

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

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Programme for Further Powerful Advance of Crop-Raising and Animal Husbandry in the USSR

The meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union held over January 25 to 31 adopted a Decision "On increasing the output of animal husbandry products", a militant programme for the further powerful advance of crop-raising and animal husbandry in the USSR, a programme which is thoroughly worked out and scientifically grounded.

The Decision of the meeting and the report of Comrade N. S. Khrushchev further elaborated important questions of Communist construction in the USSR and important problems of the national economy and outlined concrete ways for attaining a steady improvement in the well-being of the Soviet people and the all-round satisfaction of their continually growing requirements.

This Decision is a document of immense international importance, vivid testimony to the peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union and the peaceful aspirations of the Soviet people. All sincere men and women in every country, on familiarising themselves with this document, will once more be convinced that the Soviet Union is engaged in creative constructive labour, that its plans for the future are plans for peaceful construction, gigantic plans for developing the productive forces for the good of the working people. The successful advance of the USSR along the road to Communism has a profound influence on the hearts and minds of ordinary people the world over, on the course of world events. The working people of all countries see for themselves how in the Soviet Union, which undeviatingly carries out a policy of peace, the prosperity of the people grows year by year; they compare the position in the USSR with that in the Western countries where, as a result of the policy of war preparations pursued by the ruling circles, there is increasing impoverishment of the proletariat and the ruining of the peasantry. Consequently they understand more and more the immense superiority of the socialist system over the capitalist system.

Guided in all its activities by the immortal Marxist-Leninist teaching, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, is firmly and confidently leading the Soviet people to the final victory of Communism. Now, as before, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union regards the further development of heavy industry as its main task. Strictly

MTS and the state farms recorded big successes in increasing grain production and cultivating virgin and fallow lands. These successes made it possible to increase the gross output of grain, to fulfil the state plan for grain deliveries ahead of schedule, and, notwithstanding the drought in a number of important areas, to obtain considerably more grain than in 1953. Between October 1, 1953, and October 1, 1954, the number of productive livestock of all kinds increased; the production of meat, milk and eggs went up and the level of people's consumption rose. In 1954 sales of meat were 2.8 times higher than in 1940, butter 2.6 times, eggs 1.4 and woollen fabrics nearly threefold.

In the struggle for a sharp upsurge in agriculture the tremendous help given, to the toilers of agriculture by socialist industry, by the working class, played a big part. This is fresh evidence of the great strength of the unbreakable alliance of the working class and the collective-farm peasantry of the USSR.

Great are the successes registered by agriculture in the USSR. However, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union never rests on its laurels. It boldly exposes shortcomings, discovers untapped reserves and rallies the Soviet people for the fulfilment of ever-greater tasks corresponding to their vital interests.

The meeting of the Central Committee pointed out that the present level of animal husbandry, particularly its productivity and also the size of the cattle herd, does not satisfy the growing needs of the population for animal husbandry products and of light industry and the food industry for raw materials.

In its concern for the steady improvement of the well-being of the Soviet people the Communist Party of the Soviet Union posed the task of overcoming the lag in livestock breeding and ensuring, within the next few years, a considerable increase in the production of grain, potatoes and other vegetables, industrial crops and livestock products. Within the next five or six years output of the main products of animal husbandry is expected to increase two or so times.

A further increase in grain production is

INFORMATION REPORT On the Meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

A Meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union took place on January 25—31.

It heard and discussed Comrade N. S. Khrushchev's Report on Increasing the Output of Animal Husbandry Products and adopted a corresponding Decision.

On Increasing Output of Animal Husbandry Products

Decision of Meeting of the C.C. of the CPSU, Adopted January 31, 1955, on the Basis of a Report by Comrade N. S. Khrushchev

On February 2 Pravda and other Soviet newspapers published the decision of a meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union "On increasing the output of animal husbandry products", adopted January 31, 1955, on the basis of a report by Comrade N. S. Khrushchev.

A short summary of the Decision is published below.

ductive livestock. Between October 1, 1953, and October 1, 1954, the number of cows rose by 1.5 million, the total head of cattle increased by 1.9 million, hogs by 3.4 million and sheep by 2.6 million; the production of meat, milk and eggs went up too. The increase in the output of animal husbandry products, including the quantities available for the market, as well as the measures taken to step up incentives for collective farms and their members in the development of animal husbandry, have resulted in higher incomes in this branch of agricultural production, an important condition for the further advance of socially-owned animal husbandry.

At the same time, the Decision states, the meeting of the C.C. of the CPSU points out that the present level of development of animal husbandry, particularly

husbandry products needed to satisfy the requirements of the people in foodstuffs and those of industry in raw materials.

In the section of the Decision "On increasing the output of meat, milk, eggs, wool and other animal husbandry products" it is stated that the Communist Party and the Soviet Government have set themselves the task to attain, within the next few years, a level of development in animal husbandry that would make it possible to ensure the satisfaction of the growing requirements of the population for foodstuffs and of industry for raw materials.

To carry out this task it is essential that the output of the basic products of animal husbandry be increased from 2 to 2½ times within the next five or six years.

as would ensure sufficient fodder for all kinds of livestock.

The Central Committees of the Communist Parties of the Union Republics, the territorial and regional Party committees, the Councils of Ministers of the Republics and the executive committees of regional and territorial Soviets of Workers' Deputies are instructed to define concrete measures for providing livestock with fodder on the basis of plans for fodder output worked out by each collective farm, state farm and district with due consideration for local conditions and the maximum utilisation of all available reserves so that the tasks for increasing the production of meat, milk, wool and other animal husbandry products in the period 1955-1960 are definitely fulfilled.

The Decision further attaches great significance to the analysis of the situation and measures relating to the mechanisation of arduous work in animal husbandry. In particular the Decision sets the task of making the machine and tractor stations in the nearest future a decisive force in the production of meat, milk, wool and other products of animal husbandry, as they are in tillage.

It also outlines broad measures for the

influence on the hearts and minds of ordinary people the world over, on the course of world events. The working people of all countries see for themselves how in the Soviet Union, which undeviatingly carries out a policy of peace, the prosperity of the people grows year by year; they compare the position in the USSR with that in the Western countries where, as a result of the policy of war preparations pursued by the ruling circles, there is increasing impoverishment of the proletariat and the ruining of the peasantry. Consequently they understand more and more the immense superiority of the socialist system over the capitalist system.

Guided in all its activities by the immortal Marxist-Leninist teaching, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, is firmly and confidently leading the Soviet people to the final victory of Communism. Now, as before, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union regards the further development of heavy industry as its main task. Steadily carrying out the instructions of the great Lenin, and of Stalin, the faithful continuer of his cause, on the development of heavy industry as the basis of the might of the Soviet state, the heroic working class, the glorious collective-farm peasantry and the people's intelligentsia of the Soviet Union have attained great victories under the leadership of their Communist Party in developing industry and the whole national economy of the USSR.

In his report, Comrade N. S. Khrushchev emphasised: "The main task to which the Party devotes all its efforts was and remains the strengthening of the might of the Soviet state and, consequently, the accelerated advance of heavy industry, which constitutes a firm base for the whole national economy and for the indestructible defensive might of the country, the source of the steady improvement in the well-being of the people. It is only on the basis of an advance of heavy industry and the electrification of the country that the wide introduction of the latest technique into all branches of the national economy and a systematic increase in labour productivity can be assured. It is only on the basis of a highly developed heavy industry that agriculture can be fully equipped with modern machinery at an increasingly rapid rate. It is only on the basis of the achievements of heavy industry that we can ensure the further development of light industry, the food and other branches of industry and the advance of agriculture."

It was precisely on the basis of the powerful growth of socialist industry that the 1953 September meeting of the Central Committee of the CPSU posed the task of ensuring the sharp upturn in agriculture which occupies an exceptionally important place in the further improvement of the material standards of the Soviet people, and in the creation of an abundance of consumer goods.

Big changes have taken place in the agriculture of the USSR since the September meeting; the necessary conditions have been created for a further powerful upsurge in all branches of agricultural production. The volume of capital investments in agriculture has been considerably increased, and the MTS, state farms and collective farms are better equipped technically. The role of the MTS, which constitute a decisive force in the development of collective farming, has grown in importance. Last year the collective farms, the

territorial and regional Party committees, the Councils of Ministers of the Republics and the executive committees of regional and territorial Soviets of Workers' Deputies are instructed to define concrete measures for providing livestock with fodder on the basis of plans for fodder output worked out by each collective farm, state farm and district with due consideration for local conditions and the maximum utilisation of all available reserves so that the tasks for increasing the production of meat, milk, wool and other animal husbandry products in the period 1955-1960 are definitely fulfilled.

The meeting of the Central Committee pointed out that the present level of animal husbandry, particularly its productivity and also the size of the cattle herd, does not satisfy the growing needs of the population for animal husbandry products and of light industry and the food industry for raw materials.

In its concern for the steady improvement of the well-being of the Soviet people the Communist Party of the Soviet Union posed the task of overcoming the lag in livestock breeding and ensuring, within the next few years, a considerable increase in the production of grain, potatoes and other vegetables, industrial crops and livestock products. Within the next five or six years output of the main products of animal husbandry is expected to increase two or so times.

A further increase in grain production is the decisive precondition for an upsurge in livestock breeding. Grain farming is the basis of the entire agricultural production. With a view to fully satisfying the growing needs of the Soviet country for grain the meeting of the Central Committee posed the very important national-economic task of so developing grain production as to bring the overall output by 1960 to no less than 10,000 million poods a year.

Once it obtains such an amount of grain the Soviet Union will be in a position to satisfy its grain requirements to the full, to create much greater reserves and expand trade with foreign countries; at the same time it will provide animal husbandry with more than 4,000 million poods of grain and, on top of that, a considerable amount of bran, oil-cake and combined fodder. This means that animal husbandry will have a solid base for its development, that it will become highly productive and will provide a great amount for the market.

The Decision points out concrete ways for an advance of animal husbandry. Particular attention is given to the strengthening of the fodder base—the main condition for successfully developing commonly-owned animal husbandry and raising its productivity—to increasing the mechanisation of labour-consuming processes in animal husbandry and to the construction of animal husbandry buildings and silos.

Having defined the programme of immediate measures for the advance of crop-raising and animal husbandry, the meeting devoted a great deal of attention to the improvement of the leadership of agriculture and the political work of the Party in the countryside. This work should arouse in people a desire to work as well as possible, should develop their creative initiative and activity and promote a further improvement in the organisation of labour, a strengthening of labour discipline and the wide-scale development of socialist emulation.

The tasks set by the meeting are indeed vast. Only the mighty Soviet state has it within its power to accomplish them. Warmly approving the Decision of the meeting, the Soviet people are enthusiastically beginning to carry it out.

The Decision evokes among the working people of the People's Democracies and the whole world a feeling of pride in the country of victorious Socialism, standard-bearer of peace and friendship between the peoples, and inspires them for a more resolute struggle to frustrate the aggressive plans of the atomic warmongers and to strengthen peace.

Session of Supreme Soviet of the USSR Opens

The Second Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of the fourth convocation opened on February 3 in the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow.

During the day, at separate meetings, the Soviet of Nationalities and the Soviet of the Union unanimously endorsed the following agenda:

1. The 1955 State Budget of the USSR and the fulfilment of the 1954 State Budget.

2. The international situation and the foreign policy of the Soviet Government.

3. The endorsement of the Decrees of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

In the evening, Deputy A. G. Zverev, Minister of Finance of the USSR, made the report on the first item of the agenda at a joint meeting of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities.

Party and the Government, there have been important achievements during the past year in the further development of the national economy and an improvement in the well-being of the working people.

The Communist Party, guided by the teaching of the great Lenin on the all-round development of a large-scale engineering industry and the electrification of the country, holds, as it did in the past, that its main task is the further development of heavy industry, which constitutes a firm base for the whole national economy and the indestructible defensive might of our homeland, the source of the steady improvement in the well-being of the Soviet people. In our country the output of metal, machinery and electric power is rising from year to year, the extraction of coal and oil is increasing. On the basis of the steady progress of heavy industry, light industry, the food industry and other branches are developing; on this basis, too, our large-scale socialist agriculture is advancing.

During the period that has elapsed since the September meeting of the C.C. great changes have taken place in the agriculture of the country, and the necessary conditions have been created for a further mighty advance of all branches of agricultural production. The volume of capital investments in agriculture has increased substantially, and the standard of technical equipment of MTS and state and collective farms has risen. In 1954 socialist industry supplied agriculture with 137,000 universal tractors (in terms of 15 h.p. units), 46,000 tractor cultivators, 37,000 grain harvester combines and hundreds of thousands of other agricultural machines. Much has been done to reinforce the machine and tractor stations with qualified cadres and, as a result, the positions of MTS managers, chief engineers and repair shop foremen are, as a rule, filled by specialists with a higher or secondary education. The permanent staff of the MTS numbers some two million tractor drivers, tractor-team leaders, operators of complex agricultural machinery and other workers. At present there are about 120,000 agronomists and veterinarians directly engaged in production on the collective farms. In 1954 the MTS carried out agricultural work over an area which, in terms of land ploughed, was equivalent to 75 million more hectares than in 1953 and the quality of the work improved. All this testifies to the enhanced role played by machine and tractor stations as a decisive force in developing collective farm production.

