

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

Bucharest. Organ of the Information Bureau of the Communist and Workers' Parties

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 1955

PRICE 3d (8 cents)

No. 26 (347)

THE PEOPLES ARE FULLY DETERMINED TO UPHOLD PEACE

The work of the World Peace Assembly, which ended on June 29, was followed with keen interest and hope by all peace-loving mankind. It was a momentous event in the life of the peoples, marking a new stage in their great battle for lasting peace and the security of all countries of the world. The Assembly displayed a spirit of mutual understanding and friendship and unbreakable unity on the fundamental question of the day—that of preventing war and safeguarding peace.

The Assembly unanimously adopted a document of historic significance—the Helsinki Appeal—which expresses the thoughts, feelings and aspirations of all honest people in the world. The Appeal emphasizes the indisputable fact, a sign of the times, that world public opinion has rebelled against the policy of force, military blocs, the armament race and the dread danger of atomic war. Shortly, for the first time in ten years, the heads of the Four Great Powers will meet. The World Peace Assembly, which brought together representatives from 68 countries, engendered confidence that agreement can be reached on a number of important questions, despite profound contradictions and divergent viewpoints, and that many problems can even today be solved through negotiation.

The World Peace Assembly and the decisions it has taken are proof of the continued broad development of the peoples' struggle for peace. The active preparations for the Assembly, its composition and the wide response its work aroused in all countries and among all strata of society, show that a powerful force of attraction the idea of upholding peace now possesses, how deeply the peace movement has influenced the vast masses of the people and what varied sections of society have been drawn into it.

As many as 1,841 delegates from 68 countries went to the Assembly. They spoke dozens of languages and represented the public opinion of their countries in all its diversity. However, despite differences in political and religious views, they were agreed upon one fundamental question—the defence of peace and the prevention of war.

The agenda of the Assembly was settled by the delegates themselves. The Bureau of the World Peace Council merely proposed that the main subjects for discussion should be such pressing issues as disarmament,

Union, the Chinese People's Republic, India, Poland, Yugoslavia and a number of others, guarantees the peaceful coexistence of countries regardless of their social and state systems.

The Assembly coincided with the tenth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Organisation. The delegates noted that Uno had acquired a definite place in international life, and that its activity had its positive aspects. The consideration by Uno of certain international problems connected with the maintenance of peace and security had assisted in mobilising public opinion for the struggle against the threat of a new war. At the same time, however, Uno had to a great extent failed to justify the hopes placed upon it by the peoples.

An appeal to Uno on the occasion of its tenth anniversary was adopted by the Assembly, declaring that Uno should be faithful to its Charter and the principle of unanimity among the great powers, which guarantees the effectiveness of the organisation. The Assembly also declared that the Chinese People's Republic should take its rightful place in Uno. In fact, this unlawful situation, in which a great power with a population of 600 million was not represented in the UN General Assembly and the Security Council, should no longer be tolerated. The requests of other countries that had applied for admission to Uno should also be satisfied. Uno should ensure agreement on the question of disarmament and the prohibition of atomic weapons, and establish fruitful co-operation among all countries.

Many delegates noted in their speeches the consistency, tenacity and staunchness with which the Soviet Union, the Chinese People's Republic and all the people's-democratic countries pursue their foreign policy of peace. In its policy the Soviet Union has always implemented the fundamental principles of Uno, it has always fought for peaceful co-operation among all countries, to relieve international tension and strengthen peace.

The Soviet Union recently undertook new steps designed to lessen international tension. The signing of the Austrian State Treaty, the normalisation of relations between the USSR and Yugoslavia, the strengthening of Soviet-Indian relations on the basis of the Joint Statement of N. A. Bul-

A P P E A L of the World Peace Assembly

For the first time in ten years, thanks to the efforts of public opinion, in a divided world, the heads of the Four Great Powers are going to meet. On them rest the hopes of mankind. Their first duty will be to overcome mutual distrust.

The World Peace Assembly, which has brought together representatives of 68 countries, has engendered confidence that, despite deep differences and diversity of opinion, agreement can be reached on a number of important points and that even today a great number of problems can be solved through negotiation.

World public opinion has rebelled against the policy of force, military blocs, the armaments race and the dread danger of atomic war. The Geneva Agreements, the ending of the war in Indo-China, the Bandung Conference, the neutrality of Austria, sealed by treaty, the Belgrade Declaration—all these are fruits of the awakening of public opinion, which has found expression in the attitude of the governments.

On the problem of disarmament and atomic weapons, which up till now has remained unresolved owing to insuperable contradictions, the points of view have drawn so close together that agreement is now only a matter of good will.

On the problem of security, the principles adopted by the Bandung Conference have proved that throughout an entire continent peaceful co-operation among countries with different social systems can be founded on concepts such as those proclaimed by China and India.

The Helsinki Assembly has shown that if the Four-Power Conference takes public opinion into account, it will mark the first stage in the building of a Europe in which security will be guaranteed to all European states and they will embark on close economic and cultural co-operation. Such a process is linked with the reunification of a Germany which is outside any military coalition, a Germany made secure against the rebirth of militarism.

In the same spirit the Four-Power Conference should prepare, through negotiation, the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Chinese island of Taiwan (Formosa). The Conference should see to it that there is strict observance of the Geneva Agreements on Indo-China. It should make it possible for the United Nations Organisation to take on a genuinely universal character by admitting to membership the People's Republic of China.

But there are still forces which are in favour of the cold war, and they work against a rapprochement of the Four Powers. The Helsinki Assembly appeals to public opinion in all countries to oppose these forces and to support the participants in the negotiations.

The cause of peace will at last be crowned with success if the forces of peace, which have one and the same aim—and in particular the varied movements for peace and the big Christian and Social Democratic political organisations—unite their efforts in order to dispel distrust and uphold peace.

Step by step international contradictions can be resolved and then will the hopes of the peoples be fulfilled.

The World Peace Assembly Concludes its Work

The World Peace Assembly, convened at the initiative of the World Peace Council, met in Helsinki from June 22 to 29. It was attended by 1,841 delegates from 68 countries—men and women of all races and nationalities. It was addressed by prominent fighters for peace, statesmen and public figures, distinguished scientists, men of letters and the arts, representatives of various international organisations. Broad social strata and a large variety of political trends were represented.

Edouard Herriot was elected Honorary Chairman of the Assembly.

In the course of a free exchange of views the delegates examined the major problems of the present international situation and put forward suggestions and recommendations for safeguarding world peace. These discussions took place in plenary meetings and in meetings of the committees and sub-committees set up by the Assembly.

On June 24 the Assembly adopted a message of greeting to the United Nations Organisation on its tenth anniversary.

On June 29 the Assembly held its con-

reports setting forth their common conclusions. The first of them was unanimously agreed upon the necessity of carrying on propaganda in all countries against military blocs. These jeopardise peace and the security of the nations and run counter to the UN Charter. The sub-committee on European security considered it necessary that the foundations for general collective security in Europe be laid in accordance with the principles set forth in Bandung and then in the Belgrade talks. It was also of one mind on the need for the reunification of Germany. The sub-committee on security in Asia favoured the granting to the Chinese People's Republic of its rightful place in Uno, the restoration to it of Taiwan as an inseparable part of its territory, observance of the Geneva Agreements on the truce in Indo-China, the convocation of a conference of the countries concerned in the question of Korea, peaceful settlement of the problems of Goa, West Irian, etc.

The report for the committee on national sovereignty and peace was made by Saleh Akil (Syria), for the committee on economic and social problems by Josue de Castro (Brazil), for the committee on cultural ex-

certainly been differences of opinion, but these had been questions of secondary importance; on the basic questions of principle concerning the defence of peace and the prevention of war there had been no differences.

The Assembly had brought together representatives of different groups and beliefs. It was like a lovely garden filled with all manner of flowers. It is our hope, said Kuo Mo-jo, that this garden will thrive uninterruptedly and that an ever-greater variety of flowers will bloom in it. The Assembly had met at a very important moment. Although there was a tendency towards some relaxation of international tension, yet the arms drive, dissension and differences, racial discrimination and especially the danger of atomic war had by no means been removed as yet.

Kuo Mo-jo emphasized that peaceable peoples all over the world were giving clear expression to their universal desire for the further relaxation of tension and were exerting every effort to achieve their aim.

"We place the greatest hope in the Four-Power Conference", continued Kuo Mo-jo.

From the Soviet Peace Committee

In accordance with the decision of the Plenum of the Soviet Peace Committee, a campaign has been conducted in the USSR to collect signatures for the World Peace Council's Appeal against atomic war preparations.

The campaign took place amid a great upsurge of political and labour activity. During its course hundreds of thousands of meetings were held in factories and mills, collective farms, educational establishments and offices. In all, the Appeal was signed by 123,543,604 Soviet citizens, a far greater number than signed the Stockholm Appeal and the Appeal of the World Peace Council for the conclusion of a Pact of Peace by the Five Great Powers.

This campaign vividly demonstrated how closely the Soviet people are rallied around their Government and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. At campaign meetings the Soviet people declared their unanimous support for all the foreign policy measures taken by the Soviet Government in the interest of easing international tension. The Soviet people's desire for peace found vivid expression in the mandate which was given by the fifth USSR Peace Conference to the Soviet delegates to the Helsinki Peace Assembly.

The Soviet people understand and sympathise with the desire of all the ordinary men and women in the world to avert the outbreak of another war and secure the peaceful coexistence of states with different social and political systems. In the course of the campaign, Soviet citizens reaffirmed their determination to continue to co-operate with all peace forces in every country so as to achieve these great ideals.

The results of the campaign bear witness to the ardent support of all Soviet working people for the World Peace Council's Appeal and their firm determination to prevent atomic war and to work for the relaxation of international tension.

Fiftieth Anniversary of the "Potemkin" Revolt

Fifty years ago, on June 27, 1905, a revolt broke out on the battleship "Potemkin". That revolt was an outstanding event

The Soviet people understand and sympathize with the desire of all the ordinary men and women in the world to avert the outbreak of another war and secure the peaceful coexistence of states within different social and political systems. In the course of the campaign, Soviet citizens reaffirmed their determination to continue to co-operate with all peace forces in every country so as to achieve these great ideals. The results of the campaign bear witness to the ardent support of all Soviet working people for the World Peace Council's Appeal and their firm determination to prevent atomic war and to work for the relaxation of international tension.

Fiftieth Anniversary of the "Potemkin" Revolt

Fifty years ago, on June 27, 1905, a revolt broke out on the battleship "Potemkin". That revolt was an outstanding event of the first Russian Revolution of 1905-1907. The fact that it was the first instance of a major military force siding with the people against tsarism gave it immense historic significance. The great Lenin viewed it as an attempt to form the nucleus of a revolutionary army. The Soviet people have widely marked the fiftieth anniversary of this heroic event. Lectures, reports, talks and meetings have been held at factories and on collective farms, in Soviet institutions, in army and naval units. Special exhibitions have been arranged in houses of culture, clubs and libraries.

On June 27 the working people of Moscow met in the Hall of Columns of the Trade Union House with representatives of the Soviet Army and Navy to celebrate this memorable event. People who had taken part in the revolt were present. A lively atmosphere prevailed in Odessa and on the Odessa roadstead—the scene of the "Potemkin" revolt. The working people of the city organized collective visits to the Odessa roadstead on June 27, 1905. Excursions along the route taken by the "Potemkin" on June 27, 1905.

XIVth Congress of Italian Communist Youth Federation

The Italian Communist Youth Federation (ICYF) held its XIVth Congress in Milan on June 23-26, with 1,200 delegates and visitors attending. A report was made by the General Secretary of the ICYF, Enrico Berlinguer. He informed the Congress that the ICYF now has 437,000 members, organized in 97 provincial federations. The delegates hailed with great enthusiasm the greetings received from Comrade Togliatti. "You, the young Communists, wrote Comrade Togliatti, are the pride of our Party. In our work and our struggle our thoughts are turned to you and the younger generation which you represent and for which we want a better world, a socialist world." At the conclusion of the Congress a major speech was made by the Deputy General Secretary of the Italian Communist Party, Comrade Luigi Longo. Comrade Enrico Berlinguer was re-elected General Secretary of the ICYF.

certainly been differences of opinion, but these had been questions of secondary importance; on the basic questions of principle concerning the defence of peace and the prevention of war there had been no differences.

The Assembly had brought together representatives of different groups and beliefs. It was like a lovely garden filled with all manner of flowers. It is our hope, said Kuo Mo-jo, that this garden will bear fruit abundantly and that an ever-greater variety of flowers will bloom in it. The Assembly had met at a very important moment. Although there was a tendency towards some relaxation of international tension, yet the arms race was a danger and especially the danger of discrimination and racial differences, racial divergence, dissemination and the danger of Indo-China, the convocation of a conference of the countries concerned in the question of Korea, peaceful settlement of the problems of Goa, West Irian, etc.

The report for the committee on national sovereignty and peace was made by Salah Akl (Syria), for the committee on economic and social problems by Josue de Castro (Brazil), for the committee on cultural exchange by Leonida Repaci (Italy), for the committee on education and the youth by Mrs. Ryerson (Canada), for the committee on co-operation and the activity of peace forces by Ambrogio Donini (Italy).

