

**SOME DOCUMENTS OF SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY
AND GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
13-14 May 1953; 24-26 July 1953**

SOURCES:

FOR A LASTING PEACE FOR A PEOPLES DEMOCRACY,

Workers of all lands, unite!

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

**Bucharest. Organ of the Information Bureau of the Communist and Workers'
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CONTENT

- 1. MEETING OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY**
- 2. IMPORTANT DECISIONS OF POLITICAL BUREAU, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY**
- 3. GAMBLE OF FOREIGN HIRELINGS IN BERLIN FAILS**
- 4. COLLAPSE OF ENEMIES OF PEACE IN BERLIN**
- 5. COMMUNIQUE OF 14TH PLENARY MEETING, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY**
- 6. STATEMENT BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY CONCERNING SITUATION AND IMMEDIATE TASKS OF THE PARTY**
- 7. PEOPLE OF GERMANY BRAND FASCIST PROVOCATEURS—HIRELINGS OF WESTERN POWERS**
Population of German Democratic Republic Expresses Full Confidence in party and Government-German Press Review
- 8. PEOPLES RESOLUTELY CONDEMN FASCIST GAMBLE IN BERLIN**
Solidarity Meetings with Working People of German Democratic Republic
- 9. WORKING PEOPLE OF GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC EXPRESS FULL CONFIDENCE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT**
- 10. AGAINST PROVOCATIONS OF ENEMIES OF PEACE**
- 11. POLITICAL NOTES**
Lies Behind American “Philanthropy”
- 12. STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT OF GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**
- 13. Work of Organisations of Socialist Unity Party of Germany In Trade Unions**
- 14. PLENUM OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY**
- 15. NEW COURSE AND TASKS OF PARTY**
Resolution of 15th Plenum of Central Committee, Socialist Party of Germany

1. MEETING OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY

The 13th plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, with Otto Grotewohl in the chair, was held in Berlin on **May 13-14**.

The meeting heard and discussed a report, "New tasks in industry delivered by Heinrich Rail and a report by Elli Schmidt "New tasks in sphere of trade and supply". The meeting adopted a decision on the question of higher productivity of labour and strict economy.

Hermann Matern, Chairman of the Central Control Commission of the Party, informed the Central Committee of the results of the investigation carried out in regard to Franz Dahlem and also in relation to Lena Fischer and Fritz Uchner. On the basis of facts emerging from a preliminary investigation, the Central Committee, with the aim of strengthening the leadership of the Party, decided to remove Franz Dahlem from the Central Committee and simultaneously from the Political Bureau and Secretariat of the Central Committee for political blindness in relation to the activity of imperialist agents and for his non-party attitude towards the mistakes made by him.

The Central Committee expelled Lena Fischer from the Party. The investigation disclosed that in 1935, on orders from the Gestapo, she engaged in treacherous activity. The Central Committee also expelled Fritz Uchner, formerly alternate member of the Central Committee, for moral corruption. The Central Committee approved the suggestion put forward by the Restock Regional Committee of the Party and reprimanded Comrade Mewis for violation of inner-party democracy. It also approved the suggestion of the Political Bureau and reprimanded Comrade Wilhelm Koenen for not displaying the necessary political vigilance.

For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy!
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2. IMPORTANT DECISIONS OF POLITICAL BUREAU, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY

Important decisions were adopted at the recent meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

The Political Bureau, says **the communique issued after the meeting**, has decided to recommend to the Government of the German Democratic Republic a number of measures aimed at decisively improving the conditions of all sections of the population and for strengthening the legal system in the Republic. The Political Bureau proceeded from the fact that in the past the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Government of the German Democratic Republic made a number of mistakes expressed in such decision and orders as, for example, the decision concerning the new system of issuing ration books, about placing abandoned farmsteads under trusteeship, in the extraordinary measures in relation to state purchases, in the rigid tax collection, etc. The interests of such strata of the population as individual peasants, retail traders, artisans and intelligentsia were neglected. In operating the above-mentioned decisions and orders serious mistakes

were committed in addition in the regions, districts and villages. A consequence of this was that many people left the Republic.

In adopting these decisions, says the communique, the Political Bureau has in view the great aim of restoring the unity of Germany, which require from both sides the carrying out of measures that would concretely facilitate the drawing together of the two parts of Germany.

For these reasons the Political Bureau considers that, in addition to revising the plan for developing heavy industry, it will be necessary in the near future to carry out a number of measures for the purpose of rectifying the mistakes and improving the living conditions of the workers, peasants, intelligentsia, artisans and other middle strata of the population. The Political Bureau outlined the measures to be taken in the sphere of trade and supply, in the sphere of agriculture and also in relation to facilitating contact between the German Democratic Republic and Western Germany.

In order to expand output of consumer goods produced by small and middle private enterprises and in order to extend the trading network adequate credits shall be made available without delay to artisans, retail and wholesale traders privately-owned industrial building and transport enterprises. The compulsory measures taken in relation to small, middle and well-to-do peasants, artisans, retail and wholesale traders, private owners of industrial, building and transport enterprises, that is, in relation to the private sector of the national economy as a whole, for tax arrears and social insurance dating from the end of 1951, must be abandoned.

Should owners of enterprises, who in the recent period closed their enterprises or gave them away, express the desire to reopen them, this desire must be immediately taken into consideration. Moreover, the organs of the state commercial trade shall, on a more extensive scale and on the basis of agreement, utilise private retail traders for the purpose of ensuring a better supply system for the population.

The Political Bureau further suggests that the decision concerning trusteeship for abandoned farmsteads be abrogated and that the establishing of trusteeship for failure to fulfil state delivery quotas or for tax arrears on the part of the peasants be prohibited. Peasants (small, middle and well-to-do) who, due to the difficulties encountered in running their farmsteads, abandoned them and went to Western Berlin or Western Germany must be given the opportunity to return to them. If in exceptional cases this is impossible, then they must be fully compensated.

Those peasants who return must be granted credits and the agricultural implements necessary for working their farms. It is necessary to revise the penalties for non-fulfilment of the obligatory deliveries of tax obligations. The Political Bureau suggests that the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry be instructed to carry out the necessary measures so that the interests of agricultural producer co-operatives are observed.

The Political Bureau further suggests that all citizens who left the Republic and who are now returning to the German Democratic Republic or to the democratic sector of Berlin shall have their confiscated property restored to them. In instances where this is impossible, they must get compensation. Those who return shall not be subjected to any form of discrimination for the fact of their flight. With the help of the competent organs, of the regional and district councils they shall, in accordance with professions and skills, be drawn into economic and social life and shall have full civic rights (German passport, ration books, etc.).

The Political Bureau, further considers that the question of issuing permits for residence in the German Democratic Republic to Citizens of Western Germany and Western Berlin, as well as of inter-zonal passports be revised with a view to

facilitating contact between Eastern and Western Germany. When considering applications for residence in the German Democratic Republic from citizens in Western Germany and Western Berlin family circumstances should be taken into account. Scientists and art workers, in particular, should be granted facilities for attending meetings in Western Germany and also art workers from Western Germany for attending meetings held in the German Democratic Republic. The Political Bureau further recommends that the Government of the German Democratic Republic should instruct the judicial organs immediately to release persons sentenced, on the basis of the law for defence of public property, to a term of 1-3 years, with the exception of cases involving heavy consequences. The recommendation also envisages the release of persons undergoing preliminary examination, charged on the basis of the law for defence of public property and whose crime is not liable to severer punishment than the minimum of 1-3 years of imprisonment.

The Political Bureau has decided to recommend to the Government of the German Democratic Republic to renew, beginning with July 1, the issuing of ration books to all citizens in the German Democratic Republic and in the democratic sector of Berlin in accordance with the legitimate nature of their work, to abolish, beginning with June 15, 1953, the higher prices established in April this year for a number of confectionery items, and also to effect a further substantial reduction of fares for definite categories of the working people.

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3. GAMBLE OF FOREIGN HIRELINGS IN BERLIN FAILS

The recent decisions of the Government of the German Democratic Republic concerning the carrying out of a number of measures aimed at decisively improving the standard of living of all sections of the population and at strengthening law in the Republic—decisions adopted at the suggestion of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany—met with the whole-hearted approval of broad sections of the population both in the German Democratic Republic and in Western Germany. Proof of this, in particular, the fact that, according to German press reports, the number of citizens leaving Western Germany for the German Democratic Republic, has, in many places, exceeded the number who left the Republic for Western Germany.

This evoked the fury of the reactionary circles of the Western Powers and the Bonn rulers, who, in an attempt to prevent the realisation of the decisions of the Government of the German Democratic Republic, engineered provocative actions in Berlin. Availing themselves of the recent measures taken, for facilitating transport communication between Western and Eastern Berlin, large groups of fascist-minded hooligans, agents of foreign countries and their hirelings among the German monopolists entered Eastern Berlin where, they resorted to provocations. In some places elements who had run amok set fire to shops and tore red flags. Although the provocateurs succeeded in causing work stoppages in a number of enterprises, they failed to achieve their aim. The provocations suffered fiasco. Thanks to the measures taken by the Government of the German Democratic Republic, measures

widely supported by the population, order was restored in the democratic sector of Berlin.

In a message addressed to the population the Government of the German Democratic Republic called on the workers and on all honest citizens to expose the provocateurs, to turn them over to the state organs and to help in creating normal conditions for work in enterprises.

In connection with these provocations the Socialist Unity Party of Germany is carrying out wide-scale explanatory work among the population.

For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy!
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4. COLLAPSE OF ENEMIES OF PEACE IN BERLIN

The distinguishing feature of the present international situation is the powerful growth of the forces of the peace supporters, the widespread popular movement for the settlement of controversial international problems by means of negotiation. The events of recent months convincingly confirm the possibility of easing the tension in the international situation, of finding ways and means for consolidating peace and the security of the nations.

At the same time there is fresh evidence that the enemies of peace have not abandoned their criminal activity directed against the peaceful settlement of international problems. Seeking to realise their perfidious designs they stop at no means, at no criminal provocation.

