the heroic deeds of the valiant men of the Rumanian and Bulgarian divisions who helped to finish off the fascist beast.

In the dark years of the second world war the peoples became convinced that the Communists were the most reliable and devoted fighters against Hitler tyranny and for the freedom and independence of their countries. It was the Communists who constituted the hard core of the Resistance Movement and the partisan brigades. True patriots, they played an outstanding part in the struggle for the national independence of their countries and against fascism. Expressing the vital interests of their peoples, the interests of the nations, the Communist and Workers' Parties in the capitalist countries are today,

economic systems, the Soviet Union, the Chinese People's Republic and all countries of people's democracy are consistently and firmly carrying out a policy of peace and security of the peoples.

In contrast, the ruling circles of the U.S.A., Britain and France, together with their accomplices, are carrying on an arms drive and preparations for war. They have adopted Hitler's "positions of strength" policy, are building up aggressive blocs and have openly entered into an alliance with the worst enemy of the European peoples—the militarists of Western Germany.

Such a policy evokes the wrath and indignation of the peoples, who have not forgotten the tremendous losses, suffering and devastation of the second world war, which cost the world some 50 million lives and left tens of millions of widows and orphans. How can one forget all this? How can one forget the ruins of Stalingrad, Warsaw, Coventry, Oradour and hundreds of other cities and towns? How can one forget the death camps, murder vans, the affronts and insults to national traditions and culture of the countries which suffered under the Nazi occupation? The people's reply is: No, we cannot forget all this. It must never happen again!

The unconquerable will of the peoples for peace is particularly clearly expressed in the struggle against the Paris agreements. These disgraceful agreements have been ratified under pressure of blatant threats and open blackmail on the part of the U.S. reactionaries. These agreements, however, have no firm basis, for they were entered into against the will of the peoples.

The ruling groups of the U.S.A., Britain and France are hastening to revive the West German Wehrmacht and turn Western Germany into a new, dangerous breeding ground of war in Europe. All who cherish peace cannot but protest and fight against the criminal policy of the aggressive elements in the imperialist countries.

The question of war and peace is the main question of our day. The peoples of all countries, and above all the European peoples, cannot possibly underestimate the serious danger arising from the West German Wehrmacht, now being revived and equipped with all kinds of up-to-date weapons, a Wehrmacht headed by the very generals who slaughtered millions of people during the second world war.

In answer to the warmongers' intrigues, the front of fighters for peace is growing

ALL PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE WIDELY CELEBRATE GLORIOUS ANNIVERSARY OF GREAT VICTORY

The peoples of the USSR, the People's Republic of China and the countries of people's democracy in Europe and Asia, the broad masses of the working people in all countries are celebrating the tenth anniversary of the historic victory over German fascism—the decisive part in which was played by the Soviet Union and its Armed Forces—in an atmosphere of growing struggle against the threat of a new world war, for the prohibition of atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction and for a universal reduction in armaments.

On this notable anniversary the peoples of Europe are rallying still more closely under the banner of proletarian internationalism, for the sacred struggle for peace, for the fight to prevent the implementation of the Paris agreements and the remilitarisation of Western Germany and to ensure collective security for all European peoples.

SOVIET UNION

The land of Soviets is celebrating the great anniversary of the victory in the full flowering of its strength and creative power. In these days the Soviet people are assessing the results of ten years of devoted labour in restoring and further developing their economy. They have every reason to be proud! New factories, power plants and dwelling houses are being put into use. Ever-greater quantities of metal, machines, coal, oil, electric power and mass-consumption goods are being produced. This year industrial output will exceed the 1950 level by 80% and will be three times the prewar level.

Talks, reports and lectures on the world-wide historic victory over Hitler Germany are now being held in towns and villages all over the land of Soviets. Victory Day is widely featured in the press and exhibitions have been organised for the occasion.

The working people in towns and villages have developed socialist emulation in honour of this memorable historic date.

The Soviet people, strong in their inviolable moral and political unity, are selflessly working for the great cause of building a communist society.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

With great joy the working people of Czechoslovakia are commemorating this historic anniversary. A monument to J. V. Stalin was recently unveiled in Prague, and monuments to Soviet warriors have been unveiled in many other towns of the country.

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the liberation of the country the Institute of History of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences organised a national scientific conference. A documentary photographic exhibition devoted to the anniversary has been opened in Waclaw Square.

In the park of the town of Gottwaldow wreaths were laid on the monument to

fallen Soviet soldiers. People from the neighbouring villages came in to crowded public fêtes in the squares and parks of the town.

In Brno an anniversary meeting and a mass demonstration of working people were held, and wreaths were laid on the graves of the valiant Soviet warriors.

On May 8 an anniversary meeting is to be held jointly by the C.C. of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the C.C. of the National Front and the Government, in the Prague Kremlin. Next day, May 9—the day of the capital's liberation—a parade of the armed forces and a demonstration will be held.

BULGARIA

POLAND

Poland is preparing a worthy celebration of the tenth anniversary of the defeat of Hitler Germany and the liberation of Poland's western lands.

The main celebrations will be held in Wroclaw on May 7-8. On the 7th, regional and city people's councils will hold an anniversary session and wreaths will be placed on the graves of the heroic Soviet soldiers who gave their lives in liberating the city. On the 8th, a military parade will take place on Grunwald Square, followed by a youth demonstration. The holiday programme includes concerts, sports contests and mass festivities.

Factories and schools are all preparing for V-Day. Workers are decorating their clubs, recreation rooms and factory shops. Amateur art groups have rehearsed new songs and dances to be performed at the concerts.

HUNGARY

An atmosphere of festivity and joy prevails throughout the country. The celebration of the tenth anniversary of the historic victory of the Soviet Army has deep meaning for the Hungarian working people; only a few weeks ago they marked the tenth anniversary of the liberation of Hungary by the Soviet Army.

The Council of Ministers of the Republic and the Presidium of Trade Union Councils have assessed the results of socialist emulation in honour of the tenth anniversary of the country's liberation by the Soviet Army. Enterprises which have succeeded in the emulation have been awarded cups and bonuses. Some 2,300 producer co-operatives took part in the emulation, which led to their being better prepared for the spring field work than they had been in previous years. The majority of collective farms have completed their early spring sowing in good time.

During these days both press and radio are featuring the historic significance of V-Day. Anniversary meetings are being held and lectures on the historic victory of the Soviet Army delivered in town and countryside, in enterprises, offices and educational establishments.

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The peoples of the West European countries paid dearly for the short-sighted policy of their rulers—one of conniving at fascist aggression. Hitler Germany threw her forces first of all against the Anglo-Franco-American bloc, the very one which had helped to restore her war-economic potential. She enslaved France and a number of other West European countries, establishing there the regime of the whip and the gallows, the system of slavery and serfdom.

Obsessed with the insane idea of world domination, the German militarists, on June 22, 1941, perfidiously attacked the USSR—the bulwark of all peace-loving and freedom-loving nations. The enemy brought against the USSR a monstrous military machine—170 mobilised divisions, armed to the teeth. By 1942 the Soviet country and the Soviet Army were resisting the fierce onslaught of 240 enemy divisions. No other country or army could have stood up to such an onslaught. The Soviet Union and its heroic Army not only withstood the enemy onslaught but utterly routed the foe.

The Soviet social and state system endured all the adversities and trials of the war and proved that it was the most stable and vital of systems. In the course of the war the inviolable worker-peasant alliance was tempered still further, and the moral-political unity and fraternal friendship of the Soviet peoples were consolidated. The results of the war graphically confirmed the correctness of Lenin and Stalin's precept that Socialism, as the most advanced social system, can create the most advanced and powerful military organisation.

The just, liberating aims of the war waged by the Soviet people and their Army inspired them to perform immortal deeds for the sake of the freedom and independence of their homeland, for the sake of the liberation of other nations. The Soviet Army justly earned the glory of an army of heroes, and the Soviet people—the glory of a hero people, a liberator people.

The victory of the Soviet people was the result of wise leadership by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and its Central Committee headed by Stalin, the great continuer of Lenin's cause. The wisdom and far-sightedness of the policy pursued by the Party, which throughout the prewar years concentrated its main attention on establishing a highly developed heavy industry, was revealed with particular force in the grim

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Thanks to the selfless struggle of the Soviet people, the second world war, in the course of which were decided the destinies of many peoples and states and the fate of world civilisation, terminated with results the imperialists had never expected. Far from being strengthened, capitalism's hold was greatly weakened and the general crisis of capitalism was still further deepened. The forces of democracy and Socialism had grown substantially. A highly important result of the war was the formation of the mighty camp of Socialism and democracy embracing more than one-third of mankind.

Just glance at the map of the world! The Soviet Union—the shock brigade of the world revolutionary and labour movement—is no longer the only socialist state. In the East the 600 million free people of China and the peoples of the other People's Democracies in Asia have taken their stand shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet Union. In the West the new, free, socialist countries of Europe are developing and prospering.

Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania have already entered upon the second decade of their new life. On May 9, the Czechoslovak people will celebrate the tenth anniversary of their country's liberation by the Soviet Army. They are today proudly summing up the results of their peaceful constructive endeavours. The German people will celebrate the tenth anniversary of their liberation from the fascist yoke on May 8. In these ten years important historical changes have taken place in Germany: the German Democratic Republic has been founded—bastion of the German people's struggle for a united, peace-loving, democratic Germany.

The two world social systems—the world system of Socialism and the world system of capitalism—are represented by two diametrically opposed courses of international policy.

Proceeding from Lenin's wise counsel on the possibility of peaceful coexistence of and competition between different socio-economic

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In answer to the warmongers' intrigues, the front of fighters for peace is growing in strength and solidity, strongly campaigning for a ban on atomic and hydrogen weapons and for the prevention of a new world war. The movement for peace is a genuine movement of the peoples; it has grown into a mighty power. The forces of peace are more powerful than those of war. They can curb the warmakers, but to do so they must act with vigour and resolution.

The falsifiers of history try to belittle the feat performed by the Soviet people in defeating the Hitlerite war machine, in delivering mankind from the plague of fascism; they try to slander and misrepresent the peaceful foreign policy of the USSR. The purpose of this is clear: it is to erase from the consciousness of the working people their feelings of great love and gratitude towards the Soviet people and their army; it is to enmesh the peoples in a net of lies, in order the more easily to further the aggressive designs of the imperialists.

The aggressive groups in the U.S.A. and other imperialist countries have openly declared that they are preparing to launch an attack on the USSR and the countries of people's democracy. But the nations of the socialist camp fear no threats, they are confident of their strength and their indestructible might. Vigilant as to the machinations of the foes of peace, they are taking the necessary steps to further consolidate their economic power and strengthen their defences. With this aim in view, the participants in the Moscow Conference of European countries recently held consultations on signing a Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance and on setting up a unified command. The countries of the socialist camp have at their disposal everything they need to guard the peaceful labour of their peoples against the encroachments of any enemy. And if the imperialists, ignoring the grave lessons of history and the will of the peoples, let loose a third world war, the inevitable result will be the downfall of the entire rotten capitalist system.

Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the great victory over Hitler Germany, the peace-loving peoples are rallying their forces for an energetic, devoted struggle to thwart the schemes of the warmakers, against the revival of the Wehrmacht, for a ban on atomic and hydrogen weapons, for the triumph of a great and just cause—the cause of peace and international security.

Press Day in the USSR

May 5 was widely celebrated by the Soviet people as Press Day.

The Soviet press is one of a new type, fundamentally different from the venal bourgeois press. It devotedly serves the cause of the Communist Party, daily bringing to the masses the great ideas of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and mobilising the working people for the performance of heroic deeds for the furtherance of communist construction.