The Decision points out that the Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies, the collective farms, MTS and state farms have registered their initial successes in carrying out the decision adopted by the February-March meeting of the C.C. of the CPSU and the subsequent decisions of the Party and the Government on a further increase in grain production in the USSR and on cultivating virgin and fallow lands. These successes enabled the collective and state farms to increase the gross output of grain last year, to fulfil the state plan for grain deliveries ahead of schedule and, notwithstanding the drought in a number of important areas, made it possible to procure much more grain than in 1953.

Last year the MTS and the collective and state farms attained some successes in increasing the production and delivery of potatoes and other vegetables. The production and delivery of important industrial crops such as cotton, long-fibre flax and hemp have also shown an increase.

An important role in the struggle for a steep upsurge in agriculture was played by the tremendous help given by socialist industry, by our working class. In 1954 Soviet industry expanded the production of powerful modern agricultural machinery. Thousands of factories and offices have sent skilled workers and specialists to develop virgin and fallow lands, to strengthen the MTS and the state farms, providing fresh evidence of the great strength of the indestructible alliance of the working class and collective-farm peasantry.

The measures taken to put the Decisions of the September meeting of the C.C. of the CPSU into effect have resulted in an increase in the head of all kinds of pro-

ductive livestock. Between October 1, 1953, and October 1, 1954, the number of cows rose by 1.5 million, the total head of cattle increased by 1.9 million, hogs by 3.4 million and sheep by 2.6 million; the production of meat, milk and eggs went up too. The increase in the output of animal husbandry products, including the quantities available for the market, as well as the measures taken to step up incentives for collective farms and their members in the development of animal husbandry, have resulted in higher incomes in this branch of agricultural production, an important condition for the further advance of socially-owned animal husbandry.

At the same time, the Decision states, the meeting of the C.C. of the CPSU points out that the present level of development of animal husbandry, particularly its productivity but also the size of the cattle herd, does not satisfy the increased needs of the population for animal husbandry products, and of light industry and the food industry for raw materials. Socially-owned animal husbandry continues to be the branch of agriculture that lags farthest behind.

The fulfilment of the task set by the Party and the Government of ensuring a steady advance in the well-being of the Soviet people and in the satisfaction of their constantly growing requirements, urgently calls for a marked increase within the next few years in the production of grain, potatoes and other vegetables, industrial crops and animal husbandry products.

The section of the Decision referring to the further increase in grain output as the decisive precondition for ensuring an advance in animal husbandry points out that the task of considerably increasing the production of animal husbandry products to satisfy the growing requirements of the people cannot be solved without a further sharp upsurge of grain production, which is the foundation of the entire agricultural production.

To fully satisfy all the country's grain requirements, the Decision states, it is necessary, as the estimates show, to bring the overall output of grain within the next five or six years to at least 10,000 million poods a year. This is a great and complex task, yet one that is wholly realistic and feasible. In posing this task the Party bases itself on the successes attained in the development of heavy industry, on the superiority of our large-scale socialist agricultural production, on the rich experience of model workers in agriculture who, working hand in hand with science, mastered the art of raising bumper crops.

The Decision points out that our country has the resources and reserves that are needed to solve the task of considerably increasing grain production; these include the raising of yields on all areas sown to crops, the reduction of losses during harvesting, further expanding sown areas of virgin and fallow lands and the acreage sown to such valuable and high-yielding crops as maize.

The meeting of the C.C. of the CPSU declared that it regards as a most important national economic task the development of grain growing on a scale which will ensure an annual gross output of at least 10,000 million poods by 1960, and outlined concrete measures for the attainment of this national goal.

The meeting of the C.C. of the CPSU is of the opinion, the Decision reads, that once it has obtained an increase in total grain output to the amount of 10,000 million poods, the Soviet Union will be able to fully satisfy all requirements in grain, create much greater reserves, and expand trade with foreign countries. At the same time it will provide animal husbandry with more than 4,000 million poods of grain and, in addition, a considerable amount of bran, oil-cake and combined feeders. Animal husbandry will acquire a solid base for its development, it will become highly productive and provide more for the market; the country will receive the amount of animal

husbandry products needed to satisfy the requirements of the people in foodstuffs and those of industry in raw materials.

In the section of the Decision on increasing the output of meat, milk, eggs, wool and other animal husbandry products it is stated that the Communist Party and the Soviet Government have set themselves the task to attain, within the next few years, a level of development in animal husbandry that would make it possible to ensure the satisfaction of the growing requirements of the population for foodstuffs and of industry for raw materials.

To carry out this task it is essential that the output of the basic products of animal husbandry be increased from 2 to 2½ times within the next five or six years.

In laying down the task for such a sharp increase in the output of animal husbandry products within a short time, the meeting of the C.C. proceeds from the premise that now the necessary conditions have been created for a sharp advance in animal husbandry and that the collective farms, MTS and state farms have big reserves available which, if properly used, will make it possible to meet the country's requirements for animal husbandry products. The experience of many of the advanced collective and state farms, of whole districts and regions which last year recorded their initial successes in developing animal husbandry and increasing its productivity, show that all the necessary conditions obtain in our country for a substantial increase in the output of animal husbandry products in the shortest possible time.

The meeting decided that the achievement of an increase in the production of meat, fats (of all kinds) and milk by 100%, eggs by 120% and wool (of all kinds) by 80% between 1954 and 1960 must be regarded as a national-economic task of the utmost importance.

The meeting instructed the Central Committees of the Communist Parties of the Union Republics, the regional and territorial committees of the Party, the Councils of Ministers of the Republics, the executive committees of the regional and territorial Soviets of Workers' Deputies to work out measures, proceeding from this task, for a sharp upsurge of animal husbandry over the period 1955 to 1960, envisaging the maximum use of the opportunities available for increasing the output of animal husbandry products on the basis of the experience of advanced collective and state farms. At the same time they should bear in mind that the collective and state farms must in the near future become the main producers of animal husbandry products. The measures must be worked out in the MTS and on the collective and state farms with the participation of the broad masses of collective farmers, workers and specialists of the MTS and state farms.

The section—On reinforcing the fodder base—stresses that in carrying out the task of a speedy advance in animal husbandry it is of decisive importance to ensure that the cattle are provided with a sufficient quantity of concentrated, succulent and coarse feeders. This calls for a radical improvement in the organisation of the fodder base and the full use of the reserves available.

The meeting decided that the output of fodder on the collective and state farms should be increased as follows by 1960: concentrated fodder—to not less than 65 million tons or five and a half times more than in 1953; silage—to not less than 176 million tons or five and a half times more than in 1953; fodder root crops and melon fodder crops—to not less than 38 million tons or four times more than in 1953; potatoes—to not less than 25 million tons or five times more than in 1953; coarse fodder—to 178 million tons or one and a half times more than in 1953.

The chief thing now, states the Decision, is to have fodder crops sown in every collective and state farm in such quantities

territorial and regional Party committees, the Councils of Ministers of the Republics and the executive committees of regional and territorial Soviets of Workers' Deputies are instructed to define concrete measures for providing livestock with fodder on the basis of plans for fodder output worked out by each collective farm, state farm and district with due consideration for local conditions and the maximum utilisation of all available reserves so that the tasks for increasing the production of meat, milk, wool and other animal husbandry products in the period 1955-1960 are definitely fulfilled.

The Decision further attaches great significance to the analysis of the situation and measures relating to the mechanisation of arduous work in animal husbandry. In particular the Decision sets the task of making the machine and tractor stations in the nearest future a decisive force in the production of meat, milk, wool and other products of animal husbandry, as they are in tillage.

It also outlines broad measures for the construction of animal husbandry buildings and silos on the collective farms.

A special section deals with an increase in production of animal husbandry products on the state farms. Compared with 1954 the state farms must by 1960 increase the production of meat by not less than 1.8 times, milk 2.8 times, wool 2.2 and eggs 4 times.

A section dealing with the purchases of animal husbandry products points out that as a result of the carrying out of the decisions of the Party and the Government on the continued advance of agriculture, as well as the reduction of compulsory deliveries and increase of purchase prices effected in 1953 in accordance with the decision of the September meeting of the C.C. the collective and state farms increased the production of animal husbandry products. This made it possible in 1954 to procure and purchase more meat and milk than in 1953.

Thanks to the increase in production and procurements of animal husbandry products, a further rise in popular consumption has been registered. Compared with 1940 the sale of meat last year was up 2.8 times, butter 2.6 times, eggs 1.4 times and woollen fabrics nearly 3 times.

On the basis of increasing the productivity of animal husbandry and the growth of the head of cattle, the procurement and purchases of meat by 1960 will increase, compared with 1954, not less than 1.6 times, pork not less than 2.8 times, milk and milk products not less than 1.8 times, eggs more than 3 times and wool twofold.

In the section on the improvement of leadership in agriculture and Party political work in the countryside the Central Committee pointed out that mass political work among animal husbandry workers was unsatisfactory. The need was stressed of considerably enhancing the level of leadership in agriculture on the part of Party, Soviet and agricultural organs, to make the leadership better qualified, more concrete and operative. The meeting of the Central Committee made it obligatory for all Party, trade union and Young Communist League organisations systematically and persistently to improve their mass political work in the countryside. The Decision says that in Party political work one must always bear in mind the instructions of the great Lenin to the effect that the masses can do everything when they know everything and tackle everything conscientiously.

In conclusion the Decision states:

The meeting calls on all collective farmers, workers and specialists of MTS and state farms to exert every effort in order successfully to fulfil the programme of a further rise in crop-raising and animal husbandry, so that our country may have, in the nearest future, all agricultural products in abundance.

The meeting expresses its confidence that, under the guidance of the Communist Party, the working class, collective-farm peasantry and our intelligentsia, the whole Soviet people, will successfully carry out this most important task in the shortest possible time.

PARTY TASKS IN STRUGGLE TO STRENGTHEN EVERYDAY LINKS WITH WORKING MASSES*

I.

This meeting of the C.C. is taking place after the completion of the fifth year of the national economic plan, at a time when we enter upon the last stage of the great programme of economic and cultural transformation of our country, the programme laid down in the Six-Year Plan. At this meeting we shall have to give an evaluation of how we are fulfilling the programme-directives of the Second Congress of our Party which defined our tasks in the struggle for a more rapid improvement of the well-being of the working people in town and countryside.

We have come to this meeting with great achievements to our credit, which are evidence of the growth in the activity of our Party, of its political maturity and the strengthening of its ties with the masses. At the same time we see, more clearly than ever before, the weaknesses, shortcomings and defects in our work. We see acutely the tasks the Party has failed to fulfil, the reserves still unused, we see the great gap between our possibilities and their realisation.

The Political Bureau, having self-critically evaluated its work on the basis of the experience of the Party as a whole, comes to the meeting with a detailed analysis of all these phenomena, their reasons and their sources, and puts forward a concrete plan for overcoming our shortcomings by a full, persistent and steady implementation of the Leninist standards in our Party life—the principles of collectivity, criticism and self-criticism, and the strict observance of inner-Party democracy.

It is precisely on this extremely important question that we should like to focus the attention of the Central Committee in examining the problems to be discussed at this meeting.

Founding the proletarian party of a new type some fifty years ago, the great Lenin indicated the correct organisational principles for its activity and the methods that would ensure it the closest links with the masses. The Leninist principles of Party building have become the model for and the property of the international working-class movement. The main revolutionary trend of the Polish working-class movement relied on these principles of Leninism in its development. Our Party, which bases itself on the Leninist principles and standards of Party life and directs the building of Socialism in our country, enjoys the support and confidence of the broadest masses of people.

The present meeting is being held in an atmosphere of a fresh heightening of tension in international relations. In the most insidious way the imperialist circles are speeding up the attempt to get together a bloc of capitalist countries in Western Europe, aimed against the USSR and the People's Democracies; by remilitarising Western Germany they are trying to convert it into the shock force of this aggressive bloc.

It would be foolish if, in this situation, we did not concern ourselves about Poland's making a proper contribution to the joint efforts of the whole camp of peace and Socialism headed by the powerful Soviet Union. That is why we shall spare no efforts to devote, within the framework of our common economic plans, the necessary attention to the defence

of our borders and the security of our people.

In these conditions our activities in the sphere of foreign policy and our efforts in defence of peace must increase still more. Redoubling the joint efforts of the fraternal countries as regards defence capacity and security, we shall continue our endeavours for a peaceful coexistence with the capitalist countries, for expanding economic relations and cultural interchange.

The outcome of the nation-wide elections to local councils on December 5 was determined by the conviction of the millions of working people that the policy of the Party and the National Front corresponds to the interests of the people and the aspirations of the working masses, that it is aimed, first and foremost, at ensuring the independence of Poland and her economic prosperity under conditions of close alliance and all-round co-operation with the entire camp of peace, democracy and Socialism. The political significance of these elections—the first nation-wide elections to the local organs of the people's state—is especially important if they are looked at from the point of view of the continued strengthening of the ties between the state and the broadest masses of the people, and the participation of these masses, on a continually increasing scale, in running the people's state.

The newly-elected people's councils provide the opportunity for rallying around them for active participation in day-to-day work and immediate practical activities the millions of people who elected them. Is there any need to prove how powerful an influence this active participation of the masses of the people in the work of the councils, in carrying out the tasks set by our state can have on our political work and our social life as a whole! The entire Party and all its local organisations must understand this and recast and organise their daily work so that not only is more attention paid to the people's councils than hitherto, but that the still far from perfect forms of help given by Party bodies to the people's councils are considerably improved.