All the reports were approved amidst the applause of the delegates to the Assembly. Kuo Mo-jo, who presided at the session, announced that all the suggestions, decisions and recommendations of the committee were accepted and would be widely publicized in all countries. Emmanuel d'Astier de la Vigerie (France) read out the text of the Appeal of the World Peace Assembly, after which a recorded vote was taken. The Appeal was adopted by 1,492 votes out of a total of 1,493, that is, with only one abstention. Six delegates took no part in the voting. Prolonged and tumultuous applause greeted the announcement of these results. The delegates rose and with a prolonged ovation and cries of "Long live peace!" in all languages greeted the unanimity of this broad assembly of men and women, all starting the desire to bar the path to war.

The concluding speech was made by Kuo Mo-jo. As a result of an eight-day discussion of major international problems, he observed, the participants in the Assembly had reached a great unanimity. Herein lay the great success of the Assembly. On some questions, Kuo Mo-jo continued, there had been differences of opinion, but these had been questions of secondary importance, but the prevention of war there had been no differences.

JOINT STATEMENT by J. Cyrankiewicz, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Poland, and Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India

Relations between Poland and India have been and continue to be friendly and there are no issues or questions in dispute between them. The two countries recently concluded a trade agreement which promotes the development of mutual trade relations. Both Prime Ministers express the hope that these relations will continue to develop in the mutual interests of their two countries and that there will be further contacts and co-operation between them in the economic and cultural fields. In their relations, both Prime Ministers fully support, accept and will be guided by the five principles already adopted by a number of countries. These principles are: (1) Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty; (2) Non-interference in each other's internal affairs for any reason whatever; (3) Non-interference in the relations between their two countries and thus serve the cause of world peace.

The World Peace Assembly, convened at the initiative of the World Peace Council, met in Helsinki from June 22 to 29. It was attended by 1,841 delegates from 68 countries—men and women of all races and nationalities. It was addressed by prominent figures for peace, statesmen and public leaders, distinguished scientists, men of letters and the arts, representatives of various international organizations. Broad sessions took place in plenary meetings and in meetings of the committee and sub-committees set up by the Assembly.

On June 24 the Assembly adopted a message of greeting to the United Nations Organisation on its tenth anniversary. On June 29 the Assembly held its concluding sitting, at which V. Melit, Chairman of the organization of Peace Partisans in Finland again greeted the delegates on behalf of Finland's peace supporters. Then the chairman of the seven committees formed by the Assembly reported back to it on the results of their work and the decisions they had reached. Speaking for the disarmament and atomic weapons committee, Meghnad Saha (India), reported that 52 speakers took part in the free discussions held during the meetings of the committee and its sub-committees. They all had the opportunity to state their point of view, and although opinions sometimes differed, the committee was able to reach agreement on decisions. For instance, it unanimously resolved that it was necessary to secure a ban on atomic weapons and the destruction of existing stockpiles, and also to ensure the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. It proposed that August 6, the day the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, be designated a day of struggle against atomic weapons, and that efforts be made to have a conference on reduction of armaments convened.

He reported that the committee had appointed three sub-committees: on European security, the German problem; on security in Asia; and on questions relating to the United Nations Organisation and the preservation of peace. All three endorsed the service of peace. At the invitation of the Polish Government, Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, visited Poland. During his stay in Warsaw, Prime Minister Nehru had talks with the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic, and Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of the Republic of India. It reads:

On June 25, in Warsaw, a joint Statement was signed by Jozef Cyrankiewicz, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic, and Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of the Republic of India. It reads: At the invitation of the Polish Government, Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, visited Poland. During his stay in Warsaw, Prime Minister Nehru had talks with the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic, and Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of the Republic of India. It reads:

Relations between Poland and India have been and continue to be friendly and there are no issues or questions in dispute between them. The two countries recently concluded a trade agreement which promotes the development of mutual trade relations. Both Prime Ministers express the hope that these relations will continue to develop in the mutual interests of their two countries and that there will be further contacts and co-operation between them in the economic and cultural fields. In their relations, both Prime Ministers fully support, accept and will be guided by the five principles already adopted by a number of countries. These principles are: (1) Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty; (2) Non-interference in each other's internal affairs for any reason whatever; (3) Non-interference in the relations between their two countries and thus serve the cause of world peace.

To Comrade Wilhelm Pieck

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union cordially greets and congratulates you on your sixty years of revolutionary, public and political activity. The whole of your indefatigable and splendid political activity is an outstanding example of service in the cause of the working people, in the cause of peace, democracy and Socialism. In your person the working people of Germany and the international working-class movement have a loyal and consistent exponent of the ideas of Marxism-Leninism. The Soviet people know and love you as their sincere friend and a steadfast fighter for friendship and co-operation between the peoples of Germany and the Soviet Union. We wish you, dear Comrade Pieck, good health and further successes in your work for the good of the German people and the working people throughout the world.

tries that had applied for admission to the League of Nations and the League of Nations Council. The active preparations for the Assembly, its composition and the wide response its work aroused in all countries and among all strata of society, show what a powerful force of attraction the idea of upholding peace now possesses, how deeply masses of the people and what varied sections of society have been drawn into it.

As many as 1,841 delegates from 68 countries went to the Assembly. They spoke dozens of languages and represented the public opinion of their countries in all its diversity. However, despite differences in political and religious views, they were agreed upon one fundamental question—the defence of peace and the prevention of war. The agenda of the Assembly was settled by the delegates themselves. The Bureau of the World Peace Council merely proposed that the main subjects for discussion should be such pressing issues as disarmament, atomic weapons, military blocs, the security and co-operation of nations, independence and the preservation of peace. The Assembly was an expression of the widely representative character of the Council of the USSR, and J. Nehru, Prime Minister of India, and the Soviet proposal on the establishment of diplomatic, trade and cultural relations between the USSR and the German Federal Republic, are in their entirety designed to strengthen universal peace and the security of the peoples. The struggle of the Soviet people for the establishment of normal relations among states, the prohibition of atomic weapons, disarmament and the establishment of a European system of collective security, has a salutary influence on the entire international situation. Thousands of people from many countries of the world who have visited the USSR and seen for themselves the life of the Soviet people have become convinced at first hand of the profoundly peaceful aspirations and the sincere desire of the Soviet people to establish mutual understanding and friendship with all peoples; they have become convinced in practice that the notorious "Iron Curtain" is a malicious fabrication of the enemies of the Soviet Union.

The struggle for peace is the most vital question of the hour. Today there is no stronger, no more powerful desire among the peoples than that for peace, for establishing firm bonds of friendship, trust and co-operation among peoples. This can be achieved only through the stubborn and united struggle of all peace forces. Only a staunch and indefatigable battle of the masses against the intrigues of the aggressors can compel them to retreat. There is no doubt that the Assembly's decisions will be put into practice by the joint efforts of millions of people, inspired by the noble concept of preserving and strengthening peace, the peoples of all countries will fight unflinchingly against the criminal designs of the enemies of peace. The front of fighters for peace will meet with the understanding and support of broad international issues affecting both states. Among the problems discussed were those of Indo-China, where Poland and India are co-operating on international commissions, just as they formerly co-operated on the International Commission in Korea. The Prime Ministers welcome this co-operation between their two countries.

On June 25, in Warsaw, a joint Statement was signed by Jozef Cyrankiewicz, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic, and Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of the Republic of India. It reads: At the invitation of the Polish Government, Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, visited Poland. During his stay in Warsaw, Prime Minister Nehru had talks with the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic, and Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of the Republic of India. It reads:

Relations between Poland and India have been and continue to be friendly and there are no issues or questions in dispute between them. The two countries recently concluded a trade agreement which promotes the development of mutual trade relations. Both Prime Ministers express the hope that these relations will continue to develop in the mutual interests of their two countries and that there will be further contacts and co-operation between them in the economic and cultural fields. In their relations, both Prime Ministers fully support, accept and will be guided by the five principles already adopted by a number of countries. These principles are: (1) Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty; (2) Non-interference in each other's internal affairs for any reason whatever; (3) Non-interference in the relations between their two countries and thus serve the cause of world peace.

Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee, Communist Party of the Soviet Union

Dear Comrade Pieck, The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union cordially greets and congratulates you on your sixty years of revolutionary, public and political activity. The whole of your indefatigable and splendid political activity is an outstanding example of service in the cause of the working people, in the cause of peace, democracy and Socialism. In your person the working people of Germany and the international working-class movement have a loyal and consistent exponent of the ideas of Marxism-Leninism. The Soviet people know and love you as their sincere friend and a steadfast fighter for friendship and co-operation between the peoples of Germany and the Soviet Union. We wish you, dear Comrade Pieck, good health and further successes in your work for the good of the German people and the working people throughout the world.

Development of Heavy Industry in the Rumanian People's Republic

Rumania's economic progress in four and a half years of the Five-Year Plan proves the correctness of the policy of the Rumanian Workers' Party, which is designed to meet the vital interests of the Rumanian people, strengthen the people's-democratic system and lay the foundations of Socialism.

One of the most significant transformations carried through during the years of the first Five-Year Plan has been Rumania's conversion from a backward agricultural country into a steadily developing industrial-agrarian country.

The decisive factor in this historic change is the consistent fulfilment by the Party of the Leninist principles of building Socialism. Applying these principles in practice, our Party is steadfastly working to accomplish the socialist industrialisation of the country, paying particular attention to the development of heavy industry, which is the basis for the entire national economy and the source of improving the well-being of the working people. Our Party, now as in the past, is guided by Lenin's teaching that "the only possible material foundation for Socialism is a large-scale machine industry which is also capable of reorganising agriculture".

In order correctly to evaluate the progress which has been made in heavy industry during the Five-Year Plan, one should take into account the burdensome heritage of the bourgeois-landlord system. Caring only for maximum profits, the Rumanian bourgeoisie paid no attention to the utilisation of our country's natural resources, or to the building of a powerful raw materials base which would have made it possible to develop our own heavy industry. Neglecting the national interests, the bourgeoisie did not develop heavy industry, which requires considerable capital investment and effort, but invested only in those branches of industry which returned immediate and immense profits. It was quite prepared to tolerate a situation which placed Rumania in a position of economic dependence on the Western monopolist groups which made her merely one of their agrarian raw material appendages.

Despite the fact that the country possesses considerable deposits of coal, the maximum coal output was no more than 3.2 million tons a year; iron ore was not mined at all, and the mining of non-ferrous metals was mainly confined to gold.

The huge resources of power in the country were practically untapped; the capacity of power stations in bourgeois-landlord Rumania never exceeded 600,000 kilowatts, or was only 0.04 kilowatts per head of the population.

As for the machine-building industry, this was practically non-existent; 99% of all the machines used in the country were imported.

If between the first and second world wars the oil and timber industries made some progress, this is explained exclusively by the fact that the Rumanian bourgeoisie, in collaboration with foreign capitalist monopolies, was interested in increasing

★
Chivu Stoica
Member, Political Bureau of the C.C. of the Rumanian Workers' Party;
First Deputy Chairman, Council of Ministers, Rumanian People's Republic
★ ★

of various means of transport. In the past few years we have carried out large-scale construction of railways and modern highways. In this connection the production of locomotives was expanded, and a new, up-to-date wagon-building works of large production capacity has been built. The output of lorries is being organised on a mass-production basis. Simultaneously, due to the reconstruction and extension of the existing shipbuilding yards, we have enlarged the material basis for water transport, which has made it possible to begin producing ships of small and medium tonnage for river and sea transport.

The coal and other mining industries (extracting iron and non-ferrous ores and non-metallic minerals) are provided with all the necessary equipment produced in new specialised factories. Because of the fact that our pits now have numerous and up-to-date machines and equipment, the level of mechanisation of labour in the coal industry has risen more than three times compared with that of 1950. Thanks to the introduction of modern technique a large coalfield in the Jiu Valley is now completely mechanised.

Agriculture has been and remains one of the principal branches of Rumania's national economy. The development of the productive forces in agriculture, the application of up-to-date methods of land cultivation and the transition to large-scale socialist farming require the intensified mechanisation of agricultural labour. For the successful fulfilment of this task, in four years of the Five-Year Plan, we have created a national agricultural machine-building industry; 16 large plants turn out only agricultural machinery and implements. Instead of wooden ploughs and other primitive means of labour characteristic of the countryside under the bourgeois-landlord regime, modern technique is now employed in the fields of Rumania. Last year's output of tractors surpassed the 1950 figure by 50%, tractor-drawn cultivators by 181% and tractor-drawn sowers by 261%.

During the first four years of the Five-Year Plan large-scale capital construction was begun in all branches of the national economy. This vast construction programme is being carried out successfully because the building industry is provided with modern Rumanian-made machines and equipment. Between 1948 and 1954 the technical equipment supplied to the building industry more than doubled while the general mechanisation of construction work increased 13 times.

Rumania's considerable natural wealth—methane, oil, salt and coal—provides a rich raw materials base for the development of the chemical industry, and several large-capacity chemical works and plants were put into operation during the four years

At present a large 250,000 kw. thermo-electric power station is under construction. We have also built hydro-electric power stations of medium capacity. The construction of a big hydro-electric power station with a permanent capacity of 210,000 kw. is now in progress in Moldavia.

With the construction of all these new power plants, the generating capacity of our power industry has grown greatly; today it exceeds the 1948 level by 170%.

Benefiting from the experience of the Soviet Union and that of the more industrially developed People's Democracies, we are steadily introducing the most advanced technology into heavy industry.

