

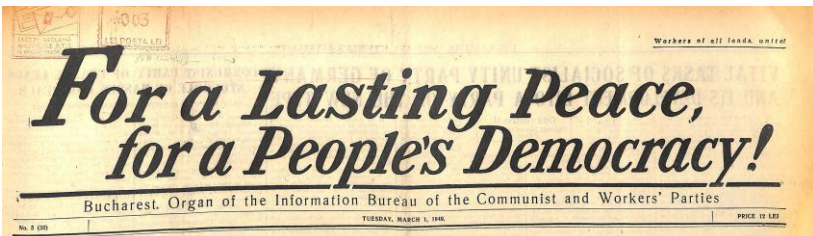
Workers of all lands, unite!

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

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



NO. 5 (32), TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1949



CONTENTS

RIGHT SOCIALISTS—ENEMIES OF PEACE AND DEMOCRACY.....	5
STRIKE ACTIONS OF ITALIAN WORKING PEOPLE	12
ALBANIA ACCEPTED TO COUNCIL OF MUTUAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE	13
LABOUR EMULATION IN HUNGARY.....	14
BERLIN CONFERENCE OF SHOCK WORKERS	15
MANIFESTO OF THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF CULTURAL WORKERS IN DEFENCE OF PEACE	16
ANNIVERSARY OF FEBRUARY VICTORY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA	19
VITAL TASKS OF SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY AND ITS DEVELOPMENT INTO A PARTY OF THE NEW TYPE. Otto Grotewohl, Chairman, Socialist Unity Party of Germany	23
COMMUNIST PARTY OF FRANCE LEADS STRUGGLE OF MASSES FOR PEACE	31
(PLENUM CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY).....	31
IMPERIALIST SLANDER AGAINST HUNGARIAN REPUBLIC. Josef Reval, Member, Political Bureau, Hungarian Workers' Party	35
BEFORE THE AUSTRIAN ELECTIONS. Ernst Fischer, Secretary, Communist Party of Austria	42
CONGRESS OF FRENCH INTELLECTUALS FOR CULTURE AND PEACE	48
TITO CLIQUE-RABID ENEMY OF U.S.S.R. AND PEOPLES' DEMOCRACIES. L. Bulatovic.....	49
Tito Clique Disarms Yugoslavia in Face of her Foreign Enemies ..	50
Counter-Revolutionary Internal Policy of the Tito Clique	56
EVE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY-MARCH 8.....	61
Women of the World Fight for democracy Against Warmongers. N. Popova, Vice Chairman, World Federation of Democratic Women, Chairman, Anti-Fascist Committee of Soviet Women	61
China Prepares for National Women's Congress	67
Movement of Women Shock Workers	67
Fight for Bread and Peace. Nella Marcellino, Member, Central Committee, Communist Party of Italy.....	69

Successes of Polish Women’s Movement	74
Unite All Supporters of Peace. R. Calas, Member, Central Committee, Communist party of France	75
CLASS STRUGGLES IN TUSCANY. Vittorio Bardini, Member, Central Committee, Communist Party of Italy	79
BULGARIAN TRADE UNIONS FIGHT TO CARRY OUT FIVE-YEAR PLAN. Raiko Damyanov, Chairman, central Council of Bulgarian Trade Unions	85
RUMANIA PREPARES FOR MARCH 8	90
STRIKING DEMONSTRATION OF SOLIDARITY BETWEEN BRITISH AND SOVIET WORKERS FOR PEACE, AGAINST INSTIGATORS OF WAR	91
RUMANIAN WOMEN TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN LIFE OF COUNTRY. Constanza Craciun, Member, Central Committee, Workers’ Party Rumania, Chairman, Union of Democratic Women of Rumania.....	97
FRANCE PREPARES FOR MARCH 8.....	101
CONSOLIDATION Of GERMAN ANTI-FASCIST BLOC.....	103
WOMEN IN PAS DE CALAIS DEPARTMENT (FRANCE) DEMONSTRATE FOR BETTER CONDITIONS.....	104
POLITICAL NOTES.....	105
Hangman Of Iraq And Greek Patriots Must Be Made To Answer For Their Crimes	105
Pope Pius XII and The Atlantic Pact	107
Wall Street “Adjusts Itself”	108

RIGHT SOCIALISTS—ENEMIES OF PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

Leading the powerful movement of the masses for peace and democracy, the Communist and Workers' Parties have won not a few successes in the struggle against the warmongers. Numerous plans of the warmongers have been roiled precisely because the Communist Parties daily and vigorously exposed the pseudo-Socialist demagogy, the treacherous policy and reactionary ideology of the Right Socialists—the henchmen of the warmongers.

The Right Socialists, who at one time toyed with Marxism and with revolutionary phrases, have openly broken with Marxism, have become declared enemies of all that is revolutionary in the working class.

The Right Socialists, servilely loyal to the bourgeoisie, do not confine themselves to justifying or camouflaging the predatory actions of the Anglo-American imperialists. Each day gives new proofs of how directly they are working to carry out the aggressive policy of the Anglo-American bloc, a policy aimed at enslaving the peoples of Europe and the world, at unleashing a new war. Approving wholeheartedly Truman's rejection of a Peace Pact, cringing before the imperialists, the Right Socialists are doing everything to besmirch the Soviet Union's proposals to strengthen peace and world security. The Alpha and Omega of their policy is again the old Munich line of isolating the Soviet Union.

These gentlemen are particularly zealous by their imperialist masters: they are hastily forming military political blocs and unions against the Soviet Union and the new democracies.

On orders from Washington, Bevin puts pressure on Lange, Right Socialist Minister of Foreign Affairs in Norway, and instructs him how to draw the Scandinavian countries “adroitly” into the orbit

of the North Atlantic Pact. Saragat, at the recent congress of his party, championed the immediate, wholesale inclusion of Italy in the European branch of this Pact—the so-called Western Union. Reuter, Schumacher's associate and former agent of van Papen in Turkey now touring Britain for the Labour Government, is calling on the people to intensify the "cold war" in Berlin, to support the division of Germany and complete the creation of a militarist West German State which would include the western sectors of Berlin. Blum and his accomplices are slandering the Communist Party of France for its patriotic and solemn declaration that the French people would never fight against the Soviet Union.

At the same time the representatives of the British Labour Government in the Security Council, loyally following the baton of their American conductor, are sabotaging the new proposals of the Soviet Union to cut down armaments and outlaw the atomic bomb, and are continuing to undermine the United Nations.

The traitors to the working class are doing their utmost to justify the "high" appraisal of their obsequiousness given by Harriman, Wall Street's gauleiter for the Marshallisation of Western Europe. In Harriman's Own words, the Social Democrats are the greatest potential ally of the United States in Europe, sharing a common cause. For the good of this shady "common cause" the Right Socialists united in the "International Conference of Socialist Parties"—Comisco—are assiduously helping to put the "Marshall Plan" into effect. They are zealously adjusting the policy and economy of the West European countries to fit the monopolist plans for Europe's military, political and economic enslavement.

The disastrous results of this Marshallisation carried out by the Right Socialists are already apparent. The national economy of each of the West European countries comes up against difficulty after difficulty; entire branches of industry are being closed down in the interests of the American monopolists and in some of these countries people are being

thrown out of work by the thousand.

Wherever the Right Socialists head the Government or are members of it, the conditions of the working people deteriorate. The profits of the big capitalists go up sharply, while the working people are forced to shoulder the burden of heavy armament expenditure.

In the powerful and, mounting wave of popular resistance to the Marshallisation of Western Europe and in the steady growth of the forces of the democratic, anti-imperialist camp, the Right Socialists can see an immediate menace to the aggressive plans of the Wall Street and City of London magnates with whom they have thrown in their lot. That is why these traitors are bringing into play their extensive experience of disruption and treachery in an effort to break the ranks and poison the conscience of the working class. They are propagating class cooperation with the bourgeoisie, are rejecting national sovereignty, scorning the idea of international working-class solidarity. They are loud in their praises of the Tito clique which has degenerated into a gang of imperialist reaction, and they uphold and circulate the utterly reactionary “doctrines” of the “American Century”.

Eaten up with hatred of the Soviet Union, the new democracies and everything progressive, they stoop to the foulest slanders and lies in unison with inveterate warmongers. Bevin and Slum making a quartet with Truman and the Pope, have started a frantic uproar around the case of the spy and plotter, Mindszenty, exposed from under his cardinal’s cloak. This latest slander campaign is carried out with the object of heightening the atmosphere of alarm and insecurity which holds an important place in the calculations of the Anglo-American aggressive bloc.

In their treacherous policy the Right Socialists resort to the most despicable methods—deceit and blackmail, corruption and forgery. Having thrown themselves heart and soul into the

war preparations, they are directing their main blow against the Communists in an attempt to behead the working-class movement. In this they follow in the footsteps of the notorious Un-American Committee.

Comisco is blackmailing the Italian Socialist Party with ultimatums, with demands to support the aggressive policy of the Anglo-American bloc and make a clean break with the Communists. The Rights in the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, with the instructions and finances of the American State Department's direct agents, Carey and Irving Brown, are now forming their international centre of Marshall trade unions, following the failure of their joint attempt to break up the World Federation of Trade Unions. The associates of Blum and Saragat are trying to undermine the big militant trade union organisations—the General Confederations of Labour in France and Italy, from whose leadership they were dislodged by the workers themselves.

The Right Socialists are no longer able to prevent militant mass actions of the working people, especially in France and Italy, by their "ordinary" strikebreaking methods. The army and the police are now brought out against the working class who are taking up the struggle with growing determination and closed ranks, under the leadership of the Communist Parties. The Right Socialists are trampling underfoot and curtailing the rights of the people conspiring with de-Gaullists and clerical reaction, and extending protection to the fascist regimes in Greece and Spain. In the past they paved the way for the coming to power of fascism in Germany and other countries. This earned for them in the working-class movement, the contemptible epithet "social fascists". Now, they are again bent on playing their despicable role of clearing the way for fascism.

Imperialism's colonial policy has found its most consistent and zealous champions in the persons of Bevin, Blum and

Spaak. The Right Socialists are directly responsible for the continuation of the war in Viet Nam, for the mass murder of the fighters for freedom in Iraq, Malaya and Burma, for the terrible reprisals against the people of Indonesia who are battling for their independence.

The steady growth of the power and prestige of the Soviet Union, the great successes achieved by the new democracies, the growth in numbers and influence of the Communist Parties, the upsurge of the working-class and democratic movement in the capitalist countries and the victories of the national-liberation struggle in the colonial and dependent countries—all this has broken the former influence of the Right Socialists among the masses. Their increasingly obvious servility to the Anglo-American imperialists is inevitably leading to a further sharpening of the crisis among the Right Social Democrats. In the new democracies and Soviet zone of Germany the fusion of the Communists and Left Socialists into Marxist-Leninist parties has irrevocably thrown the Right Socialists overboard so far as the working-class movement is concerned, has struck a blow at the whole of Right Wing Social Democracy. In the countries of Western Europe, the social basis of the Right Socialists—this main bulwark of the imperialist bourgeoisie—is shrinking.

The party of Blum and Moch is suffering defeat after defeat. The overwhelming majority of the working class of France is following the Communist Party and the General Confederation of Labour. The splinter “Force Ouvriere” is leading a sorry existence. The recent municipal elections in a number of French cities showed that the electorate is more and more turning away from Blum’s American party which has lost two-thirds of its membership during the past two years.

In Italy, under the leadership of the Communist Party, the working people are displaying their militant spirit; the strike movement is growing. The Saragats are unable to split the

General Confederation of Labour and to divert honest Socialist workers from uniting with the Communists. In Britain, rank and file trade union members are electing Communists to leading posts, despite Morgan Phillips' "black circular". The movement of trade unionists protesting against Deakin's machinations is spreading.

At the recent elections in Japan, the Communists scored a brilliant victory while the Right Socialists suffered a heavy defeat, losing more than half of their Parliamentary seats.

The Communist and Workers' Parties, staunchly defending the cause of peace, drawing democratic and patriotic elements into the struggle against the warmongers, have already inflicted a number of telling defeats on the Right Socialist henchmen of Anglo-American imperialism. Influenced by the courageous struggle of the Communists, the reactionary policy of the Right leaders in the Socialist Parties is being countered by the growing desire of the Left Socialists to join the common struggle, of the people against the aggression of Anglo-American imperialism and in defence of national independence and peace. In France the Left Socialist Party for Unity is cooperating more closely with the Communists. The Italian Socialist Party has come out against the pro-American decisions of the recent Saragat congress. Left wing members of the Labour Party are raising their voice in protest against the aggressive policy of Attlee and Bevin.

The immortal words of Lenin, addressed to the German working people thirty years ago, ring out prophetically today: As long as the German workers allow traitors to Socialism, scoundrels and lackeys of the bourgeoisie, the Scheidemanns and their whole party to be in power, there can be no talk of saving the German people.

It is appropriate today to recall these words of Lenin to the workers of the countries where, with the help of the State machine and the support of the imperialist bourgeoisie, the

present day Scheidemanns are causing enormous damage to the cause of peace and democracy.

Uniting all honest Socialists and democrats in the name of their countries' salvation from Anglo-American imperialist enslavement and for prevention of the war they are preparing, the Communists will head the struggle with still greater" confidence, energy and determination against the Right Socialists whom Lenin branded as the accomplices of the brutality and crimes of the bourgeoisie.

STRIKE ACTIONS OF ITALIAN WORKING PEOPLE

The fifty-day strike of Sicilian sulphur miners ended with complete victory on February 22. The miners won a 75 per cent increase in their wages which had not been adjusted since 1946, and a change in piece rates. The miners were widely supported by the mass of the people. On February 11, an hour's solidarity strike was held throughout Italy.