Such a provocation, directed against peace and the security of the peoples, was recently engineered in Berlin by the fascist hirelings of the Western Powers. Resorting to the methods of the Nazi killers, and adding to them the methods of American gangsters, the organisers of the provocation engineered disturbances in the democratic sector of Berlin, which were accompanied by arson and attempts on the life of functionaries of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, functionaries of the mass organisations and the state apparatus of the German Democratic Republic. Although American and West German propaganda is doing its utmost to distort the essence of the recent events in Berlin, it will not succeed in misleading world public opinion or in covering up the real initiators of the gamble. The investigations carried out by the authorities of the German Democratic Republic clearly revealed the true state of affairs. The U.S. secret service engaged in long preparations for the Berlin gamble. It was financed from the funds allocated by the U.S. Congress in 1951 for subversive activity against the U.S.S.R., against the countries of the democratic camp. Nor did the British and French occupation authorities remain aloof from this adventure. The Berlin provocation was prepared and carried out under the direct leadership of Bonn's reactionary rulers Adenauer and Kaiser, and of the Social Democratic leaders Ollenhauer and Reuter, in line with the military authorities of the Western Powers.

It was the reactionary circles of the Western Powers, the Adenauer clique and its accomplices which plotted and directed the gamble. The liquidation of the democratic system and establishment of a fascist dictatorship in the German Democratic Republic—this was the aim of the conspiracy against the cause of peace and German unity.

The adventure, organised by the imperialist hirelings in Berlin—the deliberate and planned nature of which even the Western reactionary press cannot conceal—coincided with the brazen provocation of Syngman Rhee—puppet ruler of South Korea. It was precisely during these days that on Rhee's orders with the connivance of the Americans, the prisoners of war who, in accordance with the agreement reached, were to be placed in the hands of a commission of neutral states, were "released" en masse from the camps of South Korea.

Was it by chance that these provocations coincided? Not at all. Both provocations are links in one chain. Their aim is the same—to prevent the forces of peace from easing the international situation and to unloose the forces of war.

Was it fortuitous that the inspirers and organisers of the criminal gambles in Korea and Berlin selected precisely this moment for them? Every honest man and woman will find a clear answer to this question by recalling the events that preceded them. In Korea, after prolonged negotiations agreement was reached for the repatriation of prisoners of war. The signing of this agreement removed the last obstacle to concluding an armistice and ending the war. This agreement, which was welcomed with great joy by people of good will throughout the world, represented a serious step towards relaxing the international tension.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic, acting on the suggestion of the Socialist Unity Party, adopted a series of important decisions and carried out a series of measures designed to bring together the East and West parts of Germany and also to secure a considerable improvement in the standard of living of broad sections of the population.

These measures were enthusiastically welcomed by honest Germans both in Eastern and in Western Germany. They were justly evaluated by world democratic public opinion as important steps on the way towards creating a common basis for the re-unification of Germany on a democratic footing, for converting it into a united, independent, democratic, peace-loving state.

Each step on the way towards establishing a united, democratic Germany cannot but contribute to relaxing the international tension to consolidating peace and security in Europe. But, it is just this that the US reactionary circles and their allies in Western Germany do not want. They regard this as a serious menace to their policy—the policy of unleashing a new war.

The Berlin provocation, organised by fascist cutthroats under the leadership of American officers, could not but fail and indeed did fail. It could not but fail because the broad sections of the population in the democratic sector of Berlin and in the German Democratic Republic did not support it. The adventure directed against the vital interests of the German people, against the cause of peace, was resolutely smashed. The failure of the fascist provocation has opened the eyes of many who were taken in by the false propaganda of reaction. Mass meetings and rallies at which the working people resolutely condemn the fascist provocateurs and express full confidence in the Government of the German Democratic Republic and in the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, are being held in the German Democratic Republic and in the democratic sector of Berlin. Answering the provocations of the reactionaries the advanced workers are intensifying their efforts to fulfil and overfulfil production plans and are submitting applications for membership of the Socialist Unity Party. The intelligentsia, peasants and the broad masses of the population are supporting the measures taken by the Party and the Government.

The enemies of peace seek to utilise the provocation in Berlin for the struggle against the powerful movement of the German people for peace and for the

democratic unity of their homeland. But they will not succeed in deflecting the honest workers of the German Democratic Republic from the correct path. Nor will they succeed in deflecting the German patriots in Western Germany from the correct path, patriots who are resolutely resisting the Bonn and Paris military treaties and the anti-people's revanchist policy of the Adenauer clique.

No matter the provocations and gambles to which the enemies of peace resort, they will never weaken the desire of the peoples for lasting peace throughout the world. They will not shake the firm determination of the millions of people in all countries to fight for the great cause of peace and to uphold it to the end. This determination, this will of the peoples finds clear expression in the Declaration of the recent session of the World Peace Council calling for a world-wide campaign in the interests of negotiations.

All to whom the cause of peace is dear are drawing lessons and conclusions from the recent provocations of the reactionary forces. It would be criminal carelessness to blunt vigilance in relation to the machinations of the enemies of peace. Analysing its work and drawing lessons from the recent events in Berlin the Socialist Unity Party disclosed serious errors committed by it during the past year and subjected them to principled and merciless criticism. Great work is now being carried out inside the Party for the purpose of rectifying the errors, overcoming the weaknesses, enhancing political vigilance and for strengthening the bonds with the working class and the broad masses of the working people.

The meeting of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party, held on June 21, adopted an important decision which contains a profound analysis of the situation and places before the Party concrete tasks for reinforcing work among the masses, for unswerving realisation of the new course. The Central Committee suggested, in particular, that Party meetings and meetings of workers be held in all enterprises at which the functionaries must "openly and boldly answer the questions of the workers and of other working people and begin consistent struggle for the interests of the working class, **for** the well-being of all working people, **for** explaining the new course and carrying it out, **for** overcoming the incorrect views held by honest workers, but against the provocateurs".

The Communist and Workers' Parties, which regard the struggle for peace as their paramount task, are strengthening their bonds with the masses, whetting vigilance in relation to the machinations of reaction, tirelessly exposing the anti-people's policy and the criminal designs of the enemies of peace.

The Communist and Workers' Parties, the most loyal and consistent fighters for the vital interests of the working people, are raising still higher the banner of peace, national independence of the peoples' and democratic freedoms.

For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy!
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5. COMMUNIQUE OF 14TH PLENARY MEETING, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY

The 14th plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany took place in Berlin on June 21 under the chairmanship of Otto Grotewohl. Comrade Grotewohl reported to the Central Committee on the situation and the direct tasks of the Party. Comrade Grotewohl elaborated the content of the decisions

taken by the Political Bureau on June 9, 1953, and dwelt on their profound national and international significance. The Bonn and Western Berlin warmongers, taking advantage of the discontent of a section of the population, long ago prepared a fascist provocation against the German Democratic Republic aimed at frustrating an all-German agreement and the measures taken by the German Democratic Republic to improve the conditions of the population.

After the collapse of the fascist gamble it is necessary, by means of immediate and wide rallying of the entire Party, to organise fundamental explanatory work among the popular masses and above all among the working class in order to restore the closest contact between the Party, Government and the population and to rally the working people for carrying out the new line of the Party and the Government and for active struggle against all enemy provocations.

Comrade Grotewohl then dwelt on the second series of measures designed to facilitate further improvement of the conditions of the population and of the working class in the first instance.

Comrades Deter, Buchwitz, Seibt, Ulbricht, Ackermann, Mewis, Kirchner, Kuba, Mielke, Becher, Stoph, Oelssner, Hager, Elli Schmidt and Herta Bergmann took part in the discussion.

The Central Committee approved the report made by Comrade Grotewohl and the text of the Central Committee statement "concerning the situation and direct tasks of the Party". Afterwards Comrade Grotewohl delivered a concluding speech.

For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy!
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6. STATEMENT BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY CONCERNING SITUATION AND IMMEDIATE TASKS OF THE PARTY

The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany at its meeting held on June 21 discussed the situation in the German Democratic Republic and adopted the following decision:

I. COURSE OF EVENTS

The events in the German Democratic Republic are directly linked with the development of the international and national situation. The decisive distinguishing feature of the international situation is the powerful growth of the forces of the world camp of peace during the past few months. An armistice agreement is pending in Korea. In Italy the people have won a big victory over reaction. Resistance to participation in the American policy of war is growing in Britain and France. In Western Germany the patriotic movement for the re-unification of Germany is growing. Based on the initiative of the world camp of peace a worldwide movement of the peoples for the solution of controversial questions by means of peaceful negotiations is unfolding. In every country the influence of the peace policy of the Soviet Union, China, the German Democratic Republic and other parts of the world camp of peace is spreading more and more, for this policy coincides with the interests of the peoples.

As a result the American and German warmongers find themselves in a difficult situation. They see the crash of their plans. The third world war, which they would like to unleash as quickly as possible, is being put off for a long time.

In their anxiety they resort to adventurist measures. One of these measures was the fixing of June 17, 1953, as "X-day", when they planned to deliver, from Berlin, a heavy blow at the German Democratic Republic.

This was an attempt, utilising the Western Berlin bridgehead, to switch to Germany the flames of war which the peoples are putting out in Korea. This attempt will suffer fiasco.

Why did the warmongers choose this particular moment for their fascist provocation against the German Democratic Republic? On June 11 the Government of the German Democratic Republic decided on measures which will lead to the further strengthening of the German Democratic Republic and contribute in a big way to the struggle for a united Germany, for agreement between Germans. With a view to ensuring a decisive improvement in the conditions of the working people, and of the workers in the German Democratic Republic in the first place, it took a number of measures including those designed to increase the output of consumer goods, for developing private initiative in handicraft industry and in small and medium industry by widely granting credits and the necessary raw materials and other materials. It put an end to the excesses in financial policy in relation to transport fares and social insurance. People who fled from the Republic, including wealthy peasants, were granted permission to return with all confiscated property restored to them; thousands who had been arrested were released. Pupils expelled from the middle schools and school teachers who had been dismissed were reinstated. The zonal borders and the sector borders in Berlin were thrown wide open.

The effect throughout Germany of the decisions of the Political Bureau and the Government made the position of the warmongers still more difficult and prompted them to provoke, as quickly as possible, the long-prepared "X-day".

The Party and the Government began to correct the political line hitherto pursued in the German Democratic Republic since this line had not led to a rapid rise in the standard of living of the population of the German Democratic Republic and did not conform to the all-German struggle for unity and peace. The Political Bureau stated that the general situation called for re-consideration in a new light of the course hitherto regarded as correct. Being the leadership of a Marxist-Leninist Party the Political Bureau publicly announced its conclusions, pointed to the mistakes made last year and recommended to the Government the first steps for correcting the mistakes. It had already begun to elaborate a general plan for improving the conditions of the working people which would be submitted to the Central Committee for approval. At this moment the Western agencies resolved on "X-day" in order to frustrate realisation of the turn towards improving conditions in the German Democratic Republic.