The headway made by our country in building and developing all branches of heavy industry would have been impossible but for the fraternal, all-round and highly qualified aid of the great Soviet Union. Soviet scientific and technical institutes and specialists helped to train cadres for our industry: planning engineers, technologists, designers and production executives.

Deliveries from the Soviet Union and, to some extent, from other fraternal people's-democratic republics, have ensured the supply of the most up-to-date machinery to our heavy industry.

New technique has been introduced and applied; in this work our cadres have been given direct assistance in the factories by Soviet specialists. Our people will forever be grateful to the great Soviet people for their help.

The rapid development of industry and, in the first place, heavy industry, under the Five-Year Plan called for additional cadres of all categories. The Party and the Government therefore worked out a comprehensive programme for training the necessary cadres. The extensive network of schools and higher educational establishments made it possible to improve the qualifications of hundreds of thousands of workers. Between 1950 and 1954 alone some 25,000 engineers, technicians and foremen were trained at heavy industrial enterprises.

For the progress made in socialist industrialisation in this period we have the inspired labour of our workers, technicians and engineers to thank.

The creative initiative of the workers brings to light more and more possibilities for raising labour productivity by employing advanced methods of work. At one of the electrical machine works in Timișoara, for instance, the workers are adopting a complex method of metal turning, which enables the foremost among them to exceed their output quotas sevenfold in one shift. Accordingly, their wages have gone up considerably.

Progressive methods of work in its mechanical and assembly shops have enabled the Semănătorea Works (Bucharest) to achieve its Five-Year Plan target six months ahead of schedule, increase its output of agricultural machines more than sevenfold, and reduce the cost of production by 32%.

The rapid rate of development of heavy industry and particularly of machine building has made it possible to increase the production of consumer goods for the population and improve their quality. As a result rationing was abolished and the prices of consumer goods were reduced.

An Outstanding Example of Service to the Cause of Peace, Democracy and Socialism

Comrade Wilhelm Pieck: Sixty Years of Revolutionary, Public and Political Activity

★
Otto Winzer
Member, Central Committee, Socialist Unity Party of Germany
★ ★

On July 1 the working people of Germany, and with them the entire international working-class movement, all fighters for peace, democracy and Socialism, mark the 60th anniversary of the date on which Wilhelm Pieck, President of the German Democratic Republic and member of the Political Bureau of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, started his revolutionary, public and political activity.

Sixty years ago, on July 1, 1895, 19-year-old Wilhelm Pieck joined the Social Democratic Party of Germany.

In Germany the period between 1895 and 1905 was marked by a great number of strikes and other proletarian actions. In these working-class battles, Pieck received his baptism of fire as an activist in the labour movement in Osnabrueck and Bremen. As the representative of his work-mates, the carpenters, he led their struggle and was victimised and blacklisted; but every fresh instance of terrorism on the part of the employers only strengthened his militant spirit. That spirit, born of the revolutionary traditions of the German working-class movement and the harsh trials of the class struggle, still distinguishes Wilhelm Pieck today.

True to the principles of Marxism, Pieck, whom the Bremen Party organisation elected its secretary in 1906, became a determined opponent of opportunism and a faithful comrade-in-arms of the left-wing elements united around Karl Liebknecht, Rosa Luxemburg, Franz Mehring and Clara Zetkin.

Pieck was profoundly conscious of the necessity to arm the party of the working class with the victorious weapon of revolutionary Marxism. At the Nuremberg Congress of the Social Democratic Party in 1908 he took a strong line against the reformist "critics". "They want to have weak-willed masses", he said, "which they could lead on a string and which would be unable to grasp the connection between historical facts. The Party has every reason to declare war upon those who for some years now have been systematically trying to divert the workers from the path that leads straight to the goal, and turn them on to one that does not lead to the conquest of political power but only serves to provide individual right-wing Social Democrats and left liberals with a mass base for their social-reformist ambitions."

Through all those years Pieck carried on a staunch struggle against German imperialism and its military preparations. This anti-militarist, anti-imperialist struggle was a national one in the best sense of the word, a struggle to save the nation from the impending world war. When the catastrophe nevertheless occurred in 1914, Pieck resolutely and actively took his stand with Karl Liebknecht.

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin thought highly of the activity of the German Socialists who published the magazine *International* and advanced such militant slogans as that of Liebknecht: "The main enemy is in one's own country". The man who in the early years of the war organised the printing and distribution of *International* and of the appeals and leaflets of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg was Wilhelm Pieck. On May 28, 1915, he organised the first women's anti-war demonstration, during which he was arrested and imprisoned.

Pieck enthusiastically acclaimed the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution in Russia, won under Lenin's

of it until the unification of the CPG and the SDGP in 1946.

The postwar revolutionary crisis of 1918-1923 confronted the Party with the need to mobilise the masses against increasingly brazen reaction, and for the struggle for power.

Following its merger with the Independent Social Democratic Party, the CPG became a truly mass party, but it still lacked the necessary ideological and political tempering that it could acquire by mastering the Marxist-Leninist teaching. As one of the most loyal, tried and tested representatives of the old guard of the "Spartacus League", Wilhelm Pieck also realised its shortcomings and errors; he endeavoured to learn from the experience of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and from its brilliant teacher and leader, Lenin, how to convert the CPG into a militant Marxist-Leninist Party capable of leading the German working class to victory.

In the struggle against right-wing capitalists and "ultra-left" adventurists, Ernst Thaelmann became the leader of the Party, and it was under his guidance that the CPG began to develop into a militant Marxist-Leninist Party which, during the course of mass battles, acquired increasing influence among the working class and all working people.

To Wilhelm Pieck's many-sided activities during these years belongs his work as a revolutionary parliamentarian. As deputy to the City Assembly of Greater Berlin and deputy to the German Reichstag, he continued the finest traditions of revolutionary parliamentary tactics of which, in Germany, there were such outstanding representatives as August Bebel and Wilhelm and Karl Liebknecht. Wilhelm Pieck's fight in parliament was indissolubly linked with his activities among the working masses.

At many meetings, rallies and talks he used all his powers of conviction to create a united front of the proletariat against reaction and fascism.

However, the refusal of the right-wing Social Democratic leaders to establish a united front obstructed the development of the workers' fight outside parliament, and consequently made the victory of fascism possible.

When, during the illegal struggle that developed afterwards, Ernst Thaelmann and many other Communist leaders fell into the clutches of the fascist assassins, Pieck, in accordance with the decision of the Party leadership, had to leave the country in order to direct the anti-fascist fight of the Party. At the Brussels Conference in October 1935 Wilhelm Pieck mapped out a new path for the united struggle to overthrow the Hitler dictatorship, on the basis of a profound analysis of the reasons for the defeat of the working class and of the new situation in Germany, as well as an analysis of the experience of the international anti-fascist struggle.

The Brussels Conference elected him Chairman of the CPG as deputy to Ernst Thaelmann, who was then in prison

that time able to state his conviction that their struggle and their demands would largely determine the nature of the democracy of the new system in Germany. Ten years later this forecast proved correct in Eastern Germany, where the unity of the working class with all progressive, democratic forces was established. There, with the active support of the masses, radical democratic transformations were carried through, which ended the power of monopoly capital and the Junkers. It became possible, on the ground thus cleared, to start to lay the foundations of Socialism.

As President of the first German worker-peasant state, Wilhelm Pieck is today a living proof of the correctness of the prospects revealed to the working class by the Communist Party of Germany, with Pieck playing the leading role.

It was in fact the CPG, in its manifesto of June 11, 1945, which laid before the German people a definite programme for overcoming the consequences of Nazi domination and of the war let loose by the Hitlerites, together with a programme for building a new, democratic and peace-loving Germany. It showed, too, how this programme could be carried out through unity of action of the two workers' parties and the rallying of all the anti-fascist, democratic forces. When, at the Merger Congress of the Party, Wilhelm Pieck held out his hand to Otto Grotewohl to seal the unity reached there, he was fulfilling Ernst Thaelmann's behest and at the same time epitomising the remarkable results of his long years of struggle to heal the split in the working class. Now, at the head of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, he is exerting all his untiring efforts towards strengthening it ideologically, politically and organisationally, and converting it into a militant Marxist-Leninist Party, capable of tackling great and complex tasks.

One can have no conception of Wilhelm Pieck's life and struggle unless one takes into account his close ties with the international proletariat and his particularly friendly attitude towards the first builders of Socialism, the workers and peasants of the Soviet Union, led by their Communist Party.

As the representative of the CPG, Wilhelm Pieck participated in the work of conferences and congresses of the fraternal parties of nearly all the countries of Europe. In 1921 it was his good fortune to discuss with Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, genius of the international proletariat, the problems of converting the CPG into a mass revolutionary party. As the former representative of the CPG on the Executive Committee of the Communist International to which he was elected a member in 1928, he knows from personal experience what great help was rendered to the German working-class movement on every occasion, by word and deed, by the Central Committee of the CPSU and by J. V. Stalin.

The great confidence and love Wilhelm Pieck as President of the German Democratic Republic enjoys among the peoples of the socialist camp and the working people of the capitalist countries is based upon his many years of struggle in the ranks of the international working-class movement. They see in him a tried and tested champion of the fight against aggressive German imperialism and militarism. They know that

the Western monopolist groups which have merely one of their agrarian raw material appendages.

Despite the fact that the country possesses considerable deposits of coal, the maximum coal output was no more than 3.2 million tons a year; iron ore was not mined at all, and the mining of non-ferrous metals was mainly confined to gold.

The huge resources of power in the country were practically untapped; the capacity of power stations in bourgeois-landlord Rumania never exceeded 600,000 kilowatts, or was only 0.04 kilowatts per head of the population.

As for the machine-building industry, this was practically non-existent; 99% of all the machines used in the country were imported.

If between the first and second world wars the oil and timber industries made some progress, this is explained exclusively by the fact that the Rumanian bourgeoisie, in collaboration with foreign capitalist monopolies, was interested in amassing enormous profits through the rapacious exploitation of this rich natural wealth of our country.

The Party and the people's-democratic state have carried out resolute measures to develop heavy industry and, above all, ferrous metallurgy (steel production) and machine building, which determine the development of other branches of the national economy. Special attention has also been given to expanding the output of coal, iron ores, electric power, increasing transport and the production of building materials, all of which has provided a firm basis for making progress in agriculture and in the light and food industries and for expanding the production of goods for mass consumption.

The line of the Party and the Government for the priority development of heavy industry is being carried out successfully.

Today important changes have taken place in the structure of industry, which have led to the proportion of heavy industry products in relation to the total volume of the output of socialist industry being increased to 60%. Compared with 1950, the gross output of socialist industry by 1954 had risen 92%. The extent of the priority development of heavy industry can be judged by the fact that the production of the means of production in this period went up by 101.4%, while the production of consumer goods increased by 82.1%.

This progress would have been impossible without the creation in our country of a machine-building industry which, compared with other industries, is developing at an accelerated rate. The need for priority development of the machine-building industry was dictated by the ever-growing need of the country for the machines required in reconstructing and extending the technical foundation of different branches of industry, agriculture and transport.

One of the main tasks of the Five-Year Plan was to provide the country with its own means of equipping the oil industry. This task has been successfully fulfilled, and Rumania even turns out oil equipment in excess of the country's requirements. This extension of the technical base of the oil industry has made it possible to exploit the deposits already discovered, to search for and tap new deposits of oil in Moldavia, Muntenia, Oltenia and other areas, and this in turn has enabled us to increase our oil output 2.4 times as compared with 1948.

The rapid development of all branches of our national economy called also for a considerable extension of rail, road and water transport. That is why during these years the machine-building industry has been vigorously expanding the production

of labour characteristic of the countryside under the bourgeois-landlord regime, modern technique is now employed in the fields of Rumania. Last year's output of tractors surpassed the 1950 figure by 50%, tractor-drawn cultivators by 181% and tractor-drawn sowers by 261%.

During the first four years of the Five-Year Plan large-scale capital construction was begun in all branches of the national economy. This vast construction programme is being carried out successfully because the building industry is provided with modern Rumanian-made machines and equipment. Between 1948 and 1954 the technical equipment supplied to the building industry more than doubled while the general mechanisation of construction work increased 13 times.

Rumania's considerable natural wealth—methane, oil, salt and coal—provides a rich raw materials base for the development of the chemical industry, and several large-capacity chemical works and plants were put into operation during the four years of the Five-Year Plan. To guarantee the further long-range development of this industry, the machine-building industry has provided it with the necessary equipment and machines.

Under bourgeois-landlord rule one could not even think of electrical equipment being produced in our country. All we had were a few small repair shops. Now this is a special branch of our industry, comprising a large number of new plants that turn out a variety of electrical equipment, including powerful transformers, and hydraulic and steam turbines.

With the creation and development of heavy industry, especially machine building, it became possible to equip the light and food industries with the latest machinery.

Our Party and Government continue to pay special attention to increasing the production of metals, allocating considerable material and financial means for reconstructing and extending the capacity of the existing steel foundries. New ferrous metallurgy projects are now under construction.

During the four years of the Five-Year Plan we built a number of up-to-date automatic blast furnaces of large capacity and several open-hearth furnaces; now we are building a large coking plant and three big rolling mills, including two for steel shapes and one tube mill. The output of pig iron, steel and rolled metal has more than trebled under the Five-Year Plan.

However, despite this appreciable development of ferrous metallurgy, the country's steel output does not yet meet the requirements of the machine-building industry in full, so that part of the steel we need has to be imported. To satisfy all the requirements of the economy with Rumanian-produced steel, we shall in future also devote a great deal of attention to increasing the output of coal and iron ores.