In Isola Liri, police recently opened fire on paper workers who protested at the dismissal of their comrades and occupied the factory. Thirty-five workers were wounded. A protest movement against these fascist methods spread all over the country. In Rome, paper and print workers stopped work for half an hour and in Frosinone for the whole day.

There is also a strike of 325,000 municipal employees and Civil Servants in the provinces. In many places the so-called autonomous trade unions had to join the strikes. The struggle of the Civil Servants has been going on for several months because the Government refuses to make the additional payment it promised them.

According to the figures issued by the Government agency, during last December alone unemployment went up by 200,000 to reach the 2,167,271 mark. This figure is below the truth, since it does not include 500,000 unemployed who have been left out of the Labour Ministry's summary.

ALBANIA ACCEPTED TO COUNCIL OF MUTUAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

The Government of Albania recently asked to be admitted to the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance, declaring that it supported the Council's basic principles.

The Albanian Government's request has been considered by the founder members of the Council, the Governments of the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Czechoslovakia who have agreed to admit Albania to the Council.

LABOUR EMULATION IN HUNGARY

“Szabed Nep” recently published an article by Comrade Piros Laszlo, Deputy General Secretary of the central committee of the Hungarian trade union federation, on results of the labour emulation drive in Hungary.

From March to August last year, 1,249 factories took part in the campaign; from August to the end of the year the figure was 1,531. In the course of the campaign 5,000 new labour brigades were formed.

The number of workers winning awards for shock work and for their part in the emulation drive has doubled and is now over six thousand.

In the first period an average of 120 workers received premiums for rationalisation suggestions and innovation in heavy industry alone. During the second period the monthly average was 224 workers. Two hundred and fifty rationalisation and innovation groups have been formed in industry.

The young people are intensifying their activity; 300 youth labour brigades have been set up.

According to “Szabad Nep”, the third period of the socialist emulation campaign is now under way throughout the country, opened by the initiative of workers at a large plant in Diosgyor.

BERLIN CONFERENCE OF SHOCK WORKERS

A conference of German shock workers was called recently in Berlin by the Board of the United Free German Trade Unions. Two thousand people were present, of whom over 1,200 were followers of the miner Adolf Hennecke, the shock worker who surpassed his targets by large amounts.

W. Ulbricht reported on the significance of the Hennecke movement and the fulfilment of the economic plan. The report and a number of other production matters were discussed.

The conference received greetings from W. Pieck and O. Grotewohl, Chairmen of the Socialist Unity Party.

MANIFESTO OF THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF CULTURAL WORKERS IN DEFENCE OF PEACE

The International Coordinating Committee of Cultural Workers for Defence of Peace which met recently in Paris, has issued a Manifesto addressed to all democratic organisations and all champions of peace.

The International Coordinating, Committee of Cultural Workers in Defence of Peace, the World Federation of Democratic Women, all the undersigned workers in culture, science, art and public figures draw attention to the fact that the threat to peace between the peoples is steadily growing, says the Manifesto.

In a number of countries the press, radio, and many politicians are openly inciting hostility and hatred toward other countries and are carrying on propaganda for a new war. Instead of a reduction of armed forces and armaments which it would be natural to expect after a world war, an unrestricted armaments race is in progress, military blocs are being formed, and the peaceful coexistence of the peoples endangered. War is raging to this day, in different parts of the world, set alight mainly by the interference of foreign states and by the direct operations of their military forces.

The peoples of the world do not want war, nor do they want another holocaust and frightful devastation. It is the duty of all honest workers in the fields of science, culture, art and literature, of all democratic organisations resolutely and unanimously to enter the lists in defence of peace between the

peoples.

Disturbed by the actions of the enemies of peace we address ourselves to all democratic organisations and progressive people in all lands—to the trade unions, the organisations of women and youth and to their international federations, to the peasant, cooperative and religious bodies everywhere, educationalists, scientists, writers, journalists, artists, and democratic Members of Parliament, to all who stand for peace, with the call for a World Peace Congress to be held in April with the aim of rallying the active forces of the peoples in all lands in defence of peace.

We urge all the above mentioned organisations and all progressive people to align themselves with our appeal for the World Peace Congress, and to signify their agreement either through the press or directly by letter to us.

We express the firm hope and confidence that all active democrats and organisations will support our call and take an active part in the work of the Congress.

Signed: International Coordinating Committee of Cultural Workers for Defence of Peace; World Federation of Democratic Women;

Aragon, Abbe Jean Boulier, Eliane Brault, Jean Cassou, Aime Cesaire, Raymond Cogniot, Pierre Cot, Aime Cotton, Eugenic Cotton, Gabrielle Duchene, Paul Eluard Justin Godard, Ives Farge, Frederic Joliot-Curie, Irene Joliot-Curie, Francoise Leclerc, Louis Martin-Chauffier, Pablo Picasso, Marcel Prenant, Paul Rivet, Mde. Romain-Rolland, Armand Solacrou, Elsa Triolet, Vercors, J. Crowther, Mary Pritt, D. N. Pritt, Nora Wooster, J. B. S. Haldane, D. Bernal, Adda Alessandrini, Massimo Bontempelli, Renato Guttuso, Guido Migiloli, Isa Miranda, Pietro Nenni, Camilia Ravera, Maria Maddalena Rossi, Giuseppe De Santis, Emillo Sereni, Ello Vittorini, Howard Fast, Ada Jackson, Albert Khan, Jenny Weltfish, Ella

Winter, M. Sholokov, A. Fadeyev, P. Fedoseyev, N. Popova, S. Vavilov, Wanda Wasilewska, Annette Olsen, Martin Andersen Nexø, Mimi Sverdrup Lunden, Andrea Andreen, Jerzy Borejsza, Jan Dembowski, Leon Kruczkowski, Praherova, Jan Drda, Anesca Hodinova-Spurna, Jan Mukarzowski, Bernhard Kellormann, Heinrich Mann, Otto Nuschke, Anrra Seghers, Sean O'Casey, Jose Jirai, Elisa Uris, Mulk Raj Anand, Pablo Neruda, Jorge Amado, Tsai-Tschang.

ANNIVERSARY OF FEBRUARY VICTORY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

On February 24 the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia held a meeting in Prague to mark the first anniversary of the February victory over reaction.

Comrade Slansky, General Secretary of the Party, delivered a report on “The Communist Party’s Twenty Years of Struggle Headed by Comrade Gottwald, and the February Victory”. He said:

February 1948 will go down in the annals of our country as a turning point bringing in a new epoch in the life of the Czech and Slovak peoples, the epoch of the power of working people of town and countryside, led by the working class.

The working class could not have won this victory had it not been guided by the well organised and experienced Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, a Party which Comrade Gottwald trained and moulded in Bolshevik fashion in the course of twenty years. That is why we are combining the February anniversary with the anniversary of the Fifth Congress of our Party, which took place in February 1929. At this Congress, Comrade Gottwald was elected leader of the Party. After the Congress, guided by an experienced leadership, the Communist Party rid itself of the survivals of reformism and resolutely combating the Right and Left opportunism in its ranks, grew into a strong and consolidated Party which won the confidence of the broad masses of the people.

Generalising the result and experience of the Party’s twenty years of struggle, Comrade Slansky dealt in detail on the tactics of the Party between the May revolution of 1945 and

the victorious February days of 1948. He pointed out that during these years the Communist Party had waged a severe struggle against the reactionaries exposing them in the eyes of the people as agents of imperialism; at the same time through its organisational work and its work among the masses the Party won over the majority of the people, rallied round it the working people and' the progressive democratic forces. The February victory was a result of the Party's correct policy. It proved that the Party had ably led the working class and working people. It demonstrated the political and organisational maturity of our Party.

The victory of the working people in February cleared the way for our country's rapid development to Socialism. After industry and large-scale foreign and home trade had been nationalised and the land reform carried out, the socialist sector of our economy expanded. The capitalist sector declined and the conditions were created which paved the way for its further decline.

The past year has been a period of consolidating the people's democratic republic, in which it has won major successes in economy, state construction and in organising the masses for the struggle to lay the foundations of Socialism in our country.

The working people fulfilled the Two-Year Plan and started the Five-Year Plan. We achieved considerable successes in strengthening the people's democratic system, healed the split in the working-class movement by uniting the Social Democrats with our Party on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, and we regenerated the National Front and purged it of reactionary elements. By uniting with the Communist Party of Slovakia, we reinforced the unity of the State. As regards foreign policy we strengthened Czechoslovakia's position by establishing still closer fraternal ties with the Soviet Union and the new democracies. Speaking of these successes Comrade

Slansky said: Today when we are advancing toward Socialism, the experience of the first socialist country in the world—the Soviet Union—is our Party's guide. If we have had the good fortune to begin the advance to Socialism under more favourable circumstances than the Soviet people, if we have been saved from the most bitter sacrifices, it is only because of the Soviet Union whose valiant army shed its blood for us; defeated the German occupation troops and drove them off our soil. Our further advance to Socialism will be secured if we treasure, strengthen and deepen our alliance and close cooperation with the Soviet Union, if we learn from the fraternal Communist Party—the CPSU(B) and follow the wise counsel of the great Stalin. (Mention of the Soviet Union and Comrade Stalin's name evoked applause turning into an ovation).

Turning to the tasks facing the Communist Party and working people of Czechoslovakia, Comrade, Slansky said: It suffices to recall the important task facing us in connection with the reorganisation of our small-scale economy into a socialist economy. Although we have crushed the power of the capitalists and big landlords, he said, we still have survivals of capitalism, ramified roots of the old, private capitalist economy. And until we eliminate the capitalist elements completely they will always try, instigated by alien reactionaries, to regain their lost privileges. The people's democracy, representing the power of the working people of town and countryside, headed by the working class, is successfully carrying out the functions of the dictatorship of the proletariat. This system can crush the resistance of the overthrown capitalists and landlords and frustrate their attempts to restore capitalist domination; it can organise a planned socialist economy, overcome the vacillations of the urban and rural medium strata, consolidate the main sections of working people round the working class and lead them into the

decisive battle for Socialism. The tasks of the struggle arising therefrom were formulated at the recent plenum of the Central Committee which indicated what has to be done to further restrict and dislodge the capitalist elements and develop a planned economy.

The vital economic tasks, as Comrade Slansky pointed out, are to make early preparations for the spring sowing, to fight for increased labour productivity and reduced production costs in industry, transport and construction work and to foster socialist emulation,

We are faced with important tasks also in our inner Party work, he said, We have suspended recruitment into the Party so that we can raise the ideological level of the membership, Our essential tasks are to draw members into active participation in the daily political life of the Party, to strengthen the control and check on whether Party assignments are carried out and to develop criticism and self-criticism. We must strengthen our ties with the masses, draw honest supporters, of the people's democratic system into our work, improve the leadership of the State apparatus and trade unions, and see to it that the Government's policy is fully carried out.

VITAL TASKS OF SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY AND ITS DEVELOPMENT INTO A PARTY OF THE NEW TYPE. Otto Grotewohl, Chairman, Socialist Unity Party of Germany

The very first days after the Soviet Army entered into the Soviet zone of Germany were days marked by the consolidation of progressive, democratic forces. The destruction of the Hitler dictatorship—the dictatorship of monopoly capital—created the conditions under which a democratic Germany could be built.

Like the people's democracies, the Soviet zone of Germany is indebted to the Soviet Army for liberating it from Hitler fascism and, safeguarding it against enslavement by Western imperialism. However, an analysis of the German situation shows that at present it is essentially different from that in the people's democracies. There is no domination of the working class in our country. We have not even got peace and a unified state. Despite the great successes achieved in bringing democracy to the Soviet zone, we can by no means say yet that a people's democratic system has been created here.

At present a large-scale movement is developing in Germany to save the nation from the attempts of the imperialist powers to enslave it. The policy of the imperialists is preventing the democratic unity of Germany.

The struggle for national independence and the country's unity is now the main task of the democratic forces in Germany. Our Party and our people must concentrate particularly on problems common to the whole of Germany. The development of Germany along the path leading to people's democracy is closely bound up with the intensification

of the struggle against the policy of enslaving Germany by the imperialist Western powers and their German accomplices.

In the Soviet zone the working class already holds decisive positions in the organs of power, but it still shares this power with other sections of the working people and even with propertied elements on the basis of the Bloc policy. For this reason it would be incorrect to define the system now existing in the Soviet zone as a people's democratic system. However, it would also be incorrect to call it a bourgeois-democratic system. The fact is that the state democratic organs of government in the Soviet zone, particularly the people's police, are no longer bourgeois organs of power. The socialised enterprises constituting the decisive part of our economy are not capitalist. The Socialist Unity Party considers its main task to be the strengthening of the anti-fascist, democratic order in the Soviet zone as the basis of the struggle for the restoration of German unity.

To solve this problem we must strengthen the policy of the Bloc with all the antifascist democratic parties. Our cooperation with other parties in the Bloc must be aimed at supporting the progressive forces and dislodging the reactionary elements.

The tasks put forward by the united committee of the anti-fascist democratic parties in 1945 are still vitally important. We must rally all the anti-fascist, democratic forces to fight against Nazi ideology, against imperialism and militarism. Economic rehabilitation, improvement in the people's supplies, elimination of the aftermath of war, renewed confidence of other nations in Germany and the development of a democratic state are the problems which all the antifascist democratic parties must fight to solve.

The Socialist Unity Party, leading the democratic forces in Germany, is displaying the necessary determination and energy in the economic construction and in strengthening the anti-

fascist, democratic system. Its influence and prestige among the working people are very great, thus giving it the necessary forces to solve the enormous task with which the country is faced.

The charge that the development of our Party into a party of the new type sharpens the class struggle is made by those reactionary elements who are pursuing a policy of restoring the domination of big capital and the Junkers, and who are trying to gain leading economic positions for themselves. The task of the Socialist Unity Party is to consolidate the alliance of the working class with the peasantry and the progressive forces throughout Germany, and through this, isolate reaction.

