

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

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For the Flourishing of Friendship Between the Peoples of the USSR and Burma

These days the world public is watching with unabated attention the tour of N. A. Bulganin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and N. S. Khrushchev, member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, through India and Burma. Millions of people in all countries note with sincere satisfaction the really fraternal hospitality and cordiality towards these outstanding political figures of the Soviet Union.

The peaceable, realistic foreign policy of the Soviet Union is approved and supported by ordinary people all over the world, and is welcomed by the whole of progressive mankind. The tour of India and Burma by the Soviet leaders has once again confirmed this graphically and convincingly. As is unanimously acknowledged by the Burmese, their country has never received foreign guests so warmly, with such spontaneity and joy.

The exceptional warmth of the reception given to the leaders of the Soviet state in Burma is an expression of the deep gratitude of the Burmese people to the Soviet people for the fact that they were the first in history to overthrow the yoke of oppression and build the most progressive social system, and that they graphically demonstrated to the whole world what working people are capable of if they fight for their vital interests, for their freedom and independence. The Burmese people are wholeheartedly grateful to the Soviet people for their tireless efforts for strengthening world peace as well as for consolidating and promoting mutual understanding and friendship among states and peoples. The people of Burma, who need a lasting and durable peace in order to advance economically, improve their well-being and consolidate their independence, are ardent defenders of peace, and this unites them with the peoples of the Soviet Union and makes Soviet-Burmese friendship firm and fruitful.

The disinterested and honest attitude of the Soviet people towards the Burmese people, as towards all peoples of the world, is one of the life-giving wellsprings of Soviet-Burmese friendship. The Soviet state respects all national social systems, it does not impose its own offering help,

and more peace-loving states and peoples, open up great possibilities for co-operation between the Soviet Union and the Union of Burma in the economic, cultural, scientific and technical spheres.

Having laid emphasis on the need to stabilise the perceptible relaxation in international relations that has already been achieved, the statesmen of the Soviet Union and the Union of Burma went on record for the unconditional prohibition of the manufacture, testing and use of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons, for a substantial reduction in conventional armaments and the establishment of effective international control over the carrying out of these measures. In their joint statement they expressed the unanimous opinion that the policy of setting up blocs should be condemned and that such vital problems as the political settlement in Indo-China, the unification of Korea, the restoration to the Chinese People's Republic of Taiwan and the other islands which have been part of the China's territory from time immemorial, the admission to the United Nations of all the 18 countries which have applied for membership should all be solved without delay.

The Soviet-Burmese statement, which is a contribution to the strengthening of peace in Asia and throughout the world and promotes the further development of and the spirit of Bandung and Geneva, has been acclaimed not only by the peoples of the Soviet Union and Burma but also by the peace-loving peoples of other countries.

The visit of the Soviet leaders to India and Burma and the strengthening of friendship between the USSR and these countries gladden the hearts of all honest men and women throughout the world. They see in this the concern of the USSR, India and Burma for further strengthening international security.

Altogether different is the attitude some of the representatives of the Western powers take to the development of friendly co-operation between the Soviet Union, India and Burma. It displeases them that the Soviet Union, the Chinese People's Republic—their great friend and brother, with whom the Soviet Union is forever linked with ties of firm, wholehearted and disinterested friendship, wholeheartedly and disinterestedly

IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE IN ASIA AND THE WHOLE WORLD Stay of Bulganin and Khrushchev in Burma

As already reported by our newspaper, N. A. Bulganin, N. S. Khrushchev and those accompanying them arrived in Burma from Calcutta on December 1. The Soviet delegation was met at the gaily decorated Mingaladon airport by members of the Government of Burma with Prime Minister U Nu at their head, by government officials, representatives of the public and the press, members of the diplomatic corps and many thousands of citizens of Rangoon.

Coexistence Is a Vital Necessity

Welcoming the honoured guests, Prime Minister U Nu stated:

"I can assure you that the leaders and people of Burma love you not only as friends and well-wishers but as beloved relatives too."

In reply Comrade Bulganin said: "The Soviet Union and Burma are many thousands of miles away from each other. But a force exists that takes no account of such an obstacle as great distance. This force is the common striving of the Soviet and Burmese peoples for the establishment of complete understanding between their two countries, for the strengthening and development of friendship and mutually advantageous co-operation between them for the good of universal peace and security."

The twelve-mile route from the airport to Rangoon was decorated with the flags of the Soviet Union and Burma. In many places there were arches covered with bunting bearing words of welcome, in both Burmese and Russian.

Vast numbers of Rangoon citizens lined the road leading from the airport to welcome the guests.

Late in the afternoon, U Sen Pe, Mayor of Rangoon, gave a civic reception which was attended by members of the Government, chairmen of both chambers of Parliament, members of the diplomatic corps and prominent citizens of Rangoon. The Mayor delivered an address of welcome.

In our times, the address stated, no country can remain isolated, no country can remain indifferent to what is taking place in other parts of the world. Never, throughout history, has the need for coexistence and co-operation been more vital. The spirit of humanity must engender the spirit of fraternity among peoples, and it is essential that this spirit find fertile soil and support so that hostility and lack of understanding stand in the peoples'

isation. The recollection of this inspired our people to struggle."

"Quite right", remarked N. S. Khrushchev, "the heritage of one's ancestors must be appreciated and taken care of."

"Now we are changing history", observed one of the Burmese.

"Yes, history changes", said N. S. Khrushchev. "But it is a difficult and many-sided process. At first the people fight for their freedom and independence with arms in hand, then, when freedom and independence have been won, the forms of struggle change. The people must develop their economy and culture and at the same time must be ready to uphold their independence. I think that the Burmese people have been taught by the bitter experience of their history and will be able to stand up for themselves. Experience will tell them where their friends and enemies are, but I shall not go into that, for as it is, some people are already accusing me of engaging in propaganda."

"We have learned to distinguish propaganda from facts", noted the Burmese diplomat.

"When Soviet people tell the truth", N. S. Khrushchev continued, "some people say it is propaganda. Some people would like us to say: What good people the colonisers are, how much good they have done for those whom they oppressed. The colonisers would like all this."

"We, however, know very well what colonialism is!" exclaimed one of the Burmese.

"And when we speak truths that are unpleasant to the colonisers, they do not like it", went on Comrade Khrushchev. "Well, this will not prevent us from always telling the truth. We shall always say that there must be no oppression of man by man, that the oppression of peoples must not be allowed, that all peoples must be free and independent."

"This unites us with you", said the Burmese diplomat amidst general acclamation. "We also stand for the liberation of those who are not yet free. We ourselves were not free in the past, and now Burma is a sovereign republic and we consider it our duty to give moral assistance to those who fight for their independence."

"That's right", said Khrushchev. "We wish you success along this path."

After a tour of Shwe Dagon the guests went to the "Peace Pagoda". In the evening Prime Minister U Nu gave a dinner in their honour.

"We Want to Live with You

in order to raise the civilisation of the Burmese people.

"But we say otherwise: the colonisers stayed in your country to plunder the people, to deprive them of their last crust of bread. That is why the newspapers of certain countries do not like such statements. The truth usually hurts."

"The Soviet people rejoice at your successes", said Comrade Khrushchev. "We want to live with you as brothers and we want from you nothing but friendship."

On the morning of December 4 the guests flew to Mandalay, after Rangoon the second biggest city of the country.

At the Mandalay airport the Soviet leaders were met by U Ba Swe, Minister of Defence of the Union of Burma, representatives of the supreme military command and of the military authorities of the region. A civic reception was held there, attended by several hundred representatives of local authorities and public figures of Mandalay.

On the morning of December 5 a military parade was held in Maymyo in honour of the Soviet leaders. Bulganin and Khrushchev, accompanied by the Minister of Defence and the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the Union of Burma, drove in military cars down the ranks of the troops and then made brief speeches before the generals, officers and soldiers of the Burmese armed forces.

After the parade the Soviet leaders flew to Rangoon.

A Sign of Our Time

A political meeting devoted to friendship between the Burmese and Soviet peoples was held in the City Hall of Rangoon on the morning of December 6, under the auspices of the Anti-Fascist League for People's Freedom.

Comrades Bulganin and Khrushchev and Prime Minister U Nu were met with stormy applause when they entered the hall.

As Chairman of the Anti-Fascist League for People's Freedom, U Nu introduced Comrades Bulganin and Khrushchev to those present and gave a brief account of their working life and political activities.

He then gave the floor to Khrushchev.

"In the last few years tremendous changes have taken place in the world", said Comrade Khrushchev. "The irresistible desire of the oppressed peoples for independence and freedom has become a sign of our time. The colonial system is crumbling, despite the desperate efforts of the colonisers to preserve their domina-

engineers recently exploded a hydrogen bomb of great, unparalleled power. This was done at a great altitude so as not to endanger the population. And yet we again propose the strictest ban on the use of atomic weapons."

Observing that the present situation in the Pacific area and South-East Asia provides favourable conditions for the Burmese people to strengthen the independence of their state, Comrade Khrushchev said:

"A gang of Chiang Kai-shek bandits who are committing all sorts of outrages have entrenched themselves in your land. I doubt whether this band could have lasted so long without the aid of some of Burma's foes. But do what they may, the colonisers cannot hold their ground in any place from which they have been ousted by a people who have made national independence their banner."

Comrade Khrushchev noted that the ruling circles of Britain, France and the U.S.A. had made one concession after the other to Hitler, egging him on to the East, but what happened was that he whom "the then ruling circles of Britain, France and the U.S.A. had nurtured as their watch dog, with the intention of unleashing him against the USSR, broke loose from his chain and hurled himself upon those who fed him."

"The Soviet people", Comrade Khrushchev emphasized in speaking of the second world war, "shed much more blood in that war than all our allies taken together, but we respect and praise the British, French, American and other troops that fought Hitler Germany and her satellites. The struggle was a grim one, but our combined armies, fighting for the bright future of mankind, for its liberty and independence, against bloody Hitlerism, won a great victory."

"This experience of joint struggle for a common cause was of great significance. The second world war showed that British, French, American and Soviet people could be the best of friends, not only in good days, but also at a time of the grimmest and severest trials. If we were allies in the war, what can stop us from being just as good friends in the struggle to preserve and strengthen peace?"

In Close Friendship and Accord

While staying in the Burmese capital, Comrades Bulganin and Khrushchev visited Rangoon University, where Comrade Khrushchev made an interesting speech, repeatedly interrupted by applause from the audience.

"I am sometimes told", he said in particular, "that I am always contending that

pression and build the most progressive social system, and that they graphically demonstrated to the whole world what working people are capable of if they fight for their vital interests, for their freedom and independence. The Burmese people are wholeheartedly grateful to the Soviet people for their tireless efforts for strengthening world peace as well as for consolidating and promoting mutual understanding and friendship among states and peoples. The people of Burma, who need a lasting and durable peace in order to advance economically, improve their well-being, and consolidate their independence, are ardent defenders of peace, and this unites them with the peoples of the Soviet Union and makes Soviet-Burmese friendship firm and fruitful.

The disinterested and honest attitude of the Soviet people towards the Burmese people, as towards all peoples of the world, is one of the life-giving wellsprings of Soviet-Burmese friendship. The Soviet state respects all nations—big or small; it does not impose its own social system or its ideology upon them. In offering help, it attaches no strings, imposes no political obligations. This is an absolutely new policy, one that differs in principle from the policy of the imperialist states, for which the enslavement and systematic plunder of other countries, and of backward countries in particular, is one of the principal means of obtaining maximum capitalist profits. That is why the people of Burma, who for many decades were subjected to the oppression of the colonisers and came to know in full measure all the disastrous consequences of their imperialist policy, are so friendly, so very cordial in their attitude towards the Soviet people.