Our task—and it is one of the key tasks of the present period—is to bring about an appreciable improvement in the work and activities of the people's councils at all levels. To this end we must develop all-round activities in the struggle against red tape and bureaucratism in the apparatus of the councils and establish still closer everyday co-operation between them and the working masses who control them. From the very beginning we must devote the utmost attention to the newly-elected rural councils so that they become the basis for a radical change in our organisational and mass political work in the countryside, a stimulus for a further steady and rapid growth in the activity and initiative of the broadest masses of the working peasantry.

In all the work of the people's councils we must master the Leninist art of combining the initiative, free and independent activity, energy and the sweep of the movement of the popular masses with strict observance of our Party's general line and see that it is consistently implemented. We must perseveringly improve our state apparatus, ridding it of rubber-stamp methods and bureaucratism, the grim heritage of capitalism.

The results of the elections to the people's councils are graphic confirmation of the growing unity of the working people in our

by small industries and handicrafts. Many new fabrics, footwear and clothes of various types and models were put into production. It is true that local state and co-operative industries showed a remark-

able increase (over 20%) in production, but not all the considerable possibilities for expanding the production of mass-consumption goods by means of better utilisation of local and secondary raw materials were utilised.

The decisions of the Second Party Congress on cutting production costs have not been completely carried out. A number of ministries still do not treat with sufficient seriousness the categorical instruction of the Congress to concentrate on the quality and economic indices of production, on the struggle for lowering production costs, for economy in raw and other materials and fuel, for technical progress and constant improvement in the organisation of labour.

Alongside redoubled efforts in agriculture, an important condition for carrying out in 1955 the tasks set by the Party Congress for improving living standards is concentrated and unflagging efforts by Party organisations and all economic and state bodies for achieving the economic indices of the state plan, particularly as regards production costs.

The greatest obstacle in all our Party work, and consequently in the fulfilment of economic tasks, is the violation of the Leninist principles of Party life which are

The economic tasks for 1955, the last year of the Six-Year Plan, are especially important and difficult when seen in the light of the evaluation of the results of carrying out the Congress decisions in 1954.

The planned increase in industrial and agricultural production, the improvement of economic indices and the realisation of capital investments must ensure the further rise in real wages and incomes of the working population in town and countryside, envisaged by the Congress decisions, and the further growth of the economic power and defence capacity of our people's state.

In 1955, industrial production is expected to show an increase of approximately 8.5%.

Production of the means of production is estimated to increase roughly 6% and consumer goods approximately 11%, while the Congress decisions envisaged, in the main, an even growth in these spheres. Such rates of development, if we regard them from the point of view of the national economy as a whole, do not constitute a particular danger because they envisage an energetic mobilisation of production reserves in the consumer-goods industry and the use of imported goods and home reserves for supplying this branch of production. A more rapid growth of production in group "B" can, however, take place only as an exceptional phenomenon in the normal cycle of state plans calculated over many years. A condition for expanded reproduction and constant growth and improvement of production on the basis of higher techniques—and consequently for the realisation of the basic economic law of Socialism—is a more rapid growth of the production of the means of production, including in the first place a

rapid growth of the production of agricultural production is to ensure an increase in grain production.

As regards the individual working peasants, we must not only carry out to the full the principles formulated by the Second Party Congress but also considerably broaden the economic bonds between town and countryside and the worker-peasant alliance. The countryside will be better supplied with the means necessary for the development of production. The network of stations providing services for peasant farms will be considerably extended and particular attention will be given to rendering help in the development of animal husbandry.

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Boleslaw Bierut

**First Secretary,
Central Committee,
Polish United Workers' Party**

★ ★

set out in detail in the Party Rules. According to the Rules every Party member must, by personal example, foster and develop the creative initiative of the masses in the struggle for raising productivity of labour, which is the main source for improving the well-being of the people. The Rules oblige Party bodies and organisations to adopt decisions in a collective way and strictly to observe inner-Party democracy, to ensure the free development of criticism and self-criticism as a method of disclosing and eliminating all defects and shortcomings.

Leading Party bodies also insufficiently observed the principle of collectivity in directing economic policy. Not enough was done to draw the broad body of Party activists into discussion on vital economic questions.

The violation of the Leninist principles of Party life often finds its reflection in narrow practicalism, in the separation of economic questions and tasks from the policy of the Party as a whole. Narrow practicalism has become a source of many distortions in the work at all levels of the economic apparatus.

All Party bodies and organisations must, as quickly as possible, exert every effort to eliminate these shortcomings and improve methods of leadership in the whole of Party work, particularly in giving leadership in fulfilling the big economic tasks at the present stage of socialist upbuilding.

III.

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As regards the individual working peasants, we must not only carry out to the full the principles formulated by the Second Party Congress but also considerably broaden the economic bonds between town and countryside and the worker-peasant alliance. The countryside will be better supplied with the means necessary for the development of production. The network of stations providing services for peasant farms will be considerably extended and particular attention will be given to rendering help in the development of animal husbandry.

It should be stressed once again that the present policy of restricting the kulaks does not aim to curtail the production of the kulak farms but is directed at preventing speculation and attempts to evade the fulfilment of obligations to the state.

We also set the state farms serious tasks. The problem of the development of producer co-operation—in view of its special ideological and political importance—as well as the serious tasks we shall have to carry out in this sphere demand constant attention from Party organs.

It is quite a common practice for the Party activists to carry out their organisational role and give help to a producer co-operative only while it is being formally set up and then, having ensured it state credits, to show no further interest in it, ignoring the most important thing—the organisation of the labour of co-operative members.

Production of agricultural production is to ensure an increase in grain production.

Can we be reconciled to the fact that in many Party organisations, even when highly important questions are being dealt with, the discussion is sluggish, does not touch on essentials, and if problems are ticklish, passes over them in silence with the result that it fails to command general attention, to strongly grip the imagination of the members, and to enhance their activity?

Can we be reconciled to the fact that a fully frank and sincere exchange of opinions among Party members often takes place not at a meeting but precisely outside the meeting?

Can we be reconciled to this state of affairs? Does this not lead to incomplete, merely partial activity of Party members and sometimes directly to a lowering of the activity of the Party organisations, to loss of a feeling of general responsibility, and to self-isolation from participation in collective settling of Party affairs, which is a necessary condition of inner-Party democracy?

Passing over difficult questions, doubts etc. in silence, the cutting short of discussion of such matters, and commandism instead of persuasion do not settle problems or provide Party members with ideological training, but put a brake on their activity; Party discipline sometimes becomes mechanical rather than conscious.

Do elections to leading Party bodies help strengthen inner-Party democracy if everything has been arranged beforehand, if efforts are not made to reckon with rank-and-file opinion on the nominations, if opportunities are not provided for initiative from below in nominating candidates? In short, should not care in not yielding to spontaneity always be combined with full observance of the principles of inner-Party democracy and of unrestricted right of criticism?

Are the relations between Party members and non-party people, between the Party organisations and the masses among whom they work on a proper footing? These relations have often, to the great detriment of our cause, been on an incorrect footing. Many Party members and also members of leading Party bodies have shown not a few manifestations of conceit and arrogance towards non-party people. There are also instances, in the relations of Party members with non-party people, of concessions to the pressure of the sentiments of more backward elements, of evasions of an active defence of the Party's position with regard to matters that are more difficult of explanation. Such evasion often has its source in poor ideological equipment.

Finally, we cannot but draw conclusions from the fact that the growth of cadres lags behind the urgent needs and the new tasks; that we are paying a dear price for unsatisfactory handling of the question of cadres, particularly in agriculture.

At the same time one can observe tendencies towards red tape, narrow practicalism and mechanical treatment of current questions. We note that very little progress has been made by the workers in our Party apparatus towards applying in their everyday work the very difficult art of skilfully combining control, stimulus and concentration of attention of the various state, economic, cultural and public sectors on the Party line—with broad all-round political and educational work, with individual and mass agitation and propaganda.

We have repeated...

and self-criticism were not being carried out consistently and the necessary check-up on the fulfilment of decisions showed a noticeable lag at all levels of leadership.

Non-observance of the principle of collectivity was also manifest in Party leadership of economic and cultural policy as well as in other spheres of Party and governmental activity.

We began with a self-critical evaluation of our own methods of work, being convinced that the most effective way of stimulating criticism from below was to apply considered and business-like self-criticism from above. The method of work of the Party of the Lenin type is boldly to disclose all shortcomings and defects in the work in order to root out and remove them resolutely and completely.

Criticism from below at Party meetings is as yet timid and reserved; but when it becomes sharper it is accorded an unfavourable reception and sometimes—even is sharply checked. Criticism from above is in turn often stereotyped, formal and based on the method of citing some "good examples" and some "bad examples".

Basing ourselves on the instructions of the present meeting, we want to turn criticism and self-criticism, particularly criticism from below, into a real weapon for strengthening inner-Party democracy, enhancing the activity of the Party members, unfolding their initiative in the process of constant improvement of our work, eliminating the shortcomings and weaknesses in the daily life and labour of the millions of Polish people.

Team-work particularly is underestimated in practice. The Party bureaux do not feel sufficiently responsible to their committees; they do not very regularly report back to their committees on their work, and do not always consult with the activists in solving important problems. Hence, weak criticism and self-criticism at the committee meetings, and inadequate activity of their members in day-to-day work.

Whether leadership is efficiently performed by the Party leading bodies and organisations, whether the questions of their correct development are solved properly depends on the selection of the suitable methods, forms and scope of instruction. One cannot instruct without directives in the form of circulars, telegrams and telephone calls. But instruction misses its aim when it is too detailed, when, even with the best of intentions, it restricts the initiative of the lower Party organ, depriving it of the possibility of creatively and concretely interpreting the directive from the centre in accord with the peculiarities and specific conditions of the locality. This method of instruction does not promote the political maturing of cadres.

A valuable feature of the Party worker is the ability to generalise accurately from observed facts, and draw conclusions from their use in relation to his own work or for reporting to the leadership.

A major prerequisite for correctly carrying out the tasks set by the C.C. is that they should be thoroughly grasped, that to the policy of the Party as a whole. Only a conscious, creative way, and not blindly and mechanically.

A further...

Party building have become the model for and the property of the international working-class movement. The main revolutionary trend of the Polish working-class movement relied on these principles of Leninism in its development. Our Party, which bases itself on the Leninist principles and standards of Party life and directs the building of Socialism in our country, enjoys the support and confidence of the broadest masses of people.

The present meeting is being held in an atmosphere of a fresh heightening of tension in international relations. In the most insolent way the imperialist circles are speeding up the attempt to get together a bloc of capitalist countries in Western Europe, aimed against the USSR and the People's Democracies; by remilitarising Western Germany they are trying to convert it into the shock force of this aggressive bloc.

It would be foolish if, in this situation, we did not concern ourselves about Poland's making a proper contribution to the joint efforts of the whole camp of peace and Socialism headed by the powerful Soviet Union. That is why we shall spare no efforts to devote, within the framework of our common economic plans, the necessary attention to the defence capacity of our country, to the inviolability

of the present period—is to bring about an appreciable improvement in the work and activities of the people's councils at all levels. To this end we must develop all-round activities in the struggle against red tape and bureaucratism in the apparatus of the councils and establish still closer everyday co-operation between them and the working masses who control them. From the very beginning we must devote the utmost attention to the newly-elected rural councils so that they become the basis for a radical change in our organisational and mass political work in the countryside, a stimulus for a further steady and rapid growth in the activity and initiative of the broadest masses of the working peasantry.

In all the work of the people's councils we must master the Leninist art of combining the initiative, free and independent activity, energy and the sweep of the movement of the popular masses with strict observance of our Party's general line and see that it is consistently implemented. We must perseveringly improve our state apparatus, ridding it of rubber-stamp methods and bureaucratism, the grim heritage of capitalism.

The results of the elections to the people's councils are graphic confirmation of the growing unity of the working people in our country.

II.

The successful fulfilment of the plan for the socialist industrialisation of Poland during the past five years has raised the economy of our country to an incomparably higher level, and at the same time radically changed our social life.

On the basis of an estimate of the level reached by the productive forces in industry and a critical evaluation of the shortcomings in the economic policy and activity of the Party and the state apparatus in the period that has elapsed, the Second Congress recommended that a re-grouping of forces and means should be effected to speed up the development of agricultural production. This re-grouping and the reduced cost of production were to ensure a more rapid improvement in the well-being of the working people in town and country in 1954-55.

In the autumn of 1953 we had already achieved definite results in improving the material conditions of the working people owing to the reduction in prices. In 1954 there was a second price reduction. The increase in the wages of certain categories of factory and office workers and in some types of pensions, together with the augmented wage fund resulting from the growth of employment and productivity of labour, constituted an additional factor in raising the standard of living of the working people in the cities. Alongside reduced prices, the more favourable terms of state purchases of agricultural produce and the general state financial and economic aid to the countryside helped to swell the incomes of the peasants. During 1954 real wages of factory and office workers, and the incomes of the peasants, rose by an average of 11-12%.

Another important achievement last year was the increased effort to improve the everyday conditions of the population; for instance, in the socialised sector of the economy more than 160,000 dwellings were handed over for occupation, there was more extensive construction of communal, social and cultural establishments and so forth. Although the improvement in the material conditions of various groups of the population is uneven, the results achieved in this sphere last year represented a big success in carrying out the decisions of the Second Congress.