Of exceptional significance for the rehabilitation and development of a peaceful economy in the Soviet zone is the question of strengthening the law. Legislation has been established to protect the people's property and industrial enterprises against thieves, plunderers and wreckers. In the countryside, where the landlords have been dispossessed, the law safeguards the new way of life and strengthens the land reform which facilitates the mobilisation of forces, increased agricultural productivity and the consolidation of unity between town and country.

The pivot of our Party's policy remains the struggle for a united Germany, for a peace treaty and for a national democratic government. The Anglo-American imperialists are carrying out a splitting policy and are endeavouring to impose an occupation statute upon Western Germany, which would considerably prolong the occupation of Germany. At the same time their policy toward the Ruhr, the industrial heart of Germany, is to tear it away from the rest of the country's economy. This is an unheard of injustice to the German people.

Under the guidance of the Socialist Unity Party the progressive elements of our people have created the German People's Congress movement. The German People's Council,

the democratically elected leading organ of this movement, will bring the struggle for Germany's democratic unity to victory.

As fighters for national independence and Germany's unity, we express the just national demand of our people, a demand which is in accord with the peaceful interests of other nations our national aspirations are not in opposition to the vital interests of other peace-loving peoples. Our working class is linked with the working class of other capitalist countries through the common conditions of life and international solidarity. Our struggle for peace, democracy and Socialism links us with the progressive forces throughout the world. We feel that we are members of a great and ever growing democratic camp headed by the Soviet Union, the leader of the fight for peace.

In Western Germany, foreign monopoly capital has succeeded in bending to its will the Schumacher leadership of the Social Democratic Party and, through their help, a considerable part of the working people in order to carry out an anti-Soviet policy of treachery and revisionism. The Schumacher policy has shamefully degenerated into a policy of the Ruhr statute and the occupation statute which Schumacher himself has been demanding for a long time. The Schumacher leadership has become a centre of espionage, sabotage and disorganisation of the peaceful life in the Soviet zone in the interests of Western imperialism. The machinations of the shady business men of the "Eastern Bureau" of the Social Democratic Party cast great shame on the German working class movement.

The agents of imperialism are also trying to undermine our Party. By sowing suspicion they are hoping to start an inner Party quarrel and cause conflict between former Social Democrats and Communists.

However, the decision of the Eleventh, Twelfth and the

Thirteenth plenums of the Central Board of our Party made it possible to strengthen the Party ideologically and organisationally. There are still under-cover Schumacher agents in the ranks of the Socialist Unity Party who are hindering the political work of the Party. We must keep the Party ranks pure and raise the vigilance the membership. We should devote more attention to the ideological development of Party members and to the propaganda of Marxism-Leninism. Ideological weaknesses must be overcome by united efforts, but when we have to deal with the Schumachers, or those who by spreading opportunist, counter-revolutionary, Trotskyite ideas turn Party members into the enemies of Marxism, we must make sure that such people are ruthlessly purged from the Party. No one has the right to spread hostile political ideas in our Party. Any concession to opportunist or sectarian elements is a political mistake leading to a dilution of our strength as a Marxist party.

The great tasks facing our Party can be solved only when the Socialist Unity Party becomes a militant revolutionary party. In Germany, opportunism has caused far too much harm to the working class. The treachery of the leaders of German Social Democracy cleared the path to the most aggressive monopoly capital and enabled fascism to come to power. The Social Democratic Party which developed in peaceful conditions in the spirit of liberal parliamentarism and was infected with opportunism, had neither the strength nor the desire to combat imperialism.

Under conditions of imperialism the working class in all European countries is faced with the task of protecting and developing the Marxist doctrine of the proletarian party and of turning it into a party of the new type. The great service of Lenin was that he gave a Marxist analysis of the epoch of imperialism, drew correct conclusions from this analysis, created the doctrine of the proletarian party of the new type and

set up such a party. The catastrophic failure of the policy of the Social Democratic parties is contrasted with the unshakable victory of the revolutionary Party of Lenin and Stalin.

Our First Party Conference proudly declared that the unification of the Communist Party of Germany with the Social Democratic Party had stood the historical test and justified itself. The progressive changes effected in the Soviet zone are a striking proof that we have taken the correct path. Because it is vital to overcome the weaknesses in our ideological work and to master Marxism-Leninism, the Central Board of our Party has decided to do everything to improve and develop ideological work.

We are studying thoroughly the lessons of the German Revolution of November 1918 and the Information Bureau Resolution on the situation in the Communist Party of Yugoslavia which is of great educational significance for us. We have also intensified the study of the History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks). Through Party-wide discussion we achieved complete clarity on the question of the leading role of the Soviet Union in the antiimperialist struggle and of the leading role of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks)—the Party of Lenin and Stalin—in the international working class movement. It is becoming obvious to our membership that Germany's democratic development is possible only in close cooperation with the Soviet Union. The membership has correctly concluded that there is no place in our Party for anti-Soviet elements.

In the course of discussion we outlined our attitude to Leninism and explained to the membership that Leninism is Marxism developed by Lenin and Stalin in the epoch of imperialism. The majority of our Party members have become convinced that it is impossible to be a Marxist without being a Leninist.

We have also done a great deal to explain to the membership our attitude to Poland, particularly the fact that recognition of the frontiers on the Oder and Neisse is an indispensable condition for our friendly relations with the people's democratic Poland. During this Party discussion, the theory of a "special German way to Socialism" was exposed. This theory not only contradicted the principles of Marxism-Leninism but carried with it anti-Soviet and nationalist tendencies, preventing many former Social Democrat comrades from taking the path of Marxism-Leninism.

The former ideological dividing line between Communists and Social Democrat has now been almost wiped out. Consequently, the parity principle in assigning Party posts is no longer necessary. Indeed, it has become an obstacle to strengthening ideological unity because it perpetuated the division of the Party members according to their former Party membership. At the same time, over half a million new members joined the party after the unification. That is why it is necessary to replace the old parity principle with the new one: "More suitable and capable Party members for leading posts."

To give more practical guidance to the Party's work in state administration and in economic and cultural work, the Central Board has formed a Political Bureau.

The Party is the highest form of class organisation. It embraces the best representatives of the class, equipped with the theory of Marxism-Leninism. The Party is the embodiment of the experience of the revolutionary movement. That is why it is called on to guide the other organisations of the working people and, indeed, is obliged to do so. In this way it secures the leading role of the working class in relation to other working elements of the people.

To safeguard the Party's leading role and keep its ranks free from vacillation and penetration by hostile elements. It is necessary that new Party members should pass through a

period of probationary membership.

The organisational principle of the Socialist Unity Party is democratic centralism. The revolutionary, class Party must lead the proletariat and its allies to the victory of Socialism. That is why it cannot tolerate any hostile ideology in its ranks. It cannot and must not be comprised of heterogeneous elements; it must be the vanguard detachment, the General Staff of the working class.

The principle of democratic centralism demands not only discipline but also inner Party democracy which cannot be exercised without the widest development of criticism and self-criticism irrespective of individuals.

Among the concrete inner party tasks facing us, the most vital are ideological and political work, Party training and Marxist-Leninist education of the membership. We must act more boldly in bringing forward new forces from all sections of the working people, particularly from the youth. The Party must devote special attention to the question of drawing the women into political life. It must give all possible help to the independent, democratic "Free German Youth" organisation.

The work we have so far done to turn the Socialist Unity Party into a party of the new type has not been without success. The enthusiasm with which the entire Party greeted and supported the posing of new tasks makes us feel confident that these tasks will be successfully carried out.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF FRANCE LEADS STRUGGLE OF MASSES FOR PEACE

(PLENUM CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY)

A Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of France was held in Paris on February 22 and 23. Jacques Duclos, Secretary of the Central Committee, reported on the political line of the Party and on the cantonal elections.

In his report Comrade Duclos thoroughly analysed the international situation and said that the forthcoming cantonal elections should be fought, under the slogan of the struggle for peace and against the instigators of a new war.

The same day, Maurice Thorez, General Secretary of the Party addressed the Plenum, reports "l'Humanite". He made the following statement:

Hoping to confuse us, the enemies of the people put the question: "What would you do if the Red Army occupied Paris?")

Here is our answer:

1. The Soviet Union has never been and can never be an aggressor against any country. The land of Socialism, by its very essence, cannot pursue the policy of aggression and war characteristic of the imperialist powers. The Soviet Army, the army of the heroic defenders of Stalingrad, has never attacked another nation. It has fulfilled its glorious mission of liberator of the peoples from Hitler Germany and has won the heartfelt gratitude of those peoples.

2. We base our stand on facts, not on suppositions. Today

the facts are these: the French Government is cooperating actively in the aggressive policy of the Anglo-American imperialists; a foreign general staff has been set up at Fontainebleau; our country and its over-seas territories have been turned into bases of aggression against the Soviet Union and the people's democracies.

3. Since this question has been raised, we shall answer firmly: should the joint efforts of all French lovers of freedom and peace fail to bring our country back to the camp of democracy and peace; if, as a result, our people are involved against their will in a war against the Soviet Union; if under such conditions the Soviet Army—defending the cause of the peoples, the cause of Socialism—in its battle against the aggressor were forced to enter our territory, could the working people and the entire people of France conduct themselves any differently in relation to the Soviet Army than the working people and the peoples of Poland, Rumania, Yugoslavia had done?

In his concluding speech to the Central committee on February 23, Comrade Thorez spoke again on problems of the fight for peace, replying to the discussion on his statement. Pointing out that the united forces of peace, acting together, could make the forces of war retreat, he said: We must remember that the warmongers are desperate to carry out their aggressive policy whatever the cost. They are using tricks and lies to deceive the people. We must constantly bear in mind the statement of Mr. Paul Shaeffer, Vice Chairman of a U.S. House of Representatives Commission, who visited Berlin last November. Shaeffer said that sooner or later a trial of strength with the Soviet Union would be inevitable. The sooner the better, he said, adding, "If France says No, this will make difficulties from the very outset."

And we reply, declared Thorez: we will see that the situation becomes not only difficult but impossible. It is to this

end that our efforts to unite all French men and women of good will are directed—to unite all those who do not want our country and the world to be plunged into a terrible new war, a war against our friend and ally, the Soviet Union, a war in which France, deprived of her right to security and reparations, would have as her partner Nazi Germans and Franco fascists.

It is quite clear, Thorez continued, that the statement of February 22 infuriated the warmongers and their lackeys, for we tore away the hypocritical masks behind which they posed as defenders of the national interests,

Hoping to confuse us, the American party put questions to us, he went on. But we answered these questions frankly. We did so firstly because we always speak frankly and secondly because our answers will make it possible to explain to the masses how really serious is the threat to peace and how urgent the need to unite in defence of peace. We shall also be able to explain to the working people what their duty will be should the warmongers manage to carry out their plan in spite of all our efforts.

We are faithful to the genuine traditions of Socialism, the traditions of the international working class movement. Illustrating this statement, Thorez quoted from the resolutions adopted at national and international Socialist congresses. At the Fourth Congress of the French Socialist Party held in Nancy in 1907 a resolution was adopted which called on the proletariat to prepare and organise united action to set in motion all the forces of the working class and the Socialist Party in each country, according to the circumstances, in order to fight the danger of war in every possible way, in Parliament, by public agitation, popular demonstrations, a general strike and insurrection.

The people who asked these questions would like to insult and slander us. Now they are screaming for repression. But what hypocrisy there is in their venomous outbursts and how

many admissions. We affirm that because of its very nature, the land of Socialism can never wage an aggressive war.

The Communists will answer the lies of the reactionary press, said Thorez in conclusion. The sole aim of these lies is to try to slur over the essentials of the question; this is nothing but a subversive campaign being developed alongside war preparations. And the Communists will fight it. They will tell the people the whole truth. They will be in the front ranks of the fighters for peace.

The French people enthusiastically supported Thorez's statements. True to its treacherous anti-national policy, the Queuille-Moch Government tried to make use of Parliament for an anti-Communist witch-hunt. The vote of confidence in the Government passed by the reactionary majority was an attempt to slander the Communist Party and undermine its growing influence. However, this resolution is but poor cover for the inability of the American puppets to retard the growing peace movement which is steadily embracing ever broader sections of the French people.

IMPERIALIST SLANDER AGAINST HUNGARIAN REPUBLIC. Josef Reval, Member, Political Bureau, Hungarian Workers' Party

At the beginning of February, after a public trial at which many representatives of the Hungarian and foreign press were present, the People's Tribunal of the Hungarian Republic sentenced Cardinal Mindszenty and his associates on charges of high treason and currency speculation.

The foreign journalists, correspondents of the capitalist press, admitted that the trial conformed to all accepted legal standards, that the sentence was based not only on the testimony given by the accused in the course of the investigation, not only on their admissions to the Tribunal, but also on other factual proofs.

Despite this, imperialist slander against people's democratic Hungary has increased since the Mindszenty trial. A flood of lies and abuse has been let loose against Hungary. The slander campaign is being carried out not merely by the press and people in semi-official positions, but it is being led by the very governments of the imperialist countries, by responsible statesmen, prime ministers and foreign ministers. Truman and Acheson, Bevin and Spaak, the French and Italian Governments have all joined the chorus of instigators, ignoring the elementary rules of international relations and diplomatic propriety.

A feature of this slander campaign is the broad, united front of the anti-democratic forces—from the Pope of Rome and the American Government to Hungarian fascists and the Right Social Democrats who have fled the country.

What is the meaning of this imperialist crusade? What are the reasons and motive forces behind it?

In the statements and “protests” of Truman and Acheson, Bevin and the Pope there is much talk about “human rights” and “freedom of religion”, which they claim have been seriously violated by the Hungarian Government in the Mindszenty trial and sentence. This is nothing but sheer hypocrisy. The Mindszenty trial showed that the Cardinal had been plotting to restore the Hapsburg monarchy, and the vast landed estates of the Hungarian aristocracy and to abolish the land reform. Mindszenty wanted to give back the nationalised enterprises to their former owners. He had drawn up plans for the colonisation of Hungary and had aimed to introduce anti-Jewish fascist laws again.