In their struggle for national independence the freedom-loving Burmese people always had the moral support of the Soviet people. As the Burmese newspaper *New Times of Burma* justly wrote, no one can deny that Soviet Russia, directly and indirectly, has contributed to many millions of Asians, including the Burmese people, obtaining their freedom. Now that the Burmese are waging a struggle for the consolidation of the sovereignty and independence of their country, the Soviet people sincerely wish them full success in their efforts. The situation that has now arisen in the Pacific area and in South-East Asia—the existence of friendly Pacific powers such as the USSR and the Chinese People's Republic, the formation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the close proximity of peace-loving India—create for the Burmese people favourable conditions for the consolidation of their state independence. The readiness of the Soviet people to accord their fraternal aid and support to the Burmese people in this is also a source of strengthening friendship between these two peoples.

An important event, one that marks a new phase in the relations between the USSR and Burma, an event that is destined to play an immense role in strengthening Burma's state independence and the fraternal friendship and fruitful co-operation between the Soviet and Burmese peoples, is the signing of the joint statement by N. A. Bulganin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, N. S. Khrushchev, member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and U Nu, Prime Minister of the Union of Burma. In it the statesmen of the two countries have again affirmed their loyalty to the principles of peaceful coexistence and expressed the certainty that these principles, which are being recognised and adopted by more

of all the 18 countries which have applied for membership should all be solved without delay.

The Soviet-Burmese statement, which is a contribution to the strengthening of peace in Asia and throughout the world and promotes the further development of the spirit of Bandung and Geneva, has been acclaimed not only by the peoples of the Soviet Union and Burma but also by the peace-loving peoples of other countries.

The visit of the Soviet leaders to India and Burma and the strengthening of friendship between the USSR and these countries gladden the hearts of all honest men and women throughout the world. They see in this the concern of the USSR, India and Burma for further strengthening international security.

Altogether different is the attitude some of the representatives of the Western powers take to the development of friendly co-operation between the Soviet Union, India and Burma. It displeases them that the Soviet Union, the Chinese People's Republic—its great friend and brother, with whom the Soviet Union is forever linked with ties of firm, wholehearted and disinterested friendship—and the whole of the socialist camp give their sincere support to the countries that have cast off the yoke of colonial oppression and are now each following its own road. The colonisers are foaming with rage and casting vicious aspersions, seeking to distort and discredit the Soviet Union's truly peaceable, noble aspirations. They refuse to reconcile themselves to the loss of their positions in South-East Asia and the Pacific area. The colonisers, who have got used to living off the sweat of the enslaved peoples, would like to preserve their domination over the peoples of Asia. But the days of the colonisers have gone forever.

Lenin, the leader and teacher of the world proletariat, who had a deep insight into the innermost processes of the development of modern society and who analysed and generalised the experience of the struggle of the peoples of the colonial and dependent countries in the era of imperialism, wrote that the majority of the world's population, oppressed by imperialism, had awakened and was on the march, a march which the strongest and "mightiest" of powers were impotent to stop, and that the time was coming when these peoples would play their part in shaping the destinies of the whole world. These prophetic words of Lenin are coming true. Under the mighty blows of the struggle for national liberation, the colonial system of imperialism is crumbling and a great historical process is taking place, in which the peoples of the East are awakening and beginning to take an active part in political life. There is no force capable of halting this process.

True to the principles of proletarian internationalism, the Soviet Union, People's China and all the People's Democracies have been and always will be on the side of the peoples who fight for national liberation, for independent statehood. In this they have the support of all right-minded people the world over.

Communists in all countries, the whole of progressive mankind sincerely welcome the strengthening of friendship and co-operation between the peoples of the Soviet Union and the peoples of India, Burma and other countries who have won their national independence. Friendship between peace-loving countries is a salient factor in strengthening world peace and safeguarding the security of the peoples.

of complete understanding between their two countries, for the strengthening and development of friendship and mutually advantageous co-operation between them for the good of universal peace and security."

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N. A. Bulganin then spoke, and was warmly applauded by those present.

"Your people", he said, "have experienced the burden of colonial domination, of foreign intervention and of devastating war. The Soviet people, educated in the great Leninist ideas of the equality and self-determination of nations, followed with sympathy the Burmese people's heroic struggle for national independence and were glad when their efforts were crowned with success."

The peoples of the East have awakened to active political life, continued Bulganin. Their fight against imperialism and colonialism has acquired unprecedented scope. We are witnessing the disintegration of the colonial system of imperialism. Some people are attempting to ignore these historical changes in Asia, trying not to notice them, but nevertheless they exist and are exercising an immense influence on international life.

Prime Minister U Nu, who spoke next, said:

"The leaders of the Soviet Union have won the esteem of the leaders and people of Burma through the courageous efforts with which they are boldly building their new world, and we are certain that they will, in the future too, act just as effectively to alleviate tension and preserve peace throughout the world."

The first day of the Soviet leaders' stay in Burma already showed that there, as in India, they were regarded with profound respect, with fraternal and friendly feelings.

"We Wish You Success Along This Path"

The Soviet guests spent the second day of their Burmese tour in Rangoon, acquainting themselves with the life of the capital, with its ancient monuments. In the morning they laid wreaths on the grave of Aung San, leader of the national liberation struggle, and his brothers-in-arms who were brutally murdered by the agents of the enemies of Burmese independence. They then visited the Shwe Dagon Pagoda, one of the biggest Buddhist temples, built 2,500 years ago.

Pointing to the pagoda's majestic spire of glittering gold, a Burmese diplomat remarked:

"Fighting for our independence, we often said: When William the Conqueror landed on the shores of England our Shwe Dagon Pagoda was already standing. England had not yet been shaped as a nation, while our people were already at the summit of civil-

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"We Want to Live with You as Brothers"

On the morning of December 3 Bulganin and Khrushchev flew from Rangoon to the autonomous state of Shan. At Heho airport the guests were warmly welcomed by Sao Hkun Hkio, head of Shan State, and members of his Cabinet. From the airport the guests drove to Iaungve, a big settlement on the bank of Lake Inle. All along the route enthusiastic residents greeted them with shouts of welcome.

In Iaungve Bulganin and Khrushchev left their cars and embarked on the "Royal Barge", decorated with gold leaf and the most delicate carving, and sailed to the middle of the lake, where several festively decorated small houses with wide balconies and cane roofs stood on piles.

There a big popular water fete was held in honour of the visitors' arrival.

On the evening of December 3 the Soviet delegation drove from Lake Inle to Taunggyi, capital of Shan State. The guests were warmly and cordially welcomed by the people of the city.

On the same evening Sao Hkun Hkio held a dinner in honour of the visitors from Moscow.

At the end of the dinner he proposed a toast to the Soviet leaders recalling the heartfelt reception Prime Minister U Nu was given in the Soviet Union. A reciprocal toast was proposed by Bulganin.

N. S. Khrushchev then said:

"We have perceived with great joy the fraternal love and sincere feelings cherished by the people of Burma for the peoples of the Soviet Union, for our country."

"Why has such love developed for the Soviet Union and the Soviet people? I think it is because our people, under the leadership of the Communist Party, having taken power into their hands built a mighty socialist state. The workers, peasants and working intellectuals waged a resolute struggle against all oppressors and achieved great results under the leadership of their Party. The Soviet people showed the whole world what labouring people are capable of when they fight for their vital interests, for freedom, independence and their homeland."

"Some bourgeois newspapers", went on Comrade Khrushchev, "have taken a great deal of offence at my statements in India and Burma. But it is not to please them that I am speaking here."

"Why are they displeased? It is because I cannot speak with approval about the colonisers. For many decades foreign colonisers were on your backs and plundered your country. They say that this was done

the Soviet leaders. Bulganin and Khrushchev, accompanied by the Minister of Defence and the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the Union of Burma, drove in military cars down the ranks of the troops and then made brief speeches before the generals, officers and soldiers of the Burmese armed forces.

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He then gave the floor to Khrushchev.

"In the last few years tremendous changes have taken place in the world", said Comrade Khrushchev. "The irresistible desire of the oppressed peoples for independence and freedom has become a sign of our time. The colonial system is crumbling, despite the desperate efforts of the colonisers to preserve their domination in the countries they oppress. The colonisers cannot reconcile themselves to the loss of their positions in South-East Asia and the Pacific area; they do not want to recognise the changes that have taken place in the life of the peoples of the former colonial and dependent countries which have taken the path of independent development. Their interference in the internal affairs of Korea and Indo-China was marked by bloody wars which created in this part of the globe a breeding ground for another world war."

"Thanks to the collective efforts of the peace-loving states, which were supported by world opinion, the hostilities in Korea and Indo-China were ended."

"The cessation of hostilities in the Pacific area", Khrushchev continued, "was a big triumph for the forces of peace. There are still many unsettled problems in this area, however, and one of the most acute of them is the Japanese problem. Realising the difficulties now experienced by the Japanese people, the Soviet Union is striving to settle this problem. At the same time, the peoples of the Soviet Union share the fears of Japan's neighbours, who were the victims of Japanese militarism in the second world war. That is why the Soviet Union, together with other peaceable countries, stands in favour of the Japanese problem being settled in a manner that would preclude the resurrection of aggressive Japanese militarism and the conversion of Japan into the breeding ground of another world war."

Pointing out that in the sphere of foreign policy the Soviet Government has in recent times taken a number of steps towards the relaxation of international tension, steps that are known to the whole world, Comrade Khrushchev said:

"The Soviet Union always adheres steadfastly and consistently to its peaceable foreign policy. We have always stood for the reduction of armaments and the prohibition of atomic and hydrogen weapons. But we do not want to disarm by ourselves while the Western states pile up their armaments. It would be foolish to find ourselves powerless in the face of aggressive forces and unable to restrain the insane attempts of the imperialists to start another war. That is why we are obliged to continue to give attention to questions of our defence capacity."

"The Soviet Union has proposed a ban on atomic and hydrogen weapons, but the Western governments reject this proposal, declaring that they will go on building stockpiles of atomic bombs. Pursuing their scientific investigations, our scientists and

the U.S.A. had nurtured as their watch dog, with the intention of unleashing him against the USSR, broke loose from his chain and hurled himself upon those who fed him."

"The Soviet people", Comrade Khrushchev emphasized in speaking of the second world war, "shed much more blood in that war than all our allies taken together, but we respect and praise the British, French, American and other troops that fought Hitler Germany and her satellites. The struggle was a grim one, but our combined armies, fighting for the bright future of mankind, for its liberty and independence, against bloody Hitlerism, won a great victory."

"This experience of joint struggle for a common cause was of great significance. The second world war showed that British, French, American and Soviet people could be the best of friends, not only in good days, but also at a time of the grimmest and severest trials. If we were allies in the war, what can stop us from being just as good friends in the struggle to preserve and strengthen peace?"

In Close Friendship and Accord

While staying in the Burmese capital, Comrades Bulganin and Khrushchev visited Rangoon University, where Comrade Khrushchev made an interesting speech, repeatedly interrupted by applause from the audience.

"I am sometimes told", he said in particular, "that I am always contending that Socialism will win, that it will triumph over capitalism."