Today there are upwards of 7,100 newspapers published in the USSR, with a total circulation of 47 million copies. They now appear in every town and district, in the languages of all the peoples of the Soviet Union. Nationalities which had no written language prior to the Great October Revolution now have their own press.

Besides newspapers, 1,500 magazines and other periodicals are published. Approxi-

mately 1,000 million copies of books were published in 1954 alone.

In the past few days lectures, reports and talks on Press Day were held everywhere—in factories and collective farms, offices and schools. In Moscow and other cities, newspaper and magazine workers and employees of publishing houses and printing establishments held special Press Day meetings.

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BULGARIA

The Bulgarian press is widely featuring this notable date. The anniversary of Berlin's liberation, writes the newspaper *Otechestven Front*, must be a reminder that the peoples of Europe, including the German people, will not let themselves be deceived and caught unawares. Let the inspirers of new crusades to the East analyse the battle for Berlin, and they will find it a beneficial

subject for reflection. They should not forget that today, to the unparalleled strength of the Soviet Union must be added the tremendous might of the whole camp of democracy and Socialism.

During this period talks, meetings and lectures are being held all over the country, devoted to the defeat of Hitler Germany.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The newspaper *Neues Deutschland*, organ of the C.C. of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, has published the theses of the science and propaganda department of the C.C. of the SUPG, devoted to the tenth anniversary of the liberation of Germany from Hitler fascism. These state that liberation day, for all peace-loving Germans, is a day of gratitude to the Soviet Union for its historic achievement.

The theses give a detailed analysis of the historic path traversed by the German people since the rout of Hitler fascism by the heroic Soviet Army. A special section deals with the struggle of the German people against the Paris agreements and the tasks confronting German peace forces in the fight to ensure peace in Europe and for a peaceful democratic settlement of the German question.

The German democratic press has carried the call issued by the National Council of the National Front of Democratic Germany in connection with the tenth anniversary of the liberation from fascism.

This declares that the German people are grateful to the Soviet Union for its unflagging efforts aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement of the German question, concluding a peace treaty and withdrawing the occupation troops from Germany.

In conclusion the call stresses that in its struggle for a united, independent, democratic and peace-loving Germany, the GDR enjoys the support of the mighty forces of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism with which it is linked in inviolable friendship.



Monument to the Soviet soldier-liberator in Treptow Park (Berlin).

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The Council of Ministers of the Republic and the Presidium of Trade Union Councils have assessed the results of socialist emulation in honour of the tenth anniversary of the country's liberation by the Soviet Army. Enterprises which have succeeded in the emulation have been awarded cups and bonuses. Some 2,300 producer co-operatives took part in the emulation, which led to their being better prepared for the spring field work than they had been in previous years. The majority of collective farms have completed their early spring sowing in good time.

During these days both press and radio are featuring the historic significance of V-Day. Anniversary meetings are being held and lectures on the historic victory of the Soviet Army delivered in town and countryside, in enterprises, offices and educational establishments.

In the capital the working people are preparing for a mass meeting in honour of V-Day. The All-Hungary Peace Council and the Hungarian-Soviet Society are jointly convening this meeting, the keynote of which will be the consolidation of Hungarian-Soviet friendship and the strengthening of the peace movement.

RUMANIA

The Rumanian working people will honour the tenth anniversary of the victory of the glorious Soviet Army over German fascism in a way worthy of the occasion. A celebration meeting has been arranged for May 9 in the State Theatre of Opera and Ballet in Bucharest. On this day wreaths will be laid at all monuments erected to the memory of Soviet warriors and on the graves of Soviet heroes.

In the capital and in regional centres, branches of the Rumanian-Soviet Friendship Society are arranging for reports to be given on the tenth anniversary of the defeat of German fascism by the Soviet Army. Throughout the country exhibitions are being organised, devoted to the great victory.

FRANCE

The French public is preparing to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the victory over fascism. The liaison committee of the organisations of the Resistance Movement has issued a statement on behalf of the 40 organisations affiliated to the committee, calling on all ex-soldiers, prisoners-of-war and all who suffered from the war, jointly to celebrate this day.

Honouring the memory of the fallen, the statement declares, ex-soldiers, prisoners of war and those who suffered from the war will unanimously assert their will to preserve the independence and grandeur of France.

ITALY

In connection with the tenth anniversary of the victory over Hitler Germany, preparations for the "Day of Mothers and Wives in Defence of Peace and Against Threat of Atomic War", scheduled for May 8, are being actively carried on in Italy. On this day mass meetings will take place in 51 communes in Bologna Province. In Turin, a special week for the collection of signatures to the Vienna Appeal is set for May 1 to 8. This undertaking will culminate in a congress of mothers whose sons gave their lives for the cause of peace.

A big demonstration in honour of 300 citizens tortured by German and Italian fascists will be held in Pistoia.

In Vinca (Massa Carrara Province), where during the war fascists wiped out a large part of the population, a demonstration will take place. It will be attended by delegations from the whole of the Toscana Region.

The Decisive Role of the Soviet Union in the Victory Over Fascism

Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the victory over fascism the peoples irresistibly think of the Soviet Union, whose incomparable struggle, sacrifice and heroism made a decisive contribution to the routing of the Hitler aggressors.

No matter how hard certain rulers—now mainly concerned about an alliance with the German revenge-seekers—may intensify their anti-Soviet attacks and calumnies, they cannot wipe out the terribly accusing facts inscribed in history.

It is an indisputable fact that the Western powers favoured the Hitler policy of aggression, seeking to direct it against the land of Socialism. Just as the imperialists of the U.S.A., Britain and France gave a free hand to the Japanese imperialists in the war against China, so they incited Hitler Germany to launch an attack on the Soviet Union in the hope of benefiting from a war of exhaustion between these two countries.

Thus, the so-called "democratic" imperialist powers became accomplices of fascism. Their fear of the working-class movement in Europe and of the national liberation movement in Asia was greater than anything else. They saw fascism as an effective means of countering these movements.

This policy resulted in Munich, and encouraged the fascists who, at the last moment, judged it more prudent to wage an aggressive war against the very forces which had favoured their plans.

The French people have not forgotten all this. Nor have they forgotten the fact that the French rulers, by trampling underfoot the principles of collective security and cynically tearing up the Franco-Soviet Treaty of Mutual Assistance which was signed in 1935, intended to inform Hitler that he need have no fears about launching an offensive against the East.

Under these conditions the cynical violation of the Franco-Soviet Treaty of 1935 by the French rulers helped the Hitler aggressors to unleash the second world war. As for the new violation of the Franco-Soviet Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance, signed on December 10, 1944, this naturally reminds us of the tragic consequences of the first violation.

During the first stage of the second world war the fascist aggressors achieved a certain success. Pétain and his clique betrayed France to them and an open dictatorship of the Hitler type was brutally imposed on her.

During this crucial period, thanks to the efforts of the Communists, the Resistance fighters were united in the struggle against the Hitler invaders and the traitors in their service. But the struggle appeared to many to be unequal and the prospects of victory far distant. Hence the campaigns of the enemy to spread discouragement, passivity and resignation had a certain effect on the masses.

The Hitlerites tried to convince the people under their sway of the inevitability of their victory; and their arguments had a certain influence in view of the rapidity with which, as a result of treachery, the front collapsed in May-June 1940.

★
Jacques Duclos

Secretary
of the French Communist Party

★ ★
However, when, in the course of their aggression, the Hitler troops embarked on a war with the Soviet Union, they met with set-backs which they never expected.

Everywhere the Resistance fighters got the very definite feeling that the entry of the Soviet Union into the struggle against fascism would mean inevitable defeat for the latter.

The legendary feats of the Soviet Army provided a contagious example of heroism. Following the inspiring example of the Soviet soldiers, the influence of the Resistance Movement spread, its organisations were strengthened and its fighting capacity heightened.

This reinforcement of the Resistance Movement was not to the liking of those rulers who were in no hurry to end the war, and would have delayed the opening of the second front for a long while yet, had it not been for the victorious advance of the Soviet troops towards the West.

On August 22, 1944, Churchill was compelled to admit that the USSR had destroyed the manpower of the Hitlerite army, and thereby conceded the decisive role of the Soviet Union in the defeat of fascism.

The struggle of the USSR against fascism merged with the fight of all peoples for their independence and democratic liberties. The clear understanding of this common struggle illumined the last hours of the 27 Frenchmen who were shot at Chateaubriant and who before they died wrote as their last testament on the wall of the barracks: "The twenty-seven who are about to die maintain their courage and their hope in the final struggle and in the victory of the USSR, liberator of the oppressed peoples."

After the victory over fascism the U.S. imperialists set themselves the aim of making a deal with their one-time enemies, against their Soviet ally, thanks to whom that victory had been achieved.

★
The aim pursued by the U.S. imperialists for many years now has been to rearm the German revenge-seekers and bring the former Hitler generals back to power—all of which is a flagrant violation of the Potsdam Agreement.

The North Atlantic treaty signed in 1949 with the obvious purpose of aggression signalled the revival of German militarism. But it was difficult to force the peoples who had suffered at the hands of this militarism to acquiesce in such a prospect.

With a view to deceiving public opinion, the propagandists and organisers of the revival of German militarism sought to conceal this criminal revival under a "European" camouflage; but EDC was rejected, and they then resorted to the London and Paris agreements.

Ratification of these agreements by the parliaments concerned was a result of scandalous pressure which did not at all dispel the hostility of the masses towards

the revival of German militarism. Most encouraging in this respect has been the resistance put up in Western Germany to the policy of restoring the revenge-seeking Wehrmacht, a policy resolutely opposed by the German Democratic Republic.

The unceasing struggle of the Soviet Union against West German rearmament has greatly helped the peoples to understand the danger inherent in it.

As far back as 1950, that is, long before the signing of the EDC treaty, the Soviet Union sent notes to the governments of the U.S.A., France and Britain exposing the policy of West German remilitarisation and proposing negotiations for a peace treaty with Germany.

At the Berlin Conference in February 1954, the Soviet Union proposed the conclusion of a General European Treaty of Collective Security. The initiators of West German remilitarisation, who sought to keep secret their aggressive schemes and expressed their "concern" for defence, were thus driven to the wall.

The Soviet proposals were repeatedly turned down; and it is in these conditions that the Soviet Union, by taking successive steps to prevent the resurrection of German militarism, has greatly helped to instil confidence and courage in the masses who are fighting against the re-establishment of a revenge-seeking Wehrmacht.

The prospect of annulment of the Franco-Soviet and Anglo-Soviet Treaties, as a consequence of the putting into effect of the Paris agreements, cannot but intensify the hostility of the masses towards the continuation of a policy, the disturbing results of which will be the more fully realised as the danger becomes more apparent.

As regards the agreements reached in Moscow concerning Austria, they will galvanise the working class and the German people into action against Adenauer's policy.

Thus the Soviet Union continues to pursue its policy of peace with the increasing approval of the peoples, in the face of the intrigues of spokesmen of American imperialism, of which Lenin said in 1918 that "it takes itself for a master that none can resist".

The policy of the warmongers cannot prevail against the will of the peoples who are imbued with confidence in the effectiveness of their struggle in Europe as in Asia and throughout the world by the unwavering desire for peace displayed by the Soviet Union and all countries of the camp of Socialism.

Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the victory over fascism, we cannot but express our gratitude to the Soviet Union, the great land of Lenin and Stalin, the mighty bastion of world peace.

Filled with confidence and trust, we repeat with Maurice Thorez: "The people of France will not, will never wage war against the Soviet Union."