Our country has made good progress in developing its coal industry. By 1954 coal output was 90% above the 1948 figure. The coal industry has at last begun to supply coking coal. The Party and the Government are now giving special attention to expanding the output of iron ores and measures are simultaneously being taken to ensure the continued development of the production of copper, zinc, tin, gold and other metals.

The development of all branches of the economy and the all-round mechanisation of production processes demand an increased output of electric power. The Party and the Government consider the carrying out of the country's electrification plan as their most important task. In the past few years a great number of thermo-electric power stations with capacities ranging from 25,000 to 125,000 kw. have been built.

Progressive methods of work in its mechanical and assembly shops have enabled the Semănătoarea Works (Bucharest) to achieve its Five-Year Plan target six months ahead of schedule, increase its output of agricultural machines more than sevenfold, and reduce the cost of production by 32%.

The rapid rate of development of heavy industry and particularly of machine building has made it possible to increase the production of consumer goods for the population and improve their quality. As a result rationing was abolished and the prices of consumer goods were reduced. Thanks to the selfless efforts of the working class, working peasantry and intelligentsia, thanks to the concern of the Party and the Government for the well-being of the people, the standard of living of the working people of the Republic is constantly rising.

★

There are, however, still shortcomings and difficulties in the development of heavy industry. The training of skilled cadres and mastering of new techniques lag far behind the development of the material and technical base of the national economy. Some of our factory executives have an inadequate knowledge of the principles of production organisation and a poor knowledge of technical matters. For this reason at such factories the established technological standards and technical discipline are frequently disregarded and the rhythmic schedule of production is violated.

Extremely acute in all branches of heavy industry is the question of fully utilising all technical equipment, particularly new equipment. There are still quite a number of managers who make demands on the Government for new technical equipment for their factories but display no initiative and take no technical and organisational measures to utilise economically and fully the equipment they already have.

The leading cadres in production, the engineers and technicians, must work resolutely to eliminate shortcomings in the utilisation of new technique, for higher labour productivity depends not only on the level of a factory's technical equipment, but on the use made of available machinery and equipment.

We must strengthen labour discipline, improve the organisation of labour and technical control in order to raise the quality of output and increase the authority and responsibility of foremen as the direct leaders and organisers of production, who bear the primary responsibility for plan fulfilment right in the shops.

We must put an end to any tendency to run things simply by issuing orders and to elements of bureaucracy in the management of factories and shops; we must fight against extravagance, strive to economise on raw materials, fuel and electricity, raise production quotas and steadily reduce the cost of production. This will make it possible to increase socialist accumulation and the output of high-quality and cheaper consumer goods.

True to Marxist-Leninist teaching, the Rumanian Workers' Party will continue to attach paramount importance to the development of heavy industry—the fundamental basis for the building of Socialism and for the economic might and defence capacity of our homeland, and the source of a steady rise in the living standards of the working people.

Through all those years Pieck carried on a staunch struggle against German imperialism and its military preparations. This anti-militarist, anti-imperialist struggle was a national one in the best sense of the word, a struggle to save the nation from the impending world war. When the catastrophe nevertheless occurred in 1914, Pieck resolutely and actively took his stand with Karl Liebknecht.

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin thought highly of the activity of the German Socialists who published the magazine *International* and advanced such militant slogans as that of Liebknecht: "The main enemy is in one's own country". The man who in the early years of the war organised the printing and distribution of *International* and of the appeals and leaflets of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg was Wilhelm Pieck. On May 28, 1915, he organised the first women's anti-war demonstration, during which he was arrested and imprisoned.

Pieck enthusiastically acclaimed the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution in Russia, won under Lenin's brilliant leadership. And when the conditions for a decisive struggle for an immediate end to the war and the carrying through of a people's revolution were maturing in Germany, he hastened to Berlin, where he became one of the most active participants in the subsequent revolutionary battles. He presided over the meetings of the Constituent Congress of the Communist Party of Germany and was elected a member of the Central Committee of the CPG, remaining a member

reaction and fascism. However, the refusal of the right-wing Social Democratic leaders to establish a united front obstructed the development of the workers' fight outside parliament, and consequently made the victory of fascism possible.

When, during the illegal struggle that developed afterwards, Ernst Thaelmann and many other Communist leaders fell into the clutches of the fascist assassins, Pieck, in accordance with the decision of the Party leadership, had to leave the country in order to direct the anti-fascist fight of the Party. At the Brussels Conference in October 1935 Wilhelm Pieck mapped out a new path for the united struggle to overthrow the Hitler dictatorship, on the basis of a profound analysis of the reasons for the defeat of the working class and for the new situation in Germany, as well as an analysis of the experience of the international anti-fascist struggle.

The Brussels Conference elected him Chairman of the CPG as deputy to Ernst Thaelmann, who was then in prison.

In an effort to unite all the anti-Hitler forces, the Communist Party of Germany, with Wilhelm Pieck as its Chairman, advanced the demand for the establishment of a democratic republic, which would consider its highest duty to be to defend the interests of the working people, to ensure that the government was influenced by them and to maintain peace.

Because of his profound confidence in the strength of the working class and the masses, Wilhelm Pieck was already at

it was his good... Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, genius of the international proletariat, the problems of revolution... ing the CPG into a mass revolutionary party. As the former representative of the CPG on the Executive Committee of the Communist International to which he was elected a member in 1928, he knows from personal experience what great help rendered to the German working-class movement on every occasion, by word and deed, by the Central Committee of the CPSU and by J. V. Stalin.

The great confidence and love Wilhelm Pieck as President enjoys among the people of the socialist camp and the working people of the capitalist countries is based on his many years of struggle in the ranks of the international working-class movement. They see in him a tried and tested champion of the fight against aggressive German imperialism and militarism. They know that the German Democratic Republic wants to live in peace with all people and maintain good-neighbourly relations with them, that the GDR will never be guilty of aggression against other people.

On the great day of the 60th anniversary of the start of his revolutionary, public political activity, the German people and the working people of all lands wholeheartedly wish Wilhelm Pieck good health and further success in the struggle for the peaceful reunification of Germany on a genuine democratic basis, in the struggle for peace and people's democracy.

Meeting of Central Committee, Communist Party of Belgium

On June 18 and 19 the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belgium met in Brussels.

It heard and discussed a report on the political situation given by Comrade Gerard Van Moerkerke, Secretary of the Party.

The meeting unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the working class and all working people of Belgium to unite in the struggle for their demands and for peace.

"It is the honourable task of the Communists," reads the resolution, "to wage, at the head of the working people and all democrats in the country, a passionate struggle for the people's demands and the triumph of the cause of peace."

POPULARISATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE BRAZILIAN COMMUNIST PARTY IN LATIN AMERICA

A pamphlet containing the Programme of the Communist Party of Brazil and the report given by Comrade Luiz Carlos Prestes to the Fourth National Congress of the Brazilian Communist Party was recently published in Spanish by the Communist Party of Venezuela.

The pamphlet is entitled "Experience for the Peoples of America" and was issued as a supplement to the newspaper *Noticias de Venezuela*. As its foreword points out, it has been published in order to make known, throughout those countries of the American continent where Spanish is spoken, the revolutionary experiences of the Brazilian people and their Communist Party.

The foreword stresses that the Programme of the Brazilian Communist Party marks the beginning of a new stage in the creative application of Marxism to the conditions obtaining in a Latin American country, and points out that this experience can be utilised by the other fraternal peoples of Latin America because they are confronted by the same enemy—U.S. imperialism—and, in general, have similar economic, social and political problems.

Growth in Austrian Communist Party Membership

Recently, and particularly since the conclusion of the Austrian State Treaty, there has been an increase in the recruitment of new members to the Communist Party in Austria. More than 50 people have joined the Party in Favoriten (Vienna District), most of whom are young workers. In Mödling (Vienna District), in two weeks alone, 25 new members were admitted to the Party. In only a few days 33 people joined in Graz. The Party branch at the glassworks in Brunn enrolled 11 men and women workers.

These new Communists declare that the Party is advancing along the right road

and that the conclusion of the Austrian State Treaty represents a success for the policy of peace.

"I've joined the Party because it is now particularly important to add to the strength of the working class," declared Alfred Bahner, a member of the production council at a linoleum factory in Brunn. "and this can best be achieved by building the Communist Party." Twenty-two year old Christine Doubek says: "It was clear to me even before that my interests as a woman and a mother are best of all upheld by the Communist Party. That's why I too have now joined its ranks."

Work in a French Communist Party Section

In carrying out the decisions of the 13th Congress of the French Communist Party, the Maison-Blanche Section (13th District, Paris) is doing good work in strengthening its ties with the masses and forming a united front of working people in the battle for their demands, for peace and national independence. This section has become a big Party organisation with a membership of 919, of whom 512 belong to 35 factory branches and the remaining 407 to 18 area branches. This section is active in one of the industrial districts of Paris, where there are many big works such as the S.N.E.C.M.A., and the Panhard with 4,200 workers, and where the working people are rich in revolutionary traditions.

Five new factory branches have been formed this year and 78 working people have joined the Party, of whom 53 went into factory and 25 into area branches. At the A.O.I.P. factory, which has 1,200 workers, four Party branches are working unremittingly to uphold the interests of the working people under the slogan of a united front of Communists and Socialists. More than 30 workers in this factory have joined the Party in two years.

The Communists in the Bost-Moret area branch are doing active work in such mass organisations as the peace committee,

the France-USSR Society, the Tenants' Association, the French Union of Republican Youth, the French Young Girls' Union and the French Women's Union. This year the card exchange meeting became the affair of the whole neighbourhood. Eleven people joined the Party at this meeting. The number of members taking an active part in Party work is constantly growing.

Much attention is paid by the section committee to publicising examples of good experiences, to making a deeper study of the situation in each branch; it adopts appropriate measures to eliminate shortcomings. It recently decided to send some of its members to the Panhard works, where Party work is somewhat sluggish, one comrade being allocated to each branch. It is the task of these members to step up the activities of the branches and to see that a factory Party newspaper is published.

The section committee and a number of factory branches hold lively discussions on the work of Party members in mass organisations, primarily in the trade unions, since, in the final analysis, the implementation of the correct policy worked out by the 13th Congress depends on the work of all Party members among the masses.

Uno Anniversary Session Finishes its Work

In San Francisco, on June 26, the special session of the United Nations Organisation, devoted to the tenth anniversary of the signing of its Charter, concluded its work. At its meetings declarations were made by the heads of delegations of 60 Uno member-states.

Statement by Stanislaw Skrzyszewski

Having noted certain positive elements in Uno's activities, S. Skrzyszewski drew the attention of the delegates to the grave shortcomings in the work of the United Nations during the past ten years. These, he said, had arisen because certain great powers had departed from the path of international co-operation and agreed action laid down by the United Nations Charter; they had endeavoured to convert the United Nations into an instrument for imposing decisions which were not in accord with the Charter, and which hindered the solution of many international problems.

He drew attention to the fact that Uno's activities were weakened because of the obstacles still placed in the way of the great Chinese people enjoying their legitimate rights in Uno.

The United Nations has thus far been unable to solve a whole number of important questions, including those of banning atomic and hydrogen weapons and reducing armaments.

Constructive efforts in this direction have been resisted by those who, denying the possibility of coexistence, took the path of war preparations, forming aggressive military blocs and creating a network of military bases on foreign territory.

The Polish representative pointed out the great importance of the latest Soviet disarmament proposals, which create new possibilities for solving this momentous problem.

The idea of peace, S. Skrzyszewski pointed out, is evoking very strong support on the part of all peoples. This, of course, does not mean that its enemies have given up their attempts to obstruct the establishment of peace among the peoples. In particular

Statement by Vaclav David

Having outlined the great political and economic changes of the past ten years, V. David particularly emphasized the fact that the victory of the anti-Hitler coalition had made it possible for a number of European countries independently to decide their own fate for the first time in their history, and to take the path of people's democracy.

The countries of people's democracy and the Soviet Union have established co-operation on a wide scale, co-operation that is based on state sovereignty, indissoluble friendship and selfless fraternal help, and which is a valuable contribution to preserving peace and a practical application of the principles and aims of the United Nations Charter.

The U.S. representative, said the head of the Czechoslovak delegation, considered it necessary in his speech to reiterate intolerable allegations in relation to the People's Democracies. It is to be regretted that such attacks should occur at the Anniversary Session, since they only serve the aims of the cold war, and objects of keeping with the tasks and objects of Uno. The peoples of Czechoslovakia, who

At the June 23 meeting statements were made by Stanislaw Skrzyszewski, Foreign Minister and head of the delegation from the Polish People's Republic, and on June 24 by Vaclav David, head of the delegation of the Czechoslovak Republic and Czechoslovak Foreign Minister.

they are endeavouring to exploit the revengeful forces in Western Germany so as to create a hotbed of war in Europe. That is why the decision to conclude a Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance, taken by the states participating in the Warsaw Conference on Safeguarding Peace and Security in Europe constitutes a major contribution to the cause of peace. This Treaty, emphasized the Polish Foreign Minister, is a defensive one, concluded solely in the interests of peace in Europe, and moreover it is in complete conformity with the United Nations Charter. The fact that the Treaty is open to all European states underlines our belief that coexistence and co-operation between states with diverse social systems is possible.