"Yes, I am entirely convinced of this. All of us Soviet people are convinced that in peaceful competition between the two systems the socialist system will be victorious. As long as our hearts continue to beat in our breasts we shall not give up our teaching because it is a correct and progressive one."

"The days of the capitalist system are numbered", said Comrade Khrushchev.

On December 6, N. A. Bulganin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, N. S. Khrushchev, member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and U Nu, Prime Minister of the Union of Burma, signed a joint statement which declares that the relations between the Soviet Union and the Union of Burma, which have always been sincere and friendly, are and will continue to be based on the firm principles of mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual advantage, peaceful coexistence and economic co-operation.

The joint statement refers to a number of international problems. In particular it emphasizes that to enhance the prestige and importance of Uno the Chinese People's Republic should take its legitimate place in this organisation.

On December 7 the guests left Rangoon for India. At the airport N. A. Bulganin and U Nu both made statements.

"On leaving your country", said Comrade Bulganin, "we note with joy that the personal contact between our Governments is highly fruitful and leads to the continued extension of mutual understanding between our peoples."

Speaking of the joint statement, Comrade Bulganin stressed that it was an important document signifying a new stage in the relations between the Soviet Union and Burma and that it would undoubtedly serve to strengthen peace in Asia and throughout the world.

U Nu then said: "The good-will visit of Your Excellencies to our country and the wholehearted reception accorded you here clearly show that countries with different political and economic systems can live not only in peace, but also in close friendship and accord."

On behalf of the Government and the people of Burma, U Nu heartily thanked the Soviet guests for their gift, an IL-14 plane.

In the afternoon of December 7 the Soviet delegation arrived back in India.

Retail Prices Cut Again in Rumania

The Council of Ministers of the Rumanian People's Republic has passed a decision to reduce retail prices on a number of items of mass consumption. The decision points out that the reduction (the second this year) is a result of the successful development of the country's economy along the path of Socialism, a result of the pre-schedule fulfilment of the first Five-Year Plan.

The new price cuts are 5-24% for ready-made woollen garments, 10% for wooden furniture, an average of 12% for hats, 20% for bicycles, 10% for sewing machines, 25% for gramophones, 10% for wrist-watches, alarm clocks and cameras, an average of 14% for kerosene, an average of 15% for laundry soap, etc.

On January 1, 1956, retail prices of medicines and books will go down by an average of 10%.

Italian Communists at Head of People's Struggle for Liberty, Well-Being and Peace*

Last summer, when the situation that arose with the formation of the Segni Government after the fall of the reactionary, McCarthyite Scelba-Saragat government became clear, we said that its cardinal feature was political confusion. Our appraisal was recognised as correct and was widely approved. The confusion has lasted ever since then, for not a thing has been done to dispel it. But in lasting it has also grown greater, so that if we should now ask ourselves again what the cardinal feature of the present situation is, we would have to qualify it as actual disorder. And in this disorder real, grave dangers are arising for the democratic system of our state.

In these circumstances one of the most serious elements is the country's worsened economic position. One of the most obvious reasons for this is to be seen in the grave and universally recognised financial difficulties, which leave no margin for manoeuvring with the state budget. It would be wrong to think that this has only happened because in drawing up the budget the revenues and the expenditures required were erroneously estimated. There are other reasons as well, outstanding among them being the repercussions on Italian economic life of the processes developing throughout the Western capitalist world, processes which are threatening even capitalist countries with sounder economic structures than ours. There is the process of inflation, the increasing competition on the world markets, the intolerable burden of military expenditure, a burden too heavy even for the budgets of rich capitalist countries—in short, a whole series of developments which, weighing on our already hard-pressed economy, have also affected the budget.

This situation has obliged the Government to adopt new fiscal measures, which on the whole show a tendency to add to the tax burden already carried by the working masses and the middle strata of the population.

Want is becoming more acute both in the towns and in the villages. Prices of consumer goods are slowly but steadily mounting. The ruinous consequences of the rotten rent law forced upon the country by the Christian Democratic Party and the Scelba-Saragat government, to the detriment of broad sections of the population with modest means, are especially apparent in the big cities. While on the one hand prices for manufactured goods are tending to rise, on the other, prices for agricultural produce are tending to fall, with a few, but very important exceptions, as in the case of vegetable oil.

The number of unemployed has not dropped and mass discharges are continuing. Unemployment has continued to be an organic disease of the country's economy since the latter's restoration in its previous form by the governments of the Christian Democratic Party and of the centre. As for those endemic zones of poverty that were brought to light during the famous parliamentary investigations of past years, it must be said that they remain the same and here and there even show a tendency to expand.

It seems to me that the most characteristic feature in industry, apart from the crisis in certain important branches such as textiles, is the continual increase in

The general consequence of all these facts is that the rural areas are seething with discontent. The countryside, which one would assume to be the sure stronghold of the Christian Democratic Party, is today a serious source of uneasiness to it and to the Government. The leaders of that party are trying to counteract this discontent, combining the threat of abolishing the "just cause" principle with demagogic assertions to the effect that one of the two—either the sharecropper or the landowner—is superfluous on the land. True, this is really so, but the Christian Democratic governments certainly will not draw the proper conclusions from this fact.

In foreign trade, too, the situation has not improved, but, on the contrary, has deteriorated and is tending to grow still worse as a result of certain international factors.

In this situation a mood of suppressed irritation, of dissatisfaction prevails among the people in town and country, a mood which is growing, even though, as far as the political choice is concerned, uncertainty still exists and clear conclusions have not yet been drawn. Hopes have been raised but not satisfied. There are growing fears about the future, fears that vary among different sections of people. In this situation we should not be surprised if, among certain sections of the population, there is some indifference, or at least a tendency to be indifferent, to the purely political struggle being waged in Parliament, because the broad masses of the population, particularly those who feel the pinch of want, have focused their attention elsewhere: on the day-to-day problems of existence, on the questions of everyday life. It is up to us and other advanced democratic forces to ensure that a clear and definite political orientation emerges from this situation.

I.

Among the most conscious elements these fears are augmented by serious anxiety about the international situation. It is true that what at certain moments in the past seemed to be an imminent danger of war has receded.

What recently took place in Geneva is of decisive importance in changing not only the international situation, but our domestic situation too.

It is common knowledge that the first Geneva Conference had positive results because the heads of the Four Powers refrained from counterposing irreconcilable positions in the form of ultimatums and succeeded in finding ground for mutual understanding and agreement, which indicated the possibility of advancing further by the path of international détente and achievement of new agreements. At the second Geneva Conference the Western powers back-pedalled, provoking what has been correctly called a rupture, even if it is only a partial one and proves to be temporary. These powers banged their fists on the table, reverting to the old method of putting forward proposals in the form of ultimatums, i.e., proposals which, if not accepted by the other side, leave no room for further discussion. This is what happened on the German question when the Western powers, reverting

Palmiro Togliatti General Secretary, Italian Communist Party

and also for the new category of peoples—which we, unfortunately, are now approaching—who had won complete independence and sovereignty for themselves, but who are now threatened by virtue of the fact that their countries belong to the military bloc dominated by the big imperialist powers which interfere in all aspects of their life with the object of imposing on them the line of conduct the ruling powers find most advantageous.

These objectives have been concretely embodied in big movements not only of classes but also of peoples; thence came the tremendous popular pressure that led to the first Geneva Conference and determined its success. Now these movements should continue and expand, while this pressure must not only be maintained but must become stronger. We must proceed from the conviction that the cause of easing world tension and improving relations among states, the cause of peace, is in the hands of the peoples and that they must ensure the triumph of this cause. The achievements on the front of struggle for international détente and for peace throughout the world have been the result of the intervention of whole peoples, expressed in a new way. And this must go on.

The work and the fight for peace continue now. We must therefore be able to explain properly what relaxation of international tension means, to arouse the consciousness of the people and organise an even more powerful movement for a détente. Above all we must succeed here, in Italy, in explaining and bringing home to everybody the fact that the establishment, expansion and strengthening of the process of lessening world tension and attaining the concrete objectives of foreign policy I have already indicated are in the first place of benefit to Italy, for they are directed at the defence of her independence and make it possible to end the stationing of foreign troops on our territory and again achieve full sovereignty in conditions in which the international prestige of our country can be restored in fact and not merely in the semi-official notes of the Foreign Ministry.

We note with satisfaction that the Italian peace movement has taken the initiative of convening its first national congress, and we, as a party, shall make the necessary contribution to ensuring its success. The recommendation we make to our comrades who are conducting this work is to exert efforts everywhere to bring to the fore the Italian national element in the struggle we are waging for the relaxation of international tension and for the policy of peace; in the struggle to end the policy of counterposed military blocs, to liquidate the cold war policy and to eliminate any and every threat of violation of international order.

We know, however, that there are certain connections of a material nature between the problems of international relaxation and of internal relaxation, connections of

good Communist leaders are not and cannot be people of this type.

In reality, in face of the grave economic hardships, the threat of a return to the cold war and the threat of a shooting war, in face of the danger of losing all our democratic gains and falling subject to an onerous and dreary clerical tyranny—in face of all this, alarm and the determination to give battle exist not only among those who have traditionally fought in the democratic ranks; even among the broadest sections of the Italian people perplexity and an ardent desire to remove these dangers are to be observed. It suffices to recall such a movement as that of the teachers, which has surprised the whole of Italian society. It suffices to recall the movements arising one after the other in the most varied spheres. It suffices to recall the ferment in the Catholic movement which cannot make any headway because on the one hand it is obliged, since the restoration of the old capitalist economy and because of political necessity, to preserve intact the domination of the big monopolies over the life of the whole country, and because on the other hand it is subject to the pressure of those sections of the working people or of the middle propertied sections which are suffering from the consequences of this domination.

In this situation it is our task to explain, awaken and unite: to explain how things stand; to awaken awareness; to enlighten minds and strengthen wills; to explain to all that there are ample new opportunities of establishing contacts, reaching agreement and uniting in order to give life to a people's movement that would remove all the threatening dangers, strengthen democracy and peace and win greater well-being for all.

We maintain that both in the political and economic spheres it is necessary to change profoundly the orientation taken by governments which have existed hitherto. At one point it seemed as though this necessity was realised in the Catholic camp itself. The ferment continues.

It is therefore necessary that our work in this direction be carried on constantly, that no success ever be considered final, but that even the slightest of partial successes be examined in a positive manner. In contact with the Catholic working masses we must always be able to return to the starting point, to the discussion of the elementary questions which deeply concern the working people of all trends, to an examination of how these problems are resolved under the capitalist regime to the detriment of the working people and how they can and will be resolved when the yoke of monopoly capitalism is shaken. We must never lose heart. We must bear in mind that our movement—the socialist and communist movement—developed as a result of an influx into its ranks of the masses who—I shall not say for decades, but for centuries—were bound up with the Catholic ideology and the Catholic organisations. The possibility of winning over the Catholic masses is always wide open to us. This can take place either by the direct adherence of these masses to our movement or by the pressure they may exert to change the trend of their organisations. What is important is always to

The municipal elections will take place soon, we don't know exactly when. The election campaign must undoubtedly be prepared for by broad agitation in defence of the right to vote, which in Italy they want to abolish for whole categories of citizens.