Since peace cannot be won without struggle, we must, in the face of the threat from the atomic warmongers, ensure success in the campaign for signatures to the Vienna Appeal and do our utmost to secure the commencement of negotiations so that the "positions of strength" policy may be replaced by a policy of mutual understanding and international co-operation.

In Communist and Workers' Parties

ELECTION MANIFESTO OF THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY

An enlarged meeting of the Executive Committee of the British Communist Party recently took place in London, attended by prospective candidates from the 17 constituencies which the Party is contesting. District secretaries and other Party workers took part in the meeting.

The report was made by Comrade John Gollan, National Organiser. Comrade William Gallacher, Chairman of the E.C., and Comrade R. Palme Dutt, Deputy Chairman of the E.C., were among those present at the meeting.

The Party's Election Manifesto was unanimously adopted. The programme laid down in the Manifesto demands the banning of the H-bomb and all atomic weapons, a universal reduction of armaments and stopping of West German rearmament, the admission of People's China to the United Nations and an end to colonial wars. The programme stresses the need for Britain to be free, independent and to live in peace.

At home, the programme demands improvements in the living conditions of the people, with wage increases at the expense of profits; the raising of all pensions and social insurance benefits; the ending of the Tory cuts in education and the health services; lower rents and more houses. The Communist Party demands that all the key industries, the banks and insurance companies and the land be taken from the monopolists and used to serve the people and that all bans be removed on East-West trade.

CULTURAL CONFERENCE OF LABOR-PROGRESSIVE PARTY OF CANADA

The 4th National Cultural Conference of the Labor-Progressive Party, held recently, was attended by 281 delegates and observers from all across the country.

Reports given by Charles Sims and Pierre Gelinus described the resistance on the cultural fields of Canada to Yankee cosmopolitanism and decadence.

LPP National Leader Tim Buck and Leslie Morris, National Organiser, addressed the conference. Greetings were received from the Communist Parties of the United States, France and Great Britain and enthusiastically cheered.

The conference gave expression to the growing movement of Canadian national resistance to U.S. imperialist domination and atomic war.

The conference endorsed the Vienna Appeal and called upon all Canadian cultural workers to support this Appeal. It also decided that...

DISSEMINATION OF ECONOMIC KNOWLEDGE IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF JAPAN

The Communist Party of Japan is paying a great deal of attention to the political education of Party members and non-party working people and in particular to their study of political economy. Workers in both small and large factories were asked what they wanted to study. In Tokyo, 90% of those questioned expressed their wish to study certain of the problems of political economy and explained that they were prompted to do so by the desire to use such theoretical knowledge in their daily struggle against exploitation.

Of great help to Party members and non-party people is the Soviet textbook *Political Economy*, published in Japanese, which has become a reference book for those classes which are studying this subject.

On the initiative of the Party organisations, a large number of such classes have been set up throughout the country. Elementary courses for three to five people are also being held which begin with a very

simple form of lecture. A series of lectures on political economy are being delivered in all districts, and meetings of lecturers as well as readers' conferences are being held. A meeting held in the Tojima Hall (Tokyo) late in March and devoted to the publication of the Soviet textbook *Political Economy* in Japan, was attended by some 1,300 workers, students and other people.

Early in April a Central Workers' School was opened in Tokyo. This included a department on philosophy and one on political economy. For the latter, the curriculum has been worked out in conformity with the main sections of the Soviet textbook on political economy.

Problems linked with political economy are widely featured in the *Akahata*, central organ of the Communist Party. It publishes items on the experience of particular courses, readers' comments, and information items on Party activities connected with the political education of Communists and non-party people.

MEETING OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, ALBANIAN PARTY OF LABOUR

A recent meeting of the Central Committee of the Albanian Party of Labour heard and discussed a report on the ideological work of the Party and measures for its improvement made by Comrade Liri Belishova, Secretary of the Central Committee,

on behalf of the Political Bureau. A speech was delivered by Comrade Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Central Committee. A resolution on the question was adopted by the meeting.

HOW OUR FACTORY PARTY BRANCH USES ITS RIGHT TO SUPERVISE THE MANAGEMENT'S ACTIVITY

The Rules of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia grant Party factory branches the right to supervise the activity of the management of their enterprises, thus enhancing their responsibility for the state of affairs at the enterprises. In exercising this right the Party branch maintains constant contact with the management, not only drawing attention to any shortcomings in the work but also helping to eliminate them.

The Party branch of our plant already has considerable experience in this and has become convinced that it is of great assistance in carrying out the economic tasks set by the state plan for our factory within the proper time.

For such supervision, meetings of the shop Party organisations are very important, for they ensure that there is not only supervision from above but from below, too. At these meetings Party members express their opinion on questions under discussion and make collective efforts to deal with particular questions. In this way all the members are mobilised to eliminate shortcomings in the work.

The factory Party committee pays a great deal of attention to the preparation of these shop meetings and encourages...

our factory. Many comrades took part in a lively discussion on particular questions of the economic life of the factory, putting forward a number of valuable suggestions for increasing labour productivity, cutting production costs and ensuring the fulfilment of all targets set by the factory economic plan for 1955.

Moreover, the decisions adopted at the meetings of the shop Party organisations also helped the executives of particular departments to see shortcomings in their work and thus mobilised the Party members to overcome them.

Urgent questions are discussed at nearly all factory Party committee meetings, and for this purpose Communists from the factory management—the manager, the chief engineer and others—are invited. These comrades exchange their experiences in work, put forward their proposals and suggest to what sections of the work they consider. For any problems which require deeper discussion, for instance that of socialist emulation, the committee organises general meetings of Party members in the factory. To stimulate Party functionaries to study economic questions...

Coal Industry Developing in Poland

The coal industry is a basic branch of Poland's economy. With every passing year, the coal industry is developing rapidly. The coal industry is a basic branch of Poland's economy. With every passing year, the coal industry is developing rapidly.

During the first stage of the second world war the fascist aggressors achieved a certain success. Petain and his clique betrayed France to them and an open dictatorship of the Hitler type was brutally imposed on her.

During this crucial period, thanks to the efforts of the Communists, the Resistance fighters were united in the struggle against the Hitler invaders and the traitors in their service. But the struggle appeared to many to be unequal and the prospects of victory far distant. Hence the campaigns of the enemy to spread discouragement, passivity and resignation had a certain effect on the masses.

The Hitlerites tried to convince the people under their sway of the inevitability of their victory; and their arguments had a certain influence in view of the rapidity with which, as a result of treachery, the front collapsed in May-June 1940.

The aim pursued by the U.S. imperialists for many years now has been to rearm the German revenge-seekers and bring the former Hitler generals back to power—all of which is a flagrant violation of the Potsdam Agreement.

The North Atlantic treaty signed in 1949 with the obvious purpose of aggression signalled the revival of German militarism. But it was difficult to force the peoples who had suffered at the hands of this militarism to acquiesce in such a prospect.

With a view to deceiving public opinion, the propagandists and organisers of the revival of German militarism sought to conceal this criminal revival under a "European" camouflage; but EDC was rejected, and they then resorted to the London and Paris agreements.

Ratification of these agreements by the parliaments concerned was a result of scandalous pressure which did not at all dispel the hostility of the masses towards

are imbued with confidence in the effectiveness of their struggle in Europe and in Asia and throughout the world by the unwavering desire for peace displayed by the Soviet Union and all countries of the camp of Socialism.

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Coal Industry Developing in Poland

The coal industry is a basic branch of Poland's economy. In the ten years of people's-democratic rule coal output has topped the prewar figure by nearly 150%.

Last year more than 91,000,000 tons of coal were produced. In the current year the production plan for the first three months was fulfilled ahead of schedule. The miners cut thousands of tons of coal over and above the quarterly target.

With every passing year coal mining has been increasingly mechanised. Both Soviet and Polish coal combines, the latest cutting machines, transporters and electric locomotives are to be found in operation in the pits. Production of mining machinery is a new branch of Polish industry which has arisen under people's power; today the country's factories are turning out more

than 250 types of mining machines and equipment.

The people's Government never relaxes its care for the miners. Within the past six years dwellings with a total of over 60,000 rooms were built for the miners of Silesia. Whole residential centres have sprung up in the mining areas and new clubs, recreation rooms, libraries and reading rooms have been opened.

Contribution of the Communists to the War of National Liberation in Italy

On April 25 there was celebrated the tenth anniversary of the liberation of Italy from the fascist dictatorship and the German invaders. Actually, the people's uprising began as far back as September 1943 and came to a close in April 1945. The first battles fought by the people in Rome on September 8, 1943, when the conclusion of the armistice between Italy and the Allied Powers was announced, marked the starting point of the uprising. By the end of that month, after four days of street fighting, Naples had been liberated. During 1944, as a result of popular uprisings, the cities of Lanciano, Florence, Forlì and Ravenna were liberated. Finally, in April 1945 the uprising spread through the entire north of Italy. Into this area the spreading partisan warfare which lasted for 19 months drew off ever-larger forces of the Hitlerite and Italian fascist hordes from the front lines.

The partisan struggle of the Italian people was greatly stimulated by the feats of the Soviet peoples and by the great military victories of the Soviet Army.

We started with the most elementary forms of partisan warfare and organisation, using therein the precious counsels of Marx and Engels, the experience of the war in Spain, and the recent experiences of the peoples who earlier than we had been fighting their people's war against the German and Italian fascists, and particularly the experiences of the Soviet peoples.

The German fascist aggression against the Soviet Union and the entry of the latter into the second world war changed not only the course of the war but also the character and scope of the Resistance Movement. The great, decisive victories of the Soviet Armed Forces over the German fascist army, the courageous example set by young and old, by the women of the Soviet Union, by the entire population, who refused to bend the knee or fall into despair, but

★
Luigi Longo
Deputy General Secretary,
Italian Communist Party
Former Commander of Garibaldi
Partisan Brigades
★ ★

on the contrary gave the enemy no rest, delivering blow after blow wherever he might be found: these not only evoked the enthusiasm and admiration of the peoples fighting against fascism, they aroused to struggle all the freedom-loving and democratic forces of the Italian nation. From the incomparable and heroic example of the Soviet partisans we drew valuable political and military lessons; and above all we gained a confidence which no hardship could shake. The words addressed by Stalin to the Soviet partisans: "Make things unbearable for the enemy", became the fighting slogan not only of the Garibaldi detachments but of all Italian partisans. But for the decisive epic struggle waged by the Soviet people and their Armed Forces—a struggle without precedent in history—but for the magnificent deed of the defenders of Stalingrad and the great battles which saved mankind by bringing defeat to the fascist hordes, the Resistance Movement in Europe could not have assumed the dimensions that it did.

Our struggle developed successfully simultaneously with the victories of the Soviet Army, and with the advance of the allied troops which were pressing the enemy from the south. The advance of the Anglo-American troops lasted for 20 months. This was clearly too long, even though the territory of the Italian Peninsula is extensive; it was too long considering the sacrifice and suffering that the war brought to the Italian people, who were subjected to the most brutal persecution and repression at

the hands of the fascists and SS-men; it was too long if we take into account also the fact that with the advance of the allied troops the strength and fighting capacity of the partisan movement grew ever greater and it was thus able to lend them increasingly effective military assistance.

In winter time the British and Americans invariably suspended military operations "to wait for good weather". At the end of 1943 they stopped halfway between Naples and Rome; at the end of 1944 they stopped fighting to the south of the northern Apennines and Bologna.