The imperialist instigators—from Truman to Bevin—turned their backs on the facts and the evidence given at the trial. As if nothing had happened, they made long speeches about “human rights” and “freedom of religion”.

Among Mindszenty’s accomplices was Prince Esterhazy, one of the biggest landowners in the old Hungary. Under the land reform he lost 200,000 holds of land which were given to the peasants. This man cynically admitted at the trial that he had financed the Mindszenty plot in the hope that the restoration of the Hapsburgs would also restore his domains. In other words the “human rights” of Messrs. Truman and Bevin conceal the “right” of Prince Esterhazy to his former 200,000 holds of feudal estate, ‘the “right” to take away the land received by the peasants.

Not a word about religion was mentioned at the trial of Mindszenty and his associates, neither in the indictment, in the prosecutor’s speech, in the speeches for the defence nor in the sentence. Neither did the accused themselves attempt even by suggestion, to link the charges against them with questions of religion. It was left to Messrs. Truman and Bevin to “discover”

and proclaim to the world something of which Mindszenty and company themselves were not aware: that persecution of an anti-republican reactionary plot is persecution of religion! In their zeal, the imperialists failed to see how they exposed themselves by showing that they wanted to use religion as a fig leaf to cover up their reactionary and purely temporal designs.

The Vatican considered it an affront and a violation of the rights of the Church that the Cardinal was tried by a secular tribunal. In other words the Pope resurrected the medieval demand of the immunity and inviolability of cardinals. And this medieval demand was supported by French liberals and Socialists and members of the British Labour Party who have forgotten the great anti-clerical, democratic traditions of their countries. The Hungarian Republic considers and will continue to consider that laws framed for all citizens of the State apply equally, to the hierarchy. It neither promised, nor will it promise, that Vatican cardinals who violate the law shall be exempt from punishment.

The British Government sent a threatening note to the Hungarian Government which had rejected the demand for British "observers" to attend the trial. Without so much as blinking, Bevin dared to refer, to the Peace Treaty and to claim the Great Powers had the right to control Hungary's observance of the democratic rights outlined in this Treaty. Mr. Bevin was not interested in the fact that the Treaty's clauses are levelled against fascism and are aimed at preventing a repetition of the 25-year oppression of Hungary's democratic forces. The Hungarian Republic, naturally, corrected this "oversight" of the British Foreign Minister and informed him that the conditions of the Peace Treaty envisage the protection of democracy, not of fascists, and that the sovereign government of democratic Hungary will not tolerate "control" and interference by any great power.

The British Labour leaders displayed a consistency of

policy when they took Cardinal Mindszenty, the head of Hungarian reaction, under their protection. It is no secret that before the fusion of the workers' parties in Hungary, the Secretary of the British Labour Party, Morgan Phillips, and the head of its International Department, Dermis Henley, made several visits to Hungary in an effort to prevent the fusion of the parties. They tried to persuade the Social Democratic Party to join forces with clerical reaction, with Mindszenty against the Communists. But these plans of the British Labour Party's commercial travellers were fruitless.

The imperialist slander campaign against Hungary is but part of the general plan of the warmongers. "Freedom of religion"? "Human rights"? The Spanish fascists, the patrons of the German fascists, the executioners of the Greek people have dishonoured and besmirched these conceptions. The gist of the matter is that by their slanderous statements about the Mindszenty case the imperialists want to divert attention from the principal question, the question of peace and disarmament, advanced by the Soviet Union; they want to mislead the peoples of their countries who are demanding peace and agreement with the Soviet Union; they are using this slander to counter-balance the spreading influence of Comrade Stalin's statement about peace; under cover of talk about "religious persecution" they are trying to sow hatred against the people's democracies and the peace front, headed by the Soviet Union, and to isolate the supporters of peace, democracy and Socialism in their own countries.

The vicious campaign embarked on by imperialists in retaliation for the blow struck at reaction by Hungarian people's democracy is a clear indication that this was a telling blow at one of their vital agencies. The poisonous imperialist press, including the Vatican's "Osservatore Romano" which heads the chorus of foul lies and slander, does not attempt to hide the role that reaction has assigned to the Catholic Church

in the new democracies building Socialism. After the kulak parties and politicians of the Nagy type went bankrupt and the Right Social Democrat trends had been crushed, the united workers' parties came into existence. Now imperialism is giving to clerical reaction the principal role in organising a capitalist, landlord and kulak counter-revolution, to sabotage socialist construction. This is particularly evident in those new democracies where there is a considerable Catholic population- for Instance in Hungary where 67 per cent 'of the population Is Catholic.

The imperialists calculated on the fact that the Catholic religion has deep roots among the people. They believed it would be easy to use this as a screen, rallying under religious slogans mass support for the anti-popular aims of the exploiting classes. The Catholic Church could play this role in the new democracies because its structural organisation enables it to combine legal mass work with illegal plotting to mask its political intrigues behind religious activities. In Hungary, the Catholic church headed by Cardinal Mindszenty, became an organised illegal political party whose importance to international reaction, grew accordingly as fascist, kulak and Right Social Democrat agents were eliminated, accordingly as Right bourgeois elements were turned out of the Independence Front and their political declarations banned.

The role of Mindszenty and his accomplices and the tactics of the imperialists, aimed at provoking the democratic forces into launching an anti-religious and anti-clerical campaign, were clear to the Hungarian people's democracy and to the Hungarian Communists. Our policy, on the contrary, was to explain to believers that the struggle against black reaction, as represented by Mindszenty, by no means meant a struggle against religion and the Church. Our policy was to isolate Mindszenty and his accomplices from the working people, from the believers and from the greater part of the lower

clergy. This policy was successful.

It is now clear to the overwhelming majority of Hungarian working people that Mindszenty has been sentenced not as a supreme church dignitary but as a spy and traitor to the country—a traitor who sought the aid of the foreign imperialists in an attempt to destroy the principal gains won by the people's democracy in Hungary. Moreover, the trial and sentence of Mindszenty relieved a large section of the lower clergy of pressure from reactionary church dignitaries. There is now a steadily growing number of Catholic priests who dare to express themselves openly in favour of the peaceful co-existence and accord between the church and democracy, and who are against the use of the church and religion for reactionary purposes.

Black reaction in Hungary, of course, has not yet been destroyed. But it has suffered a serious defeat. Naturally, the imperialists will not reconcile themselves to this defeat. It is also true that the Vatican, one of the chief allies of American imperialism, with the special task of giving its blessing to imperialism and declaring its aims sacred, will also not accept the fact that, it has suffered a major defeat in one of the most important East European states.

The Vatican was behind Mindszenty inspired him in his anti-democratic activity. The Vatican opposed the section of the Catholic clergy which, in spite of Mindszenty, tried to find a *modus vivendi* with democracy. The Vatican, which concluded a Concordat with Hitler, supported Mussolini and even tried during the course of the war to get the American imperialists to support the creation of a Central European Hapsburg monarchy, last month found itself together with Mindszenty in the dock of the Budapest People's Tribunal. Testimony and proofs given at the trial disclosed an espionage system which had been organised in Hungary with the aid of the international organisation of the Catholic Church and the

“philanthropic” activities of American churchmen Chapin, the United States Ambassador in Budapest, Cardinal Mindszenty in Esterhom and Cardinal Spellman in New York together wove the threads of the plot against Hungarian democracy.

The people of Hungary can see this collaboration quite clearly. At mass meeting the workers of Budapest and the working people of the provinces protested against the slander of the imperialists and their attempts to interfere in Hungary’s internal affairs. The working people of Hungary united by patriotic enthusiasm, unanimously declared that they would not allow the imperialists to encroach on the sovereignty and independence of the Hungarian Republic.

The Hungarian Workers’ Party, the leading party of Hungarian democracy, will not be intimidated by imperialist slander, reaction will not force it on to the defensive; it will continue to expose the imperialist instigators of war. The Hungarian Communists also consider that this tactic would be the most effective for the Western countries where the imperialists are endeavouring to use the Mindszenty case to isolate the supporters of democracy, peace and Socialism.

Hungarian democracy’s blow of the head of black reaction in the country was also a blow at the international camp of the warmongers. By demonstrating their solidarity with Hungarian democracy’s battle against black reaction, the working people and honest democrats of the West are thereby fighting against the international warmongers.

BEFORE THE AUSTRIAN ELECTIONS. Ernst Fischer, Secretary, Communist Party of Austria

The Austrian Constitution lays down that Parliament must be re-elected every four year. Thus, a general election has been fixed for this autumn. Both Government parties—the People's and Socialist parties—prevented elections of any kind being held after the 1945 general election which, owing to a number of circumstances, had given them considerable advantages. And to this day, ever since the liberation of the country by the Soviet Army, there are still no elected local councils nor elected representatives of industrial and office workers in the chambers of labour.

The Communist Party has repeatedly demanded that elections should be held not only to Parliament but also in the municipalities, chambers of labour and trade union organs. But the leaders of the Government parties, posing as champions of Parliamentary democracy, turned a deaf ear to this demand for the elementary standards of democracy. True, the Socialists demagogically came out in favour of elections this spring to the chambers of labour. But at the decisive moment they disrupted them.

The Government parties arranged for Austrian citizenship to be given *en masse* to fascists from among the so-called displaced persons; according to official statistics their number has already reached 107,000! There is a reason for this Government tactic: since the 1945 elections the situation has changed and continues to change—but not in favour of these parties. The working people who voted in 1945 for the return of the “old days”, believing in the demagogic promises, have in the last few years become politically more experienced. The Government does not enjoy the confidence of the people for it

has not honoured a single one of its promises.

To this day Austria has no Peace Treaty. But she is being drawn more and more into the Anglo-American imperialists' system of enslaving agreements. Work on reconstruction has made little headway and lately has stopped completely. Indeed, the number of homeless has considerably increased during the past two years. Unemployment is growing: there are nearly 100,000 jobless in Austria at the moment. Instead of recovery there is decline and ruin. The "Marshall Plan" which supplies Austria with contaminated tinned fish and horse-meat, inedible linseed oil and old clothes for which there is no other market, deprives our industry of vital machinery and our agriculture or essential fodder.

The consequences of this policy are becoming heavier and heavier. Industries which do not suit the purposes of the Americans are closed down. There are more than 1,500 unemployed in Steyr, the heart of the automobile industry. Under the plans of the American imperialists, Austria has to export strategic raw materials and electric power at the next to nothing and at the same time close down her highly developed industry. Thus, she is falling back to the level of a country with a semi-colonial economy. With its treacherous anti-Austrian policy the Government is becoming the obedient executive organ of the American monopolists.

Even people who know nothing of politics feel the consequences of the 1945 elections. Small investors have been plundered in favour of the banks and speculators: thousands of pensioners are on the brink of starvation; the Government parties have rejected even a minimum increase in pensions. Taxes on the profits of the rich are being cut, but they pile up on the shoulders of the working people. Not satisfied with this the Government has announced that it will introduce a new tax, the so-called occupation tax. Under the pretext of covering occupation expenditure the Government wants to bring in

millions of schillings which, with the help of the American imperialists, will be used to build up the Austrian army.

Workers, peasant, handicraftsmen and Austrian women reject the militarist plans of the Government parties. The people have not forgotten that in February 1934 the Austrian army crushed the movement of workers fighting for freedom, but did not fire a single shot to defend the country against the Hitler invasion in March 1938.

The fact that the Austrian army now being built up against the will of the people, will have the same reactionary character is revealed by the statement made to foreign journalists by the former Secretary of State for War, the Socialist Julius Deutsch. He declared that the commanders of the new army will be drawn in the main from officers of the former German army although "real Hitlerites would not be accepted". However, according to him, it will hardly be possible to recognise the rank of anti-fascist officers who fought with the Allies against the Hitler army. In other words whoever wants to become an officer of the Austrian army will have to prove that he fought with Hitler and not against him.

The people are becoming increasingly alarmed to see how the reactionary, neo-fascist forces are coming out into the open. The neo-fascist wing of the Heimwehr is now playing a decisive role in the leadership of the People's Party, and inveterate reactionaries, old supporters of the fascist corporate state, are active in high official circles.

There is a group of former prominent Hitlerites inside the People's Party who to this day continue to be active fascists.

Socialist Party leadership is also cooperating with neo-fascist forces. Erwin Scharf, a former member of the Central Secretariat of the Socialist Party who has been expelled from the party, writes in his pamphlet "I Cannot Keep Silent", that for some time past leading Socialists have been in contact with under-cover Hitlerites and are keeping them safe for future

cooperation, instructing them not to fall into the hands of the State police.

This cooperation already exists. The Minister of Home Affairs, the Socialist Helmer, said at a meeting that on several occasions he had taken part in talks with the Salzburg neo-fascists and their advisers about the possibility of forming a "Fourth Party." This party has already been formed by neo-fascists and politicians with German Nationalist leanings.

The neo-fascist party has been assigned the same role that Starhemberg's Helmwehr played in its time. Using demagogic slogans they rallied under fascist leadership all elements dissatisfied with the Government's policy. Italian fascism, with the help of the Heimwehr Party which was fully dependent on it both financially and politically, put pressure on the vacillating elements in the remaining Government parties and, at the decisive moment, the Heimwehr leaders found themselves at the head of the Government coalition.

The same function is mapped out for the neo-fascist "Fourth Party". The Americans have taken the place of the Italian bosses and the only new feature is that this time the Socialist Party too is taking a hand in the deal. The task of the neo-fascist party is not only to unite the counter-revolutionary camp organisationally, but also to draw in the section of the petty-bourgeoisie and peasants. The plan is that after the elections the neo-fascist party will enter the Government and give the American imperialists greater opportunities than before on setting their servants one against the other, thus tightening their grip on them all.