The election campaign must be the occasion for creating as broad a democratic front as possible, the forms of which will be suggested by the course of events and the attitudes of other parties, a front capable of exercising the most intensive and extensive popular pressure for a change in the course of national policy in all spheres. The problem of contact and unity of action with Socialist comrades will naturally be in the foreground. It should by now be clear to everyone that although there exist in Italy, for historical reasons that are known to us, two parties which differ from each other, yet both originate from the working class and the working masses and the great aims for which they are striving can only be common ones.

Any increase in the strength or prestige of either our own or the Socialist Party is to the benefit of the entire popular movement, the whole democratic movement, the entire working-class movement and, consequently, of all those taking part in this movement. The cause of unity is developing, taking on diverse forms in diverse situations. The aim which must be achieved remains the same: the implementation of the Republican Constitution and, consequently, a course of national policy that would make it possible to accomplish this, to consistently uphold the interests of the working people and defend peace.

III.

In view of all this the reasons why our Party laid so much emphasis on the political elements of the annual campaign for the exchange of Party cards and for winning people over politically become clear. We wanted to stress once again that our Party exists and works not as a force concerned solely with its own affairs, but as an instrument of the working class and the advanced forces of the people for the achievement of definite aims. The Party can never keep itself to itself, remain in its own offices and confine itself to bureaucratic activities and the mere registration of Party cards and so forth. Registration is important as an indication of the extension of the Party's ideological and political influence, as a sign that we have attained new positions, which we must consolidate in order to advance.

We must make full use of all the forces in our Party, and for this constant political initiative is essential. Political initiative is not, however, achieved simply by the leaders of all organisations and of all levels constantly seeking out reasons for struggle; no, that is merely one of the elements of the Party's progress. The real key to political initiative lies in the fact that the Party has constant contact with the masses of working people and does not allow this to slacken, as it is only when there is such contact, when it is firm and constant that issues for agitation and struggle come to the fore and the Party can occupy its proper place.

Dimitrov's Works Published in Bulgaria

The Publishing House of the Bulgarian Communist Party has completed the publication of Georgi Dimitrov's Works in 14 volumes, each in an edition of 20,000 copies.

Their appearance has been received with keen interest by the working people and the whole of the Bulgarian public. The Works include writings and articles by Dimitrov which were published in the Party and trade union press of his own and other countries, his speeches and reports to congresses, conferences and in the National Assembly from 1903 to June 1949, as well as Party documents written by Dimitrov, his letters, greetings and answers to questions, etc.

CPG Central Board Meets

The Central Board of the Communist Party of Germany has held its 22nd meeting, with Comrade Max Reimann, First Secretary, in the chair. A report on the tasks of the Party in improving its press work was made by Comrade Max Schäfer, Chief Editor of the CPG's central organ *Frieses Volk*. After a lively discussion, in which Comrade Reimann took part, the meeting passed a resolution to improve press work.

The Central Board of the CPG approved a telegram expressing its profound gratitude to the French Communist Party and the working class of France for their great support in the struggle against German militarism and against the schemes of the Adenauer Government to ban the Party. "Comrade Jacques Duclos' speech in the Ruhr", reads the telegram, "the collection and handing over of 30,000 signatures against the projected ban on the Communist Party of Germany, and also the publication of the 'White Book' widely informing the French public about the Karlsruhe trial of the CPG, are considerable blows at the plans of the German militarists."

Communist Party Organisations Growing in China's Countryside

In 1955 the number of rural Party organisations in China have considerably increased. In the first half of the year alone over 485,000 leading peasants and activists in the co-operative movement have been admitted into the Party. Whereas in June last year Party organisations were functioning in only 70% of the hsiangs, today they exist in 90%.

The rapid growth of Party organisations in the countryside considerably assists the development of the co-operative movement in agriculture. Out of 313 producer co-operatives set up this year in the Wanhao County, Kweichow Province, some 250 were established under the leadership of county Party organisations. Today, through the upsurge of the mass movement for co-operation, thousands more peasants have applied to join the Chinese Communist Party.

prices for manufactured goods are tending to rise, on the other, prices for agricultural produce are tending to fall, with a few, but very important exceptions, as in the case of vegetable oil.

The number of unemployed has not dropped and mass discharges are continuing. Unemployment has continued to be an organic disease of the country's economy since the latter's restoration in its previous form by the governments of the Christian Democratic Party and of the centre. As for those endemic zones of poverty that were brought to light during the famous parliamentary investigations of past years, it must be said that they remain the same and here and there even show a tendency to expand.

It seems to me that the most characteristic feature in industry, apart from the crisis in certain important branches such as textiles, is the continual increase in the intensity of labour, which is accompanied by discharges, hence, by a reduction in the number of employed workers—in other words, by a general deterioration in the conditions of the workers and a lowering of their living standards. On the other hand, a constant, rapid and colossal increase in industrial profits is to be observed. The gap and thus the contradictions between the classes are becoming ever deeper both in the factories and in society. Vivid proof of the sharpening of these class contradictions is the offensive the employers have launched in the big factories. This offensive aims to deprive the workers of rights guaranteed by the Constitution, to cast aside and all but liquidate the bodies whose function it is to defend the workers in the factories, such as the factory committees, which are one of the gains won by the working class in the course of decades of democratic struggle.

In the countryside the complicated and confused situation is tending to grow still worse. In the provinces, the numbers of hired farm hands, who form the bulk of the rural population, are decreasing.

It would, however, be erroneous to conclude from this that there have appeared zones where new property ownership is firmly established. This is not yet to be observed, no matter how hard one tries. The fact that the Christian Democratic governments abandoned the policy marked by the beginning of an agrarian reform in order to take the course of encouraging the establishment of petty ownership by granting state subsidies, is having rather grave consequences for the whole of agriculture. It is inevitably resulting in higher prices for land and hence in higher rents, and this places a heavy burden on the entire peasant population. It would be wrong to say that this policy brings greater well-being to the countryside. On the contrary, most farm hands and poor peasants are eager to escape to the towns in search of any kind of work, and this is having a bad effect upon the wages paid to the working class. The rise in land rents is aggravating the condition of all the small and middle leaseholders. Finally, the sharecroppers, who form an exceedingly broad section of the farmers, are filled with indignation and fear, for they know that on the day that the principle of the "just cause" is discarded—a move the Christian Democrats are now advocating—their future will become most uncertain.

The present rise in the price of salt is also an act particularly directed against the peasantry.

* From Comrade Togliatti's report at a meeting of the C.C. of the Italian Communist Party on November 28.

It is common knowledge that the first Geneva Conference had positive results because the heads of the Four Powers refrained from counterposing irreconcilable positions in the form of ultimatums and succeeded in finding ground for mutual understanding and agreement, which indicated the possibility of advancing further by the path of international détente and achievement of new agreements. At the second Geneva Conference the Western powers back-pedalled, provoking what has been correctly called a rupture, even if it is only a partial one and proves to be temporary. These powers banged their fists on the table, reverting to the old method of putting forward proposals in the form of ultimatums, i.e., proposals which, if not accepted by the other side, leave no room for further discussion. This is what happened on the German question when the Western powers, reverting to the stand they had adopted two years before at the Berlin Conference, put forward their demand for Germany's unification in accordance with the method proposed by them as a condition for any advance in the talks on all the questions under discussion.

The same thing happened in relation to disarmament. During the discussion on this question, the demand was advanced, also in the form of an ultimatum, that one must begin with the establishment of a system of control. No person in his right senses can understand what purpose, in fact, is to be served by such control before the principle of reducing armaments has been laid down, thus making it necessary to establish control over the way in which this reduction is carried out; before the manufacture of atomic weapons is prohibited and a decision taken to destroy them, when, in consequence, control must serve to ensure that these decisions are respected. The demand for the establishment of control prior to any agreement on the substance of the question, is, indeed, a thing no sensible person can understand.

But what does relaxation of international tension mean? We must clearly define what we mean by this term so that we and the masses whom we address are clear as to the aims we set ourselves and them at the present time.

Relaxation of international tension means first of all the use of a new method in the relations between the big powers, a method that would rule out recourse to force in the settlement of controversial issues and the use of blackmail and intimidation, in other words that would rule out the methods of the cold war.

It must be said that the application of this new method in relations between states is already leading to rapprochement and, consequently, to an improvement in the international situation. But, in addition to this, we must add that there are concrete aims in international policy which we want to see achieved by means of a détente. And we want this because it is essential for the establishment of a lasting peace. These concrete aims are, primarily: the condemnation and destruction of existing stockpiles of atomic and thermo-nuclear weapons; progressive, general and tangible disarmament; an end to military blocs opposed to each other and consequently to the imposition on entire countries of the supremacy and arbitrary will of the big powers at the head of the Western bloc, and recognition of the independence and sovereignty of all peoples—for the more developed peoples who have won this sovereignty and this independence in the course of an age-old struggle, for the colonial peoples now waging this struggle,

be restored in fact and not merely in the semi-official notes of the Foreign Ministry.

We note with satisfaction that the Italian peace movement has taken the initiative of convening its first national congress, and we, as a party, shall make the necessary contribution to ensuring its success. The recommendation we make to our comrades who are conducting this work is to exert efforts everywhere to bring to the fore the Italian national element in the struggle we are waging for the relaxation of international tension and for the policy of peace; in the struggle to end the policy of counterposed military blocs, to liquidate the cold war policy and to eliminate any and every threat of violation of international order.

We know, however, that there are certain connections of a material nature between the problems of international relaxation and of internal relaxation, connections of such a nature as military expenditure which, as we know, affects the budget of a country like ours, which is not rich. Between these problems there is also a certain connection of a psychological character. What is particularly important for us is to determine exactly what we mean by an internal relaxation, because only when we do this can events become clear to us.

II.

There are two main questions around which our entire struggle to lessen tension in internal relations is developing: the first is political, i.e. respect for the Constitution, in order that citizens may enjoy genuine equality and that the democratic liberties guaranteed by the Constitution equally to all citizens may be realised; the second is of an economic and social nature, i.e. realisation and respect for the letter and spirit of the Constitution in order to improve the economic position of the broad masses of the working people. Two questions which are different but not separate, questions which, on the contrary, are closely linked and constitute in essence the single great goal of our struggle.

If there is a desire to achieve a relaxation in political relations within the country—which is what we want—the first condition is to put an end once and for all to any discrimination of a political nature, to any inequality of citizens, any violation by state authorities of the spirit of the Constitution and the law.

Besides this, if indeed there is a desire to ease tension in internal political relations, I repeat that it is necessary to take serious measures to improve the economic position of the working people and all the less well-off sections of the population.

Do the necessary conditions exist for achieving this result, the frustration of new reactionary schemes and the consolidation and advancement of our democracy, by means of better work by our Party and all democratic forces? Yes, they do. Only such people fail to see this as are sick with bureaucratism, who are desiccated and devise heaven knows what prospects and formulas not related to life, and who because of this practice have lost the use of their will and forgotten about the practice of healthy optimism without which no advance is possible. This goes on until they are sharply brought to their senses by a gust of fresh air blowing from the factories, the fields, the schools, from real life, where ever new motives for movement and struggle are vigorously emerging. But

to the starting point, to the discussion of the elementary questions which deeply concern the working people of all trends, to an examination of how these problems are resolved under the capitalist regime to the detriment of the working people and how they can and will be resolved when the yoke of monopoly capitalism is shaken. We must never lose heart. We must bear in mind that our movement—the socialist and communist movement—developed as a result of an influx into its ranks of the masses who—I shall not say for decades, but for centuries—were bound up with the Catholic ideology and the Catholic organisations. The possibility of winning over the Catholic masses is always wide open to us. This can take place either by the direct adherence of these masses to our movement or by the pressure they may exert to change the trend of their organisations. What is important is always to be able to work in this direction, especially at a time like the present, after promises have been given and not kept, after commitments have been assumed and not carried out; at a time when, ignoring all promises and commitments, the Christian Democratic leaders seem to be concerned only with prolonging a situation like the present one, until conditions ripen for achieving such a success in new elections as would allow them to disregard for several more years the voices arising from the working masses in the Christian Democratic organisations.