The Polish People's Republic, which is engaged in peaceful constructive labour designed to promote the well-being and culture of its people, always has been and always will be for peace. We, said the Polish representative, firmly believe in the possibility of peace being preserved and of countries being able to co-operate regardless of their social system. We believe in the possibility of settling disputes by peaceful negotiation.

We attach great importance, emphasized Skrzyszewski, to the existence and activity of the United Nations Organisation; we are persuaded that it can achieve its objectives, as defined ten years ago. The main objective of the United Nations, the Polish Foreign Minister pointed out, is the peaceful settlement of international problems and the promotion of co-operation among peoples.

construction. The conclusion of the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance among eight European countries represents one such measure by peace-loving states.

The Czechoslovak people, living next door to Germany, are vitally interested in the settlement of the German question. Czechoslovakia maintains friendly relations with the German Democratic Republic and is prepared to normalise her relations with the German Federal Republic.

Czechoslovakia has always worked for the strengthening of the United Nations Organisation, and for this reason cannot accept an abnormal situation in which one of the Five Great Powers, the People's Republic of China, representing, as it does, 600 million people, is without a place in Uno and, in particular, in the Security Council.

V. David stressed that close co-operation and complete confidence were essential among all the member-states of Uno. If the urgent tasks were to be settled. First and foremost this was essential among the permanent members of the Security Council. The proposals made by the Soviet Govern-

I.
The working conditions of Italian industrial workers are deteriorating day by day. Already for several years a sharp struggle has been developing in all factories and mills, particularly the larger ones, where the workers are fighting against intensified exploitation and in defence of their health, their rights, which are trampled underfoot, and their dignity, which is outraged by the arbitrary actions of employers motivated only by greed for bigger profits. The industrialists are unwilling to reconcile themselves to the existence of a strong, organised workers' movement, capable of opposing the will of the employers and fighting staunchly for the trade union and social demands of the workers.

The onslaught on the working class and its achievements and liberties is being carried out in accordance with the plan worked out by the monopolists dominating the Confindustria (Italian Confederation of Industrialists). By dealing a blow at the working class, its parties and its united trade union organisation, the Italian Confederation of Labour, both the home and foreign monopolists are seeking to strike a blow at the leading force of the working people and the masses, which is fighting for national independence, freedom and peace and at the same time stubbornly struggling for the realisation of the structural reforms provided for in the Republican Constitution.

The Confindustria is doing its utmost to aggravate the split in the working class, and thus to defeat the working people, bring them to their knees, and thereby to deprive the united trade union organisation of the working class of its ability to display initiative and offer resistance to super-exploitation, to deprive the working class of political perspective in its common struggle for structural reforms which would promote the extension of democracy and open up the way to Socialism.

With the development of political events and of the trade union movement in the country, the ambitious plan of the Confindustria has matured. This plan openly urges the need to:

a) base the activity of the organisation on a policy of splitting the working class and give maximum material and political support to those trade union leaders who "do not engage in politics" and are "conscious of the interests of the employers";

b) launch an attack on the Factory Commissions and thus deprive the workers of one of their major gains—an effective weapon for maintaining unity in the factories;

c) display, at whatever the cost, an inflexible attitude towards the demands of the workers for higher wages, and give them to understand that in the present political situation these are unrealisable and that the united trade unions must retreat and take up the same position as the splitting trade union organisations;

d) further lower the cost of production through reduction of payment for piecework, intensification of labour and the institution of a forced-labour type of regime, which is necessary in order to introduce the most inhuman forms of super-exploitation.

Italian Industrial Workers Fight for their Freedom and Dignity

★
Arturo Colombi
Secretariat Member,
Italian Communist Party

★ ★

One employer, Falck, is threatening to sack those workers who have been the victims of a number of accidents. Over-all statistics show that an increase in industrial accidents is

general throughout the whole of Italy.

Not infrequently the employers take measures to "reduce surplus personnel" by quietly discharging workers with their "consent". Aged, infirm and sick workers, together with those who are not liked by the employers, are herded into a special, already crowded, shop where many of them either have nothing to do or are forced to do unproductive or humiliating work. Only a few of these workers return to productive work, the others, having lost hope, humiliated and aware that in the long run they will be sacked, consent to receive a gratuity and "voluntarily" leave the factory. This system, incidentally, is a convenient screen by means of which the capitalists conceal the widespread occupational and other diseases resulting from harmful working conditions or from excessive strain at work.

All this is giving rise to deep discontent among the workers, and from time to time results in protest strikes. For example, the workers at the Magneti Marelli works in Crescenago conducted a joint struggle for more than fifty days because of repeated accidents in which many women workers injured their hands. Of late the united trade unions have done much more to expose bad working conditions in the factories, and the recent decisions of the Italian Confederation of Labour are aimed at making the struggle for protection of the health of the working people, which is closely linked with the struggle against super-exploitation and the defence of their rights, a major task in trade union activity.

This is because the workers feel that their interests are not being properly defended by their organisations. Even our activists in the factories often underestimate the discontent of the masses. Yet experience proves that one has only to base oneself on some incident that exhausts the workers' patience, and their pent-up indignation bursts forth, unleashing a powerful wave of struggle.

III.

The Factory Commissions are an effective common weapon for the defence of the workers from arbitrary actions and from super-exploitation. That is why the industrialists are intensifying their offensive against them. By interpreting in whatever way they please the agreement on the Commissions which was concluded by the trade unions and the Confindustria and by deliberately violating the letter and spirit of the agreement, the industrialists are doing their utmost to create conditions which would make the work of the Commissions impossible. In violation of the agreement, Commission members are sacked on the slightest pretext: if they take part in strikes, make a speech to the workers or write an article exposing the repressive system of the employers. Where there is no other pretext the employers resort to outright provocation. One of their favourite methods is to completely isolate Commission members and active trade unionists from the rest of the

among the factories owned by this monopoly the management would take into account the degree of the workers' loyalty to it. After the trade union organisations had ex-

posed such methods of intimidation, the management at the OM works was compelled to abandon these measures.

IV.

The blackmail which accompanies orders placed by NATO is the latest invention on the U.S. pattern. In connection with the Commission elections at his plant, Borletti, declaring that he "was not going to interfere" with the affairs of his workers, announced at the same time that he would sack 600 of them if the election list of the united trade union got the majority of the votes again. To give more weight to his threat he abolished overtime and told 400 young people hired under the notorious short-term contracts that, in the event of the victory of the Communists, they would be the first to be dismissed from their jobs. The older workers were also told that when the dismissals took place they would be sacked first.

The industrialist Innocenti acted even more brazenly. On trumped-up pretexes he discharged some 100 advanced workers before the elections, workers who, in the main, were the political and trade union cadres of the factory. He promised millions of lire if the candidates of the FIOM list "voluntarily" withdrew their names. At the same time he declared that if the list of the Catholic trade unions did not get the majority of the votes he would have to sack another 400 workers. In the event of the victory of the Catholic trade unions, he promised a bonus of 5,000 lire to every worker. He sent letters to the working people's wives which, in part, read: "It is up to you alone whether your family shall know neither starvation nor poverty in the future."

Very similar developments occurred at the Vittoria factory in Paderno Dugnano, where the employer told his workers: You can go on being either Communists or Socialists, but if you want the factory to receive orders and are unwilling to lose your jobs, you must vote so as to ensure a majority for the Catholic trade unions on the election list. However, despite the fleeting success of the Catholic trade unions, orders were not placed with the Vittoria factory. The real reason for the non-fulfilment of this promise was given by two American journalists who went to interview the workers. "Why didn't we get the orders?" asked the workers. "Because millions of American workers are unemployed", replied the journalists. "If orders are placed with your factories we shall be compelled to close a number of factories in our own country and thousands of American workers will be dismissed. America has already made big sacrifices for you Italians, without obtaining any political result..."

The Vittoria workers, even those who were intimidated and yielded to this foul blackmail, have now regained their unity and their confidence in their strength. They carried on strikes and demonstrations in defence of their rights in the factory, demanding the production of goods for peaceful

the united trade union list increased from 78% to 86%. This is also confirmed by the big victory won by the Italian Confederation of Labour among the tram workers of Milan.

V.

The Italian working class is fully aware that, thanks to the greater strength of the united trade union organisation, the right to better working conditions can be won and upheld through struggle. Even those workers who, being intimidated and misled, vote for the Catholic trade union, know that the only organisation which consistently defends the economic, political and moral interests of the workers is the Italian Confederation of Labour. Precisely for this reason, in the most decisive struggles they unite with their class brothers. And if it is true that the direct economic results of the struggle were not in all cases commensurate with the efforts exerted and the losses suffered, it is equally true that the struggle was not in vain: first, because it made it possible to defend gains already won, secondly, because it prevented arbitrary actions by the employers and thirdly because it steered the workers and their organisations, which, by accumulating rich experience in every struggle, are preparing the conditions for a united counter-offensive by the workers against the monopolists and their system of exploitation and oppression.

The working people are becoming aware that such questions as the defence of the individual, the protection of labour and the freedom and dignity of factory workers are becoming more and more decisive and significant and go far beyond the purely trade union fight for higher wages. The struggle for higher wages and new collective agreements has to be waged simultaneously with the fight against arbitrary cuts in piecework payment and against speed-up and hellish tempos of work which are the prime cause of industrial accidents, occupational diseases and physical fatigue, often resulting in serious illness and premature old age. The struggle for the right to negotiate with the employers on wage rates must be carried on simultaneously with the struggle against the hiring of workers through ecclesiastical organisations, on the basis of short-term agreements and other forms.

The defence of the individual, his dignity and liberties, in the plants themselves, is assuming ever-greater, first-rate importance in the minds of the working people. They are certain that the main prerequisite for the development of activity by the trade unions is the struggle against the arbitrary actions of the employers. This struggle can only be successful if trade union activity is centred on questions of principle and is carried on stubbornly and determinedly, making use of all available methods of working-class struggle. Otherwise there arises the danger that a section of the more backward workers may retreat to the position of supporting a policy of class collaboration as advocated by the Catholic trade unions. They would do this, not from political conviction, but because of insufficient confidence in the possibility of achieving success in the struggle against the employers at that particular moment. A well-organised fight breeds among the working people confidence in victory and

European countries independently to decide their own fate for the first time in their history, and to take the path of people's democracy.

The countries of people's democracy and the Soviet Union have established co-operation on a wide scale, co-operation that is based on state sovereignty, indissoluble friendship and selfless fraternal help, and which is a valuable contribution to preserving peace and a practical application of the principles and aims of the United Nations Charter.

The U.S. representative, said the head of the Czechoslovak delegation, considered it necessary in his speech to reiterate intolerable allegations in relation to the People's Democracies. It is to be regretted that such attacks should occur at the Anniversary Session, since they only serve the aims of the cold war, aims not in keeping with the tasks and objects of Uno. The peoples of Czechoslovakia, who have never enjoyed such complete freedom and independence as they do now, will not allow anyone to interfere in their internal affairs.

The peoples of the world long for peace. At the same time we see that the ruling circles of certain Uno member-states are forming aggressive blocs, extending the arms drive, building military bases on foreign territory, whipping up war propaganda, urging the use of A and H-bombs, violating the sovereignty of other countries and interfering in their internal affairs. Such a policy represents a grave threat to peace and the security of the world.

It is quite natural that peace-loving peoples, including the people of Czechoslovakia, should believe it absolutely essential that they take appropriate measures to guarantee their own security and peaceful

peace-loving states.

The Czechoslovak people, living next door to Germany, are vitally interested in the settlement of the German question. Czechoslovakia maintains friendly relations with the German Democratic Republic and is prepared to normalise her relations with the German Federal Republic.

Czechoslovakia has always worked for the strengthening of the United Nations Organisation, and for this reason cannot accept an abnormal situation in which one of the Five Great Powers, the People's Republic of China, representing, as it does, 600 million people, is without a place in Uno and, in particular, in the Security Council.

V. David stressed that close co-operation and complete confidence were essential among all the member-states of Uno if the urgent tasks were to be settled. First and foremost this was essential among the permanent members of the Security Council. The proposals made by the Soviet Government on May 10 embody concrete measures which would eliminate distrust among states and provide broad possibilities for reaching agreement on highly important questions—the reduction of armaments and armed forces, the prohibition of atomic and other weapons of mass annihilation, and the establishment of international control over the carrying out of these measures.

★

Speeches were made at the concluding meeting of the Anniversary Session by former chairmen of the UN General Assembly. Those taking part in the Session unanimously endorsed the statement made by Van Kleeffens, Chairman of the Anniversary Session, in which he summarised its significance.

Construction of a New Railway in Yugoslavia

In the autumn of 1952 the construction of the Belgrade-Bar railway began. It is 510 km. long, and will go underground for 80 km. of this distance. The length of its bridges over rivers and mountain gorges will total some 9 km. As many as 75,000 million dinars will be invested in the construction of this project, the biggest in the country.

The new railway will be in full operation in five years' time, i.e. in 1960. However, the terminal sections (Belgrade-Valjevo, 92 km., and Titovgrad-Bar, 56 km.) will be in use by the end of this year. The largest tunnel (some 4 km. long), near Belgrade, and five railway stations on the Belgrade-Valjevo section have been completed already.

Once the Belgrade-Valjevo section of the railway comes into use, the supply of coal to the industrial enterprises and inhabitants of the capital will improve considerably, because this section will pass through the largest coalfield in Serbia, situated in the Kolubara basin.