When, at last, in the early spring of 1945 the British and Americans launched their decisive offensive, the partisan detachments which in Northern Italy, in terms of numbers and organisation, had become a real army, gave new impetus to the national uprising everywhere. They waged hard-fought battles with the German troops, liberating towns and villages prior to the arrival of the allied forces.

From April 25 to 29 the people and the partisan units liberated Bologna, Genoa, Milan, Turin and many other towns.

By May 2 the whole of Italy, up to its northern boundaries, was liberated, thanks to the efforts and heroism of the people's forces. According to official data, 256,000 partisans organised in 1,090 brigades, comprising in turn 124 divisions, took part in the war of liberation.

The Italian partisan movement was initiated by various political parties and movements. At the outset each party and movement formed its own units, and provided them with political leadership and material aid. At the same time these units could be joined by fighters of all other political convictions. Later, thanks mainly to the efforts of the Communists, these partisan units, which were of such variegated political character, became united. Their co-operation brought about the for-

OF CANADA

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LPP National Leader Tim Buck and Leslie Morris, National Organiser, addressed the conference. Greetings were received from the Communist Parties of the United States, France and Great Britain and enthusiastically cheered.

The conference gave expression to the growing movement of Canadian national resistance to U.S. imperialist domination and atomic war.

The conference endorsed the Vienna Appeal and called upon all Canadian cultural workers to support this Appeal. It also decided that representations be made by the Party to the Federal and Provincial governments on key cultural issues, demanding that action be taken to foster democratic Canadian culture, to support Canadian artists, and to combat the flood of Yankee crime and war comic books, films, magazines etc.

this right the Party branch maintains constant contact with the management, not only drawing attention to any shortcomings in the work but also helping to eliminate them.

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For such supervision, meetings of the shop Party organisations are very important, for they ensure that there is not only supervision from above but from below, too. At these meetings Party members express their opinion on questions under discussion and make collective efforts to deal with particular questions. In this way all the members are mobilised to eliminate shortcomings in the work.

The factory Party committee pays a great deal of attention to the preparation of these shop meetings and ensures that the bureaus of the shop Party organisations put on the agenda the most important economic questions of the enterprise, relating them to the concrete production assignments of the particular shop.

Thus, for instance, our shop Party organisations met for a thorough discussion on the decisions of the October C.C. meeting, linking them up with concrete tasks facing

mation of a unified High Command. Thus, there was finally created the united "Corps of Volunteers for Freedom" under which the entire Italian partisan movement was welded together in the last months of struggle.

Taking part in the struggle were the Garibaldi brigades and divisions organised and led by the Communists. There were also the so-called brigades and divisions formed by the movement known as the "Giustizia e Libertà", more or less linked with the Party of Action (which later went out of existence); the Matteotti brigades and divisions linked with the Italian Socialist Party; the "popular brigades" of the Christian Democratic trend. Finally, there were also various brigades known as "autonomous" units since, according to their leaders, they were not dependent on any political party, (although, in fact, they were headed either by leaders of the Liberal Party or by regular army officers and even monarchists).

The Communists made a very much greater contribution to the struggle for Italy's liberation than all the other parties taken together. Sufficiently indicative is the fact that of the 1,090 partisan brigades formed, 575 were Garibaldi brigades, 176 "Giustizia e Libertà", 58 Matteotti, 54 Popular and 227 "autonomous" brigades. Then there are the following figures as well: of the 70,930 partisans who fell in battle, 42,558 were lost by the Garibaldi brigades, and of the 30,697 wounded, crippled and incapacitated, 18,416 were Garibaldi men.

This ratio is seen to be far greater when we compare the contribution made by the various movements to the underground anti-fascist struggle carried on in the course of twenty years of fascist dictatorship. Both politically and organisationally that struggle paved the way for the war of liberation. Whereas for their participation in this struggle 4,030 Communists were sentenced by fascist special tribunals to prison terms totalling 23,000 years, among the members of the "Giustizia e Libertà" movement 46 were imprisoned, while as for the Socialists and Republicans—only a few dozen of them suffered. The Liberals, Christian Democrats

and, of course, the Monarchists, though they did contribute to the war of liberation, took no part whatever in the underground anti-fascist struggle.

These eloquent official figures provide documentary evidence of the consistent and valiant activity of the Communists; it was they who led the working people, the democratic masses and all Italian patriots who fought to liberate their country from the Nazi invaders and the infamous fascist regime. Yet Italy's rulers wanted to bar the most prominent leaders of the Communist Party and of the Garibaldi brigades from participation in the official ceremonies in honour of the tenth anniversary of the country's liberation. They obstructed mass demonstrations and in some instances even banned them. They sought to confine the tenth anniversary celebrations to nothing more than an official ceremony with pro-American speeches from the Ministers and a parade of the Americanised troops, almost completely excluding the actual participants in the partisan war and their leaders.

However, the various movements that took part in the Resistance foiled those attempts. Eminent leaders of various trends made representations to the local authorities to the end that the official ceremonies might find the widest possible response in the local centres and be a genuine expression of the will of all participants in the Resistance Movement.

Besides the official demonstrations, the people held demonstrations and meetings of their own during April in all the major cities. These demonstrations were organised by committees representing all the partisan detachments of the liberation period. Eminent partisan leaders of all trends without exception addressed the meetings.

All the demonstrations in honour of the tenth anniversary of the Resistance Movement, especially the latter ones, were warmly supported by the population. Just as they did ten years ago in the days of the struggle, the leaders, commanders and men of the different partisan detachments once again united, despite the efforts of the pro-American representatives of the government parties to isolate the Communist and Socialist leaders and commanders.

Moreover, the shop Party organisations meetings of the executives of particular departments to see shortcomings in their work and thus mobilised the Party members to overcome them.

Urgent questions are discussed at nearly all factory Party committee meetings, and for this purpose Communists from the factory management—the manager, the chief engineer and others—are invited. These comrades exchange their experiences in work, put forward their proposals and suggest to what sections of the work they consider the Party branch should pay attention. For any problems which require deeper discussion, the committee organises general emulation, the committee organises general meetings of Party members in the factory. To stimulate Party functionaries to study economic questions more deeply, the Party Education Centre run by the Party Committee holds regular lectures and seminars which not only improve the political and theoretical knowledge of the comrades but also give them technical, organisational and other knowledge relating to the questions of managing socialist enterprises.

Stanislav ZIBAR
Chairman of the Party Committee
of the Czechoslovak Communist Party,
C.K.D.—Stalingrad Plant, Prague

This indicates that all the participants in the Resistance Movement are coming to realise the necessity of re-establishing their former unity. Such unity is needed for the sake of defending the freedom and social gains won in the struggle for national liberation, but since seriously impaired by the Christian Democratic governments which have been trucking to the Atlantic policy and the Italian monopolies.

The highlight of these united partisan demonstrations was a National Partisan Rally in which the most prominent representatives of all the trends in the Resistance Movement took part. A special statement was issued explaining that the rally was organised for the following reason: "Fascism was defeated in 1945, but its ideas have not been buried; they are ever more coming to the surface again, and are the source of provocations and insults which can no longer be tolerated."

The rally passed a resolution which stated: "It is essential once again to achieve unity of effort and purpose for the salvation of democracy and its regeneration... Despite differences of political convictions, we must work together, shoulder to shoulder, in order that the Resistance Movement may never be betrayed."

Addressing the meeting of commanders, commissars and fighters of the Garibaldi brigades in Milan, Comrade Palmiro Togliatti, General Secretary of the Communist Party, declared: "The privileged groups, governed solely by the desire to protect their own private profits, are once more in the saddle. The foreign policy of our country has been subordinated to the interests of foreign imperialism." In Italy, Togliatti pointed out, "democracy is being jeopardised at its very foundation, for jobs are not provided for all and there is no desire to organise society in the interests of those who labour".

Summing up the results of the struggle which took place ten years ago, Togliatti said: "The resistance did not by any means begin only in 1943; it was able to triumph because it had arisen much earlier. The resistance did not end with the victory of 1945. It must continue and will continue so long as there exists a threat to the democratic system which arose from the struggle for national liberation."

TEN YEARS OF STRUGGLE FOR A UNITED, PEACE-LOVING, DEMOCRATIC GERMANY

Military Defeat of Hitler Germany

Ten years ago the heroic Soviet Army completed the defeat of the German fascist armies. The German High Command surrendered unconditionally. From Stalingrad to London, from Narvik to El Alamein, ruins and graves bear witness to the monstrous crimes of German fascist imperialism, to the crimes committed by Krupp, Siemens, Flick, Abs, Schacht and the fuhrers of the fascist state against the Soviet Union and the peoples of Europe. The plundering German monopolists, bankers and big landlords who enslaved and robbed most of the European peoples and undertook a crusade under the slogan of "struggle against Communism" in order to despoil the socialist Soviet Union of its riches, the German militarists who, driven by race hatred, mercilessly exterminated other peoples—they are the ones who plunged Germany into the worst catastrophe in its history.

The victory of the Soviet Army meant the deliverance of European civilisation from the barbarity of Hitler fascism and the liberation of the German people from the rule of the fascist war criminals. Honour and glory to the warriors of the Soviet Army who shed their blood for the liberation of their native land from the fascist invaders and suffered the heaviest losses in the struggle to free the European peoples from fascist bondage! Honour and glory to the Soviet people who mobilised, at the cost of tremendous sacrifice, the entire economic might of the country to supply armaments and all that was necessary to enable the Soviet Army to fulfil its great liberating mission! Glory to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union which cemented the moral and political unity of the Soviet people and brought them to victory!

The defeat suffered by Germany in the second world war, which was forecast by the Communist Party of Germany even at the beginning of the war, was inevitable, since it resulted not from particular tactical errors made by Hitler's command, as certain people assert, but from the very nature of imperialist aggression:

1. Hitler Germany came out as the aggressor, openly proclaiming oppression and plunder of other nations to be its aim, and thus, in the eyes of the peoples, bore full responsibility for the war. Transforming the occupied countries into vassal states, the German armies kindled the peoples' hatred against Germany. As Germany occupied more countries, it became more isolated and the peoples' hatred mounted.

2. After the treacherous attack on the Soviet Union, which did all that was possible right up to the last moment to prevent Germany from unleashing war against it, the German troops encountered firm resistance. The Soviet Army and the entire Soviet people mustered all their forces for defence until the Soviet troops themselves launched an offensive. In the single-handed struggle waged by the Soviet Army against the Hitler army, the So-

viet Union proved its military superiority. The Soviet Army's victories demonstrated that the Soviet state was the strongest and that its socialist economy had outstripped the monopoly economy of Germany and her vassals.

3. The insatiable cravings for conquest of German monopoly capital and the Nazi fuhrers and their savage methods of warfare jeopardised the very existence of the European peoples. In the struggle against Hitlerite aggression there emerged the alliance of three great powers: the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the U.S.A. Thus the policy of aggression led to the complete isolation of Germany.

4. In Germany, the military defeat suffered by the Nazi armies gave rise to a crisis of the Hitler regime. The opposition forces began to organise themselves to fight for the overthrow of the Hitler government. The appeal issued by the "Free Germany" national committee in July 1943 was in full accord with the thoughts and feelings of broad sections of the German working class and working peasantry and a section of the officers.

When the Soviet troops crossed the German border, the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Germany sent a directive to Party groups and all anti-fascists in Germany which stated: The defeat of fascism is the greatest triumph of the freedom-loving peoples. It is necessary to destroy fascist state power, purge the factories, offices and schools and abolish all Nazi legislation. German imperialism must be uprooted through expropriation of the big monopolies. Land reform must open up the way to democratisation of the countryside.