The basic lines of our activities in the economic sphere are resistance to any reduction of wages and the development, in all possible cases, of action for higher wages and better living standards for the working masses and the working people in general. We seriously take into account the question of the reduction of the working day in certain branches of industry and sharply raise the problem of lessening the exploitation of labour in the factories. We link up with this the necessity of the state assuming a serious, definite and permanent obligation to defend the labour, dignity and rights of the working people and to solve the problems of housing and maintenance.

For the countryside we demand that an agrarian reform be carried through by fixing a general limit to the size of property, and the defence of peasant labour by the introduction of the "just cause" principle.

We demand a definite pledge regarding actions against private monopolies in industry and commerce, which should find expression in the nationalisation of certain big private industrial monopoly combines—whether the power industry or Montecatini—and in actions designed to restrict the economic and political power of the Confederation of Industrialists. Linked up with this are the questions of legislation in regard to oil, of IRI and of the laws on taxes.

This is by no means a complete programme. The Italian General Confederation of Labour is soon to hold its congress and it will be up to it to draw up a more precise economic programme for the working class, the vanguard of the broad working masses. I have reminded you of all this merely in order to draw the attention of the whole Party to general questions with which concrete and more or less limited action must be linked, action designed to improve the living conditions of the workers, peasants and the working middle strata, to control private capitalist monopolies and to wage struggle against them.

extension of the Party's political influence, as a sign that we have attained new positions, which we must consolidate in order to advance.

We must make full use of all the forces in our Party, and for this constant political initiative is essential. Political initiative is not, however, achieved simply by the leaders of all organisations and of all levels constantly seeking out reasons for struggle; no, that is merely one of the real elements of the Party's progress. The real key to political initiative lies in the fact that the Party has constant contact with the masses of working people and does not allow this to slacken, as it is only when there is such contact, when it is firm and constant, that issues for agitation and struggle come to the fore and the Party can occupy its proper place at the head of the masses.

We must be capable of uniting the various issues in our activity, for instance, the fight for liberty with the struggle for economic demands. In this case, links between the various issues are evident and it is easy to establish them. In other cases we must be able to combine issues which sometimes may appear to be very remote from each other and even to be in conflict. For instance, we have started and are now conducting a broad discussion with the Catholic masses, and it would be good to continue along this path in our Party's activities. At the same time, and there is no doubt of this, we must conduct vigorous activity to expose and combat the process of clericalisation of the Italian state, which has already gone far enough. Is there any contradiction between these two things? No, there is no contradiction between them, but we must be able to show why, and it is precisely this purpose that the education and ideological development of Communists must serve. We must see to it that the working people who belong to Catholic organisations and with whom we are in contact understand that the clericalisation of the state is detrimental to them, for a clerical state will never put into practice social principles in the interests of the working people. This was already apparent to everyone, to some extent, when fascism became reconciled with the church just at that moment when the former was destroying the gains of the workers. A clerical state in Italy would always be an instrument in the hands of the ruling class of capitalists for keeping the working masses in subjection. We must be able to make the Catholic working people understand and see that there is no contradiction between our wanting to establish contact with them in the struggle against capitalism and our resistance to the clericalisation of the state. These two positions are logically and closely connected.

As for the activities of the leading bodies, I don't know whether all Communists properly understood the idea of the campaign we conducted, to give a collective character to the work of the leading bodies of the Party. Giving a collective character to leading bodies of the Party does not mean putting more members on federation committees who then do not attend meetings and do not take part in discussions. It means that all Communists working in leading bodies must take an active part in drawing up and carrying out the political line of the Party.

We must become, to a greater extent than hitherto, a constructive force capable of making a positive contribution to the elaboration and the triumph of the new political course through action on the part of the masses.

ing in only 10% exist in 90%.

The rapid growth of Party organisations in the countryside considerably assists the development of the co-operative movement in agriculture. Out of 313 producer co-operatives set up this year in the Wanho County, Kwelchow Province, some 250 were established under the leadership of country Party organisations. Today, through the upsurge of the mass movement for co-operation, thousands more peasants have applied to join the Chinese Communist Party.

Card Exchange and Recruiting Drive in French Communist Party

The Political Bureau of the French Communist Party has recently issued a directive calling on federation and section committees and Party branches to immediately launch a campaign for the 1956 card exchange and the recruitment of new members.

Pointing out that this year, especially during the past few months, thousands of industrial workers and other working people have joined the Party, the Political Bureau stresses that the growing authority and prestige of the Party are explained by its boundless devotion to the cause of the working class and the entire people.

"Full of promise, 1956 is approaching," the directive states. "In the country there are the necessary forces for bringing about a change in government policy. The working class, working peasants, women, youth—all the working masses—will develop activity to secure this change of policy and to hasten the time when all democratic forces are united, on the basis of joint action by Socialists and Communists."

"The more resolutely and boldly we strengthen our Party by large-scale recruiting and the establishment of new branches, the greater will be our confidence that fresh successes will be achieved along this road."

The Political Bureau points out that the keynote of the card exchange will be the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Party's foundation. It recommends that when each branch carries out the card exchange general meetings should be held for this purpose, meetings that are open to the families of Party members and to sympathisers as well. The Political Bureau stresses that "tens of thousands of industrial and agricultural workers, small farmers, working people in government offices, progressive intellectuals, women and young people, all those in the van of the day struggle, should be drawn into the Party".

The Political Bureau urges that special efforts be made to ensure that meetings devoted to the card exchange in factory branches are well prepared and that these branches are strengthened. During the card exchange the section committees and the branches must set themselves the aim of setting up new Party organisations, primarily at those enterprises where there are none at present.

During the card exchange fresh efforts will be made to raise the ideological level of Party members with the object of stimulating the political and practical activities of every branch member, on the one hand, and to further develop the activities of the Party itself and strengthen the ties between the branches and the masses, on the other.

ARDENT FIGHTER FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

60th Birthday of Comrade Dolores Ibarriuri

Today is the 60th birthday of Comrade Dolores Ibarriuri, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Spain.

Comrade Ibarriuri's life is marked by nearly 40 years of active revolutionary work. Born in a modest working-class family, she experienced poverty and privation right from childhood. It was among the miners of Viscaya that she became aware of the class struggle, it was there that her socialist consciousness developed. In 1917 she joined the Spanish Socialist Party in Somorrostro.

The victory of the Great October Revolution in Russia evoked immense enthusiasm among the Spanish workers, as it did among working people of other countries. This revolution was like a torch lighting up the path of further struggle, the path to victory. Young Dolores Ibarriuri joyfully welcomed the birth of the first socialist state in the world; she became its resolute and consistent defender and began to study Leninism and the theory and tactics of the Leninist party. From the very outset Ibarriuri was in the front ranks of the supporters of the Third International, and was one of the founders of the Spanish Communist Party, formed in April 1920.

In those years she contributed to the workers' press under the pseudonym "Passionaria". Her impassioned speeches denouncing the iniquities and crimes of capitalism, her clear and irrefutable logic fired the hearts of working people with the unquenchable flame of struggle for liberation.

Under the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera (1923-1930), Passionaria was a member of the regional Party committee in the Basque country and led the struggle of the women. At a conference in Pamplona in 1929 she was elected a member of the Central Committee of the Party. It was during this period that the fresh revolutionary upsurge began in Spain which led to the overthrow of the monarchy and the establishment of the republic in April 1931. The Socialist leaders tailed along behind the bourgeoisie and hindered the development of the democratic revolution. The proletariat urgently needed a strong party, equipped with Marxist-Leninist theory and closely linked with the masses. A group of alien elements, who had wormed their way into the leadership of the Communist Party, prevented the Party from fulfilling its historic role. But the majority of the Central Committee, led by Jose Diaz and Dolores Ibarriuri, worked out the political line which made it possible to create the conditions for transforming the Communist Party into a really mass party of the Leninist type.

Since the Fourth Party Congress in 1932 all the activity of the Party—the struggle for working-class unity and the formation of workers' and peasants' unions, the glorious battles of October 1934, the efforts to organise the Popular Front and its victory in February 1936, the unforgettable national revolutionary war of the Spanish people against fascism—has been closely associated with the names of Jose Diaz and Dolores Ibarriuri.

Meeting of Central Committee, Korean Party of Labour

On December 2 and 3 the Central Committee of the Korean Party of Labour held a meeting which discussed the implementation of the resolution passed at the November C.C. meeting regarding further measures for rapidly rehabilitating and developing agriculture, and the question of convening the Third Party Congress. It was decided to hold the Third Congress in April next year, with the following agenda:

1. Report on the work of the Central Committee, to be given by Kim Ir Sen, Chairman of the C.C. of the KPL;
2. Report on the work of the Central Auditing Committee, to be given by Li Chu En;
3. Report on amendments to Party Rules, to be given by Pak Den Ai, Deputy Chairman of the Central Committee;
4. The election of central leading bodies.

In this short but eventful period of history the name of Dolores Ibarriuri has been a symbol of the heroic struggle of the Spanish people for peace, democracy and progress. Her speeches in parliament, of which she was elected vice-president in 1936, her speeches in the rear and at the front, her intense organisational activities and political acumen won her the boundless love and admiration of the entire Spanish people and of democrats and progressives, all over the world.

In 1942, after the death of Jose Diaz, Dolores Ibarriuri was elected General Secretary of the Communist Party of Spain. At the head of its Central Committee she gives all her energies to strengthening the Party's ranks and to liberating the Spanish people from the yoke of Francoism.

There is not one fundamental feature of the Spanish revolution that she has not analysed theoretically. Her report at the Fifth Congress of the Communist Party of Spain represented a brilliant Marxist-Leninist analysis of the contemporary political situation in the country. The U.S. aid received by Franco, Comrade Ibarriuri pointed out, did not strengthen his regime. "Everything in Spain is crying out for change, everything is in the throes of a crisis", she said in that report. Nevertheless, she stressed, the Franco regime will not fall of itself, it will have to be overthrown in struggle. And for this struggle to be victorious, the unity of all anti-Franco forces is essential.

Now, at the head of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Spain, Dolores Ibarriuri dedicates her inexhaustible energy to the cause of working-class unity, to forging the unity of all anti-Franco forces, for this is the most painful and the quickest way of giving back liberty and national independence to the Spanish people and opening to them the path to progress and well-being.

For her 60th birthday, Comrade Dolores Ibarriuri has received numerous greetings and congratulations from fraternal Communist and Workers' Parties, and from persons prominent in the progressive movements and public affairs of different countries. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union sent her the following message:

"Dear Dolores Ibarriuri, The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union heartily greets you—an eminent leader of the anti-war movement and an ardent and tested champion of the cause of the working class and of democracy and Socialism, on your 60th birthday.

"From the bottom of our hearts we wish you good health and long years of fruitful work for the good of the working people of Spain."

Progressive men and women in all lands warmly greet Comrade Dolores Ibarriuri, zealous fighter for the interests of the working people, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Spain, on her 60th birthday and wish her many long years of life and struggle for the benefit of the Spanish people and of the cause of peace, democracy and Socialism.