There are politicians in the People's Party who would prefer to include the resurgent fascist organisation in their own party. If this proves impossible, they will agree to the establishment of a separate party. The question of a "Fourth Party" occupies a prominent place in the political manoeuvres, of the two Government parties for they realise that far from

increasing their votes they will lose them. That is why they want to orientate the discontented groups of the electorate toward accepting neo-fascism, hoping that after the elections they will be able to harness the new jade of anti-Communism—the “fourth Party”—to the bogged-down Government waggon.

The Government parties have no election programme to offer the people. Even now it is obvious that the People's and Socialist Parties will try, as in November 1945, to hold the election campaign chiefly to the accompaniment of slander against the Soviet Union and the new democracies. But this slander is no longer effective. The Socialist workers are beginning to realise that behind the smoke screen of insolent slander, they are being propelled toward economic crisis and unemployment, that the prosperity of Austrian economy is possible only in cooperation with the Soviet Union and the new democracies whose economy knows no crises. The mass of the people realise that the propaganda of hatred against the Soviet Union and the new democracies is actually propaganda for war and serves, primarily, to turn Austria into the military camp of American imperialism.

The Communist Party of Austria goes forward to the election with confidence. This confidence is based not only on the changed conditions, not only on the political experience acquired by the people since 1945, but mainly on the fact that the Party enters the election campaign as an entirely different Party from what it was in 1945. At that time our Party had only a small core of tested and experienced Communists. A large section of its membership was made up of people who were politically inexperienced; moreover, certain careerists and dubious elements had penetrated the Party for their own selfish interests. The Party was not consolidated organisationally; the leadership of its lower bodies was often loose.

But in the past four years the Communist Party has

consolidated its ranks. Its present membership of 150,000 differs fundamentally and qualitatively from the membership of the 1945 period. Not all our members can be regarded as fully matured and tempered Communists, but they are all loyal to the Party and for the most part have experience in organisational mass work. Thousands of active Party members have learnt to use our arguments, to drive home their point and to defeat their opponents in ideological disputes. The Party press (seven daily newspapers) has considerably improved, its theoretical organ “Weg und Ziel” is the leading political-theoretical journal in the country, both from the point of view of its level and its circulation (15,000 copies).

Such is the situation in the pre-election period.

The Communist Party is confident that the election campaign will rally the masses to fight for their vital demands, for peace and democracy.

CONGRESS OF FRENCH INTELLECTUALS FOR CULTURE AND PEACE

The provisional National Committee of French Intellectuals set up after the Wroclaw Congress has decided to call a national congress of French intellectuals in defence of culture and peace. The congress will be held in Paris on April 12 and 13.

In preparation for the Congress, the Committee has sent out a special message calling on all intellectual workers to form local committees and hold local congresses to elect delegates to the national congress.

The message was signed by prominent French intellectuals, including Aragon, Joliot-Curie, the Abbe Boulier and Picasso.

TITO CLIQUE-RABID ENEMY OF U.S.S.R. AND PEOPLES' DEMOCRACIES. L. Bulatovic

For some time after the publication of the Resolution of the Information Bureau of the Communist Parties on the situation in the Yugoslav Communist Party, the Tito nationalists posed as friends of the Soviet Union and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks), while in fact they pursued a policy hostile to the Soviet Union and the new democracies.

In those days these irreconcilable enemies of Socialism, these working-class renegades masked themselves. They hypocritically swore loyalty to the CPSU(B) and to Comrade Stalin in order to blunt the vigilance of their people and mislead them.

There was not an atom of truth in all this noise, After betraying the cause of proletarian internationalism and the united front of Communist Parties, after breaking away from the majority of their Party and their people, the Titoites needed this hullabaloo as cover for their line-up with the imperialist camp, For at that time they did not dare to announce their treacherous plans openly.

But even then the article "Where the Nationalism of the Tito Group in Yugoslavia, is Leading" published by "Pravda" on September 8, 1948, pointed out that "the Tito group had joined the **common camp** of the imperialists, had engaged in a smear campaign against the Communist Parties of the new democracies and the Soviet Union, to the joy of the imperialists of all countries."

Six months have passed since this was written, in which time the nationalists of the Tito clique have discarded the mask

of “Friends” of the Soviet Union. Today they appear openly as part of the common chorus of reactionary anti-Soviet propaganda, as arch enemies of the Soviet Union, the CPSU(B) and all other fraternal Communist Parties.

The despicable farce played by the Yugoslav nationalists has come to an end. Yugoslav nationalists are now unashamedly bargaining with the Western imperialists about the price and conditions for the sell-out of Yugoslavia’s freedom and independence and how to harness her to the chariot of the imperialist and anti-democratic camp.

Tito Clique Disarms Yugoslavia in Face of her Foreign Enemies

“The nationalism of the Tito group in the sphere of **foreign policy**,” wrote the above mentioned “Pravda” article, is leading to a break with the united front of the world revolutionary movement of the working people, to the loss of Yugoslavia’s most faithful allies, to the isolation of Yugoslavia. It is disarming Yugoslavia in the face of her foreign enemies.” This was confirmed by subsequent events.

As is known, after the publication of the Information Bureau Resolution on the situation in the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, Tito and his associates declared that they intended to build Socialism in Yugoslavia with their own forces, without the help of the Soviet Union—the Land of Socialism—and the new democracies. Regardless of the fact that this lack of reality is similar to the ravings of a madman, the slogan in itself signifies a betrayal of Socialism. For more than 30 years the land of victorious Socialism—the Soviet Union—has been in existence. There are also the new democracies which are successfully building Socialism. And today even the declared enemies of the working class dare not deny the truth that

Socialism is an international phenomenon and that it is now impossible to build Socialism in one country without close contact with the other countries building Socialism, without the powerful support of the Soviet Union where Socialism has become part of the life-blood of the people. The very slogan under which the Yugoslav nationalists are trying to unite their people is glaring example of nationalism which was, and continues to be, the mortal enemy of Socialism.

Isolated from her true friends, Yugoslavia has not only been unable to advance toward Socialism during this period but has found herself in an extremely difficult position. Because of the Titoites, all the gains won by the peoples of Yugoslavia in the democratic transformation of their country, in creating the conditions for building Socialism are now endangered. Thanks to the zeal of the Titoites, Yugoslavia is more and more becoming an ordinary bourgeois republic, a Marshall country dependent on the Wall Street robbers.

It is evident from the facts that the Titoites are openly bargaining with the British, American and other imperialists to sell Yugoslavia's sovereignty and independence. The trade agreement with Britain giving advantageous conditions to the latter, and the compensation given to British and American capitalists for their nationalised property in Yugoslavia are steps along the path of Yugoslavia's enslavement to the imperialist powers. And these steps will be followed by others, more far reaching, that will be even more difficult to conceal.

In his recent speeches Tito demagogically tried to convince his audience that everything said by him and his propagandists was the truth and everything else a lie.

But Marxists know that there is no such thing as abstract, classless conceptions. Everything that the working class and genuine internationalists regard as the truth is declared by the imperialists and their nationalist agents to be a lie. For instance, it is an indisputable truth that the Titoites are, in effect, trying

to turn the country into an accessory of the capitalist West; it is an unquestionable lie when the Yugoslav nationalists assert that they are continuing to build Socialism in their country, and, as they claim, that the Soviet Union ostensibly tried to turn Yugoslavia into an agrarian country—the reason they give for the Yugoslav Communist Party breaking away from the Information Bureau. Tito had to use this lie to conceal from the people the real truth and his plans which, it is now quite clear, were devised by the Yugoslav nationalists long before the Resolution of the Information Bureau was published.

It is well known that the Governments of the United States, Britain and other countries of Western Europe, actually boycott trade relations with the new democracies and the Soviet Union because these countries will not submit to the conditions dictated by the “Marshall Plan”. But this boycott does not cover Yugoslavia since the policy of the Tito clique corresponds to the interests of the Anglo-American imperialists. As we say, “birds of a feather flock together,” and kind Uncle Sam was the first to lend a helping hand—thinking, of course, chiefly of his own interests.

On July 19, 1948 the U.S. Government signed a financial agreement with Yugoslavia to free Yugoslav property frozen by the U.S. and settle compensation for American property nationalised in Yugoslavia. The Tito Government also recognised and promised to pay the old debts of the pre-war Yugoslav Governments which total 38,500,000 dollars. On September 13, 1948, the State Department reported that the United States had already received 17,000,000 dollars under this agreement. While the agreement was still being negotiated the “*Yorkshire Post*” correspondent in Washington wrote that there was talk about a new era in relations between the U.S. and Yugoslavia.

As a matter of fact this “new era” has already begun. From last December the amount of non-ferrous, metals sent from

Yugoslavia to the United States increased sharply. Between December 1948 and January 1949 alone, Yugoslavia sent the U.S. copper, zinc, chromium, antimony and mercury to the value of 3,676,000 dollars, that is, approximately as much as was exported for the whole of 1947 (3,870,000 dollars).

It has been learnt that the Yugoslav Government is now negotiating with the U.S. to sell her copper, zinc and other metals to the value of 15,000,000 dollars.

Up to last July, Anglo-Yugoslav trade relations were incidental. However, at the end of July 1946 the situation changed. Both sides found a "common language" and embarked on active negotiations which were concluded last December in a one-year trade agreement. This agreement has a clause allowing for its extension and the conclusion of a further long-term agreement. Talks for such an agreement have already started. According to the one-year agreement Yugoslavia will supply Britain with timber and food to the sum of £ 15,000,000, while Britain will send Yugoslavia materials for her textile industry, crude oil, chemical products and machinery. Even official figures show that Yugoslavia will have an unfavourable

balance in this agreement since Britain exports goods to Yugoslavia estimated at 3.5 billion dinars whereas Yugoslav exports to Britain will total 3.2 billion dinars. In addition, an agreement was signed to pay Britain £4,500,000 compensation for British property nationalised in Yugoslavia and another to return to British subjects property and money blocked in Yugoslavia at the beginning of the war.

The influence of Anglo-American capital on Yugoslavia's economy is by no means restricted to trade relations. It goes much further. The Anglo-Yugoslav agreement gives British capitalists the right to a share of the output of all Yugoslav enterprises where British capital is invested until, such time as the Yugoslav Government will be in a position to buy out the

shares in British hands. The agreement also allows the British investors to either sell their share of production to Yugoslavia or to export it.

“Industrial circles in Britain,” the newspaper “*Republika*” wrote gleefully on December 30, 1948, “received the signing of a trade agreement with Yugoslavia with great satisfaction... Once again British capital will be in a position to influence Yugoslav economy.”

The Yugoslav Government has recently concluded similar trade agreements with the Benelux countries and other members of the Western bloc. Yugoslavia’s increasingly active foreign political relations with the Western States. show how open has become the Titoites tie-up with the imperialist camp.

It is not without good reason that the New York commentator Joseph Alsop, reporting from Belgrade noted with satisfaction Tito’s switch to a new foreign policy. During recent months, wrote Alsop, the Yugoslav leaders have secretly been informing the U.S. and Britain that Yugoslavia needs the assistance of the West to preserve her “independence”. At the same time the Tito men have asked not to be placed in an embarrassing position by the open show of friendship.

The French reactionary newspaper “*Le Monde*”, in an article headed “*Tito is Playing a Complicated Game Between Moscow and the West*”, published on December 4, 1948, recommended that Tito should and acquire “a political sense in order to prolong the dispute between Moscow and led Yugoslavia and turn his country into a champion of National Socialism”. This appeal of the reactionary paper did not remain a voice crying in the wilderness. It achieved its object. Tito and his associates not only made fulsome speeches in the Skupschina and at the so-called Party congresses in Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia in answer to this appeal, but put their plans into effect, selling the interests of their people wholesale and the retail to the Anglo-American imperialists.

In view of all this the Yugoslav Government Notes to the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Czechoslovakia in connection with the economic conference held in Moscow last January, sound strange, to say the least.

Feigning innocence the Titoites express their surprise that Yugoslavia was not invited to attend this conference, and declare that in so doing the members of the conference practised discrimination against Yugoslavia, which is contrary to the agreements signed by Yugoslav with the Soviet Union and other countries represented at the conference.

In the Note expressing their desire to take part in the Council for Mutual Economic Aid, the nationalists, today at the helm of the Yugoslav Government, did not let slip the opportunity to make a new slanderous attack on the Soviet Union and the new democracies. They demanded that these countries should meet their obligations in the agreements and cease what they called the campaign directed against Yugoslavia. The Yugo lay nationalists met with a fitting rebuff from the Governments of the Soviet Union and the new democracies.

The demand that the supposed campaign waged against Yugoslavia should be stopped is utterly groundless, for the world knows that neither the Soviet Union nor the new democracies are conducting any kind of campaign against Yugoslavia, that all they are doing is to criticise the hostile policy of the Yugoslav Government in relation to the Soviet Union and the new democracies.

The Council for Mutual Economic Aid has not been set up to cater for the ordinary economic trading cooperation existing between the Soviet Union and other countries. This Council has been formed to promote **broad** economic cooperation between countries following an honest and friendly policy toward each other. Yugoslavia's participation in this Council is possible only if the Yugoslav Government renounces its hostile

policy toward the Soviet Union and the new democracies and returns to its old policy of friendship. In their Notes of reply, the Soviet Government and the Governments of the new democracies voiced the desirability of Yugoslavia's participation in the Council and their confidence that a resolute break with the hostile policy and its replacement by a friendly policy would correspond to the vital interests of the peoples of Yugoslavia, to the economic prosperity and independence of the Yugoslav State.

This reply of the Soviet Government and the new democracies met with the approval of the whole democratic camp.