The enemies of the people themselves openly spoke about "X-day". Jakob Kaiser said: "It is possible that X-day will come soon... Our job is to be prepared in the best possible way for solving all the problems. The general plan, it can be said, is ready!". In Western Germany there was, and there is now, an American agency which, on instructions from Washington, is plotting war and civil war. In Western Germany and in Western Berlin Adenauer, Ollenhauer, Kaiser and Reuter directly organised the preparations for "X-day". For instance, in the guise of a "research council", and, with the active aid of the Americans; a special headquarters was set up in the Ministry headed by Jakob Kaiser for the purpose of carrying out acts of sabotage and acts of

civil war; this “research council” received millions of marks from the secret funds of the foreign and German imperialists. In Western Berlin Kaiser and Reuter systematically trained and armed in terror organisations war criminals, militarist and criminal elements.

American gangster methods were added to the old experience of the fascist assassins: in this way fascist scum were brought together again, Adenauer, Ollenhauer, Kaiser and Reuter, jointly with the foreign warmongers, bear full responsibility for the blood shed during the smashing of the fascist gamble.

For the purpose of unleashing their provocation the enemies used the discontent which arose among certain sections of the population as a result of our policy of last year. On June 13, 1953, during a pleasure cruise for the workers of the state-owned “Industriebau Berlin” enterprise, a cruise in which enemy agents from some of the big enterprises took part, preparations were made for a strike of building workers. The date for the provocation was fixed for Tuesday, June 16. Simultaneously, the enemies infiltrated bandit columns, supplied with sulphur, phosphorus and petrol bottles and arms through the sector borders for the purpose of turning, by means of deceit and inciting slogans, the work stoppage of honest building workers into a demonstration against the Government and, by means of arson, robbery and gunfire, to impart to this demonstration the appearance of a revolt. Simultaneously, they instructed groups of agents in other parts of the Republic to organise similar actions next day, and in yet other places a day later. The fascist degenerates, infiltrated from Western Berlin and guided from there, organised looting of food stores, attacked hostels of the working youth, clubs and shops and tried to murder Party functionaries and functionaries of the mass organisations and state apparatus who courageously defended our democratic system. On the basis of lists prepared in the agency centres in Western Berlin fascist and other criminals were set free in a number of places, as was the case, for instance, with the SS woman Erna Dorn commandant of the Ravensbrück concentration camp for women, sentenced by a democratic court for her savage crimes against humanity. Thus an attempt was made to establish a fascist regime in the German Democratic Republic and to block Germany’s way to unity and peace.

As a result of the timely steps taken by broad sections of the population, heroically supported by the people’s police, and as a result of the steps taken by the Soviet occupation authorities who imposed a curfew, the foul encroachment on the German Democratic Republic, on Germany and on world peace ignominiously failed within 24 hours. As a result, the premeditated wholesale bloodshed was averted.

II. PRESENT SITUATION

Calm prevails throughout the Republic. Work is proceeding normally. A large number of provocateurs have been arrested while the others do not dare to raise their heads at the moment. However, calm is far from being completely ensured. The enemy is continuing his subversive activity. Foreign aircraft are parachuting—as was the case previously over Thuringia, Saxony-Anhalt and elsewhere—groups of bandits equipped with arms and secret radio transmitters. Trucks intercepted on the Leipzig-Berlin highway were found to be carrying arms for groups as yet undiscovered. The enemy is switching to large-scale acts of sabotage. With the participation of Adenauer, Ollenhauer, Kaiser and Reuter, who personally are inspiring the bandit columns, the provocative RIAS radio station is trying might and main to breathe new life into the lost gamble.

At the same time changes in the tactics of the enemy can be observed. The undiscovered groups of the enemy agency have been told to go to earth and camouflage themselves. Simultaneously the enemy is circulating secret slogans and is trying to provoke new disturbances. In view of the fact that large masses of the workers are now aware of the aims for which the enemy sought to use their discontent, the latter is resorting to acts of provocation in the rural districts. He is calling for sabotage of supplies for the urban population in order to get a fresh pretext for fostering discontent among the workers.

Consequently the task now is resolutely to smash the enemy completely to liquidate the fascist gangs and, with our own forces; create a firm basis for order and ensure realisation of the new course of the Party and the Government. What is needed for this?

III. OUR PARTY AND THE WORKING CLASS

For this it is necessary above all to clear up the confusion among those sections of the working class which allowed themselves to be deceived by the enemy, that those who, without realising or without wishing it, succumbed to the influence of their mortal enemies—the monopoly capitalists and fascists—get rid of this influence so that the relations of confidence between the working class, the Party and the Government are restored.

What is the situation today?

The overwhelming majority of the enterprises throughout the Republic did not take part in the strikes. In many instances the workers chased the groups which came to their enterprises and urged them to strike; they demonstratively remained at work just to show that they were against the stoppage. In many cases the workers spontaneously pledged to increase output in order to prove their loyalty to our Party and our Republic and to make up for the losses. But in many of the enterprises which took part in the strikes and where work has now been resumed some of the workers are embittered. They think that the Party and the Government have abandoned them. They still do not realise that the smashing of the fascist provocation benefits them as well. that it is the basis for their future life. They still have not grasped the interrelation of events with the result that they see only their own local, production demands and thus lose sight of the decisive factor that the fascist provocation took place because and after the Government had decided on a number of measures aimed not only at satisfying the just demands of the working people but also for the creation—and this constitutes a new course!—of an economic life and of conditions in the enterprises and throughout the German Democratic Republic which will not brook repetition of failure to respond to just demands. Above all, these workers do not realise that their worst enemies—the American and the big capitalists in Western Germany who trample on their own workers, throwing millions of them onto the streets, dooming them to hunger and demoralising them—use their demands in furtherance of their own aims the realisation of which must inevitably lead to a situation in which the security and life of the workers in the German Democratic Republic are placed in jeopardy. The overwhelming majority of the workers who were taken in by the provocateurs realised this the moment they saw the provocateurs selling fire; using petrol and phosphorus, to workers' clubs, the hostels of the working youth and the factory canteens built with the hands of the workers. "We did not want this!", they said. "We are not doing the right thing".

The present moment calls for work and the Party will not play into the hands of the enemy: it will not dissipate its forces on talk as to how things could have reached such a pass among part of the working people. At the present moment we must act. Therefore the Central Committee, at this decisive moment, says but one thing: if the masses of workers do not understand the Party then the Party and not the workers is to blame!

From this principled standpoint all functionaries and members of our Party must draw the conclusion of the need most carefully to distinguish between honest working people upholding their interests who temporarily fell under the influence of provocateurs, and the provocateurs themselves. The honest workers who temporarily had been led astray have not, because of this, ceased to be honest workers, and they must be respected as such. Those honest workers who have not yet realised their mistake, also have not ceased to be honest workers because of this, and must be respected as such. It is they precisely who most of all need the help and patience of the Party. It is they precisely who most of all need the Socialist Unity Party, even if this is not yet clear to them. The Central Committee expects all Party members and functionaries to prove now the maturity of their consciousness and their magnanimity by conducting wholehearted work precisely among this section of the working class.

The Central Committee expect, at the same time, that all members and functionaries of the Party will take sharper action against the real provocateurs, expose them before the working masses and, with their help, hand them over to the security organs. Firmly resolved to defend with an iron hand the interests of the workers against fascist provocation the Central Committee is, at the same time, fully aware that along with this the Party must effect a change in its approach to the working class, beginning from today!

The need for this change is proved by the attitude displayed by many functionaries and Party members during these days. While tens of thousands of our functionaries and Party members have maintained and maintain now the closest contact with the masses, other tens of thousands sit at their desks, draft all sorts of circulars and wait. The Party must at any moment and particularly just now be with the masses. The entire Party must be rallied for the purpose of patiently convincing the masses. The Central Committee therefore expects that functionaries in all spheres, functionaries of the central apparatus, in the regions and districts will, from tomorrow on, go to the enterprises. In all enterprises Party meetings and meetings of workers must be held at which our functionaries must openly and boldly answer the questions of the workers and other working people and begin consistent struggle for the interests of the working class, for the well-being of all working people, for explaining the new line and carrying it out, for overcoming the incorrect views of the honest workers, but against the provocateur.

The test of the success of our explanatory work will be the adoption by the worker-collectives of a decision, based all inner conviction, to support the new political course of the Party and Government, the realisation by them of the need for active struggle against all provocateurs, open and secret.

IV. IMMEDIATE MEASURES

No foul attempts at interference by the foreign and German warmongers will force the Central Committee to abandon the work of carrying out the new course. In these

attempts it sees but further confirmation of the correctness of its course. It is going ahead with the new course in a planned way ..

The decision of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of June 9 and the decision of the Government of the German Democratic Republic of June 11 outline the first measures of the new course the basic aim of which is, in connection with the reduction of planned assignments in heavy industry, to improve the living standards of the workers, peasants, intelligentsia, handicraftsmen and other middle strata of the population.

The Central Committee adopts today, within the framework of the far-reaching economic changes, the realisation of which is called for by the new course, the second series of measures:

1. Wages shall be based on the norms which prevailed up to April 1, 1953.
2. Reduction of fares for workers with season tickets will, beginning with July 1, 1953, constitute, for workers and office employees receiving up to 500 marks per month, 75 per cent as against the former regulation.
3. The minimum old-age pension, disability and accident pensions are increased from 65 to 75 marks per month.

The minimum widow's pension is increased from 55 to 65 marks per month. Pensions received for partial disability are increased from 45 to 55 marks per month. Where the wife (husband) of a pensioner in receipt of old-age pension, disability or accident pension does not get a pension and is incapacitated or has reached old age, the extra sum paid to the husband or wife shall be increased to make the pension of the two, together with the extra sum, amount to a minimum of 95 marks per month.

4. Inclusion of holidays for treatment or for recuperation of health at the expense of the annual holiday is nullified.

5. The decision of March 19, 1953, excluding voluntary insurance from social insurance is nullified.

Assurance pensions, additional insurance and life insurance which prevailed up to March 31, 1953 are restored for all citizen's in accordance with the old rates and rights.