The men and women of France will elect a new National Assembly on January 2, that is, five months ahead of time.

This decision was taken following prolonged and confused parliamentary debates.

Of course, it was not concern for democracy or a desire to give the voters the opportunity of clearly expressing their opinion on the big problems which have arisen that moved M. Edgar Faure to make a bid for early elections. His concern was quite the opposite and of a dual order.

Continuation of the government's reactionary policy and especially the military measures and colonial repression in North Africa necessitate the taking of new, most unpopular decisions, decisions of a kind with the recall of young soldiers to the colours and further increases in military expenditure, which have in recent times evoked sharp discontent among the people. It was not expedient for the government and its majority to take such measures during the six months preceding the elections. The electors would surely have voted their condemnation of these measures. The government thought it more prudent to advance the date of the elections so as to gain a free-hand thereby and then perpetrate the criminal deed behind the backs of the electors.

On the other hand the catastrophic results of government policy—not only that of the last government, but of the entire policy pursued since 1947, since the exclusion of the Communists from the government and the country's subordination to U.S. policy, are becoming more apparent with every passing day. Consequently, every day sees the growth of the forces that demand a change of policy, the growth of their unity and the intensification of their struggle. The correct policy unflinchingly followed by the Communist Party is having a growing influence upon the broadest masses. One of the purposes of the government proposal to advance the date of the elections was to steal a march upon this movement, which is so disturbing to those responsible for the policy condemned by the people. By hurrying things the government was hoping to prevent full light being thrown on its policy throughout the country. In particular, it thought to safeguard itself against fresh progress by the united front of the working class, which has made remarkable advances of late.

The position of the Communists was, of course, altogether different. They have no reason to fear going to the electors at any time whatever. On the contrary, they favoured advancing the election date, but for reasons exactly opposite to those of the government.

The chance of ridding the country of six months of a pernicious policy, of averting six months of fresh losses, in human life and in billions of francs, for the new "dirty war" in North Africa, was not to be missed. Moreover, there already exist in the country the conditions making it possible for the elections to put a stop to this policy and determine a new political line. The manoeuvre of the reactionaries can be successfully used against them.

It was in these circumstances that a debate marked by incredible confusion opened. In fact the whole debate turned

on the question of finding a system of voting that by means of adroit trickery would be able to falsify the will of the country and make it possible to elect a new Right parliamentary majority even if there is a clear majority of votes for the Left.

It was by means of just such trickery (the bloc system of elections) that this very objective was attained in the last parliamentary elections, in 1951. By making it possible to group together various lists by a system that deceives the voter, 80 seats were stolen from the Communist Party and presented to the reactionaries. The outgoing Assembly was thus the product of the bloc system, and this is quite enough to discredit the system. But today this discredited system has a more serious defect in the eyes of its sponsors; it no longer offers them a sure guarantee. The progress made by the united front of the working class has created a new situation in comparison with 1951, one in which the Socialist Party can no longer team up everywhere with reaction, while blocs of the Left against reaction are possible and foreseeable. We know that at its last meeting the Central Committee of the Communist Party declared that if the pernicious bloc system were retained it would do its best to turn it against reaction.

The debate on the electoral law forcefully revealed that despite their anti-Communism and their common desire to ensure the continuation of what in essence was an identical policy, the different French bourgeois parties were unable to agree on a "suitable" system of voting. This is to be explained not only by the pre-election passions that have flared up to such a degree in the past few weeks. In reality, it is a question of much deeper differences, which are aggravated by the growing difficulties of the French bourgeoisie, especially in the colonies, and by the growing pressure exerted in all spheres by the working class and other forces that demand a change of policy. It is this that accounts for the disorder and differences which became apparent not only throughout the non-Communist part of the Assembly, but even within the different parties. This is borne out by the Radical Party Congress, which was divided between Mendès-France and Edgar Faure, and by the recent expulsion of the latter from this party. It is also borne out by the conference of the National Council of the Socialist Party, at which the advocates of small voting districts just barely gained the advantage over the adherents of proportional representation.

All these things explain the rarely equalled confusion of the debate, which was all the greater in that many politicians were in fact moved by a more or less avowed desire to postpone the elections. That is why they switched their votes from for to against and back again on one and the same question.

André Stil

Alternate Member of C.C., French Communist Party

★ ★

In this situation the position of the Communist Party—the only one that preserved a lucid, logical and constant position—was a determining factor and a faithful reflection of the will of the masses. Speaking in favour of a speedy and genuine consultation with the electors, opposing the bloc system, the small voting districts system and every other form of electoral trickery, championing the proportional system of voting which ensures just parliamentary representation for the various trends among the people, the Communist Party clearly voted along these lines every time one or the other of these questions was posed. At the same time the Communist Party did not worry whether its votes found themselves in company with those cast by this or that element of the government majority or opposed to the votes of this or that element of the same majority. That is why, when the question of the results of the government policy came up, the Party naturally voted against this policy, which it had not ceased to oppose. So in last week's vote of confidence in the National Assembly the government was defeated by 318 to 218. This majority was strong enough to authorise the defeated government to announce the dissolution of the National Assembly, in conformity with the Constitution. As is known, by resorting to this procedure, the Faure government put an end to the debate and at the same time fixed the elections for January 2, on the basis of the electoral law in operation—that of 1951, which provides for a proportional and bloc system of election.

So the election campaign has commenced, a campaign that can and must end in an unequivocal condemnation of the policy which has brought suffering to France over a period of eight years.

The fruits of this policy are now known to all. Little by little every French man and woman has had bitter experience of them. Those responsible, every one of them, must now account for the cold war policy, the opposition to international relaxation, to disarmament and the controlled prohibition of atomic weapons; they must account for the rearming of a revenge-seeking Western Germany, the war in Indo-China and the violation of the Geneva agreements.

They also have to account for the repressive measures in North Africa, fresh expenditure for military purposes, the recall and the retention of young soldiers in the army, the serious encroachments on the secular character of education, the constant support given by the governments to the big capitalists against the workers, the low purchasing power of the working people and the fabulous profits of their exploiters.

But above all, the elections can and must promote the change of policy desired by the people. There is no doubt whatever that in the country there are the forces

necessary to bring about this change. The task is to ensure the unification of all these forces. This can be done during the election fight.

The Communist Party is conducting this fight with the greatest confidence, certain that its merits will be widely recognised by the working masses and all progressive people. Indeed, who could forget the decisive role played by the Party and its activists in recent large-scale actions by the working class for immediate demands? Communists have also been in the forefront of the fight for peace in Indo-China, against the remilitarisation of Western Germany, for negotiations in North Africa and for democratic liberties.

And today, in the course of the election campaign the Communists are continuing to point out the correct path—that of unification of the Left forces.

M. Mendès-France and some Radical and Socialist leaders assert that they desire the "regeneration" of France, but do everything in their power to oppose unity with the Communists. Indeed, if they maintain this exclusion of the Communists, how and with what forces can the change of which they speak be brought about? There can be no Left policy without the Communists. Who can believe that these people want to pursue a Left policy when, having excluded the Communists, they seek—like Mendès-France—an alliance with the RPF Party (the Gaullists)? In reality the anti-Communism for which M. Mendès-France is distinguished is proof of the desire to continue a Right policy in the guise of Left phraseology.

On December 4 the Central Committee of the Communist Party addressed a letter to the Leading Committee of the Socialist Party, stating: "We propose that in various constituencies Socialist and Communist lists be combined. Other republican parties and groupings could also participate in this bloc to defeat reaction in most of the constituencies and to ensure victory of the Left forces in the new National Assembly."

By 1,979 votes against 1,243, with 324 abstentions, the National Council of the Socialist Party turned down our Party's proposal to ally the Communist and Socialist lists.

Guy Mollet and other Socialist leaders who are foes of unity have assumed a grave responsibility.

Fortunately, however, the popular movement for a change of policy is so powerful that the manoeuvres of the fanatics of division alone cannot suffice to smash it.

Socialists and Communists daily take part together in various meetings and actions, together sign various petitions, and so on.

Inasmuch as we are constantly proposing unification—the unanimous desire of the people—and inasmuch as the Socialist leaders are constantly trying to thwart it, the electors can do much to tip the scale in favour of unity. Victory of the French Communist Party lists must become a decisive factor, the factor necessary to break the resistance of those who still oppose a change of policy, who still oppose the regeneration of the country.

National Conference of Communist Party of U.S.A.

The Party of the U.S.A. has, above all, the détente resulting from the

Co-operative Movement in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

The success of the agrarian reform in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has re-peasants have joined them. More than 200 varieties of goods are to be found in the

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Progressive men and women in all hands warmly greet Comrade Dolores Ibaruri, the zealous fighter for the interests of the working people, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Spain, on her 60th birthday and wish her many long years of life and struggle for the benefit of the Spanish people and of the cause of peace, democracy and socialism.

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3. Report on amendments to Party Rules, to be given by Pak Den Ai, Deputy Chairman of the Central Committee;
4. The election of central leading bodies.

Meeting of C.C., Communist Party of Luxembourg

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Luxembourg recently held a meeting at which Comrade D. Urbany reported on urgent political problems and Comrade A. Usidinger on organisational questions. The meeting decided to convene the next Party Congress on January 8, 1956.

The Struggle for Technical Progress and Higher Productivity of Labour in Czechoslovakia

The Communist Party and the Government of Czechoslovakia regard acceleration of the rate of technical advance in all spheres of the national economy as being one of the most important conditions for the successful fulfilment of the second Five-Year Plan, inasmuch as new technique is a decisive factor in the effort to raise productivity of labour and further develop the productive forces.

The theses of the C.C. of the Communist party of Czechoslovakia and the Government of the Republic on the further technical development of industry and the recent nation-wide technical conferences of workers in the power, coal, metallurgical, engineering, chemical and building industries were of extreme importance. The theses and the conferences both pointed out the obstacles that do exist merely stem from a lack of technical development, introduction and use of the latest machinery. The greatest possible development, introduction of new technique for the fulfilment of the second Five-Year Plan and the development of the socialist economy as a whole, opens up unlimited opportunities for rapid technical advance. The explanation for this is that the development of socialist production on the basis of higher techniques conforms fully to the interests of all the working people, as it guarantees a steady improvement in their well-being.

And it is only by extensively mobilising all the working people—workers, foremen, engineers and technicians—for further production of a large number of new goods, in labour productivity during the first Five-Year Plan was above all achieved by bringing into play reserves that were easy to mobilise. During the past few years new technique has been inadequately developed despite the fact that it is only on such a basis that productivity of labour can be raised appreciably, production costs reduced and the quality of output improved.

The technical level has risen in a number of industries and we have mastered the production of a large number of new goods, including some in heavy industry. Enterprises have been put into commission, new technique has come into operation since 1945 are now producing 40% of the pig iron, 30% of the steel and coke and 20% of the aluminium and ferrous alloys have been rolled metal; new methods of producing

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Coal (in tons)	Steel (in tons)	(in kw. hrs.)
3.83	0.33	1,046.0
1.27	0.246	1,049.0

Our Republic is, therefore, mining 200% more coal and producing 34% more steel per capita than France. In steel production (per capita) Czechoslovakia occupies sixth place in the world; in the production of pig iron she is seventh, in coke second and in rolled metal sixth in the world.

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FOR A FREE SPAIN!