In accordance with the directives of the Second Congress, the state allocated considerably more funds for capital investments in agriculture and for credits for peasant farmsteads (37% more than in 1953). A number of incentives for developing agricultural production were introduced,

embracing both the farmsteads of individual peasants and the workers on the socialist sector in the countryside. The working class and industry gave great help to agriculture, considerably stepping up supplies of agricultural machinery (an increase of 41% over 1953), mineral fertilisers (an increase of 10.9%) and building materials (an increase of 23%).

All these efforts undoubtedly made for an all-round improvement in the conditions of agricultural production. Although there was a general increase in agricultural production of 4.8% (including crop-raising 6.7% and animal husbandry only 2.4%), the level planned for 1954 was not reached. The planned increase in the head of hogs did not take place.

Last year, for the first time, grain deliveries were completed in a shorter period and, as a result of the selfless and patriotic attitude of the greater part of the working peasantry, the bulk of the grain was already delivered in August and September. Despite this, the plan for obligatory deliveries of all agricultural produce was not completely fulfilled.

The industrial output plan for 1954 was overfulfilled by 2%. There was an average increase in production of 11% and, in accordance with the instructions of the Second Congress, the increase in the production of the means of production and the production of the means of consumption was, in the main, even.

Considerable progress was achieved in heavy industry—the basis of the development of the entire national economy. There was a substantial rise in the output of agricultural machinery (52%), artificial fertilisers and means of plant protection. The metallurgical and chemical industries increased the output of basic products. Steel production rose 10% and pig iron 13%. Output of electric power was up 13%.

Serious difficulties arose in coal mining in 1954. It should be noted, however, that in the second half of the year discipline and the organisation of labour noticeably improved. This made possible a substantial increase in the daily coal output as compared with the first half of the year.

Output of iron ore went up 21%, copper ore 28%, zinc and lead ore approximately 13%. But the level of output is not yet high enough.

In the sphere of production of the means of consumption, alongside a substantial rise in quantity, there was a certain improvement in the quality of products of light industry and the food industry and, though to a considerably lesser extent,

economic indices and the realisation of capital investments must ensure the further rise in real wages and incomes of the working population in town and countryside, envisaged by the Congress decisions, and the further growth of the economic power and defence capacity of our people's state.

In 1955, industrial production is expected to show an increase of approximately 8.5%.

Production of the means of production is estimated to increase roughly 6% and consumer goods approximately 11%, while the Congress decisions envisaged, in the main, an even growth in these spheres. Such rates of development, if we regard them from the point of view of the national economy as a whole, do not constitute a particular danger because they envisage an energetic mobilisation of production reserves in the consumer-goods industry and the use of imported goods and home reserves for supplying this branch of production. A more rapid growth of production in group "B" can, however, take place only as an exceptional phenomenon in the normal cycle of state plans calculated over many years. A condition for expanded reproduction and constant growth and improvement of production on the basis of higher techniques—and consequently for the realisation of the basic economic law of Socialism—is a more rapid growth of the production of the means of production, including in the first place a more rapid growth of the production of machinery. This is especially essential at the present stage of the socialist industrialisation of our country, when the material-technical base of Socialism is not yet completely created.

In order to expand the technical base for ensuring a constant growth of labour productivity, raise the level of agriculture, and augment the defence capacity of our state it is necessary to provide conditions for further, rapid development of the production of the means of production in the future.

In 1955 agricultural production is to increase 6.2%. Thus the growth of industrial and agricultural production means a reduction in the disproportion set up in past years in the development of these important branches of the national economy.

We must make it clear that the concentration of our efforts on the development of agriculture does not mean a relaxation of the struggle for the development of industry. The view that it is possible to develop agriculture by putting a brake on the development of industry is erroneous and harmful because it means violating the principle of socialist industrialisation under the pretext of concern for maintaining appropriate proportions.

An essential condition for the fulfilment of the tasks for 1955 is a growth in labour productivity in the socialised sector of the economy, in particular, by more than 5% in industry and more than 4% in construction.

Soviet aid will enable us to speed up the construction of an atomic pile, begin further research work and, using the necessary materials and technical documents supplied by the Soviet Union, train cadres for the production, in the future, of atomic energy in the country and its use for peaceful purposes.

Our efforts to implement the Congress decisions in the agricultural sphere must be aimed, above all, at bringing about a considerable increase in agricultural production and the socialist reconstruction of the countryside. The main task in the sphere

Our Party can justly take pride in the considerable successes it has achieved during the past few years, particularly last year. There is no doubt, however, that the growth of activity for carrying out the correct political line laid down by the Party is not sufficient and lags behind the political tasks facing us at the present stage of socialist construction and the development of the international situation.

Fully appreciating the selflessness of the vast majority of Party members, as well

and the worker-peasant alliance. The countryside will be better supplied with the means necessary for the development of production. The network of stations providing services for peasant farms will be considerably extended and particular attention will be given to rendering help in the development of animal husbandry.

It should be stressed once again that the present policy of restricting the kulaks does not aim to curtail the production of the kulak farms but is directed at preventing speculation and attempts to evade the fulfilment of obligations to the state.

We also set the state farms serious tasks.

The problem of the development of producer co-operation—in view of its special ideological and political importance—as well as the serious tasks we shall have to carry out in this sphere demand constant attention from Party organs.

It is quite a common practice for the Party activists to carry out their organisational role and give help to a producer co-operative only while it is being formally set up and then, having ensured it state credits, to show no further interest in it, ignoring the most important thing—the organisation of the labour of co-operative members.

Producer co-operation, mechanisation of agriculture and up-to-date agrotechnique—are the only way to building Socialism in the countryside and, in the long run, the sole sure method of advancing agricultural production. The Congress directives in this sphere should not be neglected. The question of rapidly ensuring proper guidance for the work of state machine and tractor stations and proper help to the existing producer co-operatives must be regarded now as the key question to be dealt with by leading Party and state organs at all levels.

The 1955 state plan envisages capital investments equal to those of 1954.

The object of observing strict discipline in spending funds on capital construction is to maintain the planned distribution of the national income for the satisfaction of consumer requirements and for accumulation, that is for ensuring the further development of social production.

At the same time we must reduce or completely liquidate stocks which are economically unjustified, and in excess of quota. Two factors—the maintenance of capital investments at a level which in principle does not vary from that of 1954 and a considerably smaller increase in stocks arising from the premise that there will be a noticeable improvement of supply—must this year lead to a reduction (to approximately 18%) of the share of accumulation in the distribution of the national income.

The continued raising of living standards in 1955 depends directly on the growth of production, labour productivity and national income as compared with the previous year.

As in 1954, the improvement of the living and cultural standards of people of town and countryside will be achieved as a result of increased social and cultural measures, housing and communal construction and the further development of publishing, art and cultural activities and sports.

The further simultaneous development of industry and agriculture, the growth of economic power and defence capacity of the state and the continued increase in real wages and real incomes of the urban and rural population are quite possible and necessary.

IV.

as the great ability of our Party organisations to rally the masses especially during such big political campaigns as, for example, the elections, one cannot close one's eyes to the fact that the life of our Party organisations is still not nearly vigorous enough, while the content of their work is very often poor, second-rate and has an obvious tendency to decide questions in a purely formal way. There are serious shortcomings in the style of work of many Party organisations.

reading Party documents and a few manifestations of conceit and arrogance towards non-party people. There are also instances, in the relations of Party members with non-party people, of concessions to the pressure of the sentiments of more backward elements, of evasions of an active defence of the Party's position with regard to matters that are more difficult of explanation. Such evasion often has its source in poor ideological equipment.

Finally, we cannot but draw conclusions from the fact that the growth of cadres lags behind the urgent needs and the new tasks; that we are paying a dear price for unsatisfactory handling of the question of cadres, particularly in agriculture.

At the same time one can observe tendencies towards red tape, narrow practicalism and mechanical treatment of current questions. We note that very little progress has been made by the workers in our Party apparatus towards applying in their everyday work the very difficult art of skilfully combining control, stimulus and concentration of attention of the various state, economic, cultural and public sectors on the most important tasks in accordance with the Party line—with broad all-round political and educational work, with individual and mass agitation and propaganda.

We have repeatedly criticised these various manifestations and called for a struggle against them, but we achieved only a partial improvement, and failed to make a decisive change. Why was this so? Because we did not deal with the question as a whole, and did not grasp its essence. Of late we have been very greatly assisted by the experience of the CPSU in the struggle against the cult of the individual, for a new style of Party life. We want to achieve a decisive change in the methods of Party work, in the style of Party work, a deep-going, radical change.

Therefore, the Political Bureau began a struggle against these manifestations with a self-critical evaluation of its own methods of work.

The correct directives of the C.C. on inner-Party democracy, on team-work, criticism

One cannot instruct without means. One cannot instruct without the form of circulars, telegrams and phone calls. But instruction misses its aim when it is too detailed, when, even with the best of intentions, it restricts the initiative of the lower Party organ, depriving it of the possibility of creatively and concretely interpreting the directive from the centre in accord with the peculiarities and specific conditions of the locality. This method of instruction does not promote the political maturing of cadres.

A valuable feature of the Party worker is the ability to generalise accurately from observed facts, and draw conclusions for their use in relation to his own work or for reporting to the leadership.

A major prerequisite for correctly carrying out the tasks set by the C.C. is that they should be thoroughly grasped, that they should be understood in their relation to the policy of the Party as a whole. Only then can the directive be put into practice in a conscious, creative way, and not blindly and mechanically.

A fundamental question also is that of improving the check-up on the fulfilment of directives and decisions of the Party and the Government. In this respect things are still in a bad state. We must completely eliminate contemptuous disregard of adopted decisions. We must teach all Party organs, all state and economic bodies to observe decisions and fulfil them; we must do so by means of concrete and detailed verification (precisely detailed, for in this case thoroughness is not a vice but a virtue). Moreover, it is necessary to impose strict Party penalties on the persons responsible for non-fulfilment of decisions.

We are firmly convinced that the fresh breeze which the present meeting is bringing into our Party life will enable us to achieve a change in this sphere also, one which will bring important and fruitful political results.

V.

The draft decision on organisational questions emphasises the role of the committees of the National Front in further mobilising the working people to carry out the great tasks which now confront our entire people.

In the present circumstances, on the basis of our experience, of particular significance is the concrete content of the work of the National Front committees.

The elections have demonstrated that there are numerous, very numerous patriots, devoted, selfless people who want to work for the good of the state, who have our interests at heart, rejoice at our successes and grieve over our setbacks, people whom we failed to draw into work because we did not notice them, did not approach them and often, regrettably, underestimated them. We must draw these people into active political life. With this in view we must set the organisations of the National Front concrete tasks and, particularly, ensure their participation and assistance in carrying out the electoral programmes of the National Front in the localities. Our activists in the National Front organisations must put the most important state, public and cultural tasks on the agenda of meetings of the National Front committees, organise discussions and take into account the opinions, proposals and wishes of the citizens. The organisations of the National Front must speak up on these questions, and their opinion

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Our Party has registered great successes; it is now stronger than ever before. Consistently applying the Leninist principles of Party life, making ever-wider use of the experience and achievements of the

CPSU, mastering the methods of work and strengthening its bonds with the masses, our Party will multiply its strength and more speedily lead the working people along the path of building a socialist society.

* From report by Comrade Boleslaw Bierut at Third Plenum of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party.

AGAINST REVIVAL OF GERMAN MILITARISM, AGAINST THREAT OF ATOMIC WAR

★ ★ Powerful Upsurge of Struggle in France

The National Peace Council, at its meeting in Paris, on January 29 and 30, approved the recent decisions of the Bureau of the World Peace Council and unanimously adopted the following decisions: to send a message to the German people, hailing their fight against West German remilitarisation; to organise a week of struggle against the London and Paris agreements from February 14 to 20 and to hold a national assembly of the French peace-loving forces on March 27.

The Women's National Day of Struggle for Disarmament and Against German Rearmament held on January 30 was a big success. Many rallies, attended by women from all walks of life and diverse political views, took place in the towns and villages of France. A big rally attended by many thousands of women was held near the Versailles Gate in Paris.

Before the day of struggle took place a meeting of prominent women from several French departments with women delegates from Western Germany, Britain, Belgium, Switzerland and Holland was held in Paris.

"Down With Paris Agreements!"

The working people of Western Germany are not giving up the struggle against the Paris military agreements. A recent 2,000-strong protest meeting in Kassel was addressed by Professor Wolfgang Abendroth, who said that the reunification of Germany could not be considered possible whilst a new Wehrmacht was being built in Western Germany and an unbridled slander campaign conducted against the democratic countries. After the meeting there was a torchlight procession along the central streets of the town, which carried slogans of struggle against the remilitarisation of Western Germany. A similar meeting under the slogan "Down with the Paris agreements! Demand all-German elections and a Four-Power Conference" took place in Augsburg.

Protest meetings against the revival of German militarism were also held in Gelsenkirchen, Hamburg, Herne, Cologne and other towns of Western Germany.

Young people of Western Germany are becoming more and more active in the fight against the Paris agreements and the creation of the revenge-seeking army. "We won't

Vast Movement Against Ratification of Paris Agreements in Italy

While the Italian Government is preparing to force ratification of the London and Paris agreement through the Senate the wave of protest against the rearming of Western Germany and the threat of an atomic war is mounting throughout the country. An unending stream of deputations is arriving at the Senate. People are handing petitions to the senators demanding that they oppose the resurgence of German militarism and the preparation of an atomic war by imperialist circles.

on January 28. It adopted a unanimous resolution calling on all women to unite and take part in the World Congress of Mothers in Defence of Children, for Disarmament and Friendship among the Peoples.