The Communists and the supporters of the "Free Germany" national committees were the sole force of the German people to fight from the very beginning for the realisation of the genuinely democratic programme of building a new Germany.

Thanks to the selfless efforts of the Soviet people and their glorious armies the second world war culminated in the liberation of Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania, Czechoslovakia and part of Germany from fascism and every kind of imperialist oppression. Three months after the capitulation of Hitler Germany the Soviet armies launched an offensive against Japanese imperialism, which had occupied vast areas of China, above all, the whole of Manchuria. The rout of Japanese imperialism created favourable conditions for the Communist Party of China to organise the people's liberation struggle with a view to freeing the whole of China from the yoke of imperialism and feudalism.

As a result of the second world war almost half the peoples of Europe and Asia broke away completely from the imperialist camp. Side by side with the Soviet Union the countries of people's democracy have become flourishing states; now their peoples, guided by the Communist and revolutionary Workers' Parties, are laying the foundations of Socialism.

of the German people. The Soviet Government's proposal to conclude a peace treaty with Germany and its submission of a draft of such a treaty, its proposal that the Western powers reject the Paris agreements and consent to hold all-German free democratic elections in 1955, its proposal to conclude a treaty of collective security with all European countries, Germany included, were all dictated by the desire to uphold the vital national interests of

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Walter Ulbricht

First Secretary of C.C., Socialist Unity Party of Germany

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Unification of Both Workers' Parties

The only party in Germany which in 1945 put forward a clear programme corresponding to the national and social interests of the working people was the Communist Party. It set to work, after the overthrow of the Hitler regime, by establishing unity of action with the Social Democrats, and made every effort to bring about co-operation with all democratic forces from among the bourgeois groups. In the course of economic rehabilitation and the democratisation of public life this co-operation took on flesh and blood.

In Eastern Germany united action proved its worth in the removal of war criminals and fascists from key posts in the factories and in the economy generally, in the organisation of new democratic administrative bodies, in the work of setting the factories running properly, in the introduction of workers' control, in the organisation of a supply system and in clearing away the ruins. From the very outset all the activities of the Communist Party were directed towards the unification of the working class. When the Central Board of the German Social Democratic Party was formed with Otto Grotewohl as its Chairman, it announced its agreement with the anti-fascist democratic programme. All steps to get Eastern Germany's economy and democratic life running smoothly were taken jointly by the members of both workers' parties. The strength of this united action made it possible to establish free and united trade unions and the united Union of Free German Youth.

Welded together by united action, the Communist and Social Democratic organisations based their activity on the Marxist-Leninist teachings that democratic development requires as a precondition the abolition of the might of the big monopolies and also of the big landlords and junkers. Despite all hardships and want, the vanguard of the working class did not allow itself to be distracted from its main aim of laying the foundations of a new social system in Germany.

Unfortunately, such right-wing Social Democratic leaders as Schumacher, Suhr, Klingelhöfer, Dr. Brill and others opposed the unification of the two workers' parties and the establishment of German working-class unity. Instead of working to destroy fascism with united forces, they took up the old slogan of all the reactionaries, the slogan of anti-Communism. And Herr Tarnow, one of the trade union leaders,

the German people and thereby promote the maintenance of peace in Europe.

Finally, the agreement between the Soviet Government and the Government of Austria on an Austrian State Treaty and on the neutralisation of Austria as a peaceful, independent country is likewise of great assistance to the patriotic forces in Germany.

Thus friendship with the Soviet Union is a prerequisite for the national existence of the German people.

democratic leaders conducted a struggle against the single directing centre of the German Social Democratic Party—the Central Board of the SDPG, which had its headquarters in Berlin. Schumacher got the leadership of the Social Democratic organisation in Hanover into his hands and started a campaign against the strivings for unity on the part of the Social Democratic organisations in the British and American zones.

Thanks to united action, all the economic bodies, schools and establishments in the Soviet zone were purged of active fascist elements. Thanks to united action, workers, technicians and engineers took the administration of big enterprises into their own hands. The workers—men, women and youth—were able to carry out the big economic tasks before them only because they understood the necessity of first laying the foundations for a new life. And in this work the youth, whom the Nazis had deceived and brought to disaster, took an especially active part.

In the course of their intense efforts to get the economy and democratic public life running smoothly, a fast friendship was formed between the Communists and the Social Democrats and also between them and the anti-fascist forces from among other sections of the population who wanted to help in the building of the new life. Craftsmen, peasants and small traders made a big contribution at this time. And the condition for the activation of all the forces of the people, who wanted to reorganise their country on a new basis, was working-class unity of action.

It was in this practical manner that there arose the prerequisites for the unification of the two workers' parties in a single revolutionary party of the German working class—the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. The lessons of the disastrous course of events in the past few decades were not lost upon the Central Board of the German Social Democratic Party. The German Communist Party and the German Social Democratic Party each held a congress and resolved to take the great historic step of convening a united congress to effect the merger of both workers' parties. By the will of the delegates of both parties, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany was formed as a revolutionary party of the working class adhering to Marxism. And this, in its turn, provided the conditions for

revanchist propaganda, so the reactionary chauvinist forces in Western Germany, supported by the right-wing Social Democratic leaders, once more commenced their propaganda of revenge.

Whereas in Western Germany the main political force was monopoly capital, which collaborated closely with the representatives of U.S. and British big business who settled themselves in the occupation organs, in the Soviet occupation zone the main political force was the working class which entered into an alliance with the working peasantry and co-operated with the petty-bourgeois and bourgeois-democratic forces. Whereas in Western Germany the ruling monopolist forces have been pursuing the policy of division of the working class and of splitting the democratic forces, in the Soviet occupation zone the revolutionary working-class party succeeded in unifying

all democratic forces and rallying them in the movement of the German People's Congress. Under the leadership of the working class the bourgeois-democratic revolution has been accomplished in the Soviet occupation zone, the class of the big landlords and junkers has been eliminated and the rule of monopoly capital overthrown forever. The programme announced by the Communist Party in June 1945 has been carried out.

When a separate state was set up in Western Germany by the reactionary forces, the democratic forces of Eastern Germany responded by establishing the German Democratic Republic, to bar the road once and for all to the imperialist forces of the United States and Great Britain and to West German reaction, and to build a firm base for the struggle for the reunification of Germany as a peace-loving and democratic state.

Main Achievements of the German Democratic Republic

The foundation of the German Democratic Republic signified a turning point in the history of Europe. The People's Chamber elected Wilhelm Pieck its first worker President, while Otto Grotewohl was elected Prime Minister.

With the aid of the Two-Year Plan the prewar level of economy had been reached by the time the German Democratic Republic was founded. It became possible to elaborate the first Five-Year Plan which was aimed not only at doubling the volume of industrial output and increasing agricultural production, but also at further consolidating the socialist sector of the economy. Laying the foundations of Socialism has gradually become the main task. In 1950 the gross industrial output of the publicly-owned and co-operative enterprises constituted 73.1% of the whole. In the first quarter of this year the socialist enterprises were responsible for 85.8% of the total industrial output. The number of agricultural producer co-operatives rose from 4,691 on December 31, 1953, to 5,264 by February 28, 1955, while the area cultivated by them increased from 1,863,900 acres to 2,493,200 acres. During the same period co-operative membership rose from 128,550 to 167,505.

During the first Five-Year Plan 25 new higher educational establishments have been opened. In 1950 the number of students in universities and other higher educational establishments was 27,660, and by the end of this year it will reach 63,240. In 1950 38.6% of the students were of worker and peasant origin, while by the end of the Five-Year Plan this figure will be approximately 60%. In 1950 the children of workers and peasants constituted 41% of the pupils of technical schools, while by the end of the Five-Year Plan the number will rise to about 75%.

In the course of carrying out the Five-Year Plan we obtained an annual increase of 17.5% in industrial output, whereas in Western Germany the increase in industrial output was 7.9% in 1951-52, 9.1% in 1952-53 and 11.6% in 1953-54.

The plan also envisaged that the volume

The Five-Year Plan provided for expenditure of 376 million marks on housing in 1954, but in fact 732.8 million marks were spent.

Not only were a large number of enterprises rebuilt in our Republic in a comparatively short space of time, but many important new ones were built, among them such large plants as the J. V. Stalin and the Ost Metallurgical Works, and also a large power plant which supplies both these enterprises with current. Mention must also be made here of the construction of Stalfinstadt, our first socialist city. One of the most important projects built under the Five-Year Plan is the large Matyas Rakosi Coke and Chemical Plant in Lauchhammer.

Compared with 1950, output of the basic products of livestock raising (per hectare of cultivated farm land) amounted in 1954 to: pork 195.9%, beef 136.8%, milk (3.2% fat content) 159.5%, eggs 165.4%.

The economic plan for 1955 provides that 31 million acres of medium ploughing shall be performed by tractors supplied by the machine and tractor stations. This amounts to 123.1% of the Five-Year Plan target. The share of the necessary field work (not counting work done on the publicly-owned estates) performed with the aid of the MTS increased from 7.9% in 1951 to 37.6% in 1955.

Supplies for the population have steadily improved from year to year. One expression of the constant improvement in living standards is the increase in retail trade. In 1954 the volume of retail trade (in comparable prices) was 93% greater than in 1950.

The working people in one-third of Germany have been outstandingly successful in their efforts to build a new life, because the leading party—the Socialist Unity Party of Germany—takes as its guide the most advanced teaching, the teaching of Marxism-Leninism.

This successful socialist construction is largely due solely to the fact that the German Democratic Republic has the benefit of the experience and the fraternal assistance of the Soviet Union.

plunder of other nations to be its aim, and thus, in the eyes of the peoples, bore full responsibility for the war. Transforming the occupied countries into vassal states, the German armies kindled the peoples' hatred against Germany. As Germany occupied more countries, it became more isolated and the peoples' hatred mounted.

2. After the treacherous attack on the Soviet Union, which did all that was possible right up to the last moment to prevent Germany from unleashing war against it, the German troops encountered firm resistance. The Soviet Army and the entire Soviet people mustered all their forces for defence until the Soviet troops themselves launched an offensive. In the single-handed struggle waged by the Soviet Army against the Hitler army, the So-

Friendship with the Soviet Union Is a Prerequisite for the National Existence of the German People

The liberation of the German people by the Soviet Army ushered in a new era in German history.

As far back as 1944 J. V. Stalin said:

"To win the war against Germany means consummating a great historic cause. But winning the war does not yet mean ensuring the peoples a durable peace and reliable security in the future. The task is not only to win the war, but also to prevent the outbreak of fresh aggression and another war, if not forever, then at least for a long time to come."

Since it was a matter of preventing the outbreak of another war, the Soviet occupation administration, jointly with the German anti-fascists, in May 1945 began to disband fascist organisations and abolish all Nazi legislation. They supported the efforts made to ensure that the decisive role in the newly set-up administrative bodies was played by the anti-fascist and democratic forces of the working people.

The Soviet soldiers who had fought, arms in hand, against the German fascist troops now turned to help the population. They organised supplies and distribution of food, got the transport services in working order and provided an opportunity for the democratic forces to develop and lay the basis for a new Germany. German Communists who entered Berlin with the Soviet Army, anti-fascists who had emerged from underground, Communists freed from concentration camps, Social Democrats and bourgeois democrats, all working together, started at once to set the economy in order and organise public life on democratic lines.

A different policy was carried out in the zones occupied by Western powers. At the same time as they were stifling the initiative of the anti-fascist forces in Western Germany, the British and U.S. military authorities were encouraging the big capitalists—owners of joint-stock companies—Chambers of Commerce and industrialists' associations, bringing them into consultation and making the first deals with them.