German insurance agencies shall accept health policy-holders without medical examination in accordance with the rates which prevailed up to April 1, 1953.

6. The building and repair of apartments, particularly in the large cities and industrial centres, must be considerably extended. At the expense of the sums saved from curtailing investments in heavy industry and in industry of the basic means of production, to allocate in 1953 a supplementary sum, in addition to that stipulated in the plan, of 600 million marks for extending housing (new construction, extensions, repairs), and also for street repairs.

7. To allocate an additional sum of 30 million marks in 1953 for improving hygienic and sanitary installations in the publicly-owned enterprises. The trade unions leadership in the enterprises shall submit corresponding proposals to the Central Boards of their unions which shall verify these proposals and submit them with their viewpoint to the respective Ministries for their decision. Publicly-owned enterprises of local industry must forward their proposals to the regional organ.

8. In 1953 an extra 40 million mark shall be allocated for construction, extension and rehabilitation of socio-cultural premises and buildings in the system of the public health services, such as, for example, the one-day rest homes, trade union sanatoria, kindergartens and creches.

9. Provision of workers with footwear and overalls shall be improved in accordance with the proposals submitted by the Board of the Amalgamated Free German Trade Unions.

10. In the third quarter the daily cuts of electricity for the population shall be annulled by restricting consumption of electric power by heavy industry.

The State Secretariat for electric power is requested to submit to the Government by August, 1953, the necessary proposals for ensuring an adequate supply of electricity to the population during the winter months.

The Central Committee will, in the near future, meet again—following the elaboration of further essential measures—in order fully to inform the Party and the public about all problems in connection with the new political and economic tasks. Already today the Central Committee draws attention to the basic fact that the initiative of the Party and the Government for improving the standard of living of all sections of the population can be successfully realised only in case the working people, convinced of the need for a systematic increase in labour productivity, further develop emulation, spread the methods of the innovators and raise to the proper level leadership and organisation in the publicly-owned industrial enterprises. The Central Committee, therefore, welcomes the decisions of the many factory collectives which have called for making good the considerable production losses caused by the destruction and outrages.

Let every Party member, every working man and woman realise that the preservation of peace and the realisation of German unity depends, in large measure, on raising the standard of living in the German Democratic Republic, on the consolidation of our democratic state power, on the creation of a really model democratic state on German soil.

Adenauer, Ollenhauer, Kaiser and Reuter have taken a course for war. Hence they direct blows against us. Hence Western Germany is being converted into a centre of fascism and reaction.

Our Party and our Government stand for peace. Therefore, we follow the course of a model peace economy. Our new course is the keenest weapon in the hands of all Germans against any military provocation on German soil.

To work, comrades!

Whet your vigilance, redouble your efforts and strengthen discipline.

Long live the Socialist Unity Party of Germany—the standard bearer in the fight for peace, unity and democracy!

Long live the Government of the German Democratic Republic, the Government of peace and labour!

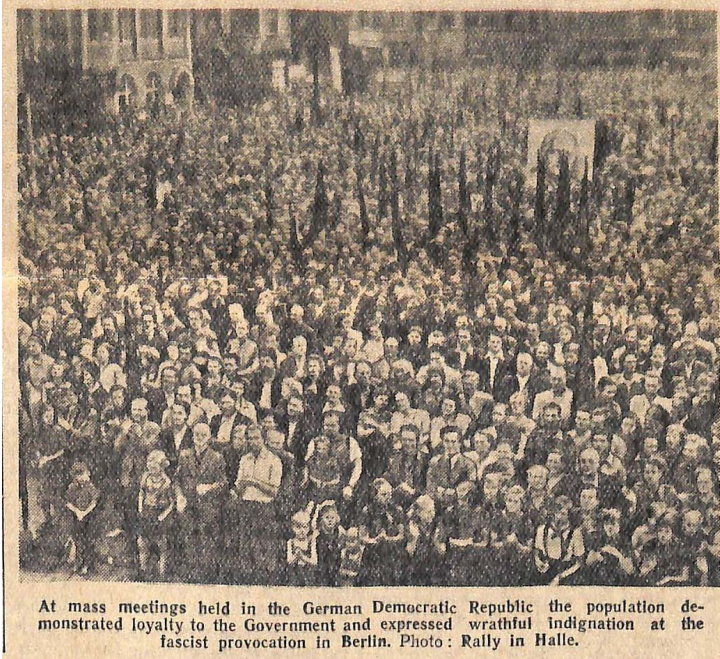
Long live the President of the German Democratic Republic Wilhelm Pieck!

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

NO 26 (242), FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1953

7. PEOPLE OF GERMANY BRAND FASCIST PROVOCATEURS—HIRELINGS OF WESTERN POWERS

Population of German Democratic Republic Expresses Full Confidence in party and Government-German Press Review



At mass meetings held in the German Democratic Republic the population demonstrated loyalty to the Government and expressed wrathful indignation at the fascist provocation in Berlin. Photo: Rally in Halle.

At mass meetings held in the German Democratic Republic the population demonstrated loyalty to the Government and expressed wrathful indignation at the fascist provocation in Berlin. Photo: Rally in Halle.

Big meetings and rallies of working people are being held in all towns and villages, in mills and factories, in offices and educational establishments throughout the German Democratic Republic. The workers, peasants, office employees, engineer-technical personnel, teachers, doctors, art workers and students attending these meetings express wrathful indignation at the criminal provocation of the foreign hirelings in Berlin. At the same time they declare their loyalty to the Government of the German Democratic Republic, their readiness to work for the implementation of the new course of the Party and Government, to fight for peace and German unity, and their determination resolutely to repel the encroachments of the fascist provocateurs on the democratic gains of the working people in the Republic.

A number of big enterprises reports were delivered by Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister and Chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, Wailer Ulbricht, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party, by members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party, Ministers and other leading functionaries of the Party and Government. These meetings were a lucid and convincing demonstration of the unity of Government and people, a manifestation of the deep trust the working class reposes in its own Socialist Unity Party.

Addressing the workers of the "Karl Liebknecht Transformer Plant" in Berlin, Comrade Otto Grotewohl quoted the words spoken by a woman worker of this plant on June 17: "I helped to build our plant. And if today provocateurs threaten its existence, I shall fight this danger. That is why I want, from today, to be a member of the Socialist Unity Party".

After Comrade Grotewohl had delivered his report, Muller, a team leader, expressed the striving of the advanced section of the working class to achieve a speedy improvement in the well-being of the entire population by raising labour productivity,

Mullar said that his team mates wanted recognition of the voluntary 15 per cent rise in the norm.

The criminal provocation of foreign hirelings in Berlin opened the eyes of the workers who had hitherto given ear to the propaganda of the enemies of peace. At a meeting of the workers and office employees of the “Kabelwerk Köpenick” enterprise in Berlin, Siemanowski, non-party man, said: “I have given much thought to the events of June 17, I consider that we ourselves can settle the things that we have to regulate with the Government. We don’t need any bandits from Western Berlin for this. I personally, and all of us, resolutely condemn the predatory attack, the arson and all the other things. These were not our intentions. We were all far from this”. As if continuing this trend of thought Karl Biesiansczyk, a non-party worker in the “Pumpen-und Gebläsewerk” publicly-owned enterprise, wrote to the “Leipziger Volkzeitung”: The events of June 17 clearly showed me that this was the act of criminal fascist gangs who sought to wrest the united working class from the Government, to sow confusion among the population... I, a non-party worker, firmly stand for our Government, since it openly admitted its mistakes and took care to rectify them. Therefore, I abide by the obligation I assumed on April 1, 1953, to raise the norm on 131 operations by 7—55 per cent”.

Speaking on behalf of all miners in the Zwickau-Oelsnitzer coalfield Josef Zach, renowned hewer, said: “... Our miners stand firmly for the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and for our Government. We will not suffer to be destroyed the things that we ourselves, with our own hands, have built in the past eight years”.

These words of the ordinary workers testify to the growth of their class consciousness, to the consolidation of the bonds between the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the Government of the Republic and the broad masses of the working class during these days.

The democratic press featured the text of the radio address of the Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic to the peasants. In this speech Comrade Otto Grotewohl explained the latest decisions of the Government directed towards improving the well-being and working conditions of the peasantry. The fascist circles, said Otto Grotewohl, who last week tried to foment disorder in the towns of the Republic, are now trying to persuade the peasants to refrain from delivering milk and meat. The Prime Minister called on the peasants not to be taken in by the provocation and to reply to the machinations of the West German reactionaries and the warmongers by rallying all their forces in order to gather the harvest quickly and without losses.

The calls issued by the Government and the Socialist Unity Party are meeting with a widespread response among the working population of the Republic. The peasants who fled to Western Germany but who, after the decisions issued by the Government of the German Democratic Republic, returned to their homes, are actively participating in creative work.

The working peasantry are taking action side by side with the working class. Werner Meink, a peasant from Quastenburger (Neubrandenburg rural district), decided to reply to the fascist provocation by delivering his first grain to the state. “What is more”, he said, “I will sell 200 kilos of pork to the state. Let the working class know that the working peasantry is in close alliance with it”.

The working people are whetting their vigilance, multiplying their efforts in peaceful construction. The personnel of a number of enterprises of the Republic have reported to the Government pre-schedule fulfilment of the plan for the first 6 months of the year. The “ABUS” engineering works in Gotha—publicly-owned—fulfilled the

half-year plan by June 20, while the Freital pit fulfilled its plan 100.4 per cent by June 22.

Together with the working class and the peasantry the intelligentsia is also expressing unanimous support for the policy of the Government. Many prominent representatives of the intelligentsia such as the Director of the Institute of Biology and Medicine in Buch (Berlin) Professor Lohmann, non-party, Kuri Trepte, actor, and many others, on June 17 demonstrated their loyalty to the Government and set an example of high civic courage by boldly taking action against the fascist provocateurs. In his letter to "Neues Deutschland" Bruno Kleeberg, film producer in the "DEFA" film studios and National Prize winner, writes: "... the things that took place on Wednesday in the streets of our city were staged by fascist assassins who planned these actions as 'X-day'. Our duty, as film workers, is to work still closer with the working people and reveal to them the behind-the-scene inspirers of the disorders in the democratic sector of Berlin".