The completion of the Belgrade-Bar railway will realise a long-standing dream of the peoples of Yugoslavia: to connect the capital with the Adriatic coast by the shortest possible route. The new railway will have great economic significance for the country. In particular it will promote the better utilisation of the country's hydro-electric resources. It is planned to build 13 hydro-electric stations along the Lim River alone.

a) base the activity of the organisation on a policy of splitting the working class and give maximum material and political support to those trade union leaders who "do not engage in politics" and are "conscious of the interests of the employers";

b) launch an attack on the Factory Commissions and thus deprive the workers of one of their major gains—an effective weapon for maintaining unity in the factories;

c) display, at whatever the cost, an inflexible attitude towards the demands of the workers for higher wages, and give them to understand that in the present political situation these are unrealisable and that the united trade unions must retreat and take up the same position as the splitting trade union organisations;

d) further lower the cost of production through reduction of payment for piecework, intensification of labour and the institution of a forced-labour type of regime, which is necessary in order to introduce the most inhuman forms of super-exploitation.

II.

The toughness of the monopolists, which they have in common with the U.S. capitalists, goes hand in hand with "fatherly concern" on the part of the employers, which is based on corruption and is nothing but a mixture of reformism and clerical hypocrisy. The employers and the leaders of the splitting trade unions are talking a lot about "labour productivity" and "human relations". What all this talk is worth is revealed at the Pirelli Rubber Trust where, as a result of the application of U.S. methods of raising labour productivity, the sweat and blood, the muscles and health of the workers are converted into maximum profits.

At the Bicoco works belonging to this trust in Milan, production, if we take 1948 as 100, rose to 195 in 1954, although the number of workers declined from 17,000 in 1948 to 14,200 in 1953 (it was about 20,000 in 1946). Whereas the number of workers fell by 2,800, production almost doubled. Profits, according to officially published figures, rose from 1,000 million lire in 1948 to 2,900 million lire in 1953. The number of accidents increased from 1,200 in 1948 to 2,000 in 1954, including over 500 severe cases.

The fact that the system of super-exploitation employed at the Pirelli works, with all its consequences, is being used everywhere, is confirmed by figures showing the number of industrial accidents in Milan Province. In 1951 the total was 71,000; in 1952 it rose to 77,790, of which 242 were fatal; in 1953 it was 84,739, including 263 fatal cases. A "campaign to combat industrial accidents" at the Pirelli and Montecatini enterprises is being conducted by issuing special posters and booklets which attribute the accidents to carelessness on the part of the workers themselves.

patience, and their pent-up indignation bursts forth, unleashing a powerful wave of struggle.

III.

The Factory Commissions are an effective common weapon for the defence of the workers from arbitrary actions and from super-exploitation. That is why the industrialists are intensifying their offensive against them. By interpreting in whatever way they please the agreement on the Commissions which was concluded by the trade unions and the Confindustria and by deliberately violating the letter and spirit of the agreement, the industrialists are doing their utmost to create conditions which would make the work of the Commissions impossible. In violation of the agreement, Commission members are sacked on the slightest pretext: if they take part in strikes, make a speech to the workers or write an article exposing the repressive system of the employers. Where there is no other pretext the employers resort to outright provocation. One of their favourite methods is to completely isolate Commission members and active trade unionists from the rest of the workers. Thus, Brusadelli, a skilled worker and a member of the Commission in the fourth section of the Breda works was given the job of messenger to the manager, who ordered him to sit in an office and perform the ridiculous task of counting the number of capital letters in 'l'Unita'. The industrialist Falck keeps nearly 100 skilled workers permanently on unproductive jobs and on cleaning the factory yard.

The management of such big factories as Borletti's, Falck's and Innocenti's take a direct part in the elections of the Factory Commissions, backing the candidates of the splitting unions. Being unable to abolish these Commissions, owing to the courageous and stubborn fight put up by the workers in their defence, the industrialists seek to turn them into obedient instruments of class collaboration and resort to every sort of pressure and intimidation to this end. To cite a few out of many examples: a skilled woman worker named Danale in the "A" section of the Magneti Marelli works, who was on the list of candidates for the Commission, was moved to "N" section to clean the men's toilet just prior to the Commission elections. Prandi, the top candidate on the list of the FIOM (trade union of metal workers and engineers, affiliated to the Italian Confederation of Labour), was unexpectedly sacked from the CGI Electrical Equipment factory because of an article written by him fifteen days before for the trade union wall-newspaper, exposing the blackmail accompanying American orders. In protest against his dismissal all the workers downed tools.

During the election campaign for the Factory Commission, the management of the OM factory in Milan (a subsidiary of FIAT) began large-scale activities to frighten and corrupt the workers and to organise acts of provocation. A little earlier, Valletta, manager of the FIAT works, had personally warned the FIAT workers that in distributing work

the employer and his workers, you can go on being either Communists or Socialists, but if you want the factory to receive orders and are unwilling to lose your jobs, you must vote so as to ensure a majority for the Catholic trade unions on the election list. However, despite the fleeting success of the Catholic trade unions, orders were not placed with the Vittoria factory. The real reason for the non-fulfilment of this promise was given by two American journalists who went to interview the workers. "Why didn't we get the orders?" asked the workers. "Because millions of American workers are unemployed", replied the journalists. "If orders are placed with your factories we shall be compelled to close a number of factories in our own country and thousands of American workers will be dismissed. America has already made big sacrifices for you Italians, without obtaining any political result..."

The Vittoria workers, even those who were intimidated and yielded to this foul blackmail, have now regained their unity and their confidence in their strength. They carried on strikes and demonstrations in defence of their rights in the factory, demanding the production of goods for peaceful purposes. All the workers at the enterprise took part in these strikes.

Numerous examples could be cited exposing the methods used by the Italian industrialists, such as cuts in piecework payment, fines, arbitrary downgrading of workers, temporary dismissals, making dismissal a repressive measure, violations of the law when allocating jobs, hiring workers under short-term contracts, and so on.

It is important to note that the working class is putting up strong resistance and meeting this reactionary offensive of the employers by consolidating their ranks. By no means are all the ambitious plans of the monopolists being carried into effect. The results of the Commission elections, notwithstanding the conditions under which they were conducted and the measures employed, show that the bulk of the workers remain true to their great united trade union organisation. During the elections at 25 metallurgical works in Milan, employing 44,291 workers and 11,301 office workers, the FIOM received 73.8% of the workers' votes. This is the same percentage as in the 1952 elections and only 2% less than in those of 1953, when the elections took place in the heat of the struggle for higher wages.

The temporary loss of certain positions by the united trade unions at several enterprises, caused by this disorientation and blackmail, is offset by the improved position of the Italian Confederation of Labour in all textile mills and many other factories, such as the Condor works in Ro (where all workers had been hired through the medium of the Catholic Association of Workers); the Edison factory in Milan; the Northern Railways; the Dalmine works, where the FIOM list got 730 more votes than in the previous election, and the fourth section of the Breda works where, despite unbridled terror, the number of votes for

to negotiate with the employers on wage rates must be carried on simultaneously with the struggle against the hiring of workers through ecclesiastical organisations, on the basis of short-term agreements and other forms.

The defence of the individual, his dignity and liberties, in the plants themselves, is assuming ever-greater, first-rate importance in the minds of the working people. They are certain that the main prerequisite for the development of activity by the trade unions is the struggle against the arbitrary actions of the employers. This struggle can only be successful if trade union activity is centred on questions of principle and is carried on stubbornly and determinedly, making use of all available methods of working-class struggle. Otherwise there arises the danger that a section of the more backward workers may retreat to the position of supporting a policy of class collaboration as advocated by the Catholic trade unions. They would do this, not from political conviction, but because of insufficient confidence in the possibility of achieving success in the struggle against the employers at that particular moment. A well-organised fight breeds among the working people confidence in victory and makes it possible to establish unity with the Catholic workers, who likewise are dissatisfied with the existing conditions in the factories.

The workers have full confidence in their united trade union organisation. Still, they should realise that it is defending them against the attacks of the bosses ever more effectively. They feel the need to co-ordinate the numerous courageous actions taking place in the factories, because this will strengthen such actions and produce a movement capable of dooming the reactionary aims of the monopolies to failure, a movement capable of preventing super-exploitation and compelling employers to respect constitutional liberties and capable of winning a charter of rights for all worker-citizens in the factories.

In his report to the fourth National Conference of the Communist Party, Comrade Togliatti declared that "private monopoly capitalism, in the form in which it has developed in Italy today, is the main enemy of all those who want to defend the freedom, welfare and independence of the citizens, which means the freedom and welfare of the entire nation".

In the struggle against the arbitrary actions of the monopolies the working class must always be the main and leading force, it can and must set up broad contact with all sections of the people who are outraged by the exploiting activities of the monopolies.

To fulfil this role the working class must become aware that it is fighting a great battle for the preservation and extension of democracy. This awareness will not only stimulate the working class in its struggle, it acts at the same time as a mighty unifying force which, even among the most oppressed sections of the working people, will increase confidence in the success of their cause.

Signature Campaign Gains Momentum in Brazil

Since the National Peace Assembly in Brazil the collection of signatures to the Vienna Appeal has made considerable progress. The number of local peace committees has increased, and signature collectors' are much more active.

Signature collection is proceeding successfully in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and many other places. Some 70% of the residents of Morro do Catumbi (a district of Rio de Janeiro) have already signed the Appeal. Roberto Silveira, Vice-Governor of Rio de Janeiro State, Senator Paulo Fernandes, six deputies to the National Congress, 31 deputies to the State Legislative Assembly,

7 mayors and many trade union leaders, municipal councillors, scientists, artists, writers and journalists have affixed their signatures since the National Assembly.

Senator Guilherme Malaquias, of the Trabalhista Party, has sharply criticised the U.S. policy of preparation for atomic war. Experimental A and H-bomb explosions, he said, represent a threat to peoples everywhere. He called upon all Brazilian patriots, irrespective of their political and religious convictions, to exert all their efforts in the struggle to maintain peace and to ban weapons of mass annihilation.

"International Differences Can be Settled Peacefully"

The Greek newspaper Avgi has published an appeal in defence of peace signed by noted political and public figures in that country. Among them are members of Parliament, a number of municipal councillors, writers, doctors, lawyers and teachers.

The newspaper recently addressed these questions to Greek women: "Do you want peace or war? What is your opinion of the World Congress of Mothers?" The answers of Greek mothers testified to their profound love of peace. "Our urgent duty", writes one of them, Polikseni Zakka, "is to pool all our forces on a national and international scale in order to achieve a

sharp reduction of armaments and prohibition of weapons of mass destruction. We condemn war and fight for humane principles in settling differences among states, so that the greatest blessing—peace—is secured for all peoples. We hate war."

M. Mutsaki, Chairman of the All-Greek Union of Democratic Women, said: "I believe that international differences can be settled peacefully. United, the women of the world constitute a great force that can prevent weapons of mass destruction from being used. I have three children, I want the discoveries of science to be used solely for the good of man."



The people of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam give their ardent support to the Appeal of the Bureau of the World Peace Council. Above: Scientists in Hanoi (capital of the Republic) appending their signatures.

The Network of Correspondents of L'Humanite

The meeting of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party, held in June 1950, set L'Humanité the task of "organising a wide network of worker-correspondents and contributors in order to succeed in improving the content of our press and in strengthening it with proletarian cadres".

Carrying out the C.C. instructions, the Editorial Board of L'Humanité took a number of measures to set up a widespread, organised network of correspondents and thus strengthen its direct ties with the masses. The network of L'Humanité correspondents has grown at a rapid rate: there were 225 at the beginning of 1951, 800 at the beginning of 1952, 1,700 in November 1953, and now there are about 2,800. The social composition of the correspondents is most varied: about 1,350 factory workers (including more than 500 metal workers), 200 peasants, 550 government employees and office workers, and others.

The correspondents take an active part in the day-to-day work of the Editorial Board. The 97 issues of the daily L'Humanité, published from January 1 to April 30, 1954, contained a total of 3,064 letters, articles, stories, information items and photos supplied by them.

★

The spheres in which these correspondents carry on their activities are many and varied. In the evening of any day on which big struggles take place the Editorial Board receives hundreds of information items from its correspondents, which make it possible for L'Humanité to give a first-hand estimation of the successes achieved.

The correspondents assist L'Humanité by informing it about the results of this or that action of the working people, and send the newspaper the bulk of its information items on the development of the united front of Socialists and Communists. It should be emphasized that the many information items sent in by the correspondents helped L'Humanité to begin in good time an extensive campaign explaining the significance of the Vienna Appeal and the need to collect signatures for it.

Thanks to such assistance, the Editorial Board has successfully carried out a number of large-scale popular referendums. Last year there were two of these. The first one dealt with the plight of homeless and ill-housed people. The 285 letters and statements published, accompanied by over 60 photographs, were collected by the correspondents under the direction of one of the permanent staff of the paper. The second referendum, the results of which were published in L'Humanité Dimanche, dealt with the living standards of the working people. The paper received 1,200 answers to its questionnaire, many of which were accompanied by letters giving additional information. The correspondents, supplied with questionnaires, conducted the referendum among their work-mates in the shop or at the office, and among their neighbours.

The correspondents collect copy, have talks with their work-mates on this or that political event, and on the situation in the enterprises, and send the facts thus obtained to L'Humanité. Very often the staff of the paper obtain from these letters, written in a simple and clear style, material and themes for important articles.