The U.S. occupation authorities, themselves the representatives of big trusts, refused to promote to positions of responsibility those who had not previously been directors or owners of private capitalist enterprises. This policy corresponded to the interests of the U.S. finance-capitalists who aimed at establishing U.S. imperialist domination in Europe. It was Truman who, soon after becoming president, declared that the victory over Hitler Germany had placed

imperialist oppression. Three months after the capitulation of Hitler Germany the Soviet armies launched an offensive against Japanese imperialism, which had occupied vast areas of China, above all, the whole of Manchuria. The rout of Japanese imperialism created favourable conditions for the Communist Party of China to organise the people's liberation struggle with a view to freeing the whole of China from the yoke of imperialism and feudalism.

As a result of the second world war almost half the peoples of Europe and Asia broke away completely from the imperialist camp. Side by side with the Soviet Union the countries of people's democracy have become flourishing states; now their peoples, guided by the Communist and revolutionary Workers' Parties, are laying the foundations of Socialism.

before the U.S.A. the urgent necessity to provide "world leadership".

The Soviet Union, on the other hand, followed a policy that served the interests of the peoples attacked by the German armies, and simultaneously pointed the way to the establishment of a united, peace-loving and democratic Germany. Although the U.S. representatives sought the dismemberment of Germany, the Potsdam Conference adopted the Soviet proposal to consider Germany as a single economic entity. The Potsdam Agreement, signed by the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the U.S.A., stipulated that the Allies would take measures to eradicate German militarism and Nazism and also other concerted security measures in order that Germany might never again threaten her neighbours or the preservation of world peace.

The Potsdam Conference did not adopt the Soviet proposal to establish an all-German government, but it did provide for the formation of central all-German administrative departments for finance, transport, communications, foreign trade and industry, which were to function under the direction of the Control Council. However, the U.S. and British representatives on the Council opposed the taking of any practical steps in this direction, for the dismemberment of Germany continued as before to be their principal object.

Now the U.S.A. and Great Britain have achieved what they were after—the splitting up of Germany. Ratification of the Paris agreements and the admission to NATO of Western Germany signify its conversion into a U.S. protectorate, into the main U.S. base of operations for a war in Europe. After the national catastrophe which the predatory policy of her monopolists, bankers, landlords and Nazi Fuehrers brought upon her, the old enemies of Germany once more have the upper hand in the western part of the country. A tiny handful of West German monopolists and suchlike reactionaries are convinced that the unification of Germany on a democratic and peaceful basis would bring to an end the power of the West German merchants of death; and that is why they have sold out Western Germany's interests to the U.S. ruling groups and are opponents of German unification.

In accordance with the understanding reached by the three great powers and expressed in the Potsdam Agreement, with which the French government later associated itself, the Soviet Union has always upheld the national and economic interests

and united trade unions and the united Union of Free German Youth. Welded together by united action, the Communist and Social Democratic organisations based their activity on the Marxist-Leninist teachings that democratic development requires as a precondition the abolition of the might of the big monopolies and also of the big landlords and junkers. Despite all hardships and want, the vanguard of the working class did not allow itself to be distracted from its main aim of laying the foundations of a new social system in Germany.

Unfortunately, such right-wing Social Democratic leaders as Schumacher, Suhr, Klingelhöfer, Dr. Brill and others opposed the unification of the two workers' parties and the establishment of German working-class unity. Instead of working to destroy fascism with united forces, they took up the old slogan of all the reactionaries, the slogan of anti-Communism. And Herr Tarnow, one of the trade union leaders who urged participation in the Nazi demonstration of May 1, 1933, requested the assistance of the British and American authorities in "promoting anti-communist trade unions". The right-wing Social De-

Struggle Between the Anti-Fascist Democratic and Reactionary Chauvinist Forces

German monopoly capital and its fascist state machine brought down upon Germany a terrible disaster, from which the working people could escape only by taking a new path and eliminating the causes of the endless succession of crises and wars. For this it was essential for the working class to take the leadership into its hands, enter into an alliance with the working peasantry and organise co-operation with those petty-bourgeois and bourgeois-democratic elements that had expressed their readiness to take part in building a new, really democratic system. During this period, the question was being decided all over Germany: would the working class in alliance with the working peasantry play the leading role in state and economic life or would those who wanted everything to be as it was before be able to retain their positions, just as happened after 1918? In the immediate postwar period the big capitalists were still holding the key economic positions in the Soviet occupation zone also.

The Communist Party came out with a clear-cut programme and called on the whole working class, working peasants and all democratic forces to establish, from below, new bodies of state administration, to carry through land reform and to take over the management of enterprises confiscated from the war criminals. Only in this way did it become possible to lay the foundations for building a new life. The secret of our successes in that difficult time lay in releasing the energies of the working class and of the people, and in this, all-round aid was given by the Soviet military administration. The working class realised that the next task was to carry to the end the bourgeois-democratic revolution, i.e. to expropriate the class of big landlords and junkers and transfer the land to land-hungry and landless peasants.

A feature of the development of Eastern Germany was the fact that immediately after the destruction of the fascist state apparatus by the Soviet Army there followed the fulfilment of such bourgeois-democratic task as land reform and liquidation of the rule of the owners of concerns and banks. The privately-owned banks were closed down and the accounts of war criminals and other big capitalists blocked. Then followed denazification of the schools and a democratic school reform, as well as denazi-

fication of the judiciary and a democratic reform of the courts. For the first time in Germany's history the workers received the right to run the factories; furthermore, the best of them took up important posts in the state apparatus and in economy. Equality for women became a fact and conditions were created for a new life for young people. These fundamental anti-fascist, democratic changes were supported by the working people, as became clear during the first elections to the Landtags, when the Socialist Unity Party of Germany received an absolute majority of votes.

In Western Germany, the Communist Party had been fighting to have active Nazis purged from the administration, for land reform and the punishment and expropriation of the war criminals. No doubt, the bulk of the working class in Western Germany supported these demands also. However American, British and French occupation authorities and leading Social Democratic politicians and trade union leaders prevented the development of public life on democratic lines. The Social Democratic leaders were satisfied with the fact that they had been given leading posts in towns and communes and later in the governments of the provinces, where they discharged their duties like the former officials. They held forth about "self-government" while in practice finance capital, which collaborated with the American and British occupation authorities, dominated the economy.

At the time when the working class and the broad masses were seething with hatred for the company owners, bankers and big landlords, who had brought Hitler fascism to power and plunged the country into the catastrophe of war, in Western Germany too it would have been possible to lay the foundations for a genuinely democratic development. For this it was necessary, above all, to have united action by the Social Democratic and Communist Parties and the mobilisation of all democratic elements and forces of the working people striving to build a new life. Instead of this the right-wing Social Democratic leaders began a struggle against the Communist Party and launched a slanderous campaign against the Soviet Union. Just as after World War I Hitler started to prepare for the second world war by developing

2,493,200 acres. During the same period co-operative membership rose from 128,550 to 167,505.

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In the course of carrying out the Five-Year Plan we obtained an annual increase of 17.5% in industrial output, whereas in Western Germany the increase in industrial output was 7.9% in 1951-52, 9.1% in 1952-53 and 11.6% in 1953-54.

The plan also envisaged that the volume of industrial output in 1954 would be 69.7% above the 1950 figure; in fact the increase was 76.2%.

The Five-Year Plan called for capital investments to the sum of 23,114.5 million marks. In fact capital investments, including those in the 1955 plan, amounted to 23,594.6 million marks, or approximately 480 million marks more than was originally envisaged.

For the Safeguarding of Peace and the Reunification of Germany

The tenth anniversary of the liberation of the German people from fascist bondage finds Germany split into two parts as a result of the arbitrary actions of the rulers of the U.S.A. and Great Britain, aided by the West German monopolists. The conclusion of the Paris military agreements places the German people in the gravest peril.

In these circumstances we express our profound gratitude to the peoples of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Government for the immense and generous assistance they have given the democratic forces of the German people in the building up of their economy and in the struggle for their vital national interests.

Peace can be assured in Europe and the national problems of the German people solved, only on condition that there is close friendship with the Soviet Union, for the latter is precisely the great power that is interested in the peaceful settlement of the German question and is working consistently for the national independence of Germany as a united, peace-loving and democratic state.

Ratification of the Paris agreements places a still greater responsibility upon the German working class, upon the German people, for the preservation of peace in Europe. Only by the united action of the working class and the unity of all opponents of the Paris agreements, a union such as that achieved in the movement for the German Manifesto, can changes be secured in the Bonn Government's policy and the carrying out of the Paris agreements prevented. Those agreements must be annulled so as to pave the way for the reunification of Germany. The German people have no need of the militarist North Atlantic pact.

A collective security treaty for all the European countries would ensure prolonged peaceful development in Europe. It is therefore a highly essential task to actively encourage every effort in Western Germany to give a new orientation to the working class, and for all peace-loving forces to conduct a consistent struggle against the Paris agreements and the resurrection of West German militarism.

The success of the struggle for the regeneration of Germany as a united, peace-loving and democratic state depends primarily upon the further progress of the

and amounts to 123.1% of the Five-Year Plan target. The share of the necessary field work (not counting work done on the publicly-owned estates) performed with the aid of the MTS increased from 7.9% in 1951 to 37.6% in 1955.

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The working people in one-third of Germany have been outstandingly successful in their efforts to build a new life, because the leading party—the Socialist Unity Party of Germany—takes as its guide the most advanced teaching, the teaching of Marxism-Leninism.

This successful socialist construction is largely due solely to the fact that the German Democratic Republic has the benefit of the experience and the fraternal assistance of the Soviet Union.

As a result of the victory of Socialism in the Soviet Union and the formation of a camp of socialist and democratic states, new relations marked by friendly co-operation and mutual assistance have developed among the countries and peoples of this camp. Now it is becoming possible to co-ordinate the long-range plans of economic development of all the countries of the socialist camp.

German Democratic Republic—the only sovereign German state. The carrying out of the Five-Year Plan, the further development of democratic life, technical progress, the development of science and art and the further improvement of the material and cultural standards of the people demonstrate to the working class and all other working people of Western Germany that people's power brings with it a better life for them.

The preservation of peace depends in great measure upon the further consolidation of workers' and peasants' power in the German Democratic Republic, upon the economic advance of the GDR and ensuring its military defence. The patriotic unity and the success the people in the GDR have achieved in building a new life, and also the assurance that the working people, and especially the youth, know how to handle arms, will stimulate the struggle of the working class and all fighters for peace in Western Germany. The citizens of the German Democratic Republic acclaim the fact that the countries in the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism, which took part in the Moscow Conference, are responding to the ratification of the Paris military agreements with effective joint measures. The German Democratic Republic will fulfil all the obligations arising from this co-operation.

Having proved themselves able to establish the power of the workers and peasants and found a new state, having proved able to fulfil the Five-Year Plan, the working people must now master advanced technique and science and learn to apply to economic management the socialist principles set forth in the resolutions of the Fourth Congress of the SUPG and of the 21st and 23rd meetings of the SUPG Central Committee. This is at the same time an important preliminary to the second Five-Year Plan.

The German Democratic Republic and the National Front of Democratic Germany have achieved considerable success under the leadership of the SUPG. Their further success depends above all upon the constant education of the people, upon the deepening of their patriotic convictions, upon the improvement of their professional knowledge, and upon the loyalty of all citizens of the German Democratic Republic to the great cause of peace, democracy and Socialism.