With profound gratitude the working people of the Republic greeted the manifestations of solidarity and sympathy on the part of all peace supporters throughout the world and, above all, the solidarity of the Soviet people, expressed at meetings now being held in many countries. Bierhals, leader of a youth learn in the "Bergmann-Borsig" publicly-owned enterprise in Berlin, said: "My comrades and I read with feelings of pride the call of the personnel of the Vladimir Ilyich plant in Moscow to the workers in the 'Bergmann-Borsig' enterprise..., our aim is to be worthy of the fraternal solidarity of the Soviet people".

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The Adenauer clique, which acted on the orders of the U.S. imperialists, tried to muzzle the democratic press in order to conceal the truth about their part in organising the fascist adventure. They confiscated, for example, the June 22 and 23 issues of the "Sozialistische Volkszeitung" containing true reports about the provocation in Berlin and its organisers. The editorial board was charged with "preparing an act of state treason". However, Adenauer and his accomplices were unable to conceal their criminal designs. Even the capitalist "Frankfurter Allgemeine" (Western Germany), commenting on the June 17 events in Berlin, was forced to admit that the provocation was encouraged from Western Berlin. Here is what it said: "This, like the night of blood staged by Goebbels, was engineered by the fascists and not, as alleged, by the oppressed population of Berlin".

The events which took place in Western Berlin and Western Germany following the shameful failure of the fascist provocation on June 17, the destruction by fascist gangs on June 18 of the premises of the district bureaus of the Socialist Unity Party in Steglitz, Zehlendorf, Wilmerisdorf] and in Neukölln (Western Berlin) by police-aided fascist gangs, the burning of the House of the Communist Party of Germany in Duisburg on the night of June 19, the fascist actions in Braunschweig—revealed to the Western German population the sinister designs of the enemies of peace and of the unity of Germany. Many workers from the Ruhr, in reply to the fascist provocation in Berlin have expressed the desire to join the Communist Party of Germany which consistently upholds their interests. Twenty-six workers applied for membership of the Communist Party of Germany in the "Westfalen-Hütte" Works in Dortmund. On June 23, with the support of the Social Democratic leaders of the West German trade unions, the Adenauer clique, in an attempt to foment revanchist settlements, tried to force the workers to stop work for 5 minutes in token of "mourning" for the

provocateurs who perished during the events in a Berlin. This attempt was wrathfully rebuffed by the majority of the working class in Western Germany and was a shameful fiasco. "They will never get us, Ruhr miners, to express solidarity with terrorists and incendiaries", said a miner in the "Bismark ¼" pit, expressing the opinion of the majority of the Ruhr miners.

Protests against the provocation staged by the enemies of peace and of the unity of Germany are swelling among the broad masses of the population in Western Germany. Here, for example, is the statement made by Peter Wieck, Frankfurt on Main journalist and member of the Social Democratic Party: "The disorders in Berlin have shown who is for war. We must stand solid because the warmongers have not relinquished their designs. Be vigilant—this is the slogan of the day".

Active striving for peace and for the unity of the country is embracing increasingly broader masses of the population in Western Germany.

For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy!
NO 27 (243), FRIDAY, 3 JULY 1953

8. PEOPLES RESOLUTELY CONDEMN FASCIST GAMBLE IN BERLIN **Solidarity Meetings with Working People of German Democratic Republic**

All over the world the peoples indignantly branded the criminal adventure engineered by the fascist hirelings in Berlin and expressed solidarity with the working people of the German Democratic Republic.

The fascist provocation in Berlin was indignantly condemned by the working people of the Soviet Union. In Moscow, Tbilisi, Kiev, Minsk and other cities of the **Soviet Union** they voiced resolute solidarity with the working people of Germany courageously battling against the provocations of the enemies of peace. True to the banner of proletarian internationalism, the Soviet people remind the people of Germany that the path to national regeneration lies through peace and democracy alone.

"In these difficult days for the German people we voice our complete solidarity with the working class and all working people of Germany and, together with them, we are convinced that the provocation in the democratic sector of Berlin was the work of those who fear a peaceful solution of the German question, who fear consolidation of the democratic forces of the German people and who hate the successes of the German Democratic Republic which has firmly taken the path of peace and democracy", says a message to the workers of Berlin, adopted at a thousand-strong gathering of workers and office staff of the J. V. Stalin Automobile Works in Moscow. Expressing the thought of the personnel of his plant and of all the working people of Stalingrad—the hero city—Matveichev, worker in the tractor plant, said:

"The provocation in Berlin is closely linked with the provocation of the Syngman Rhee clique in South Korea. The enemies of peace are in mortal fear of relaxation in the international tension. They know that the hopes of the peoples for peace in Korea and for settlement of the German question fill the hearts of millions of people with joy. They are trying might and main to kill this hope. But the events in Berlin show that the cause of peace is invincible and that the forces of the great camp of peace are growing and becoming consolidated".

The Soviet people, together with all the peoples vitally interested in a stable and durable peace, are extending the hand of friendship and aid to the German people in

their just struggle for peaceful unification of their country, against the machinations of the enemies of peace.

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A powerful wave of protests against the fascist provocation in Berlin has swept **Poland**. The working people of Warsaw, miner and metal workers, builders and railwaymen resolutely condemned the organiser of the provocation and voiced their solidarity with the working class of the German Democratic Republic who rebuffed the adventurers who had run amuck.

The several thousand-strong personnel of the “Stalinogrod” pit declared in a unanimously adopted resolution:

We are profoundly indignant that the enemies of peace and progress are resorting to fresh ways and means of creating a hotbed of war. We express our solidarity with you, comrades in the German Democratic Republic, with your struggle for a better and happier future for your homeland and for consolidating peace among the nations of the world.

Sczcein shipbuilders in a letter to shipyard workers in Rostok assure the German shipbuilders of their complete solidarity with the struggle waged by the working people of the German Democratic Republic and all patriotic forces of Germany for a united, peace-loving democratic Germany.

“Rude Pravo”, reflecting the unanimous views of the working people of **Czechoslovakia**, points out:

“The smashing of the fascist coup and the carrying out of the measures of the Government of the German Democratic Republic serve the interests not only of the people of Germany but also the interests of the people of Czechoslovakia and all peace-loving mankind, since peaceful settlement of the German question based on unity of Germany and democracy, the prevention of Western Germany from being turned into an advanced base of the reactionary forces thirsting for war is one of the main prerequisites for world peace”.

At numerous meetings and rallies held in **Rumania** the working people express their firm resolve to uphold peace.

“In Berlin the black forces of war witnessed the might of the peace forces which, on this occasion too, emerged victors”, said, Lucretia Barbu employed in the Gh. Gheorghiu-Dej factory in Bucharest. “The workers of our factory add their voice to the voices of the millions of honest people throughout the world who condemn the criminal acts of the provocateurs of a new war. Our people, like other peoples, who have suffered from the aggressive policy of German imperialism, are keenly interested in the establishment of a peace-loving Germany”.

“Why did the enemies of peace stage their provocation in Berlin precisely last week?”, asked “Szabad Nep”, **Hungary**, in the June 27 issue. “The answer is: the evil forces of war committed the Berlin crime because both the international situation and the situation in Germany are developing in favour of the forces of peace, whereas the war maniacs are trying might and main, no matter what the cost, to arrest this development”.

Working people in **Bulgaria**, in factories and villages, in scientific institutes and establishments, at meetings devoted to the fourth anniversary of the death of Georgi Dimitrov—great son and leader of the people of Bulgaria, hero of the Leipzig trial—indignantly denounced the organisers of the fascist provocation in Berlin and expressed fraternal solidarity with the working people of the German Democratic

Republic. The working people of the Dimitrov district in Sofia sent a telegram of greetings to the working people in Leipzig. Greetings were sent to the Berlin workers by the working people of the Stalin district in Sofia.

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The gamble of the Bonn hirelings of reaction evoked profound indignation among varied strata of the population in **France**. "The French people", wrote "l'Humanite", "have no intention of becoming involved, in the interests of the Adenauers and Kaisers, in a gamble which would turn the Potsdamer-Platz into the 38th Parallel of a third world war". The organ of the French Communist Party points out that the pogroms and looting perpetrated by the provocateurs, the arson and destruction of new apartments, the use of incendiary bottles—all clearly show the fascist nature of the gamble engineered in Berlin on June 17.

"Frightened at the prospect of peaceful re-unification of Germany," concludes "l'Humanite", "the Western Powers seek at all cost to preserve the split between the East and West of the country. This was the reply of the party of war to the powerful movement of the German masses for a Four-Power conference for the settlement of the German problem".

It is characteristic that many French newspapers far removed from the working class expose the genuine nature of the adventure of the Bonn hirelings of imperialism. For example, "La tribune des Nations" published a map of Berlin stressing that the "most bitter manifestations occurred on the border of the Western sector".

Mass protest meetings and rallies against the provocation of the foreign hirelings in Berlin and against the Syngman Rhee provocation in Korea were held all over **Italy**. Big meetings in Genoa, Verona, Padua, Venice, Livorno and Pescara were addressed by the leaders of the Communist and Socialist Parties, by independent political leaders and by representatives of the democratic organisations. The resolutions adopted at these meetings strongly condemned the actions of the provocateurs.

The **London** "Daily Worker" reveals the aim of the German imperialist and their foreign masters in their foul game:

"If people from East Berlin had attempted to demonstrate in the West, the American, British and French troops could have united to prevent them and the whole affair would have been declared to be a Communist-inspired riot. When fascists and all kinds of declassed riff-raff, under American orders to wreck the prospects of peace, invade East Berlin they are classified as 'fighters for freedom'".

The calculations of the imperialist gamblers in Berlin, the foul attempt by the forces of reaction and fascism against the peace and security of the German people suffered shameful fiasco. The working people of the world declare that in the future, too, they will continue to whet their vigilance in order to frustrate any provocation by the enemies of peace.

For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy!
NO 27 (243), FRIDAY, 3 JULY 1953

9. WORKING PEOPLE OF GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC EXPRESS FULL CONFIDENCE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT

The working people of the German Democratic Republic and all peace-loving Germans have answered the June 17 fascist provocation with a broad movement in support of the Government measures aimed at further improving the conditions of the people and at a speedy restoration of the unity of Germany. In the stream of letters, messages and resolutions addressed to the Government representatives of different sections of the population express support for the political course of the Socialist Unity Party and the Government and pledge to spare no effort in carrying it out.