Whenever they come across anything which may be of interest to L'Humanité the correspondents at once begin to collect material. Let us cite one example. In one

and received information from an official source. "But I could not rest content with simply describing the accident", he wrote. "I was interested in ascertaining the political reasons for and consequences of the accident, if any. And here I was greatly helped by comrades working on the railway. They knew that I was collecting information for L'Humanité. So they readily explained to me the technical reasons for the accident.

"To complete the picture I should add that while the railwaymen gave me the main material for my article, in their turn the discussion and my questions made it possible for many among them to see more clearly the consequences of the policy of reducing budget allocations."

"Rejoinder articles" have been highly successful. Some of the big bourgeois newspapers published articles extolling a "good employer" in the Maine-et-Loire Department in order to show that class collaboration between exploiters and exploited was possible. The correspondents visited the workers in this enterprise, had talks with them and wrote a moving article about how the workers were exploited and the conditions under which they lived. Thus the political dodges of the venal press were foiled.

All these are certainly good examples, but they are still far from being typical. There is still a big proportion of correspondents who give the Editorial Board insufficient assistance.

To improve the work of the entire network of correspondents it is essential that L'Humanité have direct contact with every correspondent. How does the Editorial Board try to achieve this?

1. As soon as a Party organisation informs the Editorial Board of the name of the comrade who has been given the task of correspondent, L'Humanité sends him, together with his correspondent's card, a "Correspondent's Guide". This guide consists of two parts: the first shows the important role which a correspondent can and must play, the second gives a number of points of practical advice.

2. An important medium for maintaining contact is the "Correspondent's Bulletin" which is published every two months. Its first page features the main political tasks of the Party at the time. The second sums up the results of the correspondents' activities, gives practical assistance, cites good and bad examples and shows how weaknesses can be overcome. The bulletin is published in 8,000 copies, each correspondent receiving one at his home address, the rest being distributed among the Party sections.

3. The office does its utmost to establish personal contact with the largest possible number of correspondents. When a correspondent from the Paris district or from the countryside comes to the office he has a talk with an editor of the correspondents' department. With those who live in the provinces, a lively personal correspondence is maintained. Each information item received is studied. If it is of special interest, a letter is sent to the correspondent asking him to enlarge on it and give additional details so that it can be worked up into an article.

All this makes it possible to considerably improve the quality of the material received and to raise the level of work of all correspondents.

In January 1953, L'Humanité, with the help of amateur photographers organised a group

its correspondent-photographers (there are about a hundred of them in the Paris district).

To assist them, courses on photography were organised, which were completed by more than 70 people. Correspondence courses in photography have been started for provincial correspondents; courses have also been opened for the study of photo-laboratory work.

The results achieved by L'Humanité in the important sphere of extending the activities of the network of correspondents have not been reached without a struggle, even within the editorial office itself. Many of the permanent staff underestimated the correspondents. It was their opinion that, because the latter were not professional journalists, they would only be able to supply small items which in most cases would be of little interest. This incorrect view resulted in the paper publishing only a small part of the material received.

The leadership of the paper repeatedly had to intervene to ensure bolder use of the correspondents' information items and their appearance over the signature of "L'Humanité correspondent". The editorial office organised a check-up on the use of all information.

The situation is very different today. It may now be said that the paper regularly features interesting information items and articles sent in by the correspondents.

Moreover, the departments of the paper often request the correspondents to help them fulfil particular assignments. Last summer over 30 correspondents worked for 2-3 weeks or a month in the editorial office helping the editorial staff, which operates with limited forces, to carry on its work with less difficulty during the holiday period.

The task now is to ensure that still bolder use is made of the materials supplied by the correspondents.

★

The Central Committee of the French Communist Party systematically helps L'Humanité's Editorial Board in all its work and, in particular, in extending its network of correspondents.

The C.C. meeting held on November 12, 1954, was wholly devoted to the tasks facing L'Humanité and the drive by the Party to increase the paper's circulation. It indicated to the Editorial Board ways and means to improve its work and suggested that it appeal more regularly to its correspondents for help and, first and foremost, to the worker-correspondents in large enterprises.

Now there is not a single Party meeting devoted to a discussion on the press which does not mention and explain the role of the correspondents.

Many federations in the departments have enthusiastically set about extending the network of correspondents in their districts. Thus, the Bureau of the Paris Federation took a decision that "every branch must have at least one correspondent". Recently two seminars were held in which many correspondents participated. It is planned to hold five more in October. Unfortunately, such examples are still infrequent.

We need to reach the point where every Party organisation considers it its duty to assign one correspondent to L'Humanité.

★

By developing the work of the correspon-

INCREASE IN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS AND OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES IN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES

The arms race policy pursued by ruling elements in capitalist countries is resulting in a steady increase in the incidence of accidents and occupational diseases among industrial workers.

Millions of working people, victims of accidents or occupational diseases, suffer disablement as a result, and are unable to earn a living. They are ruthlessly thrown out by the employers.

Even official statistics are unable to conceal the fact that industrial accidents are on the increase in capitalist enterprises. According to these figures the number of accidents per 1,000 workers in Western Germany increased from 101 in 1950 to 121 in 1953. The total number in Britain rose from 741,000 in 1951 to 747,000 in 1952. In Canada, the figure in 1949 was 412,000; by 1953 it had risen to 480,000. In Sweden there were 285,000 accidents in 1953 and 292,000 in 1954, while in Italy the number was 943,840 in 1953 and 1,086,853 in 1954.

Trade union statistics reveal the dire plight of the working people. They show, for instance, that in Japan in the processing industry alone the number of accidents which were fatal, or resulted in permanent disability, rose by 22% between 1950 and 1953. In Italy the number of accidents in the Bicocca works (Pirelli group) has risen by 66% and in France it increased from 619,000 in 1938 to 1,829,000 in 1953.

Poverty and Hunger—the Lot of the Taiwan Peasants

Because of unbearable taxes and exploitation by usurers, the Taiwan peasants are living in conditions of semi-starvation.

Even according to the figures of the Chiang Kai-shek "Food Board", which underrate the true position, about one-sixth of all peasant households on Taiwan are experiencing a serious shortage of grain and are compelled to apply to the Board for loans on which they are charged high rates of interest. However, a great many peasants who have already mortgaged their land are not even able to do this. They have to obtain loans from local usurers, the interest charges for which usually range from 50 to 100% and are sometimes even as high as 200%. Not more than 40% of the total harvest reaped is left to the middle peasant after he has paid all kinds of taxes and made his deliveries. The number of peasant debtors is therefore increasing every year. Each month the local authorities increase the rate of interest accumulating on debts, with the result that the peasants who have incurred debts are, in a year or two, unable to pay them off.

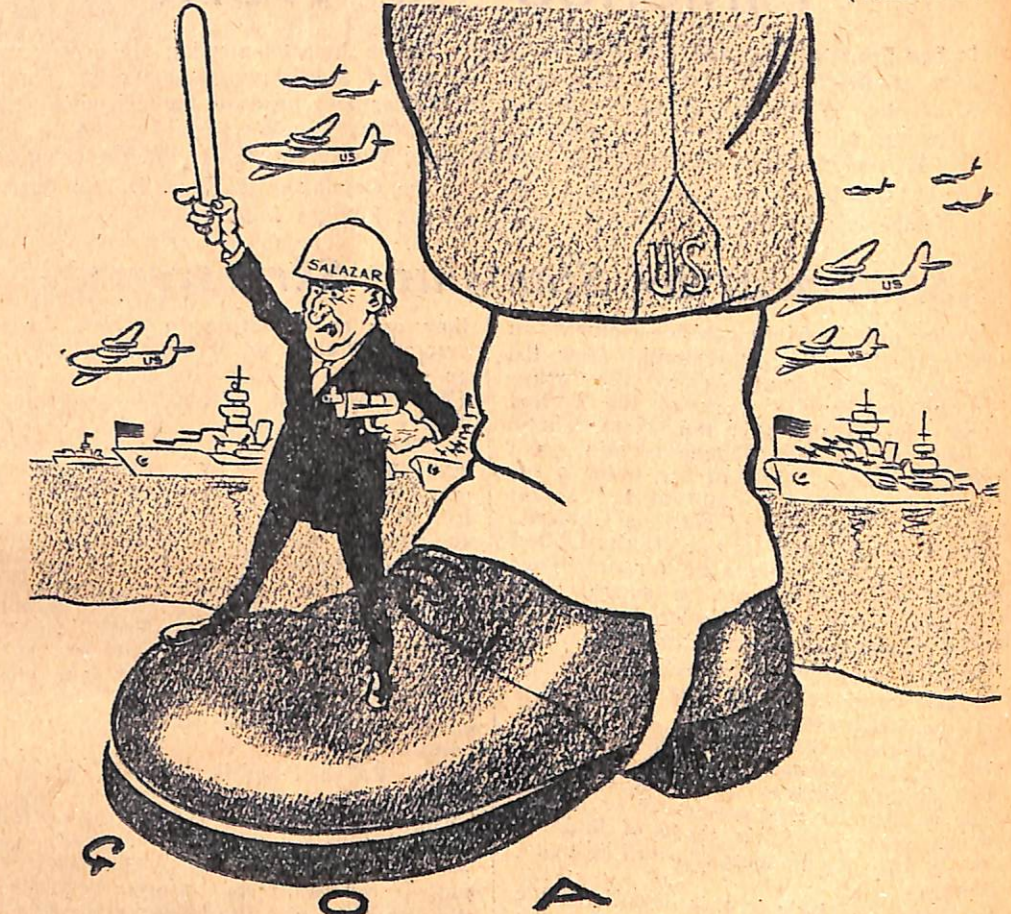
FACTS EXPOSE...

McCarthyites Still Going Strong

Thirty thousand New-Yorkers who happen to live in state-owned houses have been requested, under threat

The Portuguese Government, which two years ago granted the United States the right to use for their purposes Portuguese military bases, not only rejects the repeated proposals of the Indian Government to settle the question of Goa by peaceful negotiation, but is taking measures that constitute a menace to India's security.

(Press item)



SENOR SALAZAR'S POSITION

Drawing by J. Novak

POLITICAL NOTES

Uninvited Guests in Beirut

It is a long time since there has been such a building boom in Beirut, capital of Lebanon, as there is just now. Houses, particularly, are springing up fast. One might assume that this would please the Lebanese, many of whom live in mean hovels. However, the boom arouses no enthusiasm among them, on the contrary, all honest people are disturbed by it.

The fact is that most of the houses under construction are intended for foreign "guests". Many of the finest houses in the best districts of the city have been rented by the U.S. Embassy, and other dwellings are also occupied by Americans. These transatlantic "guests" unconcernedly part with anything from 6,000 to 8,000 Lebanese pounds for a flat, so that rents are rocketing. Many Lebanese families are forced to move from the centre to the less convenient suburbs, where the rents are more reasonable.

The military minds from the U.S. are highly interested in the big Mediterranean port of Beirut. U.S. men-of-war are seen increasingly often in Lebanese waters on "visits of friendship". "Displays of Western might" are staged, and from time to time jet planes roar over the city. More and more batches of American "visitors" are arriving in Lebanon. The flow has greatly increased because of U.S. imperialism.

which enable them to freely carry on their dirty work.

Yankee cars, refrigerators and washing machines are flooding the market, and although Lebanon is rich in its own fruit and vegetables, Beirut shops are crammed with these products imported in tins from the U.S.A.

The U.S. staff of the Tapline Oil Company enjoy especially far-reaching privileges. Tapline is, in fact, a state within a state. Its officials roam about the country at will, bringing anything they want from the U.S.A. into Lebanon without going through the customs, they engage in black-market deals and pay no taxes.

Regular supplies of various types of U.S. propaganda material, Hollywood films and pornographic publications are brought into Lebanon.

As the newspaper *Hal-Amam* wrote recently, since the Turco-Iraqi pact was concluded there has been a big influx of Turkish "visitors" into Lebanon. Most of them former officers of the Turkish army. All the Lebanese hotels and boarding houses are crowded with Turkish, U.S. and British "guests".

The people of Lebanon are naturally alarmed at this influx of uninvited guests and public opinion is turning against them.

statements published, accompanied by over 60 photographs, were collected by the correspondents under the direction of one of the permanent staff of the paper. The second referendum, the results of which were published in *l'Humanité Dimanche*, dealt with the living standards of the working people. The paper received 1,200 answers to its questionnaire, many of which were accompanied by letters giving additional information. The correspondents, supplied with questionnaires, conducted the referendum among their work-mates in the shop or at the office, and among their neighbours.

The correspondents collect copy, have talks with their work-mates on this or that political event, and on the situation in the enterprises, and send the facts thus obtained to *l'Humanité*. Very often the staff of the paper obtain from these letters, written in a simple and clear style, material and themes for important articles.

Whenever they come across anything which may be of interest to *l'Humanité* the correspondents at once begin to collect material. Let us cite one example. In one of the localities of the Seine-et-Oise Department last November there was a serious railway accident. That same evening *l'Humanité* received an informative article from one of its correspondents. The Editorial Board sent a letter thanking him and asking him to tell other correspondents how he had written his article.

In his reply, the correspondent described how he had gone to the scene of the accident

good and bad examples and shows how weaknesses can be overcome. The bulletin is published in 8,000 copies, each correspondent receiving one at his home address, the rest being distributed among the Party sections.