There are true friends of the Soviet Union and the new democracies in Yugoslavia. They constitute the majority of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia and of the Yugoslav people. They will lead their country onto the path of friendship with the great Soviet Union, with all the countries building Socialism. They will save Yugoslavia and her peoples from disaster.

Counter-Revolutionary Internal Policy of the Tito Clique

The nationalism of the Tito group in home policy, states the "*Pravda*" article quoted above, is leading to a policy of compromise between the exploiters and exploited, to a policy of uniting the exploiters and exploited into one 'national' front, to a policy of rejection of the class struggle, to the propagation of the false tenet that it is possible to build Socialism without class struggle, and for the exploiters to develop peacefully to Socialism, to lulling the fighting spirit of the working people of Yugoslavia. The nationalism of the Tito group is disarming the working people of Yugoslavia in the face of their internal foes.

The whole subsequent course of events confirmed the correctness of these words. The Yugoslav nationalists made every effort to disarm the working people of Yugoslavia in the face of their internal foes. At a time when the kulaks in the Yugoslav countryside are strengthening their economic positions, when they are also trying to build up their political positions, penetrating on a wide scale into all spheres of the country's public and political life, the present leaders of the Yugoslav Communist Party and Yugoslav Government are doing nothing to curtail the growing economic and political influence of the capitalist elements. On the contrary, they are encouraging it.

In place of honest patriots and internationalists whom the hangman Rankovic is removing by the thousand from State and public posts, the Titoites are appointing kulaks and adventurers who have nothing in common with the interests of the workers and working peasantry.

As letters from Communists, students and workers in Yugoslavia show, kulaks and former Chetniks now in power are turning the organs of power and the co-operatives into instruments for enriching the capitalist elements in town and countryside, into instruments for the moral and physical oppression of the workers and working peasantry of Yugoslavia, into instruments for nationalist propaganda.

In such political situation inside the country, at a time of great material difficulties for the country's working class and poor peasantry, the Tito clique is zealously propagating class peace in the country. Here, too, as with all other crimes committed by the Yugoslav nationalists against their people, Tito is in the lead. His New Year message announced that "all classes in Yugoslavia, including the intelligentsia, are united, and their unity is above Party interests".

The same "theoretician", Tito, speaking at the Second Congress of the Communist Party of Croatia, assured the

Yugoslav Communists that the People's Front in Yugoslavia is, as he put it, a great force on which the people could confidently rely and with the help of which they could "overcome the capitalist elements and gradually eliminate them completely". He solemnly promised his audience that "the day would dawn when they (i.e., the kulaks—L.B), will have to lay down arms."

The nationalist Tito wants the Communists and the working people of Yugoslavia to believe his nonsense about the "class conscious" kulak which he is so industriously spreading everywhere.

But everyone knows that there are no such miracles in nature. Lenin and Stalin more than once pointed out that the kulaks constituted the numerically largest class of capitalists in the countryside, since small-scale economy gave birth to them daily, hourly and on a mass scale. Lenin and Stalin also pointed out that the kulaks were the most ruthless enemies of the working class, the enemies of Socialism, Lenin believed that even if they had quarrelled it was possible and easy to reconcile the kulak with the landlord, the tsar and the priest, but **never** with the working class.

According to the "theory" of the peacemaker Tito, one has only to raise his finger at the Yugoslav kulak, and he gets on very well with the working class and the poor peasantry within the framework of the People's Front, within the framework of national unity.

No wonder the hatred for the Titoites and their treacherous policy is steadily growing among the workers and the working peasantry of Yugoslavia Tito himself had to admit this at the Congress of the Croat Communist Party.

"... I have seen for myself" Tito "frankly" admitted, "that in the countryside things have gone as far as to produce a certain distrust of the people's power".

In the Skupschina and at the congresses of the Communist Parties of the Republics, Tito and his lieutenant repeatedly

stressed the great difficulties which had forced them to announce considerable cuts in the plans for 1949 as compared with 1948.

The peoples of Yugoslavia are becoming more and more aware of the disastrous course pursued by the Titoites who are declaring that a kulak economy can grow peacefully into Socialism and are, in practice fostering the development of capitalism in agriculture. The people are protesting against this disastrous policy. This protest is growing in scale and is being expressed in many varied forms including the activity of separate partisan units who are in hiding in the mountains.

Vukmenovic, Minister for Mines, recently speaking at a Belgrade meeting was forced to admit that “every day a large number of miners do not go to work”. He also admitted that monthly production targets were not being reached.

The roots of the difficult situation in Yugoslavia lie in the nationalism of the Titoites who have brought Yugoslavia into a blind alley, disarmed her in face of internal enemies, deprived the working people of the gains won by them in the heroic struggle against the German fascist invaders and in the hard work to rehabilitate the national economy destroyed during the war.

The traitors to the Yugoslav people will be made to answer to them for their crimes.

The Tito propagandists who once appeared in the guise of “friends” of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks) and of the Soviet Union, are now carrying on open anti-Soviet propaganda, slandering the great land of Socialism. In his speech to the Second Congress of the Communist Party of Serbia, the notorious Tito nationalist, Moshe Pjade, maliciously slandered the Soviet Union, the

CPSU(B) and its leaders. Such slanders were never produced even by Goebbels in his time.

This inveterate enemy of the Soviet Union tries to prove to the Communists and the peoples of Yugoslavia that the prestige of the Soviet Union is “mythical” in the eyes of the Yugoslav peoples. Therefore, he alleges, that since this prestige was created by the Tito clique, there will be no difficulty in smashing it if necessary. In the course of a few hours, this paltry pigmy played the buffoon on the rostrum of the so-called Party congress, amusing the Yugoslav nationalists with his clowning and calling upon them to embark on a crusade against the Soviet Union and the CPSU(B). Like a jester, he raved, ranted and threatened, brandished “documents” obtained from God knows where and swore by the name of the “great” Tito. Like Schedrin’s petty tyrant, he promised to “close clown” the Soviet Union and the CPSU(B) by putting his signature to this pledge.

But vain indeed are the efforts of you men of the Pjade breed. You cannot succeed since, as the saying goes, “it does not depend upon you”. You will never be able to even dim the powerful light sent out from the Soviet Union, the fatherland of Socialism which illumines and inspires the struggle of the working people throughout the world.

The peoples of Yugoslavia, like all the peoples throughout the world, have seen and continue to see in the land of Socialism, in the CPSU(B) their hope and bulwark in the struggle for the triumph of Socialism, for the triumph of the ideas of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin.

The peoples of Yugoslavia have never been hostile to the Soviet Union and the people’s democracies. They will never be so. They will sweep away from their path all those who stand in their way to bring their country back to the fraternal family of the peoples who are building Socialism, at the head of which stands the Soviet Union.

EVE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY- MARCH 8

Women of the World Fight for democracy Against Warmongers. N. Popova, Vice Chairman, World Federation of Democratic Women, Chairman, Anti-Fascist Committee of Soviet Women

This year all working women will celebrate International Women's Day, March 8, in conditions of intense struggle for peace and against imperialist aggression. On this day, millions of women will express their firm determination to strengthen International solidarity, to unite more closely in the ranks of the democratic camp headed by the land of Socialism—the Soviet Union and to intensify the struggle for peace and World security.

The women of the Soviet Union, active builders of Communism, are marching at the head of the powerful democratic movement of the women of the world. The Communist Party and Soviet power have given Soviet women complete political and economic equality, the opportunity of fully developing their abilities and creative forces. Educated by the Party of Lenin and Stalin, the Soviet woman has become a mighty force in building Soviet society.

In Soviet industry, thousands of women are factory managers, foremen and deputy foremen. There are 250,000 women in the vast army of technicians. Thousands of women, are in charge of collective farms, and thousands more are

brigade leaders. Hundreds of women have been honoured with the title of Hero of Socialist Labour for their high labour productivity.

Our women take full advantage of the right to education guaranteed them by the Stalin Constitution. This can be seen from the fact that of those technicians with a university education, 43 per cent are women. The 277 women deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. and the 1,738 deputies to the Supreme Soviets of the Union and Autonomous Republics are a living proof of the full political equality enjoyed by the Soviet woman and of her active participation in the administration of the State.

The women of our socialist society are, together with the whole Soviet people, waging an active and consistent struggle to consolidate the democratic camp and repulse the imperialist warmongers. Fighting with them are the women of the new democracies—Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Albania where the people's democratic system has assured them economic, political and civil rights equal with men.

Millions of women in the capitalist and colonial countries have joined the struggle for peace and democracy. Their position is very different from that of women in the Soviet Union and the new democracies. To this day the vaunted bourgeois "democracy" of the capitalist countries still deprives women of equality. In many countries women do not even enjoy the right to vote. Women workers in the United States and Britain do not receive equal pay for equal work; and for most of them education is extremely restricted.

The position of the woman worker and the mother in the colonial countries is far worse: of the 500 million children in the colonies 480 million do not attend school. In the countries of Latin America, from 50 to 80 per cent of school-age children do not get even an elementary education. In the U.S., 5 million

children do not attend school. Working women in the capitalist countries know all the horrors of capitalist slavery. They are rising up in struggle for their liberation, uniting their efforts with those of all the democratic forces.

The activity and growth of the World Federation of Democratic Women demonstrate the development of the international women's movement. During the past three years the national organisations of 16 countries have joined the Federation which today unites the women's organisations of 56 countries, including 26 countries in Europe, 12 in Asia, 6 in Africa and 12 in America and Australia. The Federation has more than 80 million members. The working women greet March 8 with major successes in the struggle for peace and democracy.

The aggressive plans of Anglo-American ruling circles expressing the interests of American finance and industrial magnate who are trying to hurl mankind into a new world war, have aroused the indignation and opposition of millions of women throughout the world.

Naturally, in these circumstances, the World Federation of Democratic Women centres its activity round the struggle for peace, drawing into this struggle millions of women who are not yet members of the Federation. In this a big role was played by the recent Second Congress of the Federation, a major event in the life and work of the democratic camp. The Congress was a powerful demonstration of the growth and organisation of the democratic women's movement.

The mass campaign for peace and democracy and against the aggressors and war mongers, the actions in support of the Soviet proposals to the United Nations to outlaw the atom bomb and reduce armaments, the campaign against the Franco regime in Spain and the terror in Greece have enhanced the prestige of the Federation in the eyes of the supporters of peaceful cooperation between nations.

There are many facts to indicate the growing activity of the national sections of the Federation in the struggle for peace. Last November, mass actions took place throughout France in support of the proposals made by the Soviet delegation at the opening session of the U.N. General Assembly. The Italian women's organisation sent the U.N. a petition signed by 3 million women demanding peace. The women of Czechoslovakia collected 2,500,000 signatures in support of the Soviet proposals; the women of Bulgaria 2,110,000 signatures, the women of Germany 5,000,000 signatures. Signatures were collected also in Britain, Belgium, New Zealand and Holland.

The militant women of Greece are actively supported by Federation members who are sending regular supplies of medicine, food and clothing to Greek women and children. The Federation is vigorously exposing the crimes committed by the Anglo-American imperialists against democratic Greece and the people of China. The women's organisations in France and Holland have held protest meetings and demonstrations against the brutal reprisals of the French and Dutch Governments against the freedom-loving peoples of Viet Nam and Indonesia.

With increasing determination women are also taking part in the working-class movement for better conditions. In France where they organised assistance for the striking miners, they are now fighting together with all the working people for wage increases and lower prices. In Italy women are taking an active part in the trade union struggles.

In France, Britain, Italy, Austria and other countries, women are resolutely opposing the "Marshall Plan" which is bringing ruin and enslavement to their countries, destroying their industry, freedom and sovereignty and turning them into bases for new military ventures.

Together with the women of those countries against which Anglo-American aggression is directed, the women of the U.S.

and Britain are defending the cause of peace and are against war.

At the recent congress of the Federation, delegates from various countries of Europe, Asia and America, from republican Spain, Australia, Cuba, Korea and Iran gave facts illustrating the growing resistance of the peoples to the onslaught of the monopolies and the machinations of the warmongers.

They spoke with deep gratitude of the peace-loving policy of the Soviet Government, of the great Soviet Union which heads the progressive forces of the world, which consistently and steadily exposes the warmongers, upholds the cause of peace and is strengthening the relations between peoples and states.

Expressing the will of millions of democratic women, the representative of the Union of French Women, Jeanette Vermeerch told the Congress:

“We believe In the Soviet Union—the main force of peace—for we know that where the people are in power they do not want war... we also know from experience that if the Soviet Union is attacked, it fights like a lion until victory, inspiring all who battle for the common cause of the peoples.”

Concluding her speech Vermeerch unfurled the banner sent by the women of France to the Soviet Union bearing the inscription: “French mothers will never give their sons for a war against the Soviet Union”.

The Congress enthusiastically greeted the words of E. Cotton, Chairman of the World Federation of Democratic Women expressing the love of million of ordinary people for the great land of Socialism.

“The fact that the countries of Central Europe feel warmly for the Soviet Union is not the result of pressure from Moscow, as reactionaries would have the peoples of the world believe,” she said. “It is the result of deep gratitude to the country which

gave the blood of millions of its people for the common victory over fascism. It is an expression of the gratitude of millions of men and women to a great people who brought about the Revolution of 1917, who initiated the struggle that would really give power to the people. Those countries which the Governments of Britain and France led to Munich, received their freedom from the Soviet Union—a country where the great dream of Socialism, living in the hearts of working men and women the world over, has become a reality.”

The Manifesto adopted by the Congress declare: “Women of all countries! We bear a great responsibility to our children, to our peoples, to mankind, to history. And if all of us—and we comprise half humanity—come forward with closed ranks against the instigators of war there will be no war!”

The Manifesto calls upon women in the capitalist countries to defend their democratic gains, for without democracy there can be no peace. It calls upon the women in the colonial and dependent countries to continue the struggle against imperialism and for the national independence of their countries.