Increased pressure is being brought to bear on the senators who are shortly to express their opinion on the question of ratification of the London and Paris agreements. For example, 210 members of municipal councils in the Cambrai district (Nord Department), 43 mayors in the Department of Landes, 3 Socialist general councillors of the Haute-Garonne Department and 317 municipal councillors of the Basses Pyrénées Department appealed to their senators urging them to vote against ratification of the Paris agreements.

Many deputations are being sent to senators. These are often headed by elected persons belonging to the party of which the senator himself is a member. Thus in the Gironde Department a Socialist general councillor led the deputation to Socialist Senator Brettes.

let them call us up, we shall organise a march to Bonn!" Under this slogan the young people of Dietzenbach (Hessen) are preparing to send a delegation to Bonn to declare their protests against the ratification of the Paris military agreements. The young workers of Dietzenbach have appealed to the youth of Hessen calling on them to organise protest marches to Bonn.

The young miners and building workers of Duisburg-Bruckhausen (Northern Rhine-Westphalia) held a meeting which denounced the intentions of the Bonn militarists to ratify the Paris military agreements. The young workers decided to organise a protest demonstration on the day of the second reading of the Paris agreements in the Bundestag and a march to Bonn.

In the Viktoriapark in Kreuzberg (American sector of West Berlin) the young workers burnt militarist literature, copies of the newspaper *Soldatenzeitung*, large drawings of military identification cards and call up papers. They declared their opposition to the establishment of a West German army.

tion of the London and Paris agreements. In Rome, bricklayers on many construction sites held a two-hour strike against the "West European Union". Delegations were sent to the Senate.

The National Assembly of Women elected by the people took place in Rome on January 29-30. It was attended by women M.P.s, members of provincial and communal councils and so on. The Conference called on Italian women to step up the

★ There Must Never Be Another Auschwitz

A meeting to commemorate the dead of Auschwitz was held at the site of the former concentration camp where the fascist butchers tortured to death four million people of different nationalities. It took place on January 27, in honour of the tenth anniversary of the liberation by the Soviet Army of prisoners in the Hitler death camps.

Auschwitz was visited by members of the Bureau of the International Federation of Resistance Fighters, Victims and Prisoners of Fascism, a delegation from the General Council of the Seine Department and the Paris Municipal Council, by former French prisoners in the fascist death chambers, by relatives of those tortured to death in Auschwitz and by representatives of the Polish public.

A group of Frenchmen, former prisoners in the Auschwitz death camp addressed a call to the peoples of the world which reads: Ten years ago Auschwitz was liberated by the Soviet Army. The unity of the allies and the struggle of the Resistance fighters led to the victory over Hitlerism. We have set foot upon this soil, which is drenched with the blood of four million people, in order to honour the memory of those who laid down their lives for the happiness and freedom of the peoples. We shall see to it that peace is not threatened by weapons of mass destruction, we shall ensure that there will never be another, even more terrible Auschwitz. Our conscience, the conscience of those who suffered in Auschwitz, those who lost their relatives here, cannot be reconciled to this menace.

We call on all decent people throughout the world to unite in struggle against the menace of another war, to prevent a new catastrophe. There must never be another Auschwitz!

Activity of Hungarian Peace Supporters

Immediately after the decisions of the Bureau of the World Peace Council were made public Hungarian peace supporters launched the collection of signatures to the Appeal to the Peoples of the World. In the course of this great campaign the All-Hungarian Peace Council is seeing to it that every signature collector has a thorough discussion with everyone who signs the Appeal about the importance of the campaign and the tasks of fighters for peace at the present stage. Numerous meetings discussing the Appeal are being held in towns and villages, at factories, on construction sites and in offices. In one day, about 150 meetings took place in the district of Dorog (Tatabanya region). Eighty peace committees have recently been set up in the town of Salgotarjan.

Many of those who have signed the Appeal are sending letters to the working people of other countries. For example, Gyulane Forner from Sztalinvaros—mother of seven children—has written to the women of Oradour. "Let us not allow", says the letter, "our children to be killed and our newly built and reconstructed towns destroyed. We mothers of Sztalinvaros are fighting against this and you should also fight against it. Support the Appeal of the World Peace Council!"

Frustrate the Plans of the Warmongers, Change the Course of French Policy*

Comrades,

The past year was marked by important victories of the peace forces in France and throughout the world.

The heroic resistance of the people of Viet Nam, the struggle of the working people of France against the dirty war, and the initiative of the Soviet Union brought about the armistice in Indo-China.

The National Assembly of France rejected EDC, that is, the rearmament of Germany.

Nevertheless the American imperialists have not renounced their aggressive policy. They are doing everything possible to stave off the lessening in international tension which has made itself felt. The National Assembly, tamely submitting to American pressure, voted at the end of December for the ratification of the Paris agreements the essence of which is the rearmament of Western Germany.

At the end of the year, likewise, the meeting of ministers of the Atlantic bloc countries decided on direct preparations for an atomic war and gave the American generals the right to use weapons of mass extermination.

To these two facts should be added the efforts of the imperialists to sabotage the armistice in Viet Nam and to disturb the relaxation of tension in the Far East by concluding the South-East Asia pact.

In these conditions our people must redouble the vigour and scale of their united action against the remilitarisation of Germany, which is aimed at giving the hydrogen bomb to the former Hitler generals.

The Communists, as always, will be in the vanguard of French men and women of the most diverse views to respond to the Appeal of the World Peace Council which calls for the destruction of all stockpiles of atomic weapons and the immediate ending of their production in all countries.

Despite the vote in the National Assembly, our people, more than ever before, are taking their stand against the rearmament of Germany.

Ratification has not yet taken place. The battle continues even in Parliament. Deputation after deputation exerts pressure on the members of the Council of the Republic. It is the people who can and must have the last word.

It is an event of major importance that for the first time in many years our struggle for peace, and for a real reconciliation between the French and German peoples, has called forth an echo and found support in Western Germany.

The six-and-a-half-million-strong workers' trade unions, at their conference in Frankfurt, vigorously protested against the formation of a new Wehrmacht. The Social Democratic Party, which obtained one-third of the total number of votes in the elections, resolutely opposes the Paris agreements.

The fact is that the German workers have lived through two great devastating wars waged by the militarist elements, and they have no wish for a third catastrophe. In this fascist-minded militarism which they now see rising again before them in the flesh they recognise an enemy just as dangerous for the German people as it is for the other peoples of Europe.

Millions of Socialists, trade unionists and democrats in Western Germany realise, like the Communists, that there is another

★ Maurice Thorez

General Secretary,
French Communist Party

★ ★

results not only in the impossibility of any "regeneration" of the economy, but also in a rapid worsening of the lot of the working people.

The mass-consumer goods industries, textiles, for example, remain below prewar levels. The only branches of economy which are developing are those connected with the production of armaments.

When at the XIIth Congress of our Party five years ago we pointed out that the basic branches of French economy were stagnating at the 1913 level, our rulers contested this assertion; today the President of the Council of Ministers confirms our observations of 1950.

The sole "novelty" in the economic policy of the Government is its official stand in support of the concentration of enterprises in the hands of the big monopolies that control the state apparatus. In this connection it is worth noting how ridiculous are those who persist in speaking of the bankruptcy of Marxism and the failure of its forecasts.

In the world of today there is much evidence of the striking success of Marxism. Most compelling of all is the fact that almost half mankind has chosen the path of Socialism and is irrevocably advancing along it. Whereas in the capitalist countries the economy is in decline, in the Soviet Union, China and the countries of people's democracy there is a tremendous growth of industrial and agricultural production which makes possible a steady rise in the standard of living.

Confirmation of the correctness of the Marxist conceptions is no less evident in France. Take, for instance, one of the laws of Marxism which is most disputed by the advocates of capitalism, among them the revisionists, from Bernstein to Jules Moch—the law of concentration. We now see our rulers themselves explaining that small and medium enterprises must disappear. They go to great lengths to justify the measures necessitated by this objective law of capitalism.

Marx added that concentration operates to the detriment of the working people. To confirm the truth of this it is sufficient to see what is hidden behind the word "productivity". To some small degree it is a matter of the introduction of new machinery. In the main, however, it is purely and simply a matter of the intensification of labour: rates of work are speeded up and the working day lengthened. At a big factory in Poissy, under American control, the 8-hour day, for which the working class fought so long, has been practically abolished; the system of three 8-hour shifts has been replaced by that of two 10¼ hour shifts.

Another law of Marxism—that of the accumulation of capital—teaches that under capitalism the working class cannot escape relative and absolute impoverishment. This law, too, was denied with the same obstinacy, above all by the Socialist leaders whose entire policy of class harmony is based on the false thesis of steady improvement in the condition of the workers.

it does not provide the possibility of achieving the necessary rise in production and an improvement in the standard of living of the peasants themselves. This is why we point out the path to Socialism to the small proprietors, to all peasants, many of whom—tenants, sharecroppers and agricultural workers—cultivate land they do not own. We tell them that under Socialism, when for the first time or once more they become the masters of their land, they can freely unite and combine their farmsteads, taking advantage of the help of the working class, who will make machinery and credits available to them.

Right now the Communist Party is effectively defending the demands of those who till the land, as well as supporting the struggle of handicraftsmen and small traders against a tax system designed to serve solely the interests of the monopolies. The Communist Party supports those demands of the middle classes which do not contradict the interests of the working class.

Quite often the petty bourgeois elements fight in the name of their past. As for the Communist Party, it defends them because they are ground down by big capital and are natural allies of the working class. It defends them in the name of the common future of all working people, which is Socialism, the emancipation of mankind from exploitation of man by man, the reign of fraternal labour among equal and free producers.

Comrades,

Our Communist Party will make every effort to unite the broadest masses in the struggle for economic demands, freedom, peace and national independence.

This unification, called for by the XIIIth Party Congress, has already brought, as we have seen, notable results.

Gradually and surely the French masses are arriving at the opinion, which we have been upholding for many years, to the effect that the prerequisite for any effective change in the country is a change in foreign policy.

Is it not true that the contradictions and deceit which are typical of the policy pursued by the Premier are becoming more and more evident with every passing day? And are not those who had some illusions as a result of the demagoguery of the Government rapidly coming to their senses?

Hence the growing desire towards unity of the working class and democratic forces, which is mingled with the vivid memory of the Popular Front.

Hence also the fresh manoeuvres undertaken to turn the masses away from the struggle for a genuine change, to prevent the unity of all national and democratic forces.

Thus among those who present themselves as a "new left grouping" there are some trying to boycott the Communist Party.

As if it had not been proved a hundred times that no democratic progress is possible apart from the Communists, and still less, in opposition to them.

Let us repeat, untiringly, that unity of action of Socialist and Communist workers is the precondition for the indispensable unity of the democratic forces.

In this respect progress has been made in the past few months. Contacts between the activists and lower organisations of both

and other towns of Western Germany. Young people of Western Germany are becoming more and more active in the fight against the Paris agreements and the creation of the revenge-seeking army. "We won't

of the newspaper *Soldatenzeitung*, large drawings of military identification cards and call up papers. They declared their opposition to the establishment of a West German army.

Vast Movement Against Ratification of Paris Agreements in Italy

While the Italian Government is preparing to force ratification of the London and Paris agreement through the Senate the wave of protest against the rearming of Western Germany and the threat of an atomic war is mounting throughout the country. An unending stream of deputations is arriving at the Senate. People are handing petitions to the senators demanding that they oppose the resurgence of German militarism and the preparation of an atomic war by imperialist circles.

There have been big demonstrations in many towns, such as Chieti, Campobasso, Tarquinia, Verona, Spoleto and so on. During the past few days 38 meetings, attended by more than 20,000 people, have been held in Ravenna. In Turin, delegations have visited many prominent political and public figures to protest against the Government's intention to push through ratifica-

tion of the London and Paris agreements. In Rome, bricklayers on many construction sites held a two-hour strike against the "West European Union". Delegations were sent to the Senate.

The National Assembly of Women elected by the people took place in Rome on January 29-30. It was attended by women M.P.s, members of provincial and communal councils and so on. The Conference called on Italian women to step up the struggle for peace, for a ban on atomic weapons and for disarmament. A meeting of the National Committee of the Movement of Peace Supporters took place in Rome on February 3. It was attended by members of Parliament, well-known cultural figures, leaders of mass organisations and chairmen of provincial peace committees. The meeting has officially opened a new large-scale campaign against the danger of atomic war.

CALL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF SPANISH PEACE COUNCIL

The Executive Committee of the Spanish Peace Council, at its meeting in Mexico, discussed the threat to Spain arising from the atomic war being prepared by imperialist circles and the resurrection of German militarism. An Appeal to the Spanish people, adopted at the meeting, stresses that the Paris agreements are not only a very grave obstacle to the easing of international tension, but are also dangerous to the Spanish people themselves.

The Spanish people "cannot forget", the Appeal states, "that it was precisely Hitler

Germany that was one of the bases which provided the plans to enslave our homeland and the armaments which brought her devastation".