3. The office does its utmost to establish personal contact with the largest possible number of correspondents. When a correspondent from the Paris district or from the countryside comes to the office he has a talk with an editor of the correspondents' department. With those who live in the provinces, a lively personal correspondence is maintained. Each information item received is studied. If it is of special interest, a letter is sent to the correspondent asking him to enlarge on it and give additional details so that it can be worked up into an article.

All this makes it possible to considerably improve the quality of the material received and to raise the level of work of all correspondents.

In January 1953, *l'Humanité*, with the help of amateur photographers, organised a group of correspondent-photographers. This was soon a great success. The daily *l'Humanité* now annually features about 1,000 photos taken by these correspondents.

The technical guidance of this group is carried on by a number of correspondents who have become real experts in photography. This leading group discusses the work done and the future tasks, and helps the editorial staff to direct the work of all

to the Editorial Board ways and means to improve its work and suggested that it appeal more regularly to its correspondents for help and, first and foremost, to the worker-correspondents in large enterprises.

Now there is not a single Party meeting devoted to a discussion on the press which does not mention and explain the role of the correspondents.

Many federations in the departments have enthusiastically set about extending the network of correspondents in their districts. Thus, the Bureau of the Paris Federation took a decision that "every branch must have at least one correspondent". Recently two seminars were held in which many correspondents participated. It is planned to hold five more in October. Unfortunately, such examples are still infrequent.

We need to reach the point where every Party organisation considers it its duty to assign one correspondent to *l'Humanité*.

By developing the work of the correspondents, and systematically relating the publication of their articles to the paper's circulation, *l'Humanité* will strengthen its ties with the masses and will clarify the questions agitating them in a still better way.

Thus we will be carrying out the behest of Maurice Thorez: "To make this newspaper of France the newspaper of all French men and women..."

Raymond LAVIGNE

gaged their land are not even able to do this. They have to obtain loans from local usurers, the interest charges for which usually range from 50 to 100% and are sometimes even as high as 200%. Not more than 40% of the total harvest reaped is left to the middle peasant after he has paid all kinds of taxes and made his deliveries. The number of peasant debtors is therefore increasing every year. Each month the local authorities increase the rate of interest accumulating on debts, with the result that the peasants who have incurred debts are, in a year or two, unable to pay them off.

FACTS EXPOSE...

McCarthyites Still Going Strong Thirty thousand New Yorkers who happen to live in state-owned houses have been requested, under threat of immediate eviction, to swear that neither they nor the members of their families have anything to do with "subversive organisations". Each of them has been given a list of 200 organisations which, according to the Government, come under this heading. At the same time they are warned that "false testimony" will involve a five-year prison sentence and a fine of 10,000 dollars.

The fact is that most of the houses under construction are intended for foreign "guests". Many of the finest houses in the best districts of the city have been rented by the U.S. Embassy, and other dwellings are also occupied by Americans. These transatlantic "guests" unconcernedly part with anything from £,000 to 8,000 Lebanese pounds for a flat, so that rents are rocketing. Many Lebanese families are forced to move from the centre to the less convenient suburbs, where the rents are more reasonable.

The military minds from the U.S. are highly interested in the big Mediterranean port of Beirut. U.S. men-of-war are seen increasingly often in Lebanese waters on "visits of friendship", "Displays of Western might" are staged, and from time to time jet planes roar over the city. More and more batches of American "visitors" are arriving in Lebanon. The flow has greatly increased because of U.S. imperialist plans to set up aggressive military blocs in the Near and Middle East.

Some 30,000 American agents are today basking in this sunny city in the guise of diplomats, officials, representatives of various companies, artists, photographers, missionaries, travellers, commercial travellers, correspondents and tourists. All of them have official passports

Tapline is... officials roam about the bringing anything they want from the U.S.A. into Lebanon without going through the customs, they engage in black-market deals and pay no taxes. Regular supplies of various types of U.S. propaganda material, Hollywood films and pornographic publications are brought into Lebanon.

As the newspaper *Hal-Amam* recently, since the Turco-Iraqi pact concluded there has been a big influx of Turkish "visitors" into Lebanon—most of them former officers of the Turkish army. All the Lebanese hotels and boarding houses are crowded with Turkish, U.S. and British "guests".

The people of Lebanon are naturally alarmed at this influx of uninvited guests and public opinion correctly connects it with U.S. policy, which is aimed at heightening tension in the Near and Middle East and at forcing the Arab countries to join the Turco-Iraqi pact. This too is the purpose of the recent visit of Bayar, the Turkish President, to Beirut.

But this policy, fundamentally opposed to Lebanese national interests, is coming up against the increasing opposition of the people.

Jan MAREK

BOOK REVIEW

A REALISTIC NOVEL

"Silas Timberman" by Howard Fast *

Silas Timberman is the latest novel by the talented U.S. writer, Howard Fast. It describes how ordinary, decent people, in the complex conditions of the contemporary American scene, mature into public-spirited citizens; it tells how, in defending their right to think and express their thoughts freely, to live and work in peace, they finally come to join in the struggle against violations of personal liberty, against rampant reaction, which is doing everything it can to kill the average American's ability to analyse real events and facts objectively, and to turn him into an obedient tool of the policy of aggression.

The action opens in the small mid-western town of Clemington. The reader is first introduced to Silas Timberman, the university professor, who is the central figure of the novel, in his home. A man who has worked his way up to his present position from humble beginnings, he is a devoted husband and father, a man of intellectual talent; nevertheless he stands far removed from politics. Big political problems leave him unmoved; his interests do not transcend the bounds of his family life and the mid-western university where he teaches. He finds his modest happiness in the love of his wife, Myra, in his children, and his cosy home.

But the entire trend of events in the United States today gradually draws him into the political maelstrom and forces him to look upon himself, upon the role of the ordinary American and everything going on around him, from a fresh viewpoint.

* "Silas Timberman", Howard Fast, Blue Heron Press, Inc., New York, 1954, 311 pp.



The story begins with Silas Timberman, who wants to convey to his students the spiritual richness of progressive American literature, starting his course of lectures with an analysis of the work of the great American writer, Mark Twain. The head of his department, Lundfest—a faithful servitor of high-placed academic reactionaries—strongly opposes the idea. But Timberman sees, no reason to refrain from acquainting his students with the finest examples of progressive American literature. His insistence costs him dear. A widely-ramified witch-hunt is started against the "recalcitrant" professor. At first the authorities try to persuade him, to win him over and detach him from his colleagues, to force him to renounce his convictions and submissively support the actions of the reactionary professors; then, through the intermediary of fascist-minded hoodlums, they print a provocative article in the university newspaper, *Fulcrum*, accusing him, a man unacquainted with Marxism, of "subversive Communist" activity.

That was the start of the sensational "case of Silas Timberman". Silas is slow to grasp the political and social implications of these developments. He never suspects that apparently chance academic disputes about progressive writers, whose work is the pride of the entire American people, have deep roots. Only the logic of real life, only actual facts and events compel him to give thought to the things happening around him, to emerge from his state of unruffled calm and begin to fight for the truth, against the attempts to teach people not to think or judge things for themselves.

The novel clearly shows the working of the machinery through which others besides

Timberman fall victims to the witch-hunt. Straightforward, honest Ike Amsterdam, a respected professor of astrophysics, who is Silas' close friend and adviser, falls under the axe with him. Clemington's President Cabot, a political careerist, urges the professors to enlist in the university's "civil defence" organisation against a mythical Soviet threat. A sober consideration of the request brings Amsterdam to the conclusion that it was "motivated not by concern for the national good but by political expediency". Following the bidding of his conscience, he indignantly refuses to have any part in the foul business. This is enough to get the aged professor listed as a "potential Communist", as one of those unreliable, disloyal people who attack the foundations of American "democracy". On the strength of this he is thrown out of the university.

Silas Timberman cannot condone this arbitrary action of the university authorities. He addresses a meeting in protest against the suspension of the distinguished scientist. He is moved thereto not only by his personal friendship with Ike, but also by his deep indignation, at the brutality with which the "learned" pillars of American reaction deal with people who do not suit them, simply because they hold different views from them on some subject or dare to refuse to go against their conscience as human beings.

After this meeting Silas draws closer to his friends—to Professor Brady, Pastor Masterson, Ike Amsterdam, lawyer MacAllister. Each of these flesh and blood characters, vividly drawn by the author, has his own troubles and worries, his own interests and views, his own life to lead. But each is weighed down by a diabolic force that threatens to destroy him morally and physically.

Elbert Masterson, the amiable Methodist pastor, falls into the bad books of the uni-

versity and city authorities because he indignantly turns down Lundfest's invitation to head a committee to burn books that do not accord with the "American way of life". His heartfelt pronouncement that bonfires of books "are the last fires that madmen kindle before they destroy themselves" may well cause him to be declared a party to a "Communist plot". Some horrible fate also hangs like the sword of Damocles over MacAllister who fights fiercely against the lawlessness and petty tyranny that he comes up against at every step. In this group of men Professor Alec Brady emerges as the central figure. His close comrades and colleagues do not know that he is a member of the Communist Party, but they intuitively sense in him a strength that can be relied on and group themselves around him. Silas, too, feels drawn to him heart and soul.

Concrete incidents gradually convince Timberman of the hypocrisy of the bosses of the U.S.A. who, under the pretence of defending democracy and liberty, are shamelessly trampling on the most elementary human rights. As he matures politically, he sees how politicians of the type of Senator Brannigan and that "limb of the law", government attorney Ward, destroy a man, "so quietly, so politely, a tribute and testimony to the American way of things..." Brought up before the Senate Committee on Internal Expenditure (the innocent name given to what is really a secret police agency), he comes face to face with instances of flagrant lawlessness, blackmail, slander and false testimony.

Fast draws an incisive picture of the hearing. Timberman is charged with a "crime" against the state: "membership" in a Communist organisation. Brannigan's questions to him are plainly provocative. He demands that Silas name the person who asked him to sign an appeal for peace and prohibition of the atom bomb, seeks to worm out of the "accused" the names of his Communist acquaintances, and threatens to prosecute him for contempt. Silas courageously bears all the insults, threats and intimidations. His replies ring out as an indictment against those who, solemnly

seated under the national flag, make a farce of justice.

At this degrading hearing Silas grows convinced that the reaction, political lies and blackmail with which he has been brought into contact of late are closely connected with war preparations against the Soviet Union. And, although he knows very little about the Soviet Union, when he is asked whether he would bear arms against it in the event of war between the U.S.A. and the USSR, he boldly tells the Senate Committee that what is needed is, "not to bear arms against Russia—but to live on the same globe with Russia, to live, to understand, to comprehend, to learn".

Although the whole investigation clearly proves Silas' innocence, the "case of Silas Timberman" is not dropped. All the visible and invisible springs of the machinery of state are set in motion with fresh impetus to find "legal" grounds on which to clamp down on Silas and his close friends. And although Fast depicts only the external operation of this machinery, the reader gets a clear picture of the way in which Timberman and his friends become entangled in a thick web by officials, secret agents, slanderers and informers.

Types like the informer and perjurer Bob Allen, like President Cabot of Clemington University, a political careerist poking his finger in the pie of scholarship, the bigoted departmental head Lundfest who removes from the university library the great works of Mark Twain, Theodore Dreiser and other progressive writers, government attorney Ward who violates all the elementary standards of legal procedure and whose only concern is to put all "free-thinkers" behind bars—all these types are so vivid that they seem to have been drawn from life.

Courageously opposing this band of conspirators against the American people are ordinary, decent human beings. In the unequal combat with the forces of reaction they are, for the time being, defeated: on the basis of Bob Allen's false testimony Silas Timberman is pronounced "guilty" of subversive activity and sentenced to imprisonment.

When the judge asks Timberman if he has anything to say before sentence is

passed upon him, he pronounces a stern condemnation of those who have prepared letters for him: "You are letting loose a horror that will destroy you as surely as you attempted to destroy me—with one difference. I am indestructible. That is not egotism. I am a humble man, perhaps too humble; but I am on the side of life, and you are on the side of death." Well, if in order to fight this horror he must go to prison, he will go there with a sense of duty well done! Now he will not feel that he is alone even there: he has faithful friends, many of them; with him are the millions of honest Americans who like himself are surely, even though slowly, moving towards civic and political maturity and beginning to fight back.

The novel shows the first coming together of intellectuals and the working class, the main, the decisive force capable of checking the onslaught of reaction. True, Fast devotes but little space to the representative of the workers, the trade union leader Mike Leslie. Leslie has only an episodic rôle to play. But the entire course of events shows that without the working class, the most loyal and consistent supporter of peace and defender of democratic liberties, progressive intellectuals cannot defend themselves and their rights and achieve their goal. It is just this point that is brought out by the vigilante attack upon Timberman's house one dark December night, when a band of ruffians got together by the reactionaries break the windows and nearly blind his small son. It would be hard to say what would have become of Silas and his family if the workers led by Mike Leslie had not come to their assistance at this crucial moment.

Silas Timberman is a moving book, written with great artistic skill, a book that wreathefully exposes the rampant reaction that paves the way to war. At the same time it shows in a vivid way how among the American people healthy forces are taking shape filled with a firm resolve to uphold their democratic rights and freedoms and to thwart the sanguinary schemes of the enemies of mankind.

G. POPOV

EDITORIAL BOARD