The Czechoslovak State Publishing House "Political Literature" recently published, in the Czech language, a symposium of articles and speeches by Comrade Dolores Ibarri, General Secretary of the Spanish Communist Party, entitled *For a Free Spain!**

The appearance of this book coincides with the 60th birthday of Comrade Ibarri. Spanish Communists, workers, peasants and progressive intellectuals, together with millions of ordinary people in all countries, mark this date as a great occasion, because in the glorious life and fruitful activities of Comrade Dolores Ibarri they see a noble example of proletarian staunchness and utter devotion to the cause of the working class and the entire working people.

A true disciple of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, from her youth Dolores Ibarri has devoted her life to the service of the working class, to which she belongs, the service of the Spanish people and the defence of democracy and national independence. For nearly 40 years she has been selflessly and resolutely fighting for the triumph of the cause of the downtrodden and exploited, for peace, for the victory of the lofty ideals of genuine humanism and for Socialism, which has triumphed in the great Soviet Union and is being built in China and the other countries of people's democracy, for the victory of Communism the world over.

For a Free Spain! contains a number of the most important speeches and articles by Comrade Ibarri covering the period between 1945 and 1953. The report devoted to the memory of the immortal Stalin, which Comrade Ibarri made in Moscow on March 20, 1953, at a meeting of Spanish political emigrés and Spanish youth, is the last work in this collection. Since then there have been two important events which have had a considerable influence on the situation in Spain and the development of the national anti-Franco struggle: the signing of the U.S.-Franco pact in September 1953 and the holding of the Vth Congress of the Spanish Communist Party at the beginning of November 1954. At this Congress Comrade Ibarri, on behalf of the Central Committee, made a report which constitutes a political document of paramount significance. It contains a most comprehensive and profound analysis of the situation in Spain, now under the yoke of Francoism, and of the democratic way out of this situation.

The works of Comrade Ibarri contained in this book are a mighty weapon of struggle for the Spanish people and their Communist Party. They explain the essence of the U.S.-Franco pact, which Dolores Ibarri describes as a "pact of war", as an "anti-national pact" which "subordinates Spanish economy to the military plans of the United States to an ever-increasing

* Dolores Ibarri, *Za svobodné Španělsko*, 1954. Státní nakladatelství politické literatury. Stran 368.

★
Enrique Lister
 Member of Political Bureau,
 Central Committee,
 Communist Party of Spain

degree", thereby bringing ruin and devastation to various branches of industry, trade and agriculture. The consequence of this pact, as Comrade Ibarri shows, was a change in the content of the anti-Franco struggle, which from a battle between democracy on the one hand, and the fascist and reactionary forces on the other, has been transformed into a national struggle of all forces interested in preventing the conversion of the country "into a firing-ground for A-bombs, into an immense graveyard".

From Ibarri's profound and moving works, readers of the newly-published Czech translation will be able to follow the heroic and courageous struggle waged by the Spanish people from 1936 to 1953, the historical antecedents of this struggle and its most glorious expression—the national revolutionary war of the Spanish people against fascism and against national and international reaction, in defence of their country's independence and the democratic republican regime, as well as in defence of the freedom of the peoples of Europe and of world peace.

Together with the unforgettable Jose Diaz, then the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Spain, and guided by the activity and policy of the Communist Party—the principal fighter and organiser of the epic of Spanish resistance—Comrade Dolores Ibarri raised her patriotic and revolutionary voice, which rang out as the genuine voice of the Spanish people; for the peoples of the world she became the image and symbol of unvanquished and heroic Spain, which said to all internal and international enemies: **"Better to die standing than to live on one's knees."**

With the extraordinary power of conviction typical of her, Comrade Ibarri shows in her articles that the lessons of the Spanish epic retain their immense significance, for, as she puts it in one of the articles, **"the Spanish question is not a purely Spanish matter, but a problem of international dimensions... To understand this it suffices to note how reactionary circles persevere in their efforts to prevent a democratic solution of the Spanish question."**

The conclusions drawn by Comrade Ibarri in her articles and speeches continue to be of extreme importance for the strengthening and development of the Communist Party of Spain and for all Spanish democrats and patriots who, to use her expression, "feel the grief of Spain". Her works tell the story of the growth and consolidation of the Communist Party of Spain in the extremely difficult conditions of the Franco reign of terror "through resolute actions in bloody struggle and

heroic battles in defence of democracy and the republic". Thousands of beloved comrades have fallen in this struggle; in it thousands of heroic fighters have consistently displayed their revolutionary training; with the name of the Party on their lips and in their hearts, with the noble example of Dolores Ibarri ever present in their minds, they staunchly bear up under torture and long years of imprisonment and even at the point of execution proclaim themselves Communists.

Dolores Ibarri, nurtured by the Party and tempered in the battles of the working class, contributed tremendously to making the Communist Party of Spain what it is today in the eyes of democrats and patriots all over the world—the consistent and steadfast champion of peace, national independence and democracy, **"the guide and leader of the Spanish progressive and revolutionary movement"**.

The works of Dolores Ibarri represent an effective ideological weapon in the struggle against the lies and fictions of anti-Communism, of which Franco boastfully proclaims himself the international champion. Her articles and speeches are permeated with deep and sincere patriotism and the ardent proletarian internationalism of the Communists. They tell the truth about the Communist and Workers' Parties, which, following the example of the glorious Communist Party of the Soviet Union, are the legitimate heirs of the finest militant and patriotic traditions of their peoples, the staunchest defenders of the interests of the people and of all that is valuable in their countries and their nations, as distinct from those who while continuously talking about their country plunder and betray it.

Czechoslovak readers will be stirred to read Dolores Ibarri's article "The Great Popular and Democratic Victory in Czechoslovakia" which applauds the victory of the Czechoslovak people in 1948, and her speech to the citizens of Prague on the 29th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, in which she spoke in vivid, precise words about the truth, deeply rooted in the minds of the Czechoslovak working people, that the path of the October Revolution, which they were following under the leadership of their Communist Party, was a path leading to ever-greater happiness and well-being, a path guaranteeing national independence.

The works of Dolores Ibarri contain instructive lessons not only for the Spanish people but for all who battle for democracy and progress, all those who on her 60th birthday express their profound love for this leader of the Communist Party of Spain and outstanding figure of the international working-class movement; a comrade who in all circumstances of life and struggle has shown her revolutionary, Leninist training, her love for the people and for all the dispossessed, her unwavering loyalty to the working class and her fervent and consistent devotion to the great Soviet Union and the cause of Communism.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDONESIA DEMANDS LIFTING OF BAN ON PROGRESSIVE LITERATURE

The C.C. of the Communist Party of Indonesia recently sent a delegation to the Government to demand that the ban imposed on certain publications, including those from the Soviet Union, the Chinese People's Republic and the People's Democracies, should be lifted. The delegation pointed out that such bans violate the rights and democratic liberties of the people. It argued that books and magazines like *Politiek en Cultuur*, issued monthly by the Dutch Communist Party, the *Soviet New Times*, Mao Tse-tung's *On People's Democratic Dictatorship*, the WFTU journal *World Trade Union Movement*, etc., could not be regarded as a threat to the security of the state and people of Indonesia.

Vice-Premier Djanuismadi admitted that he had actually signed the regulation banning certain publications but added that he was in fact unacquainted with their contents. He promised to reconsider the regulation and bear in mind the Communist Party's demand that the ban be withdrawn.

Brazilian Public Calls for Legalisation of the Communist Party

Prominent politicians, senators and intellectuals and large numbers of workers and peasants in Brazil are more and more demanding the legalisation of the Communist Party, whose prestige and influence grew considerably during the recent election campaign. Senator Gilberto Marinho, who has already spoken in favour of the legalisation of the Brazilian Communist Party, has now stressed the indisputable importance of Communist participation in the elections and especially the fact that the Communist votes proved decisive for the victory of the anti-putsch candidates. Croacy de Oliveira, a Trabalhista deputy, writes: "Those who believe that ideas can be suppressed by outlawing a party are unreasonable; they know neither real life nor the lessons of history. I am against any measure that tramples on freedom of speech and thought and therefore I demand that the Communist Party again be legalised."

Twenty deputies to the Legislative Assembly of Sao Paulo State, belonging to various political parties, have signed and sent a letter to the Assembly demanding the legalisation of the Communist Party.

AGAINST PREPARATION OF NEW WAR FOR THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE

LETTER FROM YOUNG PARAGUAYANS

A group of young patriots—workers, peasants, students, trade union leaders and intellectuals imprisoned in Asuncion, Paraguay, for their vigorous activities in defence of peace, for national independence,

POLITICAL NOTES

True Friendship and Venomous Slanderers

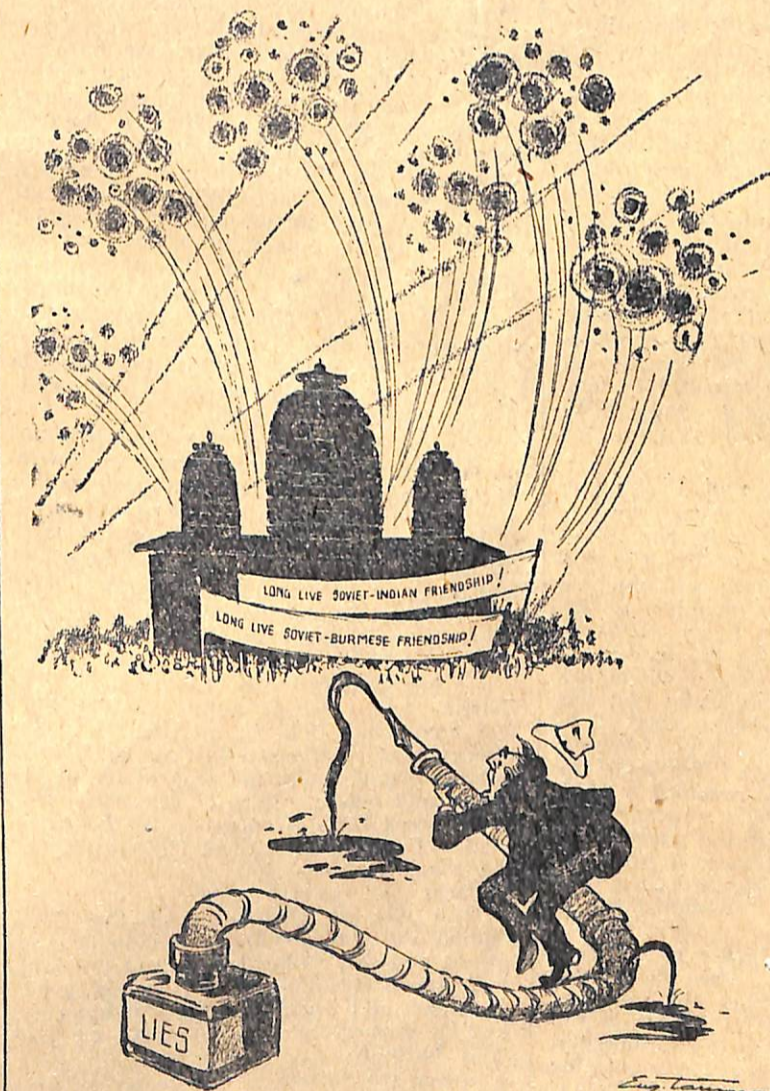
Bulganin's and Khrushchev's visit to India and Burma still grips the attention of the world. This visit of two of the leaders of the Soviet Union to friendly countries has been most enthusiastically welcomed by the peace-loving peoples of all the Asian countries, by all progressives everywhere. They quite rightly see in it an event of great international significance, something which is important for strengthening peace and friendship among the peoples. At the same time the cold war crew, who regard the Soviet Union's peaceable initiative as a menace

favourite fabrication to the effect that the Soviet Union is out to "enslave" the world. The United Press takes a jaundiced view of the fact that the Indians gave such a joyous and hearty welcome to the Soviet leaders. The *Daily News* also casts aspersions on the Soviet Union, scaring its readers with "red colonialism". Nor does it stop short of abusive attacks on the leaders of the Indian Government.