The Spanish Peace Council emphasised that any encroachment on peace would be dangerous for the people of Spain too, because, under the U.S.-Franco pact, she had been converted into a jumping-off ground for war and 'an atomic arsenal and would inevitably become a victim of the war for which the Germans are being armed.

of this great campaign the Hungarian Peace Council is seeing to it that every signature collector has a thorough discussion with everyone who signs the Appeal about the importance of the campaign and the tasks of fighters for peace at the present stage. Numerous meetings discussing the Appeal are being held in towns and villages, at factories, on construction sites and in offices. In one day, about 150 meetings took place in the district of Dorog (Tatabanya region). Eighty peace committees have recently been set up in the town of Salgotarjan.

Many of those who have signed the Appeal are sending letters to the working people of other countries. For example, Gyulane Forner from Sztalinvaros—mother of seven children—has written to the women of Oradour. "Let us not allow", says the letter, "our children to be killed and our newly built and reconstructed towns destroyed. We mothers of Sztalinvaros are fighting against this and you should also fight against it. Support the Appeal of the World Peace Council!"

DEMOCRATIC PUBLIC IN SWEDEN HAILS VIENNA APPEAL

The decision of the Bureau of the World Peace Council on the further development of the fight against West German remilitarisation and the world-wide campaign for collecting signatures to the Appeal demanding the destruction of stockpiles of atomic weapons and an end to their manufacture has met with wide response from the democratic public in Sweden.

Referring to the tremendous significance of the Vienna Appeal the newspaper *Ny Dag* writes: The Stockholm Appeal mobilised the entire world public on a scale unprecedented in history. It prevented the Washington strategists from using atomic weapons in Korea. The appearance of the hydrogen bomb has added to the destructive power of atomic weapons. All Swedish men and women, whatever their views on other questions, will respond to the Appeal of the World Peace Council jointly with all the fighters for peace.

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Millions of Socialists, trade unionists and democrats in Western Germany realise, like the Communists, that there is another path for Germany besides that of militarism and revenge. They see the possibility emerging of re-establishing the unity of their country, of developing democratic institutions and, at long last, of maintaining peaceful relations with neighbouring states.

Yet this is the moment chosen by the leaders of the French Socialist Party to repudiate their German comrades and stab them in the back. They are betraying at one and the same time the interests of France and proletarian internationalism.

To say, as the leaders of the Socialist Party do, that the Paris agreements can remove the contradictions between France and Germany, that they open up a new era of Franco-German friendship, is to utter a lie. The Washington and Bonn rulers already regard France as a country that has been reduced to the rank of a second-rate power. If the agreements were ratified, France would be 'entirely at the mercy of American imperialism and its ally, German militarism. In place of a "friend" the French people would find themselves face to face with a gendarme charged to keep them in obedient submission.

In struggling against the Paris agreements, our people are defending not only peace and national independence, but also their democratic liberties and living conditions, which are being threatened by the policy of war.

The Mendès-France Government pursues a policy of bloody repressions in the colonies, particularly in North Africa. It has succeeded in putting through a reactionary revision of the Constitution and proposes to enact an iniquitous electoral law. It engineers "plots" against the democrats. Not only does it not repeal the laws against secular education, but it covertly abets those who inspired them and sacrifices the interests of the schools, of science and of culture.

The entire economy of the country is directed toward preparing for war: this

* Speech by Comrade Maurice Thorez at closing meeting of the Plenum of the C.C. of the French Communist Party on January 27, 1955.

Austrian Peace Supporters Develop Signature Collection Campaign

An enlarged meeting of the Presidium of the Austrian Peace Council took place on January 29. Professor Heinrich Brandweiner, Chairman of the Austrian Peace Council and member of the World Peace Council, made the report on the Appeal to the Peoples of the World against the preparation of an atomic war. Members of the Vienna and provincial peace councils were present, together with members of peace councils from a number of big factories and representatives of political parties and mass organisations, who had been invited to this important meeting.

In his report Professor Brandweiner spoke of the danger of an atomic war and the great significance of the world-wide campaign against the production of atomic weapons. He declared that the Austrian partisans of peace would forward this campaign in all possible ways.

The collection of signatures has begun all over the country. The Appeal to the Peoples of the World was received with profound understanding and warm approval by diverse sections of the Austrian people.

In the course of discussion numerous vivid examples were cited of how the collection of signatures in Austria had begun before special forms were printed. For example, the Secretary of the Provincial Peace Council of Lower Austria related that the workers of the shoe factory in Krems cut up a blue peace banner

and began to collect signatures in the shops on the strips of the material. When all the workers have signed the banner will be sewn together again and handed to the Peace Council. On the first day 365 signatures were collected at a machine-building factory in Leobersdorf and 115 at the oil-cloth factory in Traiskirchen. Of great significance is the decision of the Central Production Council of Austrian Oil Enterprises to give all-round support to the Appeal of the World Peace Council. The decision was adopted by all party groups of the Council.

A railwayman from Linz stated at a meeting that railwaymen consider it to be an honourable task to take action in the spirit of the Vienna Appeal. A socialist worker reported that all the workers of the Ariadne Cable Plant in Vienna have already signed the Appeal. The Chairman of the Peace Council at the Siemens-Schuckert Plant said that 600 out of the 900 employed there signed the Appeal on the first day of the campaign.

A young trade unionist from Upper Austria proposed the adoption of an appeal to Austrian doctors. The Secretary of the Provincial Peace Council in Stiria reported that many signatures had been collected at one of the meetings in the province. Moreover, those present at the meeting had asked for forms in order to collect signatures themselves.

The Chairman of the Peace Committee at the locomotive plant in Floridsdorf announced that on the day after the decision of the World Peace Council was made public the workers came and asked when the collection of signatures would begin. At this plant 350 signatures were collected on the first day.

The meeting was addressed by Saionji, a representative from the Japanese Peace Council, who was present as a guest. Saionji painted a stirring picture of the suffering of his country, the terrible ruins in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the consequences of the American H-bomb test in the Pacific.

After thorough discussion of the report the Austrian Peace Council adopted a call to all Austrians, to mark the official launching of the campaign for signatures to the Appeal to the Peoples of the World.

The Call of the Austrian Peace Council explains the significance of the struggle for a ban on atomic weapons, which has developed all over the world. The call says: "All Austrians, both men and women, who are concerned with the fate of their country and their people and who want to save themselves and their families from extermination and to preserve peace must sign the Vienna Appeal of the World Peace Council against the preparations for an atomic war."

Otto KREUTZER

Vienna, February 2.

Marx added that concentration operates to the detriment of the working people. To confirm the truth of this it is sufficient to see what is hidden behind the word "productivity". To some small degree it is a matter of the introduction of new machinery. In the main, however, it is purely and simply a matter of the intensification of labour: rates of work are speeded up and the working day lengthened. At a big factory in Poissy, under American control, the 8-hour day, for which the working class fought so long, has been practically abolished; the system of three 8-hour shifts has been replaced by that of two 10³/₄ hour shifts.

Another law of Marxism—that of the accumulation of capital—teaches that under capitalism the working class cannot escape relative and absolute impoverishment. This law, too, was denied with the same obstinacy, above all by the Socialist leaders whose entire policy of class harmony is based on the false thesis of steady improvement in the condition of the workers.

But facts are stubborn things; they show that since 1938 the hourly rate of a Paris metal worker has dropped to half. The number of skilled workers is falling off. The total wages of all members of the family, including wife and children, hardly amount to what the father alone received formerly. Rents are steadily rising, and many workers are doomed to live in slums. The Paris worker eats less meat than under the Second Empire.

As in the past the agricultural workers live like pariahs.

The bulk of the population of the French colonies are victims of physiological deprivation, chronic undernourishment and sickness.

The law of accumulation of capital lays down that if at one pole of capitalist society there is increasing wealth, at the other there is growing poverty and degradation. The bourgeois rulers pretend to deplore the ravages of alcoholism; don't they see how they contradict themselves by asserting at the same time that the conditions of the working population are improving? Alcoholism is one of the consequences of the present social system. This scourge, like other abominations of the system, will only disappear with capitalism. But even now it is up to our Party to outline effective measures for limiting this evil.

Our Party displays constant concern for the interests of the working class. The economic demands of the proletariat and the aspirations of the poorest and most exploited sections of the population have no better defenders than the Communists.

Jacques Duclos was right in stressing that in this field our Party must not confine itself to declarations. It must, in a practical way, organise the daily struggle for the workers' demands.

The working peasants are experiencing great difficulties. They are meeting with fresh threats. Government experts and ministers state that 800,000 individual farmsteads, which they consider to be unprofitable, must be liquidated.

We also believe that small peasant farming does not offer sufficient possibilities for the application of up-to-date technique, that

Hence the growing desire towards unity of the working class and democratic forces, which is mingled with the vivid memory of the Popular Front.

Hence also the fresh manoeuvres undertaken to turn the masses away from the struggle for a genuine change, to prevent the unity of all national and democratic forces.

Thus among those who present themselves as a "new left grouping" there are some trying to boycott the Communist Party.

As if it had not been proved a hundred times that no democratic progress is possible apart from the Communists, and still less, in opposition to them.

Let us repeat, untiringly, that unity of action of Socialist and Communist workers is the precondition for the indispensable unity of the democratic forces.

In this respect progress has been made in the past few months. Contacts between the activists and lower organisations of both Parties have become more and more frequent. A great number of elected Socialists, side by side with Communists, have come out and are doing so now against the remilitarisation of Germany. Deputations, meetings and work stoppages have been jointly organised.

Vast prospects of developing joint action are thus opening before our activists. They will set their hearts on measuring up to this task.

Comrades,

If, as Lenin and Stalin taught us, the strength of a party is measured by its ability to organise the struggle, we can say that our Party, within the past few months, has once more passed the test with honour.

But to carry out successfully the great tasks outlined by our Central Committee we must work more and better, much more and much better. We must enhance the political efficiency of our activists and of our organisations at all levels.

We have just reorganised our entire agitational and propaganda work: what is required is to intensify our efforts for the political training of our activists, in the closest connection with real life; to form a real army of propagandists who are able to put forward arguments and take the message of the Party to the masses at all times. What is required—along with the indispensable efforts to recruit new members to the Party—is to improve the training of the Communists, to raise the ability of every comrade to arouse, mobilise and organise the masses, to lead their struggle in all its forms.

Let every activist, in these days of grave responsibility for the Party, redouble his demands upon himself!

Let each one make the necessary effort to mobilise the overwhelming majority of the population against German rearmament, against the terrible danger of an atomic war.

United with all working people, with all democrats, we shall defeat the schemes of the warmongers. We shall make a contribution to bringing about a change in the course of French policy which is the primary condition for the betterment that the working class and all our people long for.

Meeting of C.C., Communist Party of Belgium

A meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belgium heard and discussed a political report delivered by Comrade Ernest Burnelle, Secretary of the Party, on the struggle for peace and the urgent demands of the working people.

The C.C. enlarged the Political Bureau, electing Comrade Jean Blume to it, and also formed a management committee for the Communist Party Press House.

Twenty-seven members took part in the discussion on the report.

At the end of the meeting the C.C. adopted a resolution which emphasised that ratification of the London and Paris agreements would create a grave danger of atomic war and that the rearming of a revenge-seeking Germany runs counter to the satisfaction of the people's demands. It called upon the working people to step up the struggle for their demands and to develop still

more the protest movement against the rearmament of the German revenge-seekers and against the danger of an atomic war.

The meeting also adopted an appeal to Party organisations calling on them to strengthen their ranks, to wage a persevering fight for raising the ideological level of Party members and to strengthen propaganda, particularly by increased sales of the central organ of the Party, the newspaper *Drapeau Rouge*.

Following the XIth Congress of the Communist Party of Belgium

The XIth Congress of the Communist Party of Belgium, which was held in Vilvorde over December 9 to 12, was of great significance in the life of the Party and the country as a whole. It was preceded by a wide discussion which began throughout the Party after the Parliamentary elections of April 11, 1954, and lasted for several months.

In the course of this prolonged discussion the Party analysed more deeply than ever before the reasons for the loss of members, the drop in the circulation of the press, the stagnation in the political life of the majority of Party organisations and the weakening of its ties with the masses.

The work of the Party was subjected to a critical and self-critical discussion. As discussion developed it became more and more clear that we should seek the reason for the shortcomings in the work of the Party not in bad methods of work alone, as we had been accustomed to do in the past. It turned out that the reason for our failures was to be sought first and foremost in the very political line of the Party.

Many members asked themselves the following questions: Why have the Party links with the masses weakened notwithstanding the fact that over the past few years the working class of Belgium has been fighting political battles on a scale which cannot be challenged? In 1950, as a result of a big general strike, the working people of Belgium succeeded in forcing Leopold III to abdicate. In 1952, after a mass action embracing factory workers and soldiers, they compelled the Christian Social Party Government to reduce the term of military service. Why then was the Party unable to broaden its influence while these great battles were going on? Why was it that the disastrous consequences of the arms drive (growing unemployment, serious inroads on the social welfare system, restrictions in public health, super-exploitation) did not lead to increased confidence of the working people in the Communist Party? Why did the working people, in the face of the encroachments on the independence of the country, restrictions on foreign trade, the closing down of coal mines, the release of traitors and, in particular, the policy of rearming the butchers of the Belgian people, not realise the true role of the reactionary parties and the disastrous part played by the leaders of Social Democracy?

These questions were the subject of lengthy discussion. The Communists of Belgium criticised the political stand taken by the Party during these great battles. It would, of course, be wrong to assert that the Party only made mistakes. It is indisputable, however, that the leadership of the Party and many organisations took up an incorrect, sectarian position, especially while the great struggles were in progress.