STANDARD-BEARERS OF A NEW LIFE

An incident I once observed remains fresh in my memory. Scenes from the film "Silent Barricade", picturing the arrival of Soviet tanks in Prague, were being shot on Barrikadni Bridge, before a crowd of some hundreds of spectators. Heavy fire had reduced the barricade across the bridge to wreckage. Suddenly the loud rumble of tanks was heard from beyond the bend and the first T-34, a flag flying from its turret, shot into view and on across the bridge. Tears welled up in the eyes of most of the onlookers—tears of heartfelt joy, real, honest tears.

"But why cry, it's only a film!" exclaimed the film workers.

"Yes, this is only a film... But that time when they really did come... that's something that can never be forgotten", the spectators replied with feeling.

From time to time I have asked mothers from among the working class and the working intelligentsia which was the happiest day in their lives. Pausing only briefly to review the events of their personal lives, nearly all of them replied emphatically:

"The day the Russians came."
"The day freedom came."

I think that day will certainly remain the most memorable in the lives of us all, a day of joy, glory and happiness, one that left a deep impression in our hearts and minds.

Today, after ten years of the new life, years in which we have soared like birds to greater and greater heights and have seen more changes than sometimes take place in the course of centuries, it is already hard to bring back to mind the dreadful days of occupation, filled on the one hand with ruthless, savage terror and on the other with underground, self-sacrificing and indomitable struggle against the fascists. At times people had nothing but their deep, passionate faith in the Soviet Union, a faith that rose above death, blazing as irrepressibly as life itself. Sustained by this faith, people held their heads higher and bravely looked their fascist torturers in the face; it gave them strength in the grimmest moments of the struggle. And when on May 9, 1945, the first Soviet tanks rumbled at daybreak through the suburbs of Prague, the hope that had been close to the hearts of hundreds of thousands of sincere patriots for many long years came true.

I think our Soviet liberators were keenly aware of the strength of that faith and the intensity of our joy in those unforgettable moments when we in Prague were first able to look upon their faces. From the turrets of their tanks they saw that those who came running to them from every direction were welcoming them not only with the flowers they carried, but with their hearts as well. Never in all its thousand years of history can Prague have welcomed anyone with such a brimming heart, with such unanimously sincere raptures of delight as it welcomed those simple heroes in faded tunics who at the most crucial hour saved Prague from destruction and brought our whole country a new life.

Never have our people fraternised with anyone so quickly and spontaneously, so wholeheartedly and enduringly as with the

candid, serious face of a Soviet soldier, sometimes a youngster, sometimes an older man, with the unforgettable clear eyes of the Russian. If I asked who it was I would be told:

"That's our Sasha", or "our Grisha".

And this would be said in the tone generally reserved for speaking of a son or a brother. Each one of us who came to know the Soviet soldier ten years ago warmly cherishes a beloved and unforgettable image of the champion of freedom, the simple hero who springs from the people and is the personification of humanity.

I have been to scores of our towns and many hundreds of our villages. In every corner of our Republic people try to honour in some way the memory of those days when the Red Army men came to us. The characteristic idea generally expressed in the monuments over the graves of the Soviet soldiers who fell in battle is that of a soldier holding a laughing child aloft or perched on his shoulder, or of a soldier holding a gun in one hand and in the other a bouquet of flowers with which he greets peace and the new life. He is the soldier of truth, the soldier of life, the soldier of humanity.

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When the Soviet Army came to us in the spring of 1945, bringing life and freedom with it, the overwhelming majority of our people welcomed it with love and hope. Closer knowledge strengthened that love. Our people came to realise that the Soviet soldiers were men from a different, a new world, where other, pure relations prevail among people, where the old egoistic morality has been swept away and men no longer prey upon each other like wolves. High principles, supreme devotion to the great cause of Communism, conscious discipline bound up with sincere comradely relations, respect of man for man, readiness to lend a helping hand

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Jan Drda
Czechoslovak Writer

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whenever necessary—these are the traits characteristic of the conduct of the Soviet soldier; together with his selflessness and honesty, they made a deep impression on our villagers.

The reactionary bourgeoisie very soon realised how dangerous for them was this deep mutual understanding and friendship between the Czech and Slovak people on the one hand and the Soviet soldiers on the other. To counter it they released a filthy stream of lies and slanders, insults and attacks against the Soviet Army.

But they were powerless in face of this mutual trust and love. People had seen with their own eyes just what the Soviet soldiers were like. From the very first they became known for their good nature and unselfishness, for the vital force of life in them and their unaffected cheerfulness; now nothing could tear the Red Army men from the place they had won in the hearts of our people. The very fact that millions of our ordinary men and women in town and country saw the Soviet soldiers with their own eyes and got to know them personally helped to strengthen their love and respect for the Soviet Union, brought it closer to those who previously had read or heard very little about this country or had heard only the vicious enemy propaganda.

From the very first the Soviet soldiers won high respect among our people and the thousands of small daily incidents in which they displayed their intelligence, their sense of justice, their hatred of untruth, their eagerness to correct errors continually reinforced their prestige. They were distinguished for their broad political outlook, their calm confidence, their ability to express their point of view very clearly. All this won over the mistrustful, the land-hungry peasants who like to mull everything over in their minds. How could one forget the thousands of discussions, some brief but fundamental, others rather

more lengthy, that went on in the summer of 1945 on every village square, in front of every other cottage! These were concerned not merely with battles and campaigns. Czechs and Slovaks came with urgent problems, with queries as to how the Soviet people lived, how Soviet society was organised, how people worked in the Soviet countryside. The discussions touched on social problems of vital interest to our people, on the question of estates and landlords, the question of the landless peasants, the question of organising labour in a more fruitful way, the question of agrarian reform. What they heard from the Soviet soldiers opened up a new world and new prospects to our people.

Once—that was before February 1948—I got talking with one of those utterly loyal village comrades who was already bravely fighting against the fraudulent activities of the kulaks.

"I never went to school", he frankly admitted. "But the seven months that Soviet soldiers were stationed in our village were as good as a university to me."

For our people the Soviet soldiers were the teachers of a new way of life. In the person of the Soviet soldier, the Czech villager, who through the centuries of oppression had been inculcated with a spirit of distrustful egoism, found himself confronted by another villager, one who had, however, long since become a large-scale collective farmer and whose experience related not to two or three hectares but to many hundreds of hectares of cultivated land. He came face to face with a man already accustomed to think in altogether different terms, who was not hopelessly bound to the land as a slave but was its true master, who spoke of the wealth brought by collective-farm livestock breeding and of outstanding crop farmers with genuine pride. What they learned from these talks swept away people's conservatism and their old views, and showed them a new way. The thought of what was to be done if the people's sacrifices in the struggle against the fascist invaders were not to be in vain, the thought that life had to be organised on a new footing, took deep hold. So while the bourgeoisie were racking their brains to find a way of destroying the new-won freedom of our people, of robbing them of their revolutionary rights and divorcing our peoples from the Soviet peoples, the seeds of the events of February 1948 were ripening in the hearts and minds of the Czechoslovak people.

Today we recall with love and warmth those who ten years ago opened the doors to a new life for us. The Czechoslovak people have not lost the gift of freedom they received from the hands of their Soviet brothers who had hallowed it with their blood. Our cities and villages—to which the rapidly advancing Soviet soldiers came ten years ago, risking their lives that we might live in freedom—are no longer the property of the exploiters, they have become strongholds of the people's power and freedom. In the course of these ten years Czechoslovakia has grown to be the true homeland of the working people, the homeland of happy children.

Today there is no power on earth that can compel the Czechoslovak people to turn aside from the path they have chosen, to give up all the great and new achievements

POLITICAL NOTES

1. Drums Beat in Bonn...

If one were to glance through some of the newspapers in the Western countries for about two months back, one would find no little mention of Anglo-American "guarantees" against the resurgence of West German revanchism and of the "controls" the Paris agreements allegedly provided to keep the Bonn militarists in check. Anxious to get the agreements through the parliaments at any cost, the Western rulers sought to lull the vigilance of the peoples with fables about "guarantees" and "controls".

"New times, new songs", says the proverb. Now that the heated parliamentary debates are over, all mention of "guarantees" and "controls" has disappeared. Instead there are endless assurances that the creation of the West German Wehrmacht is a matter of the distant future.

What is the real state of affairs? The facts show that the Bonn militarists and their transatlantic patrons have no intention whatsoever of postponing for any appreciable length of time the creation of a new Wehrmacht. As a matter of fact, the militarisation of Western Germany was actually commenced by them several years ago, under various guises. More recently they have been engaged in feverish attempts to complete in a brief space of time Western Germany's conversion into a military camp. France and Britain are already confronted with the fact that the West German revenge-seekers have been given an absolutely free hand. Drums are beating in Bonn...

Herr Brentano, one of Adenauer's closest assistants, declared recently: "There will be no inactive period between the ratification of the agreements and the moment they are put into force." Just what he had in mind may be judged from the course of events in the Rhineland-Pfalz area. For the past several years big army stores, firing grounds and airfields have been under construction there. These are now being considerably extended and many new installations built. More and more plots of land are being taken from the peasants and handed over for the use of the war office. Already more than 84,000 acres have been confiscated—very nearly double the area the Hitler Wehrmacht formations occupied here in their time.

For several weeks now committees of the Blank Office—Bonn's virtual war ministry—have been exhaustively reconnoitering towns and villages in search of convenient sites for the projected 120 Wehrmacht garrisons. For this purpose all the sites where Hitler's Wehrmacht was formerly stationed are being converted again into military settlements, and in addition, some 500 new barracks are to be built. Construction of a wide network of motor roads is under way. The new roads

are distinctly strategic in character—having, in the main, been designed during the Nazi regime.

Military supplies are being hastily accumulated. The French magazine *l'Usine nouvelle* reports that the United States has decided shortly to hand over to Western Germany the armaments it had begun storing for her in its dumps in Western Europe as early as 1953.

The Blank Office is especially engaged in the search for cannon fodder. For instance in the period of July-September 1954 it had already spent more than 300,000 marks merely in drawing up and distributing recruiting forms for the Wehrmacht!

All this is going on in a frenzied atmosphere of war hysteria and unbridled revengeful propaganda. Numerous unions and societies of Nazi veterans have recently become very active. At their meetings and rallies, now increasingly frequent, blustering revenge-seeking speeches are made, Nazi songs are sung and the "exploits" of the Hitler war criminals are extolled.

There is nothing surprising about this, for the former generals of the fascist army are now highly esteemed in Bonn ruling circles. General Manteuffel, for instance, whose Panzer divisions laid waste towns and villages on both the Eastern and Western fronts, is now mentioned as probable state secretary in the war ministry. Von Manstein, who was one of Hitler's leading war strategists, is once again drawing up plans for a "crusade against the East", while none other than Heusinger, former Chief of the Operations Department on Hitler's General Staff, flourishes as Adenauer's military adviser.

The rulers of the West European powers, however, pretend that their putting arms into the hands of war criminals—who are stained with the blood of the peoples of Europe is a matter of no great moment! Are they not perhaps suffering from loss of memory?

Speaking of memories, the official ceremony of Western Germany's admission to NATO has been set for May 9, that is, precisely the tenth anniversary of the defeat of the Hitler Wehrmacht.

In other words, the rulers of the Western countries have chosen the day of victory over fascism for fraternising with the West German militarists. Well, that's just one more indication of their anti-popular schemes. The peace-loving forces have constantly been giving warning of the danger inherent in the Paris agreements which give a free hand to the Bonn revenge-seekers. The fact that revanchism and militarism are now being boosted in Western Germany confirms the soundness of those warnings.