The bourgeois press of Britain is no less zealous. Trying to keep up with its American colleagues, the *Daily Express* even goes as far as to describe the Soviet leaders' visit as an integral part of the "Soviet conspiracy" to set alight a world conflagration. The British bourgeois press is particularly concerned over the fact that in their speeches the leaders of the Soviet state offered the Indian Government economic and technical aid. In this connection the *Economist* tartly affirms that to help underdeveloped countries is the exclusive prerogative of the Western powers. A frenzied howl goes up from the *Daily Telegraph* about the "offensive of the rouble".

The experts in misrepresentation have gone so far that they recently perpetrated a downright fraud by crudely distorting the words of a Burmese diplomat who had a talk with the Soviet visitors in the courtyard of the Shwe Dagon Pagoda on December 3. Moreover, this falsified "pronouncement" was ascribed to none other than Comrade Khrushchev. The British Foreign Office joined in this dirty game by issuing a disgraceful and impudent official comment.

Many other such examples might be cited of disgraceful and vicious tricks by bourgeois newspapers, journals and agencies, comments designed to confuse ordinary people, to poison the political atmosphere, to "give grounds" for their call for a continuation of the cold war and the formation of military blocs. Accustomed to assessing events in Asia from the standpoint of military strategy and economic enslavement of the countries in this part of the world, gentlemen like the *New York Post's* correspondent and his fellow hacks of the bourgeois press, are trying might and main to represent Bulganin's and Khrushchev's visit to India and Burma in



to their shabby, anti-popular cause, are hopping mad over it.

The *New York Post* recently published a report from its correspondent in India who tries to frighten the Indian people with the bogey of the non-existent danger of the country's being drawn into the Communist orbit, and he drops a rather broad hint that the Americans will, in all probability, have to curtail their aid to India.

What has upset this correspondent so much, what has sent him up the wall? He just can't stand the fact that India— independent, sovereign state that she is— is strengthening her friendly ties with the Soviet Union or that she has accorded a hearty, fraternal reception to the Soviet visitors without so much as a by your

Appeal of Communist Party of Lebanon

In connection with the twelfth anniversary of the mass action taken by the Lebanese people against the imperialist-sponsored coup d'état of November 1942

Syria and Egypt and between Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

It is stressed in the appeal that the patriotic measures taken by these

and other Arab countries in it, or indirectly, by incorporating Iraq in the defence agreements concluded between other Arab coun-

The works of Comrade Ibaruri contained in this book are a mighty weapon of struggle for the Spanish people and their Communist Party. They explain the essence of the U.S.-France pact, which Dolores Ibaruri describes as a "pact of war", as an "anti-national pact" which "subordinates Spanish economy to the military plans of the United States to an ever-increasing extent."

* Dolores Ibaruri, Za svobodnu Spasensk, 1954. Statni nakladatelstvi politické literatury, Stran 368.

In connection with the twentieth anniversary of the mass action taken by the Lebanese people against the imperialist-Saudi Arabia.

It is stressed in the appeal that the Communist Party of Lebanon has sponsored a comp. detail of November 1943, issued an appeal to the people in which it analyses the situation in the Middle East, one fraught with danger to peace in that part of the world. The U.S.-British imperialists, it is stated in the appeal, are intensifying their pressure on the Arab countries in order to draw them into the Bagdad Pact. This pressure was greatly increased when Egypt concluded a trade agreement with Czechoslovakia for the purchase of arms, and also after the conclusion of the defence agreements between Syria and Egypt and between Egypt and Lebanon.

Appeal of Communist Party of Lebanon

The appeal also notes the rising tide of the national liberation movement in Lebanon and throughout the Arab East. Thanks to the unity of its people, the solidarity of the Arab peoples and the powerful support of the USSR, it is stated, Lebanon secured the evacuation of imperialist troops from its territory in 1947. Today, the appeal points out that the ruling circles of Lebanon, which condemn the country in a broad national front are exerting every effort to carry out the imperialist policy of extending the Bagdad Pact—either directly, by including Lebanon and other Arab countries in it, or indirectly, by incorporating Iraq in the defence agreement concluded between other Arab countries and the Communist Party of Lebanon.

The letter reads in part: Mankind is threatened with the danger of atomic war. The aggressive forces are seeking to use our land, our wealth and our youth to let loose another war. The Streosner Government is pursuing a policy of treachery to our homeland. One large (central) and several smaller U.S. air bases are being set up on the territory of Chaco Boreal, threatening the countries of South America. We young Paraguayans are now well aware that preparations for war, as well as war itself, jeopardise our independence and sovereignty. We realise that our culture and traditions, our lives and homes are menaced.

AGAINST PREPARATION OF NEW WAR, FOR THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE LETTER FROM YOUNG PARAGUAYANS

A group of young patriots—workers, peasants, students, trade union leaders and intellectuals imprisoned in Asuncion, Paraguay, for their vigorous activities in defence of peace, for national independence, freedom and the rights of youth—have addressed a letter to the youth of the world.

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The Struggle for Technical Progress and Higher Productivity of Labour in Czechoslovakia

However, new techniques and methods of labour, which would sharply raise labour productivity in the machine-building industry, are introduced rather slowly. For example, with automatic or semi-automatic welding, labour productivity is often increased from five to ten times, with high speed and pressure metal working nearly 30%, damp moulding 30%, and with tempering of mass production details by high-frequency current from 100 to 200%. New methods of labour in forging and foundry shops will make it possible to raise labour productivity by 40-45% and to cut down considerably the amount of material used. Merely by mechanising production processes, over 10,000 workers can be released from these shops by 1960.

The technical level of our machine-building industry should first of all be raised by modernising existing factories and making better use of production spaces. It is necessary to eliminate serious shortcomings in the work of designing offices and to substantially expand mass production by means of further specialisation of production and co-operation.

Another important condition for attaining a higher technical level in industry is the development of electric power production: this will make it possible to electrify the basic industries more quickly. We must see to it that the rate of increase in power output by far outstrips the rate of development of industrial production.

By 1960 we must secure an approximate 75% increase in power output. This can be achieved only by speeding up the construction of large power stations equipped with high-efficiency electrical machinery. At the same time, by building new

power plants and bringing them into operation we shall make it possible to generate power much more economically in particular, with less fuel. Special attention will be paid to the electrification of railways, coal and ore mines and the further development of electrical processes in the metallurgical industry and electrolytic processes in the chemical industry.

To further advance the power industry, research work in relation to the use of atomic energy will be carried on during the second Five-Year Plan, and an atomic power station will be built with the assistance of the USSR.

Mechanisation and automation will be the major aspects of technical advance during the second Five-Year Plan. Especially great attention will be given to mechanising laborious processes. In the coal industry changes in the forms and methods of production organisation and factory management. Questions of establishing technical norms are becoming particularly important, for the basic aim of the introduction of new machinery should be to cut working time and expenditure on materials, fuel and electric power per unit of production.

The theses of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic, which illumine the main ways for further raising the technical level of all branches of the national economy, will undoubtedly help to achieve new, even more notable successes in the development of the national and technical base of Socialism and in raising the material and cultural level of the working people of our country.

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Strike Movement in Capitalist Countries

Italy. A three-day country-wide strike of 70,000 heads and teachers of secondary schools for higher pay ended successfully on December 3. From 95 to 100% of the country's teachers took part.

France. For a month now air-line ground crews have been carrying on a nation-wide strike for higher wages that is notable for its mass unity. Nearly all air traffic has been brought to a standstill.

Austria. Tram workers in Vienna stopped work for more than four hours on December 2. The workers at a number of factories also struck in solidarity.

Norway. The biggest strike in the country since the war, involving 10,000 transport workers, continues. Many trade union organisations are expressing their solidarity with the action the transport workers have taken for their rights.

Belgium. On December 3 the bus drivers and other bus employees in Namur, a large industrial centre, went on strike for improved living conditions. The town's entire bus service came to a standstill.

Birds of a feather

The notorious London gangster, Billy Hill, held a party last month—and the marks extra.

German consumers at least 100 million American coal has this year cost West sells for 20 marks more than its Ruhr equivalent. Because of this difference in price, it appears that vessels loaded with coal sail from a West German port to the North Sea and then turn right round and bring back "American" coal. The point of this manoeuvre is that a ton of U.S. coal can be sold for more than four times as much as a ton of Ruhr coal.

EDITORIAL BOARD

There is an old English proverb which still holds good: "Birds of a feather flock together."

cream of Mayfair went along. The assembly company made an interesting sight: men with ugly knife scars on their faces mixed with elegant ladies in mink coats. Multi-millionaire Sir Bernard Docker and his well-known wife were honoured guests. Indeed, while one of his thugs held the rest of the company back, the host was photographed kissing the glamorous Lady Docker.

The New York Post recently reported from its correspondent in India who writes in his column that the Communist Party is trying to poison the ordinary people, to "give grounds" for their call for a continuation of the long-discussed policy of the cold war and the formation of military blocs. Accusations to this effect are also being made in the U.S.A. by the Soviet leaders who don't suit many of the world's gentlemen like the New York Post's correspondent and his fellow hacks of the bourgeois press, are trying to make a distorted light, and to give a biased interpretation of the Soviet Union's foreign policy—a policy that reflects the aspirations of all peoples.

But these underground methods of oppponents of international détente will not undermine the prestige of the Soviet Union, which grows from day to day, nor the ever-strengthening confidence which hundreds of millions of ordinary people throughout the world have in the USSR. Burma and the strengthening of friendship and mutual understanding between the U.S.S.R. and these countries gladden the hearts of all people of good will, as they see in these things a convincing reply to all who would dissipate the Geneva spirit once and for all.

The democratic public is firmly rejecting the hostile propaganda of the cold war partisans and giving a fitting rebuttal to liars and slanderers of all varieties.

More and more frequently one finds plastered on the walls of Swiss factories and the announcement that "Accidents and industrial accidents spell heavy losses to fabulous profits to the capitalists, but in causing disability for more than three days. Compared with 1939, the number of industrial accidents has risen by 14%.

The intensification of labour brings them (averaging over 8,300,000 francs a year) and the waste of hundreds of thousands of man-days. This is always that worries the employers, who are always out for maximum profits.

The bourgeois press generally paints Switzerland as the nearest thing to a "workers' paradise". But the facts show that in this small capitalist country the workers are just as much exploited as in the bigger capitalist countries. Here too business takes toll not only of the health but quite often of the very life of the workers.

Light on the mystery-Ruhr Coal Stratagems

Der Ruhr coal into American transformation of our transformation of cream of Mayfair went along. The assembly company made an interesting sight: men with ugly knife scars on their faces mixed with elegant ladies in mink coats. Multi-millionaire Sir Bernard Docker and his well-known wife were honoured guests. Indeed, while one of his thugs held the rest of the company back, the host was photographed kissing the glamorous Lady Docker.

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Facts Expose...

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