Mistakes of a sectarian nature were made, particularly in relation to the trade unions. There was also hesitancy to acknowledge that the CGT of Belgium, despite its right-wing leadership and policy of class collaboration, was a trade union organisation in which the Communists should have worked. In Antwerp there was even support for the attempts to create a separate dockers' trade union not affiliated to the CGT.

A number of workers who were delegates to the XIth Congress also recalled how the policy of extreme measures isolated them from their comrades in the struggle and only helped the disastrous results.

*
Ernest Burnelle
Secretary, Communist Party
of Belgium

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The Party has also admitted that it made too general an appraisal of the stand taken by the Belgian Socialist Party which it simply put on a par with the Christian Social and Liberal Parties. This prevented the Communist Party from exposing successfully the deal of the Socialist leaders with the Belgian bourgeoisie and American imperialists. The Party underestimated the significance of the "Socialist peace movement" and took an extremely negative stand in relation to this movement.

The Belgian Communist Party also admitted that it had made a mistake in its appraisal of the concrete situation at home, that it had often failed to find the special character which should be assumed by struggles waged in Belgium in connection with international campaigns.

That is why our activists referred during discussion to the well-known statements of Lenin and Stalin on the harmful character of sectarianism and reread those pages by Dimitrov in which he castigated "self-satisfied sectarianism... sectarianism, satisfied with its doctrinaire narrowness, its divorce from the real life of the masses, satisfied with its simplified methods of solving the most complex problems of the working-class movement on the basis of stereotyped schemes—sectarianism which professes to 'know all' and considers it needless to learn from the masses, from the lessons of the labour movement. In short, sectarianism to which, as they say, mountains are mere stepping stones."

A great number of Party activists have begun to understand more and more the Marxist-Leninist principle that the leading role of the Communist Party in the struggles of the working class must be won. For this purpose it is necessary not to rant about the leading role of the Communists but to merit and win the confidence of the working masses by everyday mass work and correct policy.

Pre-Congress discussion demonstrated the need for a better application of the principles of democratic centralism, as our Party has suffered from authoritarian and bureaucratic methods which were detrimental to the elaboration of the correct line and prevented the development of criticism.

From now on self-criticism at all levels of the Party and also collective leadership are the demand of the entire Party.

The XIth Party Congress showed the need for stepping up the political activity of the Party branches, particularly in the factories. Congress exposed the tendency to confine the activity of the branches solely to practical work, a tendency against which a struggle was launched long ago.

Congress worked out a number of directives which will enable the rank-and-file activists to establish close links with those around them, to know the aspirations of the masses, win their confidence and mobilise them in struggle for their needs and demands.

Discussion at the Congress was particularly lively and the report made on behalf of the Central Committee contained severe self-criticism.

Heated discussion and criticism of the

The Congress, particularly following the speeches of representatives of fraternal Communist Parties, who stressed the grave danger to world peace arising from the rearming of the Hitler butchers, defined the future tasks of the Party.

Comrade Etienne Fajon, representative of the French Communist Party, called on the Belgian Communists "to hold their sector" of this great battle. His appeal found a profound response at the Congress.

The delegates will remember for a long time the message from the Central Committee of the CPSU, which they greeted with a prolonged standing ovation.

In its message the Central Committee of the CPSU wished the Belgian Communist Party success in the organisational and ideological strengthening of its ranks, in ensuring working-class unity, in defending the vital interests of the working people and in rallying the democratic and patriotic forces of the country in the struggle for peace and national independence and against the threat of the revival of German militarism and the danger of a new war. This valuable advice will be well thought over by the Belgian Communists, who will take it as a guide in their work.

After the close of Congress the Communists set to work firmly determined to deal a blow at those who again want to give arms to the butchers of the Belgian people. Propaganda materials have been circulated on a wide scale and the collection of signatures to petitions has begun. This is going on in the factories, where the Communist, Socialist and Catholic working people are taking combined action against the greatest danger of the day. More and more petitions and protest resolutions are pouring in to members of Parliament. The initial results have been achieved quickly—a sign that there are great possibilities.

Those who are working in the factories to unite the working people of diverse views, to organise small committees for the collection of signatures, which unite workers of Socialist, Communist and Christian views, —are going about things in the right way. The first results show that the protest movement can assume tremendous proportions. The battle against the Paris agreements is not yet over. It is developing with renewed force in Germany and France. We must do our utmost to ensure that this struggle develops on a large scale in Belgium too.

The pernicious Social Democratic ideology creates obstacles on the path to peace. We must fight against the false ideas about war, the ideas leading to inactivity which are spread among the workers by the right-wing Socialist leaders.

Our duty is to carry on fraternal discussion with Socialist working people and activists, conduct explanatory work among them with a view to establishing unity of action, inspire confidence in those who are still wavering and show them that the rearming of Germany would intensify everything they detest—militarism and reaction in all its forms—and prevent the realisation of their cherished hopes.

We shall strive to give a mass character to the campaign for collecting signatures to the Appeal addressed to the peoples of the world and we shall help peace supporters in our country to take their place in the world signature-collection campaign.

The struggle against the rearming of Germany and an atomic war is the most important task of the day. But it is not the only task. The working people are also deeply

Meeting of Central Committee, Communist Party of Australia

The meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Australia held in mid-January was attended by representatives from all States of the country. It discussed the report of Comrade L. Sharkey, General Secretary, "on the new and grave menace to peace" created by the London and Paris agreements. "We must", said Comrade Sharkey, "organise and arouse the masses... It is the answer to the rearmament of West Germany and the other evil schemes of the plotters of new wars."

Those taking part in discussion expressed their agreement with Comrade Sharkey's analysis of the international situation and applied themselves to proposals on how Communists can best assist to mobilise the Australian people to meet the new threat to peace.

A resolution adopted by the meeting contained a call to step up the campaign for peace, as the most urgent task confronting the Australian people. It was pointed out that Party organisations should work out a concrete plan of action for arousing the people to the danger of a new war. Such plans should take account of the economic, social and local needs that cause concern to the people.

The resolution also included a declaration of support for the decisions of the Bureau of the World Peace Council and for the Declaration of the Moscow Conference.

Second Congress of Union of Polish Youth of Polish Youth

The Second Congress of the Union of Polish Youth, mass youth organisation which numbers over two million members, took place late in January amidst great patriotic enthusiasm. The Congress was attended by more than 1,200 delegates, members of the Political Bureau of the C.C. of the Polish United Workers' Party, prominent trade union and other public figures, as well as personalities prominent in culture and visitors from abroad.

The Congress was addressed by Comrade B. Bierut, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party, who was warmly greeted. He referred to the great role of youth and its vanguard—the Union of Polish Youth—in the struggle for carrying out the programme for a rapid improvement of the standard of living and for building Socialism in the country.

The report was made by Comrade Helena Jaworska, Chairman of the Central Board of the Union. Comrade Jan Szydłak, Secretary of the Central Board, gave a report on the new draft Rules of the Union.

Sixty-seven people contributed to discussion. They spoke about the achievements of the Union's work and also pointed to mistakes and shortcomings.

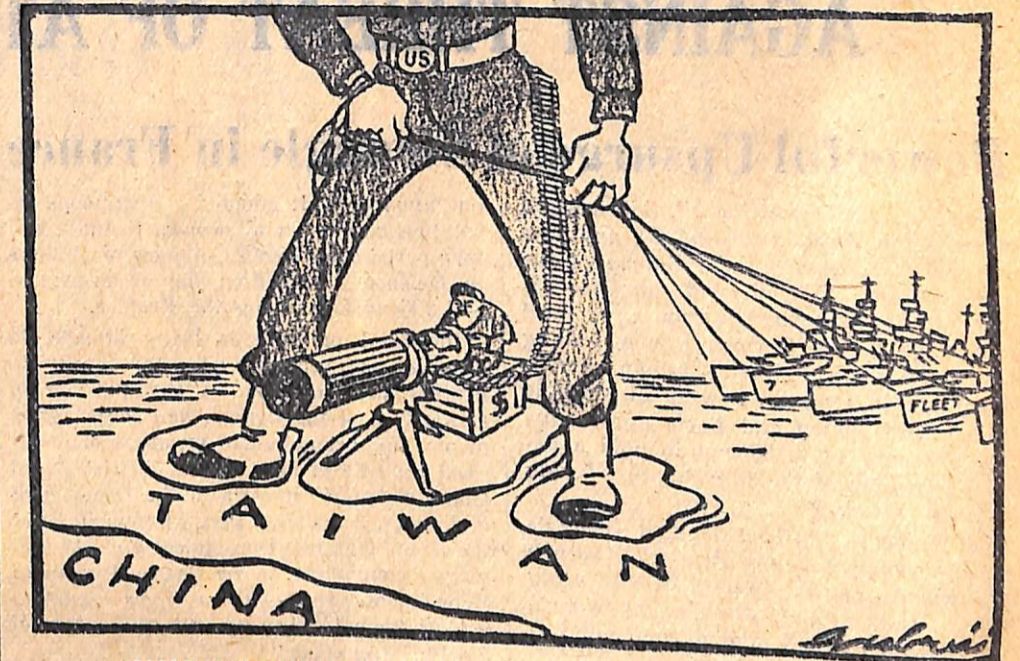
The Congress adopted decisions which will represent a big step towards the further strengthening of the Union and its development into a faithful and active assistant of the Party in the struggle for moulding the new man, a courageous fighter for peace and Socialism.

PRESS SALES IN SWISS PARTY OF LABOUR

A vast campaign to collect funds for the Party press and for selling the Party news-

The aggressive acts of the U.S.A. against the People's Republic of China in the area of Taiwan and other Chinese islands are a grave threat to peace in the Far East and throughout the world.

(Press Item)



JUMPING-OFF GROUND OF AMERICAN AGGRESSOR

Cartoon from the London Daily Worker

POLITICAL NOTES

American Occupationists on Taiwan

The reactionary American press, accommodating to the State Department, is at present going all out in its efforts to drown the truth about the aggressive activities of the U.S.A. against the People's Republic of China in a spate of lies and distortion. At the same time, the Chiang Kai-shek clique which was long since disowned by the Chinese people and is holding its ground on Taiwan only under the protection of the guns of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, is being depicted as being an almost "independent" government that the U.S. is obliged to reckon with.

But the whole world knows that the U.S.A., having occupied Taiwan, has virtually converted it into a U.S. colony and the spring-board for an attack on the Chinese mainland. The French bourgeois newspaper *Le Monde* recently published an article on Taiwan which highlights certain aspects of the American occupation and colonisation of the island.

American domination is effected primarily through Karl Rankin, U.S. "Ambassador", who is virtual uncrowned king of Taiwan with undivided power. Another instrument of the American occupation is the military mission of General William Chase who is in charge of a group of American officers. This group is growing and now numbers some 1,000 men. It is the job of this military mission, which is directly responsible to the Pentagon, to "advise" and "help" Chiang Kai-shek's clique and its army.

Furthermore, as the details given by *Le Monde* show, there are a number of companies on Taiwan whose dark deeds and carefully camouflaged activities testify to the aggressive intentions of the American occupationists.

The most "enigmatic" of these is Western Enterprise, whose 180 "employees" give themselves out as businessmen.

Kai-shek's pirate ships that patrol Taiwan Strait and attack foreign vessels. A number of white planes are to be seen on the reserve field of the Taipei air base. They carry no national emblem or identification marks. Why such diffidence? The aircraft belong to Western Enterprise. It is these very planes of "unknown nationality" that so often violate the air limits of continental China. The agents of Western Enterprise train hirelings and traitors to their homeland to jump from parachutes and commit acts of sabotage, and then drop them over continental China.

Another such "double-faced" company is J. G. Whites, a subsidiary of the Foreign Operations Administration. Formally it is nothing but a sort of "technical bureau" covering the island. Actually, however, this company dominates the entire economy of Taiwan, since the American imperialists, while utilising Taiwan for strategic purposes, aren't forgetting to plunder it of its wealth. J. G. Whites are "reorganising" the sugar and textile industries and "planning" the exploitation of forests, they are doubling and trebling the productivity of mines and so on. Their activities, however, are not confined to this. They are laying down pipe-lines which, apparently by "sheer coincidence" link up the northern port of Chiling and the southern port of Kaohsiung with the airfields of Taiwan. The company is also building a 400-kilometre-long asphalt road along the entire western coastline. And naturally not for the convenience of tourists. J. G. Whites have put up bridges strong enough to bear the weight of heavy tanks and artillery.

These are some of the aspects of American activities on Taiwan. They once again lay bare the demagoguery of American ruling circles in connection with the proposals for a so-called "cease-fire" in the area of Taiwan.

and, in particular, the policy of rearming the butchers of the Belgian people, not realise the true role of the reactionary parties and the disastrous part played by the leaders of Social Democracy?

These questions were the subject of lengthy discussion. The Communists of Belgium criticised the political stand taken by the Party during these great battles. It would, of course, be wrong to assert that the Party only made mistakes. It is indisputable, however, that the leadership of the Party and many organisations took up an incorrect, sectarian position, especially while the great struggles were in progress.

Mistakes of a sectarian nature were made, particularly in relation to the trade unions. There was also hesitancy to acknowledge that the CGT of Belgium, despite its right-wing leadership and policy of class collaboration, was a trade union organisation in which the Communists should have worked. In Antwerp there was even support for the attempts to create a separate dockers' trade union not affiliated to the CGT.