On behalf of 56 countries, the delegates to the Second International Women’s Congress declared that the 80 million members of the Federation represented by them would “fight more resolutely and more actively for peace, democracy, for the security and independence of peoples, in defence of our children and our homes! Our forces are legion. By uniting our efforts we will win the battle for peace and democracy.”

On March 8, millions of women throughout the world will express their will and determination to rally more closely in the united democratic camp to carry out the great and noble tasks inscribed on its banners.

China Prepares for National Women's Congress

Early last month the first conference of women from the liberated areas of North Eastern China was held in North Shensi. The 283 delegates represented wide sections of women workers, peasants, teachers and local government officials.

The conference formed a Democratic Women's Association for the North Eastern areas of China and elected 60 delegates to the forthcoming national women's congress. The declaration issued by the conference stressed that the main task of the Democratic Women's Association was to mobilise all women of the region in the fight for higher labour productivity and the construction of a new, democratic Chinese Republic.

The conference decided to support the eight points for peace put forward by Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the Communist Party.

It also decided to start training courses for nurses and to set up nurseries, and maternity and child welfare centres.

On January 26, a conference of women delegates from the Shensi-Hansu-Ning-hsia border region took place in Yen-an. Over 70 people attended the Conference. Eight delegates were elected to the national women's congress. In February, there was a similar conference of women from the liberated areas of Central China.

Movement of Women Shock Workers

The Constitution of people's democratic Czechoslovakia guarantees women equal rights with men. Czechoslovak women are putting their equal rights into practice.

There are now 342,000 women in industry; nearly half those working in agriculture are women; over 12,000 women

are studying at higher schools.

Nearly 800,000 women are members of the Communist Party, over 770,000 members of trade unions and 1,500,000 belong to varying types of cooperatives. There are 37 women Members of Parliament. The women's movement is led by the Czechoslovak Women's Council made up of representatives from the Communist and other parties of the National Front and also from mass organisations.

The State is taking generous steps to improve the conditions of women, especially for mother and child. For example, the social security law gives free medical attention to all women, including housewives. Maternity leave is paid for. Each mother gets a grant of 2,500 crowns for the new baby and there is a regular monthly children's allowance.

Today there are nearly 4,800 kindergartens, 300 creches, 41700 beds in maternity homes and 2,600 children's clinics in Czechoslovakia.

In Czechoslovakia, International Women's Day is being celebrated under the slogan of the struggle for peace and democracy throughout the world, under the slogan of drawing women into activity to fulfil the Five-Year Plan.

Already a movement for labour emulation and shock work is developing among women in industry. In the last week of February, conferences of leading women workers in industry and agriculture were held throughout the country. First results of the emulation drive will be announced at I.W.D. meetings.

On March 20, a national conference of the best women workers will be held in Prague. The conference will discuss women's production pledges in honour of the forthcoming Ninth Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

Fight for Bread and Peace. Nella Marcellino, Member, Central Committee, Communist Party of Italy

Millions of men and women workers will take part in meetings and demonstrations to be held throughout Italy in honour of International Women's Day. The meetings and demonstrations will be organised by the Italian Women's League, the Italian Girls' Association, the Association of Married Women, the Peasant Women's Association, the General Confederation of Labour and the National Cooperative League. Thousands of meetings and demonstrations will take place in the provinces, at factories and in the city streets under the auspices of these organisations.

The women will come together under the slogan of the fight for bread and peace, against poverty and the danger of war. This slogan is thoroughly understood by all women workers, peasants and housewives for it expresses their vital needs. It arises out of the general political situation which has resulted in a steady worsening of the conditions of the working people, a situation for which the ruling parties of de Gasperi, Saragat and Pacciardi alone are responsible.

Due to the rabid anti-Communist policy of these people, our country is now under the yoke of dollar and atom bomb imperialism. Factories are closing down; unemployment is growing; women, children, the aged are hungry; the danger of being brought into the military bloc of the Western Powers threatens the people of Italy.

The struggle against the foreign imperialists and their Italian mercenaries is rallying all Italian women under the banner of the fight for peace and bread for their families.

International Women's Day confronts the democratic organisations with important tasks: they must rally the more

politically advanced women and help them in directing the energy, sympathies and activities of the others into the right channels; they must conduct propaganda and engage in social and cultural work among those women whose social and political development is on a low level for the purpose of getting them, interested in the struggle for peace and democracy; they must strengthen the women's organisations, extend the mass movement and so defeat the manoeuvres of the enemy who is resorting all the time to new provocations and repression against the working people.

In Foggia and Bari women land workers will meet to discuss the question of guaranteed work and help for their children; the women worker employed in the Milan chemical factories and in the Verona and Lecce tobacco factories will exert stronger pressure on their employers to speed up the signing of agreements. In the Lombardy, Venezia and Piedmont textile mill, the women will demonstrate against the designs of the big industrialists to make them operate four looms instead of two, and will demand the reopening of the silk mills closed by the manufacturers.

School children will address letters to the United Nations urging the acceptance of the proposals submitted by the U.S.S.R. for disarmament and the construction of the atom bomb stocks. Girls will unfurl hundreds of "peace banners" around which will be assembled thousands of youthful fighters for bread and peace.

At great demonstrations in Siena, Carbonia, Modena and dozens of similar industrial centres women will demand the release of arrested men and women workers, expressing sympathy for the families of these workers.

The active women workers, housewives and others, will canvass for the democratic press with a view of building up circulation and will recruit new members for the Communist Party, the Italian Women's League and the trade unions.

These are the aims for which we are fighting persistently. The women of Italy are becoming more active politically. The movement began with small groups being formed to help the partisans; this was followed by heroic participation in the liberation struggle and in the national uprising and then, later, the women in their thousands joined the Communist Party, the trade unions, the Italian Women's League and the Cooperatives.

Women have collected three million signatures to a peace petition. Indignant, at the despicable attempt on the life of Palmiro Togliatti, leader of the Italian working class, millions of women joined their menfolk in the great meetings which were held on July 14 at which they expressed their anger and demonstrated their resistance to the servants of imperialism. They declared that the working people had learnt to defend themselves against fascism.

This struggle in which the women of Italy are displaying their steadfast determination has been long and bitter. It suffices to recall last year's 19-day strike by the women in the Bologna rice fields who held out despite police violence, or the example of the seventeen women workers who were arrested and the really splendid way they conducted themselves at the trial, while outside in the street thousands of women gathered from all over the province demanding their release.

During the big strike of the agricultural labourers in the Po Valley, women workers and sharecroppers did not confine themselves to a solidarity strike. They took part in the demonstrations in Rovigo, Cremona and Modena where police opened fire on the strikers.

Last May in Cremona, Seresina, Casalmorano, and Genivolta, women spinners who struck work against wage cuts occupied the mills and held them for eleven days at nights until their demands were granted.

In Florence, women employed in the Tanci hosiery factory

stopped work in support of 40 others whom the employers wanted to discharge. The women stayed to the factory for 72 hours. On Christmas Eve, the Naples prefecture was besieged by 5,00 children between 6 and 12 years old who came with their mothers in support of the demand for Christmas gifts for themselves and work for their fathers. In Naples also 50 women workers fought a month long stay-in strike at the Palomba textile factory where the employers were dismissing workers.

In Genoa, two thousand garment workers went on strike last October demanding a 12-day paid holiday each year. Last Autumn, thousands of women in the mining town of Campotizzoro (Pistoia) brought 300 children to accompany their menfolk on a hunger march. In Ancona, where thousands of unemployed men and women had gathered to demand work they were met with police fire. But the unemployed refused to yield and they won victory.

Despite hunger and repression, women in Carbonia heroically supported their husbands strikes. They, too, brought their children to demonstrate against the "Marshall Plan and for peace.

At the beginning of last November and again at the end of the month powerful women's demonstrations were held throughout Italy in defence of peace and against Italy joining the Atlantic pact. Thousands of women took part in the demonstrations of solidarity with the Greek people held on January 9. The demonstrators protested against Anglo-American intervention in Greece and collected money, clothing and medicine for the Greek working people.

When Nenni's motion denouncing de Gasperi's foreign policy was discussed in Parliament, the woman deputy M. Cinciari Rodano protested against the police action taken by Minister Scelba against the women in Rome and throughout the country for taking part in peace demonstrations. She also

exposed the clerical war propaganda and its policy of disrupting the unity of the people. She warned de Gasperi in these words: "Today it is no longer a matter of small groups of women throwing themselves on the railway lines to hold up troop trains. It is a matter of millions of women who determined to fight for peace and to save our country."

Women factory workers and peasant women on the islands in the South and throughout the country are joining in the democratic struggle. They are taking to action against the age-old exploitation, the capitalist oppression, the "Marshall Plan", the anti-Soviet slander of the clergy against the manoeuvres of the warmongers and against the clerical-police government.

Day by day the women of Italy are learning to fight for their rights with greater determination and on an ever wider scaler. But the women's movement still suffers from a number of weaknesses. In the factories, on the fields, and in the towns we often fail to involve the bulk of the working women in the struggle either because we do not study their needs carefully enough or because we underestimate our own strength and the strength of the people. Organisations which should be developing on a mass scale frequently restrict their work to a small circle of active members, they do not extend their propaganda and organisation to the wide masses of women. The mass struggle is not always accompanied by patient organisational work and the gains won are not consolidated. The political level of many women members of the Communist Party and the other organisations is still low.

Now, on the eve of March 8, summarising the results of the struggle waged by the women of Italy for freedom, peace by bread, we can see what remarkable strides forward the women of Italy have made. The women who themselves experienced the horrors of war, know that to prevent new wars, new destruction, to put an end to exploitation, poverty and war, and to triumph over the bourgeoisie, it is necessary to disarm it, as

the great Lenin taught us.

Successes of Polish Women's Movement

In Poland preparations for International Women's Day are going forward under the slogan "Reply to the warmongers with intensified labour for socialist construction".

In the past year Polish women registered considerable achievements. In 1948 the number of women shock workers had reached 16,000. During the emulation drive which spread throughout the country in honour of the Unity Congress of the two workers' parties, hundreds of women exceeded the targets of the State Plan ahead of schedule. Peasant women from the Cracow and Poznan provinces started an emulation campaign for cattle and pig-breeding. Their appeal was taken up by peasant women throughout the country.

Many women have recently been promoted to foremen and industrial managers. For the first time women were among those who trained as tractor drivers in Lenbork.

Formerly there were practically no women on the branch committees of the Peasants' Mutual Assistance Union. 23,000 women were elected to them in the recent elections. Only a year ago there was not a single woman village or district elder or burgomaster. Now women hold these posts in many places.

Over 3,000 women are members of trade union boards; 17 of them are members of the central trade union boards. For the first time in the history of Poland a woman is secretary of the Central Committee of trade unions. She is Comrade Piwowarska, a weaver and deputy of the Sjem. The number of women on district councils has considerably increased.

Before the war there were thirty different women's organisations most of them of a clerical and philanthropical nature. Now there is one united democratic organisation, the

Women's League, with over a million members, which is growing and spreading throughout the country.

At the Second Congress of the World Federation of Democratic Women in Budapest Comrade E. Prager, who is a Minister and a leading member of the Women's League was elected Vice Chairman of the World Federation of Democratic Women.

In 1948, the Women's League held over 5,600 meetings, attended by hundreds of thousands of women, in a large-scale campaign to mobilise Polish women for the struggle for peace and to popularise the achievements of the Soviet people, particularly Soviet women.

Unite All Supporters of Peace. R. Calas, Member, Central Committee, Communist party of France

International Women's Day was first celebrated in France in 1914, when a demonstration was held in Paris in support of Rosa Luxemburg who had been imprisoned for her anti-war activity. Since 1921, International Women's Day has been held under the slogans of struggle for the demands of the working people and against war.

The 1923 celebration of International Women's Day coincided with the struggle of the French and German proletariat against the occupation of the Ruhr. It was held under the slogans: "Down with the high cost of living, the scourge of working men and women! Down with war! Let the propertied classes pay the war debts! Form committees of struggle against imperialism and the danger of war!"

In 1925 many meetings were held on March 8 where one of demands was the franchise for women.

The slogans: light for peace, fight against war, have always been prominent in the calls of the working women of France.

This year thirteen organisations, led by the Union of French Women, the General Confederation of Labour and the Communist Party have addressed the following call to the women of France:

“We who want to end the misery of a life which grows more difficult each day, a life of poverty and need, who want to protect the future of our children; we who want women to have a happy motherhood, to be able to enjoy to the full their rights in their homes as well as at work; we who have seen how two generations have been sacrificed; we who want to win the peace—all of us, mothers and women of France must unite...

“Pledge with us never to give your sons for the war which is being prepared against the land of Socialism—the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union, the faithful ally of our people, recently gave the world fresh proof of its peace-loving policy through the proposals of Generalissimo Stalin.”

The Second International Women’s Congress proclaimed: “If all of us... come forward with closed ranks against the instigators of a new war there will be no war,” and this call has been echoed widely among the women of France. They share this confidence. They pledge themselves to it.

The prominent historian Michelet said: “The French woman, vivacious and sincere, takes great ideas seriously and wants words to become deeds”.

Now, when we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the glorious Black Sea mutiny of the French fleet, the working women of France recall the splendid example of the young French teacher, Jeanne Labourbe who, in 1919, organised propaganda among French soldiers sent to fight Soviet Russia. Jeanne Labourbe was sentenced to death and executed on March 2, 1919, for supporting the proletarian revolution and the struggle against imperialist aggression.

She is a living symbol of the heroism of French women who serve the cause of peace.

The urgency of the struggle for peace cannot be dimmed or dismissed at this moment when the American monopolists are trying to find a way out of the growing crisis in a new world war. On the contrary, we must ruthlessly expose the warmongers and their accomplices.

“We expose the Marshall Plan,” declared the French Committee of the World Federation of Democratic Women, “as a plan of economic enslavement, as a plan of imperialist war.