In a resolution addressed to the Government the Democratic Bloc in the Ludwigslust district declares that the measures of the Government aimed at improving the conditions of the population and at achieving the unity of Germany correspond to the aspirations of all peace-loving and honest Germans.

The Central Board of the liberal-Democratic Party adopted a resolution which condemned the June 17 fascist provocation, expressed confidence in the Government of the German Democratic Republic and called upon the members of the Liberal-Democratic Party to spare no effort in the struggle for the speedy realisation of the noble national aims of the German people—the establishment of a united, independent, democratic and peace-loving Germany and the signing of a just peace treaty with Germany.

For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy!
NO 28 (244), FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1953

10. AGAINST PROVOCATIONS OF ENEMIES OF PEACE

The gamble of the foreign hirelings in Berlin and the criminal Syngman Rhee provocation in Korea evoked the indignation of all people of good will. Considerable sections of the public in all countries point out that these provocations were committed precisely at the moment when, thanks to the efforts of the Soviet Union and the democratic camp as a whole, the idea of negotiations began to prevail over the idea of inciting international conflicts, when a real opportunity appeared for easing the international tension.

The U.S. capitalist press, aided by the reactionary press in Western Europe, now seeks to misinform public opinion, to conceal the real inspirers and organisers of the provocations, namely, the aggressive imperialist circles in the U.S. It is precisely for this reason that a noisy slander campaign was unloosed against the countries of the democratic camp.

But truth will out!

And, willy-nilly, the truth about these events penetrates even into the columns of the Western press. Way back in May this year the American magazine "Monthly Review" pointed out that individuals like Chiang Kai-shek, Syngman Rhee, Adenauer and John Foster Dulles would surely have a go at organising "super-provocations". The Berlin venture was precisely one of these "super-provocations". Millions of dollars were lavished on the preparations for it. The London "New Statesman and Nation" recalled that millions of dollars had been spent on radio stations and "on the organisation of an underground in Eastern Germany". The "Economist", another British journal, commented: "Here, surely, is the kind of climax towards which the propaganda of the BBC, the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe has been working for years".

It is common knowledge that the U.S. Congress allocates hundreds of millions of dollars for the upkeep of spies, assassins and provocateurs whom the U.S. intelligence organs infiltrate into the peace-loving countries. From the above-mentioned statements of the British press it follows that not a few million dollars from this fund were spent on training spies and diversionists in Western Germany. The reactionary circles in the U.S. were the inspirers of the notorious "X-day"—the plan of attack on the German Democratic Republic.

In recent months representatives of the U.S. Administration have displayed special interest in Berlin. In April, Wilson, U.S. Secretary for Defence, visited Berlin. Wilson was followed in May by a special State Department commission whose members included William Donovan former chief of the U.S. Strategic Service. On June 15 the press reported that General Ridgway had paid an "unexpected" visit to Berlin... The democratic press justly points out that this succession of visits was far from being accidental, that it was a tour of inspection of the state of preparedness for the June provocation.

When the Berlin provocation of the foreign hirelings ended in scandalous fiasco the reactionary circles in the U.S. sought to shed their responsibility for it. But they will not succeed in deceiving the peoples!

It is a fact that the gangs of fascist thugs were formed and trained in the American Zone.

It is a fact that U.S. officers directed the actions of the provocateurs, instructed them and openly issued orders to them.

It is a fact that U.S. aircraft dropped leaflet, prepared in advance, over the democratic sector of Berlin.

All the facts testify that the threads of the June 17 provocation lead to the American sector in Berlin, to the American Occupation Zone in Germany.

Equally irrefutable is the fact that Syngman Rhee's provocation was perpetrated with the obvious connivance of the U.S. military authorities and that reactionary circles in the U.S. continue to encourage Rhee's efforts to break-up the negotiations.

The Indian newspaper "Age" commented: If America wants Asia to believe in its honesty and the sincerity of its striving to establish peace in Asia it must stop its devilish instigation of Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai-shek who have proved to be the bitterest enemies of peace in Korea.

The word "peace" evokes panic among the ruling circles in the U.S. The American newspaper "Capital Times" frankly admitted that Rhee's diversion aimed at prolonging the war, was a moment of great joy for those Americans who sought to convert the Korean conflict into a big war against Communist China and the Soviet Union.

The adventurist policy pursued by the U.S. ruling circles is meeting with increasing resistance in the West European countries. Even the U.S. bourgeois press admits that serious differences exist between the U.S.A. and the West European states on vital international issues, that Europe is sick of U.S. aid and that dissension is rife between the U.S. and its partners. Walter Lippmann, "New York Herald Tribune" commentator expresses the view that there is a break-up of the structure of U.S. foreign policy in relation to Europe and that no admonitions or threats to stop subsidies can repair or restore it.

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The failure of the Berlin provocation has not brought its organisers and inspirers to their senses.

Reactionary newspapers and congressmen in the U.S. call for a repetition of the provocation against the German Democratic Republic, for provoking disturbances in the People's Democracies, for intensification of the subversive activity against the U.S.S.R. The "New York Herald Tribune" calls for an active underground of anti-national, reactionary forces in the People's Democracies. According to this newspaper the fomenting of new provocations is worth taking some risk.

The purpose of this provocative campaign, as acknowledged by the American press, is to aggravate the international situation, to exert "pressure" on the U.S.S.R. But is it not clear that this long-bankrupt "policy of force" is doomed to failure this time too. It is impossible to disregard the lessons of history. And the lessons of history testify that the policy of diktat and threats has never brought success to those who sought to apply it in relation to the U.S.S.R.

The facts cannot be ignored. And the facts testify that the peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union meets with growing support all over the world, whereas the adventurous policy of U.S. aggressive circles is angrily condemned by the peoples and does not meet with support even among their Atlantic bloc partners.

The aggressive circles in the U.S. pay no heed to the general striving of the peoples for peace. They hatch slander campaigns, resort to provocations, seek to aggravate the international situation at all cost. They think that in this way they will achieve their aggressive aims more easily. But the results are the reverse. Anyone who is not blind can see that such an unreasonable policy merely leads to greater isolation of the aggressive circles.

Peace-loving mankind follows with close attention the intrigues of the enemies of peace. It sees its task in further whetting its vigilance, in further developing the fight for peace and against the criminal encroachments of the enemies of peace.

For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy!
NO 28 (244), FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1953

11. POLITICAL NOTES

Lies Behind American "Philanthropy"

Long ago Mark Twain described the sham generosity of the "holy" American businessmen as a sweet smelling, sugary lie. A specimen of this hypocrisy is the American "offer of aid" to the German Democratic Republic, widely publicised by the reactionary press subservient to the American monopolists.

After the ignominious failure of the transatlantic-inspired fascist provocation in Berlin, the aggressive ruling circles in the U.S. decided to assume the role of generous benefactors. Acting on instructions from President Eisenhower the American Government noisily announced that it considered it necessary to render urgent aid to the population of the German Democratic Republic and to send it food to the amount of 15 million dollars. Used to trampling on the elementary standards of international decency, the American Government did not even trouble to ascertain the view of the lawful Government of the German Democratic Republic on this matter.

But this time, too, the American imperialists received a merited rebuff: the working people of the German Democratic Republic justly evaluated this offer of "the U.S. billionaires as a provocation which had nothing but propaganda aims, having nothing whatever to do with solicitude for the genuine interests of the German population.

No matter how hard the U.S. dollar magnates try to assume the guise of “friends” of the German people they will not succeed in concealing the irrefutable fact that it was they who, staging the criminal provocation on June 17, tried in every way to disrupt the steadily improving food situation in the German Democratic Republic, their growing well-being. It is well known that hired thugs of the Western Powers set fire to food shops and other stores. It is they, the American “benefactors”, who, having suddenly become imbued with solicitude for the German Democratic Republic, subject West German firms to brutal persecution for trading with the German Democratic Republic. It is they who unlawfully confiscated the dollar accounts of the German Democratic Republic in the West German banks, thereby causing serious damage to its economy.

Despite all these attempts to undermine and disrupt the economy of the German Democratic Republic, the food situation there, as pointed out by its press, has never been so stable as it is today. The Government of the German Democratic Republic adopted a number of new measures which improved food supplies for the population. Large quantities of meat, sugar, canned fish, butter, margarine, grain, etc., were withdrawn from the state reserves to provide extra food for the population. For example, to improve supplies for the citizens of the town of Stralsund an extra 50 tons of sugar was provided, 90 tons of margarine, 16 tons of butter, 9 tons of vegetable oil, 23 tons of canned fish and other products. And if the transatlantic “philanthropists” really wanted to aid those who need it most they should have turned their eyes in another direction. They could take care of the millions who are unemployed and semi-unemployed in Western Germany. Launching their provocative “aid action” the transatlantic “benefactors” prefer to say nothing about the steadily worsening conditions of the working people and the dire plight of the working class in Western Germany, about intensification or the sweating system and the paltry wages, about the soaring prices for food and other prime necessities, about the growing tax burden, the falling purchasing power of the population, the impoverishment of the toiling masses. All this is the outcome of the remilitarisation of Western Germany carried out at the behest of the American imperialists.

The Washington “benefactors” also prefer to keep silent about the fact that there are at least three million wholly unemployed and over eleven million working short time in the U.S. These unfortunate millions, deprived of a livelihood, have no illusions about the generosity of the Wall Street money-bags.

When plotting this latest provocation the “transatlantic reactionaries pursued the aim not of improving the conditions of the working people but of discrediting the organs of power in the German Democratic Republic and of establishing intelligence centres there. They wanted to raise the spirits of their agents, to aggravate the tension in international relations. Public opinion in the German Democratic Republic completely exposed these criminal designs of the imperialists.

The curtain over the real aims of Eisenhower’s “philanthropy” was raised partly by the U.S. Journal “U.S. News and World Report”. On the day the U.S. Government announced its “aid” offer this journal featured an article under the characteristic headline: “Ike’s Plan: Food to Win Friends”. The article unequivocally points out that the so-called “farm surpluses” are designed to play the role of a diplomatic asset for the U.S. abroad and for other “urgent” tasks of U.S. “relief” “and incidentally to outshine the Communists”.

Contemporary U.S. businessmen consider, apparently, that they can buy entire nations and states with dollars. But the peoples have had enough of the Marshall “aid”, of “military aid” and other U.S. philanthropy.