2. American "Historians" Perpetrate a Fraud

A short time ago ninth-grade pupils in many U.S. schools learned with astonishment that the history textbook they were using had been put on the proscribed list by the authorities and was to be withdrawn at once. They were required to provide themselves with a new edition of *Story of Nations* by Rogers, Adams and Brown, which has been hastily published.

The old edition stated: "Americans admired the courage and endurance which enabled the Russians finally to sweep out of their country the mechanised German armies which had invaded Russia expecting quick victory." It might be added that all freedom-loving peoples shared this admiration.

The hope that had been close to the hearts of hundreds of thousands of sincere patriots for many long years came true. I think our Soviet liberators were keenly aware of the strength of that faith and the intensity of our joy in those unforgettable moments when we in Prague were first able to look upon their faces. From the turrets of their tanks they saw that those who came running to them from every direction were welcoming them not only with their hearts as well. Never in all its thousand years of history can Prague have welcomed anyone with such a brimming heart, with such unreservedly sincere raptures of delight as it welcomed those simple heroes in faded tunics who at the most crucial hour saved Prague from destruction and brought our whole country a new life.

Never have our people fraternised with anyone so quickly and spontaneously, so wholeheartedly and enduringly as with the Soviet soldiers. We first saw them in the morning, dashing through the streets and with sure blows driving out the enemy; in the evening thousands of ordinary people of Prague received them in their homes as welcome guests, and more, as dearly beloved relatives, as brothers or sons coming home after years away at war. So it was in Prague, and so it was in the villages as well.

Often, on the walls of cottages in Southern Czechia, I have seen among the family photographs and portraits the

CLOSURE OF SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN IN HUNGARY

"Peace Week" in Lebanon

As the All-Hungary Peace Council reports, the signature campaign to the Vienna Appeal has come to a close in the country. 7,146,480 people have signed, more than in the campaign around the Stockholm Appeal. The results of the campaign demonstrate, said Erzebet Andics, Chairman of the All-Hungary Peace Council, that every peace-loving man and woman in Hungary demands that the weapons of mass extermination be banned.

Professor Woodruff of Melbourne University, former President of the United Nations Association, speaking at a meeting of the Victoria Peace Council, said: "We should ask the Government to foster peace conferences, so that we can get to know one another better."

The Vienna Appeal has received the unanimous support of the Federal Conference of Housing in Western Australia; Chamberlain, the Dean of Perth; Graham, Minister of Theatre personalities; the Reverend John Bell, Symbiethese Liberation Army (New South Wales), and Lewis Casson, famous among the early signatories were Dame April 27, the workers of 12 local trade unions of 25,000 textile workers is continuing. On the same pattern. For instance, the 1945 edition said: "Russian writers, musicians and scientists have marked the path of progress." One would think that nothing could be said against this well-known fact which has been recognised by the whole world. But the falsifiers of history found it by a crude, scurrilous defamatory of Soviet literature, science and art.

JAPANESE WOMEN OPPOSE ATOMIC WAR PREPARATIONS

More than one thousand women from various mass organisations met in Sapporo (Hokkaido) and passed a resolution calling on Japanese women to take an active part in the protest movement against the atomic war preparations and to sign the Vienna Appeal.

Australian Public Approves the Vienna Appeal

At the beginning of April the Australian Peace Council launched its campaign for signatures to the Vienna Appeal. Among the prominent personalities supporting the Appeal are Professor Walter Murdoch, Associate Professor G. B. Mohr, A. McNolly, Federal Secretary of the Sheet Metal Workers' Union, about 130 ministers of religion of different denominations in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, and other personalities.

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Atomic Energy Must Serve Peace

The campaign to collect signatures to the Vienna Appeal is well under way in Norway. Among those who have signed are Juchan Borgen and Peter Egge, writers; Henrik Finne, artist; Ragnar Forbekk, Chaplain of Oslo Cathedral; Ellen Gleditsch, professor; Inger Hagerup, woman poet; Kirsten Hanstuen, editor; Russenquist, Doctor of Philosophy, and many others.

The progressive youth of Oslo is engaged in door-to-door canvassing for signatures. Everywhere canvassers had a good reception. At the end of a crowded meeting for collecting signatures in Trondheim, many of those present signed the Appeal.



STRIKE MOVEMENT IN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES

According to the incomplete and obviously understated figures of the Department of Labor last year there were 3,468 strikes in the U.S.A. with an average duration of 22.5 days, which resulted in a loss of 22,600,000 man-days of labour.

The railwaymen of the seven lines owned by the Louisville Co. are stubbornly fighting for their demands. As is pointed out in the press, such a protracted strike on the railroads has not occurred since 1922.

Large-scale strikes are also taking place in other states. In New England, the strike against existing wage scales.

Over 300 workers at one of the factories of the Plessey Co. Ltd. in Rotherham (Yorkshire) stopped work for half a day, protesting against the persecution of active trade unionists.

In the second half of April a general strike took place in Trieste. Those taking part demanded that the Italian Government take action to normalise the economic life of the city. In response to an appeal from the committee co-ordinating the struggle of the working people, 13,000 small and medium enterprises in the city stopped work. In accordance with a decision of the Italian General Confederation of Labour (Confederazione di Lavoro) affiliated to the 6,000 shipbuilding workers also joined in the strike.

2. American "Historians" Perpetrate a Fraud

The old edition stated: "Americans admitted the courage and endurance which enabled the Russians finally to sweep out of their country the mechanised German armies which had invaded Russia expecting a quick victory." It might be added that all freedom-loving peoples shared this admiration with the Americans, for the heroic feat of the Soviet army men will be remembered through the ages. But in the U.S. today it is dangerous to speak of this. After all, it is none other than the American monopolists who are once again arming Hitler's defeated generals. And so these lines were, of course, crossed out, too, and in their place there appeared a vile slander against profanation of the memory of the Soviet people.

Every favourable reference to the people of Czechoslovakia and Poland has also disappeared from the book. Unblushingly spouting on their spiritual predecessors, the German racists, the American falsifiers of history contemptuously term these peoples interior and passive.

Many more such examples could be cited, all indicating the intent of the authors, who obey Wall Street's orders under any circumstances, at the price of shameful forgery or falsification, to sow enmity towards the Soviet people among ordinary Americans relating to the great liberating role played by the Soviet Union in the second world war and its consistent fight for peace.

This discreditable story of American war and its consistent fight for peace, more than gold fears rust.

Atomic Energy Must Serve Peace

In addition, the Painters' Trade Union in Oslo recently decided to urge the Storting to take action for a ban on atomic weapons and other means of mass destruction. The same demand has been adopted by the workers of the "Oslo sveisebedrift" enterprise. At their meeting a resolution was passed and sent to the Storting which read in part: "We wish to emphasise that the use of atomic weapons in any shape and at any time is a crime in the eyes of all countries. We hold that the Storting, elected by the people, must join us in this estimation and thus make its contribution to the effort to ensure the use of atomic energy for the joy of people, not for their sorrow or fear."

Land of Poverty and Disease

According to South Korean press reports, over 1,300,000 South Koreans are suffering from tuberculosis, more than 500,000 of them being seriously ill and urgently in need of medical treatment. Some 300 people die of this disease every day. The country has over 100,000 lepers; 85% of Seoul's students and pupils are suffering from various diseases. The average life expectancy of the population has dropped of late by four years.

Poverty, hunger, horrible diseases and the dying-out of the population are results of the criminal rule of the Syngman Rhee clique which has turned South Korea into a domain of the American military.

Facts Expose...

Another American Record

As the FBI recently reported, 1954 was a record year for crime in the United States. Every 13.9 seconds another grave crime was committed. The daily average was 34 murders, 256 wounds from fire-arms or knives and 49 cases of rape. Crime has been mounting in the U.S. now for seven years, the number of serious crimes increasing nearly four times as fast as the population.

Of course, the FBI says nothing about this being the inevitable result of the "American way of life" of which war hysteria, atom mania, gangster literature and Hollywood films are typical phenomena.

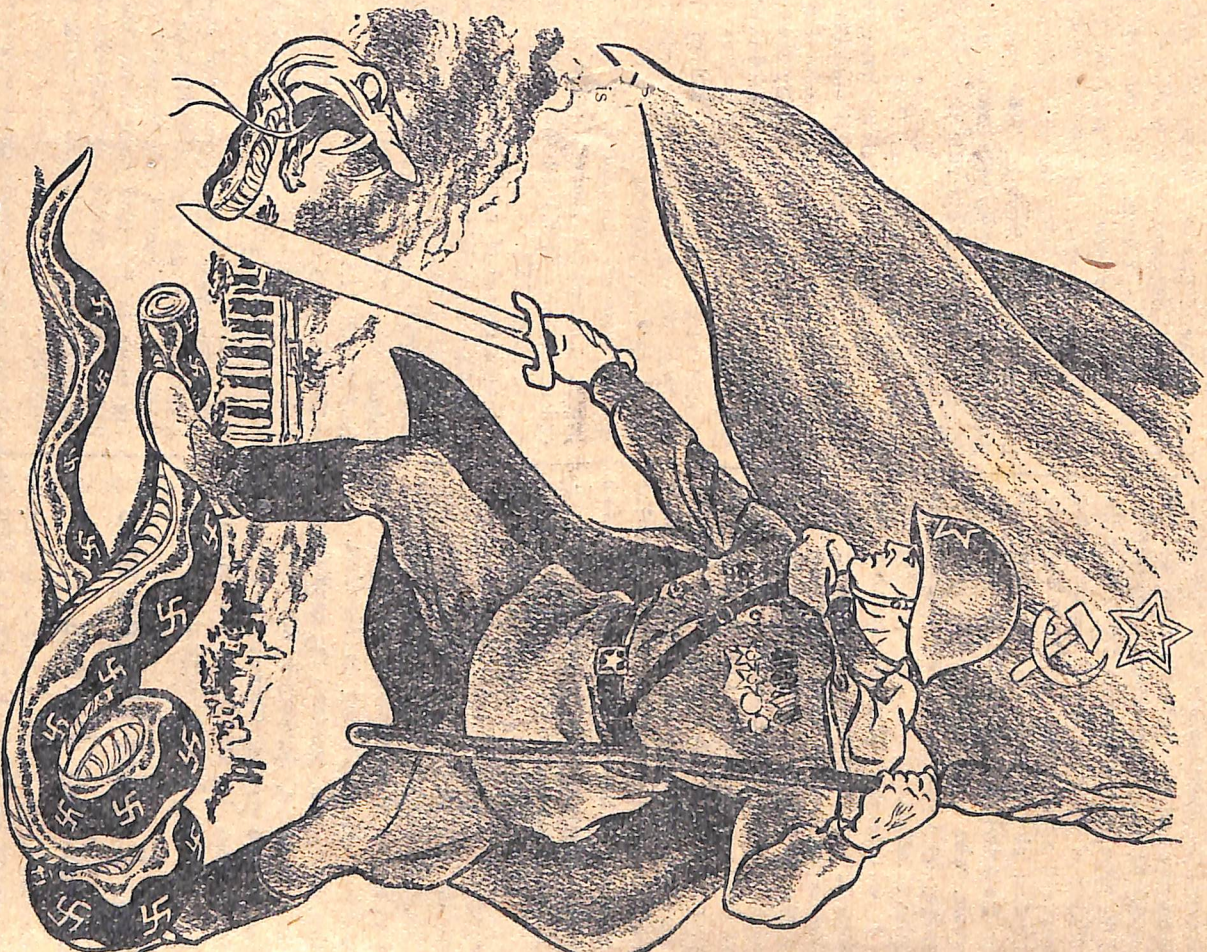
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GREAT DEED OF THE SOVIET SOLDIER

Drawing by J. Novak