A number of workers who were delegates to the XIth Congress also recalled how the policy of extreme measures isolated them from their comrades in the struggle and only helped the disastrous activity of the splitters.

At a time when the working people were finding common slogans for the immediate struggle there were frequent instances when the leading Party bodies sought to replace these by propaganda slogans, which resulted in the Communists becoming isolated.

During the great battles against the two-year term of military service in 1952, the Party supported the single slogan "Back to 12-months' service", whereas the slogan "Release those who have served 18 months" helped to organise big strikes.

All these are examples of errors which illustrate the sectarian tendency that caused our Party and the working people great harm.

correct position. Pre-Congress discussion demonstrated the need for a better application of the principles of democratic centralism, as our Party has suffered from authoritarian and bureaucratic methods which were detrimental to the elaboration of the correct line and prevented the development of criticism.

From now on self-criticism at all levels of the Party and also collective leadership are the demand of the entire Party.

The XIth Party Congress showed the need for stepping up the political activity of the Party branches, particularly in the factories. Congress exposed the tendency to confine the activity of the branches solely to practical work, a tendency against which a struggle was launched long ago.

Congress worked out a number of directives which will enable the rank-and-file activists to establish close links with those around them, to know the aspirations of the masses, win their confidence and mobilise them in struggle for their needs and demands.

Discussion at the Congress was particularly lively and the report made on behalf of the Central Committee contained severe self-criticism.

Heated discussion and criticism of the most responsible Party leaders did not prevent the XIth Congress from uniting on the basis of the theses which were adopted unanimously after prolonged discussion. Elections to the new Central Committee resulted in considerable changes in its composition; many workers have now been elected to the C.C.

But the Party Congress did not confine itself to the discussion of questions of the past. It paid great attention to questions of the future, to tasks which call for greater activity on the part of the Belgian Communists and particularly to the struggle against the rearming of a revenge-seeking Germany.

not yet over. It is developing with renewed force in Germany and France. We must do our utmost to ensure that this struggle develops on a large scale in Belgium too.

The pernicious Social Democratic ideology creates obstacles on the path to peace. We must fight against the false ideas about war, the ideas leading to inactivity which are spread among the workers by the right-wing Socialist leaders.

Our duty is to carry on fraternal discussion with Socialist working people and activists, conduct explanatory work among them with a view to establishing unity of action, inspire confidence in those who are still wavering and show them that the rearming of Germany would intensify everything they detest—militarism and reaction in all its forms—and prevent the realisation of their cherished hopes.

We shall strive to give a mass character to the campaign for collecting signatures to the Appeal addressed to the peoples of the world and we shall help peace supporters in our country to take their place in the world signature-collection campaign.

The struggle against the rearming of Germany and an atomic war is the most important task of the day. But it is not the only task. The working people are also deeply concerned about questions of low wages, social insurance, unemployment, pensions and so on. In the weeks ahead our organisations will have to make great efforts to give more concrete help to the working people in the struggle for their demands, patiently showing the connection between this struggle and the fight for peace.

Armed with the Congress decisions the Belgian Communists will embark with greater confidence, militancy and enthusiasm upon the realisation of the great political tasks of the struggle for peace. They will help the Belgian working people to find the way to unity, which will make it possible to bar the path to the warmongers.

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PRESS SALES IN SWISS PARTY OF LABOUR

A vast campaign to collect funds for the Party press and for selling the Party newspapers has been carried out by the Swiss Party of Labour in recent months. This campaign was of decisive importance for the entire future work of the Party press which has to overcome considerable material difficulties.

With the active participation of nearly all Party members and the effective help of numerous sympathisers they considerably overfulfilled their aim to collect 50,000 francs and to sell an additional 100,000 copies of the Party newspapers, by actually collecting 62,352 francs and selling over 113,000 papers. Hundreds of new subscribers were won. The best results were achieved by Party organisations in East Switzerland and in Zürich.

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Furthermore, as the details given by *Le Monde* show, there are a number of companies on Taiwan whose dark deeds and carefully camouflaged activities testify to the aggressive intentions of the American occupationists.

The most "enigmatic" of these is Western Enterprise, whose 180 "employees" give themselves out as businessmen, rice and tobacco specialists etc. But their activities do not bear even a distant relationship to these harmless products. Officially the aim of the company is "airfield restoration" on Taiwan. This of course is also quite a profitable undertaking and one could imagine that the enterprising businessmen really did come to Taiwan for this very purpose. The point is, however, that this "airfield restoration" is merely a cover. Western Enterprise is in fact nothing but an espionage service, one of the subsidiaries of the notorious Central Intelligence Service headed by Allen Dulles. Many of its agents can be met in the outposts of the Chiang Kai-shek gang. On Tachen Islands they have at their disposal cameras that are the last word in technique, perfected radar installations and detectors which enable them to "survey" the coast of the mainland with the "maximum of indiscretion".

There are always one or two representatives of Western Enterprise on board Chiang

covering the island. The entire economy of the company dominates the American imperialists, Taiwan, since the American imperialists, while utilising Taiwan for strategic purposes, aren't forgetting to plunder it of its wealth. J. G. Whites are "reorganising" the sugar and textile industries and "planning" the exploitation of forests, they are doubling and trebling the productivity of mines and so on. Their activities, however, are not confined to this. They are laying down "sheer coincidence" link up the northern port of Chilung and the southern port of Kaohsiung with the airfields of Taiwan. The company is also building a 400-kilometre-long asphalt road along the entire western coastline. And naturally not for the convenience of tourists. J. G. Whites have put up bridges strong enough to bear the weight of heavy tanks and artillery.

These are some of the aspects of American activities on Taiwan. They once again lay bare the demagogy of American ruling circles in connection with the proposals for a so-called "cease-fire" in the area of Taiwan Strait, the object of which is to perpetuate the occupation of Taiwan and other Chinese islands and to use them as bases for preparing and unleashing an aggressive war in the Far East. Taiwan must not be an atomic gun constantly pointed at continental China. It must not be an atomic detonator in the hands of the Americans in the Far East. It is only by ending the American occupation of this territory that has been Chinese from time immemorial, by withdrawing the troops and the U.S. Seventh Fleet, by recalling the military advisers, the "experts" and spies of all shades with whom the area of Taiwan is simply swarming, that an easing of international tension really can be achieved and peace consolidated. The United States and America must end their aggressive activities against the People's Republic of China—this is the demand of all peace-loving peoples.

Jan MAREK

RUMANIAN PEOPLE ARE FIRMLY DETERMINED TO UPHOLD PEACE

The great significance of the decisions adopted by the enlarged meeting of the Bureau of the World Peace Council in Vienna lies in the fact that they correspond to the cherished aspirations of all the peoples, to their determination to prevent the enemies of peace from unleashing an atomic war in defiance of the will and conscience of the peoples.

If the aggressive circles thought that, by attacking the increasingly substantial victories that the method of peaceful negotiations has won over the policy of blackmail and division of the world into hostile blocs, they could paralyse the struggle of the peace forces for a long time to come, it has now become clear that all these schemes were built on sand. Facts show that the peoples are more and more stubbornly opposing all actions which are against their vital interests, as, for example, the "legalisation" of atomic war by the Council of the North Atlantic bloc, the restoration of the Wehrmacht, the formation of SEATO and the flagrant interference by the U.S.A. in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of China. The Appeal to the Peoples of the World adopted in Vienna shows the way to all mankind to rally in the struggle to deal an early and powerful rebuff to the dark schemes of those seeking to push it into the abyss of an atomic war. That is why this Appeal has met with such a powerful international response.

The Asian peoples have not and will never forget Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Bikini or the repeated attempts of the American interventionists to use atomic weapons in Korea and Viet Nam. The peoples know quite well who are those that look upon them as something for testing the destructive power of A and H-bombs.

Nor have the European peoples forgotten all this. How can they forget the Nazi death

factories, and the tears and the blood which flowed in the wake of the Hitler invaders? Will they not remember these things all the more at the present time when generals with the death's-head insignia on their uniforms are again being given the opportunity to set up gigantic "Auschwitzes", this time of an atomic character? How can the peoples of Western Europe, with its tremendous concentration of population in industrial centres, forget that for them the "positions of strength" policy is in reality a sinister invitation to atomic suicide?

No doubt there are a few people across the ocean who are rubbing their hands with glee and calmly calculating that the preparations for an atomic war, as U.S. News and World Report put it, will make American business more active. However, in the U.S.A. too, growing numbers are beginning to understand that these calculations can only mean death for millions of ordinary people and the destruction of their homes. The Vienna Appeal will awaken the conscience of all honest people in the farthest corners of the world. There can be no doubt that hundreds of millions of ordinary people, by signing the Appeal and taking part in active struggle, will join the 600 million men and women who signed the famous Stockholm Appeal and will condemn the assassins who are secretly plotting the atomic extermination of their children.

The Rumanian people, for whom the past ten years of a free life mark the most flourishing epoch in their history, have responded to the Vienna Appeal with firm determination to do everything in their power to uphold peace and defend their creative labour. They are inflexible in their will to oppose the revival of German militarism

and indignantly condemn the plan for unleashing an atomic war. These sentiments have found clear expression in the recent enlarged meeting of the Permanent Peace

Committee of the Rumanian People's Republic. The meeting was attended by scientific and technical workers, writers and painters, members of the clergy, workers, peasants and housewives. These people were the first to sign the Appeal; they enthusiastically spoke of the thousands who had volunteered to take part in the signature campaign.

Thanks to the initiative and help of the Soviet Union, described by the Colombian representative at the Vienna Session of the Bureau of the World Peace Council as "the great hope of the peoples", our country will be one of the first to be given the opportunity of producing and utilising atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Expressing the joy of the Rumanian people and scientists, Academician Raluca Ripan, Rector of Cluj University, said at the meeting of the Permanent Committee: "The scientists of our country will fight with the energy with which the struggle for good can inspire man, against the use of scientific achievements for the death and extermination of mankind."

The staff of the Academy of the Rumanian People's Republic, prominent figures of science, literature and art in Cluj, Jassy and Tg. Mures, many members of the clergy etc. have come out in support of the Vienna Appeal. At numerous meetings in towns, villages, factories and offices the Rumanian citizens are wholeheartedly signing the Vienna Appeal, branding with shame the atomic warmongers and expressing their confidence in the invincibility of the camp

of peace headed by the Soviet Union and in the victory of the peace forces.

We peace supporters in Rumania are confronted with the task of working in such a way that not a single honest man will stand aloof from this grand campaign. Numbers of intellectuals, reserve officers, priests, peasants and housewives who until now have taken no active part in public life, have in the past few months, in the course of the intensified struggle against the danger of the resurgence of German militarism, come out in support of this just cause. It is our duty to ensure that this wholesome process of uniting all people who cherish peace and love their homeland is deepened and extended. Our activity will be based on a wide discussion of international questions by the masses of the people at meetings of the peace councils; scores of thousands of collectors of signatures will talk to the population about international events. In addition, elections of new peace committees will take place and their composition must reflect the successes achieved in expanding the peace movement.

The campaign in our country also has another essential feature, one of deep meaning and moral splendour—the labour enthusiasm with which the ordinary people will back up their signatures to the Appeal.

Continuing their struggle for the successful fulfilment of our Five-Year Plan, striving to make the best use of modern technique and advanced methods of labour to ensure ever-greater supplies of inexpensive, high-quality goods, constantly fighting for new successes in science and culture, the working people of Rumania are displaying a high sense of responsibility for the destinies of their homeland and the whole of humanity.

The peoples can count on the Rumanian people, who will carry out their duty to the sacred cause of peace to the full.

DETERIORATING LIVING STANDARDS OF BRITISH WORKING PEOPLE

In Britain the policy of militarisation and the arms drive carried out by the ruling circles finds its reflection in the constantly deteriorating living standards of the working people.

According to the Ministry of Labour index there was an increase of 3% in the cost of living between October 1953 and October 1954, as against a 1.5% increase over the previous year.

Last year butter went up 9% and milk 7%. The largest increase was on meat, which came off ration in May. The best meat now costs from 50 to 80% more than under rationing. Tea has gone up 70% above the December 1953 level and there has been a considerable increase on margarine too.

FASCIST RAID ON SDPG PREMISES IN LUBECK

During the recent mass strike of the West German working people fascist hoodlums made a night raid on the premises of the district board of the Social Democratic Party in Lübeck and completely wrecked them. They also raided the premises of the bureau of the trade union youth organisa-

tion in the next building. The police stated that they could not find "any clues" that would help them to track down the wreckers. The raid on the SDPG premises in Lübeck is fresh evidence of the growing impudence of the fascist elements encouraged by the Bonn authorities.

Facts Expose...

Hitlerite Aircraft Designers in Spain

The three main Hitlerite aircraft designers Messerschmitt, Heinkel and Dornier Junior are "collaborating" closely with aircraft companies in Spain, the Franco Government granting them every facility. A leading light of the Nazi Luftwaffe has also contrived to get the Spanish works turning out Heinkel medium-bombers, Me-109 fighters and Dornier light aircraft.

Taking full advantage of the indulgence of the Madrid authorities, the fascist "consultant"-enterprising businessmen are not only providing Franco's armed forces with planes but are enriching their experience in aircraft designing in order to utilise it for reviving the aircraft industry of Western Germany.

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