The working people of the German Democratic Republic reject with contempt and wrath the provocative offers of the U.S. Government, they do not want to yield their sovereign rights to the gum-chewers, for musty egg powder and other state American goods.

Jan MAREK

For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy!
NO 29 (245); FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1953

12. STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT OF GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

An extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic, held in Berlin on July 15 was addressed by Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl. After detailed discussion the meeting unanimously adopted the statement of the Council of Ministers of the Republic.

The statement points out that in connection with the election campaign in Western Germany Adenauer seeks to portray himself as champion of a united Germany. It states further that, Adenauer, "still adheres to his former stand of dismembering Germany, and his demagogy about unification is simply an election stunt".

"Should Adenauer and his clique", the statement continues, "stubbornly insist in the future too on their policy of dismemberment the German people will find ways and means to re-unite their country without Adenauer and against Adenauer".

The Government of the German Democratic Republic, the statement continues, "will spare no effort in working for the speedy re-unification of Germany and for the signing of a just peace treaty with Germany with subsequent withdrawal of all occupation troops". The new political course of the Government of the Republic is aimed at "creating material and cultural conditions in the German Democratic Republic which also correspond to the interests of the majority of the West German population and which will be approved by it when Germany is re-united".

Despite the provocative actions of Adenauer the Government of the German Democratic Republic is willing to negotiate with authorised representatives of Western Germany concerning preparation for the peaceful re-unification of Germany by means of free all-German elections, concerning the speedy conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany. It suggests that an all-German conference of East and West German representatives be held as soon as possible in order to discuss these questions.

On July 21 the German press published a statement by Wilhelm Pieck, President of the German Democratic Republic; who welcomed the statement of the Council of Ministers. "The experience of the past eight years shows to our people", stressed W. Pieck "that we can achieve a united, democratic and peace-loving German state and curb the forces of reaction, fascism and aggression, which are raising their heads in Germany, solely by means of joint action by Germans in the East and West of our country".

All honest German patriots consider the new peace initiative of the Government of the German Democratic Republic a practical measure for the unification of Germany in the interests of the German people and of world peace.

For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy!
NO 30 (246), FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1953

13. Work of Organisations of Socialist Unity Party of Germany In Trade Unions

The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany called on all Party organisations to improve work in the trade union.

The Party organisation in the state-owned "HF" enterprise in the Köpenick district of Berlin has not devoted due attention so far to work in the trade unions. This resulted in poor political work among the masses, in lack of attention to the suggestions made by non-party workers concerning production, to their wishes. Trade union workers did not understand their functions. For example, chairman or a shop trade union committee restricted himself to collecting membership dues and distributing ration coupons for textile goods, etc.

At present, trade union meetings are held in all the shops with the Party members actively participating in them. The workers express their desires and make numerous suggestions. These meetings help to explain political and economic questions to non-party workers and simultaneously utilise their initiative and experience.

The leadership of the Party organisation in the enterprise obliges the members to hold talks with the non-party workers and to see to it that their valuable suggestions and remarks are translated into life. In the forging press shop, for example, women workers told a Party member that they were badly supplied with overalls. In a few days new overalls were issued to them. The Party leadership in the "HF" enterprise is helping to eliminate the shortcomings in trade union work and is strengthening its contact with the workers and with the lower trade union activists.

For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy!
NO 30 (246), FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1953

14. PLENUM OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY

The XVth Plenum of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany was held on July 24-26 with Comrade Otto Grotewohl in the chair.

The report of the Political Bureau on the "Present Situation and the New Course of the Party" was delivered by Comrades Otto Grotewohl and Walter Ulbricht. Forty-two comrades took part in the discussion which continued for two days. The Central Committee unanimously adopted the basic document, "The New Course and the Party's Tasks".

The Plenum unanimously removed Fechner from the membership of the Central Committee and expelled him from the Party as enemy of the Party and the state; it also unanimously removed from membership of the Central Committee Comrades Zaisser and Hermstadt who acted as an anti-Party faction with a capitulatory line directed against the unity of the Party. Comrades Schirdewan and Ziller were co-opted to the Central Committee.

For the purpose of improving the leading bodies of the Central Committee the Plenum resolved to abolish the Secretariat of the Central Committee in the form in which it existed hitherto. The Plenum elected the Political Bureau of the Central

Committee composed of the following comrades: Ebert, Grotewohl, Matem, Oelssner, Pieck, Rau, Schirdewan, Stoph and Ulbricht. Honecker, Leuschner, Muckenberger and Herbert Warnke were elected alternate members. Muckenberger, Oelssner, Schirdewan, Ulbricht, Wandel and Ziller were elected secretaries of the Central Committee. Comrade Walter Ulbricht was unanimously elected first Secretary of the Central Committee.

For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy!
NO 31, (247), FRIDA, JULY 31, 1953

15. NEW COURSE AND TASKS OF PARTY

Resolution of 15th Plenum of Central Committee, Socialist Party of Germany

At its 15th plenum, held in Berlin on July 24-26, the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany adopted a resolution on the new course and the tasks of the Party.

In essence, says the resolution, the new course aims, at achieving, in the near future, a big improvement in the economic situation and political conditions in the German Democratic Republic and, on this basis, a substantial rise in the standard of living at the working class and of all working people. Improvement in the conditions of the people must be achieved by increasing output of the food industry and of light industry at the expense of heavy industry, by fostering the initiative of private trade and privately-owned industry and also by encouraging peasant production. The entire social life must be democratized to a still greater degree and simultaneously communication between East and West must be facilitated. At the same time, these measures also pursue a great national aim—the aim of strengthening the peace forces and of furthering the cause of re-unification of Germany.

The Central Committee points out that realisation of the new course has already yielded a number of substantial results. The resolution outlines the measures adopted by the Government of the German Democratic Republic for raising the living standard of the workers, peasants, intelligentsia and other sections of the population. Due to these measures, says the resolution, the purchasing power of the population in the German Democratic Republic will increase during 1953 by approximately 2,000 million marks.

The resolution goes on to say that the Government has also taken measures to “eliminate the tension in relations between the state and the church”; democratic law has been reinforced, many persons sentenced for minor offences have been released and many pending cases annulled.

These measures, stresses the resolution, are the first steps taken by the Party and Government along the road of the new course which is the political line of the Party, effective for a long period and aimed at reinforcing the struggle for peace, for unity and well-being.

The Central Committee points out that the proclamation and carrying out of the new course in the German Democratic Republic have wrought confusion and evoked anger among the warmongers and the enemies of German unity. They sensed the serious danger of the new course to their criminal military designs, to realising the general military treaty and decided, therefore, to speed up the long prepared “X-day” with a view to preventing the carrying out of the new course.

The resolution analyses the situation in which the fascist provocation of June 17 was carried out.

The exposure of the imperialist agent Beria, reads the resolution, also points to the international tie-up of this broadly conceived provocation. The Central Committee or the Socialist Unity Party of Germany thanks the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. for its timely exposure of the traitor Beria. The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany expresses firm confidence in the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. and declares its indissoluble ties of the Lenin-Stalin Party.

The resolution stresses that the fascist putsch of June 17 suffer a fiasco. The majority of the population of the German Democratic Republic, particularly the working class, did not support the provocateurs; they vigorously rebuffed them. The general strike, plotted and widely publicised by the organisers of the putsch, did not take place because the overwhelming majority of the workers refused to take part in it. A bare five per cent of the workers in the Republic participated in the strikes. The overwhelming majority of the working intelligentsia also firmly sided with the Government of the German Democratic Republic. The provocateurs were rebuffed also by the peasant masses. In the majority of towns and enterprises the Party organisations vigorously headed the workers against the provocateurs and frustrated the putsch. This rebuff to the provocateurs by the majority of the population was the main reason for the defeat sustained by the fascist putschists on June 17.

The state organs of the Republic and particularly the Soviet occupation troop made a decisive contribution to thwarting the fascist war provocation.

The failure of the putsch of June 17 proved that the democratic system in the German Democratic Republic is strong and inviolable because it relies on the majority of the working people.

“However,” reads the resolution, “the Party must draw serious lessons from the events of June 17 and speedily overcome the shortcomings in its work, manifested during these days.

“June 17 proved that there exists in the German Democratic Republic a fascist underground organised and backed by the Americans. On that day whole groups of camouflaged enemies of the people emerged from the underground and fomented disturbances in some towns (Magdeburg, Halle Gorlitz and elsewhere). Underground fascist organisations were discovered which had their own centres, their own discipline and which maintained close contact with espionage organisations in West Berlin. The leading role in these organisations was played by former active Nazis”. In addition, points out the resolution, in some towns (Magdeburg, Leipzig, etc.) there were illegal organisations of former members of the Social Democratic Party of Germany who still adhere to the anti working-class standpoint of Social Democratism and who, therefore, fell easy victims to the agents of the “Eastern Bureau” who circulated fascist slogans among the workers and organised strikes.

Other hostile groups—Brandler espionage groups, Trotskyites, groups of the so-called Socialist Workers’ Party, etc.—were concentrated in certain towns. Hostile elements expelled from the Socialist Unity Party of Germany also took an active part in the provocations.

The resolution indicates that the events of June 17 resulted in hostile anti-democratic elements in politics, ideology and in the economy raising their heads; they advanced, in varied forms, demands designed to weaken and in the final analysis to liquidate the democratic system in the German Democratic Republic. The task of the Party is to take resolute action against activation of these hostile forces and to expose their anti-popular essence before the population.

After the failure of the provocation the enemy attempted to defend his exposed agents from action by the democratic organs of the state.

The former Minister, of Justice, Fechner, incriminated in anti-state activity, used his position to protect the fascist provocateurs from just punishment. On Fechner's instructions a number of active organisers of hostile activity were released. The orientated the courts in the direction of acquitting all American agents and initiators of the provocation without exception. This was direct and conscious help to the enemy—the U.S. and West German saboteur organisations and fascists.

Simultaneously Fechner, as Minister of Justice, was responsible for numerous cases of lawlessness and unjust sentences imposed on working people in the Republic.

The Central Committee decided to expel Fechner from the Central Committee and from the ranks of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany as an enemy of the Party and of the state.

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A special section of the resolution deals with the tasks of the Party in economic and state life in connection with the new course. The resolution notes that realisation of the main task of the new course which consists of radically improving the economic and political situation in the German Democratic Republic, is possible by effecting an all-round increase in industrial and agricultural production in the German Democratic Republic, with the fraternal aid of the great socialist Soviet Union and the People's Democracies and also by developing German trade and international trade.

Fulfilment of this basic task will make for greater consolidation of the forces of the international camp of peace, democracy and Socialism, will be a concrete contribution to the cause of re-unification of Germany.

In its resolution the Central Committee outlined a number of measures essential for carrying out the new course. These measures include revising the Five-Year Plan and the national-economic plan for 1953 in the direction of reducing capital investment in heavy industry in favour of greater production of consumer goods.

It is intended to raise output of heavy industry in 1953 by roughly 5.5 to 6 per cent instead of the 13 per cent stipulated in the plan. Output of light industry is to be raised approximately 10 per cent instead of the 7.1 per cent adopted in the plan.

It is intended to raise in 1954 and 1955 gross output of industry as a whole by an average of 7 per cent, with overall output of the means of production rising annually by approximately 5 per cent and the volume of consumer goods by approximately 10 per cent.

It is intended to expand dwelling-house construction, raise agricultural yields, increase live stock to approximately the figure stipulated in the Five-Year Plan, while the number of pigs—will exceed the figure of the Five-Year Plan. It is also intended to provide machine and tractor stations with a considerable number of tractors and other agricultural machines.

In keeping with the rising purchasing power of the population and greater supply of goods, says the resolution, the turnover of the retail trade must be increased compared with the provisions of the Five-Year Plan; the turnover of private trade likewise must be considerably increased.

The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany draws the attention of the organisations to the need to fight for fulfilment of the economic plan, for higher labour productivity and for better labour discipline. The best means for achieving

these result, says the resolution, is the development of broad emulation in all publicly-owned enterprises.

In carrying out the new course in the sphere of agriculture, continues the resolution, all possible help and support must be given to the individual peasant farms which already benefit from considerable state aid. This help must be given first of all to the small and middle peasants, but rich peasants can also qualify for credits and other state aid for developing their farms.

The state will continue its aid to the agricultural producer co-operatives; the main attention must be devoted to the organisational and economic consolidation of the producer co-operatives. The voluntary principle must be strictly observed.

The resolution says that the "further strengthening of the democratic system and strict observance of democratic law are vital components of the new course". An important job in this sphere is to bring the administrative apparatus as a whole closer to the masses and to strengthen its contact with them. A prerequisite for this is, above all, the elimination of purely administrative methods and constant and relentless struggle against bureaucratism. Fostering of criticism and self-criticism will release the initiative of the masses for improving the work of the state bodies.

At the same time the job of strengthening the state power must be continued in order to ensure that this powerful instrument protects the rights of citizens and upholds law. Vigilance must be sharpened in relation to the enemies of democratic development.

The work of the Democratic Bloc at the centre and in the regions, districts and communities must be replenished and revitalised. The democratic parties and the mass organisations must resolutely improve and intensify their joint work in the bloc for strengthening the democratic system in the German Democratic Republic and for improving the conditions of the population.

In the sphere of culture, says the resolution, the new course signifies continued effort for developing the national culture. For the purpose of giving special help to the development of progressive science and art it is necessary to provide scientists and art workers with every opportunity for free creative endeavour. Care must be taken to develop the national traditions and interests of German culture. Friendship with cultural workers in the U.S.S.R. and in the countries of people's democracy must be encouraged. The tremendous achievements of Soviet science and art must be carefully studied and fulfilled in accordance with the specific conditions in Germany. Art workers of the German Democratic Republic must be enabled to meet cultural workers in Western Germany.

The resolution stresses that the new course is aimed both at strengthening the peace forces and at furthering the re-unification of Germany. An important prerequisite for the unity of Germany is agreement among the Germans of the East and of the West on concrete measures for securing unity. Hence, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Government of the German Democratic Republic will fight with still greater persistence for agreement under the slogan "Germans, sit around the same table".

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany, says the resolution, will intensify its efforts for all-round consolidation of the National Front of Democratic Germany and, in this way, help the great patriotic movement for unity and peace.

Since the working class is called upon to play the leading role in the national struggle the Party will do all in its power to achieve united action by the working class throughout Germany.

Agreement between Germans of the East and of the West would also' hasten the signing of the long-awaited peace treaty with Germany on a democratic basis. The Party demands that the decisions of the Budapest session of the World Peace Council for settling international conflicts and disputes by means of negotiations and mutual understanding be carried out.

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The last two sections of the resolution are devoted to Party policy, to its successes and shortcomings and to the next tasks.

During the brief period of its existence, says the resolution, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany has achieved great historical success. Relying on the unity of the working class, won in the course of the struggle which has continued for decades, our Party, occupying a leading position, established the new democratic state in which the decisive influence is exercised by the working class; it began to build a new economic system in which there is no longer any place for capitalist exploitation; it took the leading part in depriving the Junkers of power and in expropriating them, establishing thereby a new democratic life in the countryside and, for the first time in the history of the German working-class movement laid firm foundation for the alliance of the working class and working peasantry. Our Party took the initiative in launching the new cultural development which will lead to a new flowering of German science and art.

No-one and nothing can deprive the Socialist Unity Party of Germany of the merit for these truly great achievements which will go down forever in the history of the German people.

Our Party headed the struggle in Germany for preserving peace. It displayed initiative in organising the great patriotic movement for the unity of Germany. At the suggestion of the Party and with its leading participation the National Front of Democratic Germany was founded. Our Party repeatedly advanced concrete proposals for solving the great-national question of the German people and consolidated in the German Democratic Republic the base for the national struggle of the Germans. It began the patriotic education of the German people and raised aloft the banner of national struggle.

The resolution stresses that "the Socialist Unity Party of Germany is the genuinely national Party of the German people" and that

"The general line of the Party was and remains correct".

Simultaneously the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany points to a number of mistakes made recently in the practical work of the Party.

"The Party", says the resolution in particular, "having taken the correct course of laying the foundations of Socialism in the German Democratic Republic, took the incorrect path of accelerating the carrying out of this task without giving due consideration to the real internal and external prerequisites. This resulted in too high a tempo in developing the national economy, particularly in heavy industry, led to incorrect attempts to dislodge and abolish the medium and small urban bourgeoisie and the big farmers in the countryside".

The Party organisations, the resolution goes on, were correct in supporting the movement for the formation of producer cooperatives, initiated in the Republic by the working peasants. However, in some districts the Party organisations tolerated violations of the strictly voluntary principle when forming co-operatives, tried to accelerate their numerical growth without paying due attention to the organisational

and economic strengthening of the existing cooperatives which is the main task of the Party in the sphere of co-operative development in the countryside.

“Building of the new life in the Republic”, says the resolution, “is taking place in conditions of dismemberment of the country. This gives rise to specific, peculiarities and difficulties in building the new life; the monopolists who rule in Western Germany are engaged in illegal subversive work against the German Democratic Republic, having the backing of the U.S. imperialists and wide possibilities for organising subversive work in West Berlin, that is in the heart of the German Democratic Republic.

“The dismemberment of the country led to the severing of the old economic contact inside the country, and this had unfavourable consequences also for the economic situation in the German Democratic Republic. However, these economic difficulties can be overcome with the help of the Soviet Union and the democratic world market.

“The fact that Germany is dismembered, which for the German people is a great misfortune and signifies a threat to peace in Europe, makes the struggle for its reunification on a democratic and peaceful basis the main task of the Party”.

Consequently, Party policy in the German Democratic Republic, the resolution points out, must be simple and clear, open and purposeful, so that it can be understood by the common people. The new course of the Party is such a policy.

The resolution points out that in the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany there was a manifestation by an anti-Party faction with a capitulatory line aimed against the unity of the Party, a platform aimed at discrediting the Party and at splitting the Party leadership (Comrades Zaisser and Herrstadt).

The Central Committee resolved to remove Comrades Zaisser and Herrstadt from the Central Committee of the Party.

The resolution then outlines a number of tasks aimed at the further organisational strengthening of the Party ranks, at developing inner-Party democracy, intensifying propaganda strengthening the Party’s contact with the broad masses of the working people, etc.

One of the main tasks, the resolution points out, is the further strengthening and consolidation of the unity of the Party on the firm foundations of Marxism-Leninism. Inside the Party it is necessary to develop inner-Party democracy on the widest scale. Violation of the Rules of the Party—the highest law of inner-Party life—cannot be tolerated.

Of particular importance is the development of collective leadership in all leading bodies of the Party. Collective Party leadership is the surest guarantee against mistakes and for ensuring correct and stable leadership.

The number of meetings and commissions must be cut to the minimum, and all the attention of the activists released thereby shall be devoted to the direct carrying out of Party tasks. Secretaries of the district and regional committees of the Party and leading functionaries in the Party apparatus are recommended to organise their work so that at least half their working time is spent in the lower organisations, giving them the necessary help. Secretaries of Party organs, including secretaries of the Central Committee, must regularly deliver reports and lectures at Party and working-class meetings.

The educational work of the Party must be re-organised in order to ensure that it does not merely provide general knowledge in isolation from the everyday work of the Party but, based on study of the works of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin, equips the Party members and probationers for better solution of their task. Consistent and

principled struggle against bourgeois ideology and particularly against social democracy must be intensified.

In all Party work it is necessary to utilise, much more so than in the past, the rich political and organisational experience of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which is the model for every Marxist-Leninist Party.

“Our Party”, the resolution continues, “is at the beginning of a new stage in its history. Relying on the victorious teaching of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, closely linked with the glorious Communist Party of the Soviet Union and with its Central Committee, in firm friendship with the world camp of peace, democracy and Socialism, the Party sets out on its new course... It is fully resolved to carry out this course steadfastly and consistently no matter what the resistance.

The thing now is to rally the Party ranks still more closely around the Central Committee, to strengthen firmly and unshakably the Party’s contact with the broad masses of the working class to strengthen still more the alliance of the working class with the working peasantry and intelligentsia because the entire experience of history teaches that only under the leadership of the monolithic Marxist-Leninist Party, only in close unity with the toiling masses can the working class triumph over its adversaries and build a new life of peace and prosperity.

The way is clear!

Forward along the new course to the well-being and happiness of our people!

Long live the struggle for peace, unity, democracy and Socialism!

Long live the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the Party of the working class and of the German people!”

For a Lasting Peace, For a People’s Democracy!

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