“We expose the Brussels Pact, which burdens us with a war budget of 500 billion francs in defence of foreign interests.”

The struggle for peace is a struggle against the establishment at Fontainebleau of a foreign general staff to prepare an aggressive war in which the youth of France will be used as cannon fodder.

The struggle for peace is a struggle to stop the criminal military operations against the democratic republic of Viet Nam, to expose the agreements which return the heavy industry of the Ruhr to war criminals—the Nazi industrialists.

The struggle for peace is a struggle against all those, from de Gaulle to Blum, who are pursuing a policy of French subservience to the American monopolists and warmongers. It is a struggle against the Government responsible for the poverty of our country, for exorbitant military expenditure, for the high cost of living, low wages, unemployment. The struggle for peace cannot be separated from the struggle for bread and democratic liberties.

To demand more milk, sugar and butter for our children means forcing the Government to spend fewer billions of francs on war preparations.

By preventing this Government and the big industrialists

from sacrificing France's economy and the vital interests of the French working people in the interests of the American trusts, means fighting for France's national independence.

That is why working women of France responded warmly to the following call to draw up a list of demands for March 8:

“Working women! Draw up lists of demands at your place of work; elect delegations to present them to the managements, to demand wage increase, protection of your rights, abolition of anti-labour laws and work for all.

“Mothers of families! Answer the call of the democratic organisations to fight against the high cost of living and against speculators.

“Protest against high rents until wages, salaries and pensions are revised. Unite in every house, in every street!

“Demand tax cuts!

“Such actions also mean defending the peace.

“Women! together with us demand the release of the arrested miners and an amnesty for all sentenced miners”.

Taking into account the very real threat of war which it would be just as dangerous to under-estimate as to over-estimate, the women of France are planning to carry out International Women's Day on a particularly wide scale.

They heard Maurice Thorez's advice to Communists at the conference of the Seine Party Federation, when he called on them to rally “all supporters of peace, regardless of their beliefs, demanding only that they love peace and fight for peace and democracy.”

This is the spirit in which Communist women understand their tasks. They will do everything to turn the demonstrations of March 6 and 8 into a militant mobilisation of French women. And there the women's democratic organisations will draw new forces and the Communist Party will receive thousands of new women fighters.

CLASS STRUGGLES IN TUSCANY. Vittorio Bardini, Member, Central Committee, Communist Party of Italy

During the past few months there has been a considerable development in the resistance put up by the working people of Tuscany to the policy of hunger and poverty pursued with Government backing, by the reactionaries in the Confederation of Agrarians and Industrialists.

The long and difficult struggle of the workers employed at the SMI plant in Campo Tizzoro (Pistoia Province) against attempts to dismantle equipment and dismiss workers was of great importance. For more than a month there was unrest which sometimes took a very sharp form. Two general strikes throughout the province, and the great solidarity campaign there when working class families took care of 300 children of the strikers greatly contributed to the successful outcome of the struggle. Apart from this, the working people held two demonstrations, called a general strike in the province of Pistoia and a two-hour strike in all Tuscany in protest against the brutal murder of the metal worker Ugo Schiano of the San Giorgio factory during a workers' demonstration.

In this way the workers' organisations drew the attention of the people of the province to the struggle against dismissals and the anti-democratic policy of the Government; they were able to bring about a broad and stable alliance of the working people of town and countryside and to isolate their enemies.

In Florence the workers of the Pignone plants answered the threat to dismiss 153 workers by occupying the enterprises. They were victorious after an eight-day struggle. During these eight days a two-hour general solidarity strike of the industrial workers of the province was called and a similar strike of the metal workers of Tuscany.

In the course of this struggle the solidarity of the Florentine working people with the Pignone strikers was expressed so concretely that neither the Christian Democrats nor the Saragat followers risked coming out against the strikers.

Displaying the same determination, the trade unions and Communist Party organisations of Leghorn struggled successfully against dismissals and production cuts at the OTO shipyards. As a result the 730 workers scheduled for dismissal were only laid off temporarily, being given 90 per cent of their wages. Action was also taken against dismissals and lockouts in Pisa, Amiata, in the Provinces of Siena, Grosseto, Carrara and in Aretine Valdarno. A successful experiment in cooperative management is now being carried out by the workers at two metal mining enterprises in Valdarno and in Baccinello (Grosseto). If the miners succeed in keeping the workings in their hands and in overcoming all obstacles, this experiment will be of great interest.

A sharp struggle is also being waged by the working people of the countryside. The actions of last November and December demonstrated the ability and militant spirit of Tuscany agricultural workers. The big strike of agricultural workers and peasants there, beginning early in November and ending on December 13, was rich in experience and important lessons.

To achieve victory it was necessary to organise united action with the industrial workers; the solidarity displayed by the sharecroppers was most effective. Thousands of sharecroppers, experienced in struggle and militant in spirit, joined forces with the agricultural workers and carried on until victory.

There are not many agricultural labourers in Tuscany, only about 60,000. They still lack traditions of class struggle and political and organisational experience. They were brought closer to the sharecroppers by common aims which they

expressed concretely in joint demands to raise wages and improve the terms of leases. The struggle for these demands lasted 45 days.

The landowners were supported by the splinter trade unions which, on the proposal of the Agrarians and with the object of splitting working-class unity, signed an agreement on November 21, 1948 wholly in the interests of the land holders. However, the Agrarians made a big mistake in thinking that through this agreement and through savage police interference they could disorganise the activity of the united trade unions.

The treachery of the trade union splitters and police interference only made the struggle fiercer. The enemies of the working people saw for themselves that the decisive say in Tuscany rested with the forces organised in the united trade unions, with the forces led by the Communist Party, not with the group of demagogues and renegades in the service of the capitalists. This struggle showed that the interests of the working people can be successfully defended in Tuscany where 300,000 of its 3,000,000 population are members of the Communist Party and another 500,000—members of the General Confederation of Labour.

The Communists made a decisive contribution to the struggle and determined its success. Communist Party section organisations, branches and groups increased their activities to develop agitation, to give all possible help in the struggle, and promote initiative to strengthen the fighting spirit of resistance. New and improved forms of struggle, coupled with solidarity, were factors contributing to the success of the agricultural workers.

The struggle was led by “Committees for Demands” made up of representatives of agricultural labourers, sharecroppers, unemployed and building workers, under the chairmanship of representatives of the Agricultural Workers Trade Union and the Chamber of Labour.

The “Committees for Demands” kept in contact with the mass of the people through committees which were given the job of bringing pressure to bear on managements and proprietors to start talks with the trade union. These committees controlled the strike through pickets of agricultural labourers and sharecroppers, who also acted as liaison men between the various districts.

The “Committees for Demands” also formed solidarity brigades which collected money from the sharecroppers for the families of the striking agricultural workers.

The organised movement of agricultural workers is consolidating and strengthening the alliance between town and country. It is bringing the peasant closer to the industrial worker. Its success inspired other sections of workers to resist the lockouts of the industrialists.

For instance, in answer to the lockout at the brickyards of Vitolo and Tempera in the province of Siena, the workers took over the yards. They have been holding out for more than a month now thanks to the spirit of selflessness and solidarity displayed by other sections of workers who are collecting food, funds, clothing, medicines and taking care of the children. This struggle, too, is headed by the Communists. The men and Women workers who have occupied the factories are gaining heart, being confident of mass support. Following the example of the Valdarno miners, they are also directing production through collective methods. Discipline, order and mutual respect are characteristic features at these plants where the technical personnel is genuinely cooperating with the works committees and the Communist Party organisation in the factory, which is practically entirely made up of workers.

Particularly interesting is the struggle of marble quarry workers in Garfagnana (Lucca Province) who in answer to the lockout announced by the firm of Montecatini, took possession of the quarries. This event was important also

because the Province of Lucca was considered the stronghold of the Christian Democrats and the pride of the reactionaries of Tuscany. Among the Christian Democrats it was known as the "Vendée" of Tuscany. However, this time the Christian Democrats, Saragat men and Republicans were compelled to cooperate with the united trade unions, since they dared not oppose the masses for fear of being completely isolated.

This struggle confronted the Communist Party organisations with new tasks. In a province like Lucca, where there had been no previous experience of struggle, it was necessary to carry on steady propaganda, to keep up the morale of the fight. These people who had for the first time joined such a struggle, could not be left alone, but had to be educated in the spirit of solidarity. The action of the strikers had to be popularised. In short, it was necessary to mobilise the whole Party organisation to win victory.

All Party organisations supported the miners' struggle and did everything to mobilise the masses. Everywhere, on the initiative of the Communists, solidarity committees were formed which afterwards became organs of mutual help and struggle. Dismissals were averted as a result of the struggle and the agreement reached corresponds for the most part to the demands of the united trade unions.

All mass actions carried out on a national, regional or provincial scale met with warm response among the working people of Tuscany where all such actions, including the strike of Civil Servants, ended in victory. Some 90 per cent of all Civil Servants (with the exception of the workers at prefectures and a few other institutions) took part in the strike.

Despite the repression following the July strike, held in protest against the attempt on Comrade Togliatti's life, despite countless reprisals (to date more than 500 are in prison), the people of Tuscany have not lost their militant spirit and are prepared to go on with the struggle. They are not allowing

themselves to be intimidated by police reprisals. The struggle for bread, work, freedom and peace continues. Experience teaches us that only in organised struggle can the working people prevent new violations of freedom by the Government and its organs which are in the service of the Italian reactionaries.

The working people of Tuscany have seen the truth of this for themselves. In spite of persecution, they are ever more resolutely supporting the Communist Party and the united trade unions of the General Confederation of Labour. Wherever reaction launched an attack, there was a marked increase in the number of recruits to the Communist Party and the united trade unions. For example, 60 new members joined the Communist Party in Rapolano (Siena Province), which has a population of only 6,000 and where 35 people were arrested after the July strike. In Leghorn Province, the Party membership has increased by a thousand compared with last year. Similar increases have been registered in Florence, Pisa and other provinces.

The working people of Tuscany, and indeed of the whole country, are beginning to realise, more and more, that they can achieve victory by taking into account the lessons of the history of the working class movement, on the great example of the revolutionary struggle waged by the heroic Bolshevik Party.

BULGARIAN TRADE UNIONS FIGHT TO CARRY OUT FIVE-YEAR PLAN. Raiko Damyanov, Chairman, central Council of Bulgarian Trade Unions

The Fifth Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party adopted a Five-Year Plan for the development of the Republic's national economy. This plan gives a clear perspective and outlines concrete measures for laying the foundations of Socialism in our country.

The trade unions in Bulgaria must, and are concentrating their attention on the struggle to carry out the Five-Year Plan. To this end they are doing everything possible to raise the productivity of labour.

The main and decisive factor in labour productivity are human being—workers, engineers and technicians. It depends on their ability to operate machines, make the most of their productive capacity and improve the organisation of work.

Special courses to improve the skill of workers are being organised throughout the country on the initiative of the trade unions. For instance, there are 27 such courses in Gabrovo training 532 workers, 60 in Sofia with 2,100 workers and 67 courses in Varna with 2,000 workers.

In fighting for high productivity of labour the trade unions are helping to improve the organisation of production, to encourage and popularise innovations and rationalisation. The workers are readily supporting us in this; thousands of rationalisation proposals are being made at factories which aim, through improved production methods, to exceed their targets for the Plan. Here is a typical example: Comrade Paunov of Plant No. 12 was given a target of 500 automobile

induction bobbins by a given date. To accomplish this he introduced certain adjustments in his machine which enabled three bobbins to be produced in the time previously taken to produce one. In this way he fulfilled his plan ahead of schedule.

Because workers, engineers and technicians are all working to raise the productivity of labour in this way, it has been possible to introduce new methods of work and better ways of organising production. By improving the organisation of labour, the brigade of Comrades Videnov and Vaklinov at Plant No. 12 has increased its productivity and is fulfilling the targets by 230 per cent. The cyclical method of coal mining is now being applied at Pernik and the multiple-hewing system is being introduced on an ever wider scale. As a result the productivity of labour at the "Maritsa" mine has gone up by 20 per cent.

The number of multiple-loom operators is also increasing. For instance, 62 per cent of the textile workers at the "Marida" mill operate many looms simultaneously. The trade unions are popularising the experience of leading workers by giving demonstrations of their methods of work.

Socialist emulation is one of the main factors in developing productivity of labour. That is why the Bulgarian trade unions, fighting for the successful fulfilment of the Five-Year Plan, are paying special attention to the organisation and development of emulation.

Our trade unions have acquired considerable experience and won a number of successes in organising and guiding the emulation drive. The trade union committee at the V. Kolarov rubber factory organises socialist emulation in the following manner, The trade union committee discusses the factory's plan with the director and technical head of the factory, dividing it into quarters, months, weeks and days. This is then discussed at a general meeting of workers and measures for Its

fulfilment agreed on. The workers are organised in brigades competing with each other. A daily check on the work enables the workers to see who is leading in production. At monthly conferences results are discussed and new tasks put forward. By organising production in this manner the factory fulfilled its 1948 targets by 134 per cent.

However, some trade union organisations take a formal attitude to the question of emulation. As a rule they confine themselves to discussing the factory's plan at a general meeting, make emulation pledges and leave it at that. Naturally, the results are far from satisfactory. We are waging a ruthless struggle against formalism in organising emulation and are out to get all branches of the trade union apparatus actively engaged in it.

Improved quality of production is one of the main indications in socialist emulation. The Central Council of Bulgarian Trade Unions pointed out how important it was for the trade union organisations to fight for high grade production and stressed that both those organisations which do not interest themselves in this and workers who turn out poor quality production are wasting valuable material and harming the national economy.

One of the primary tasks riled by Comrade Dimitrov at the Fifth Congress of the Communist Party in connection with building the economic and cultural bases of Socialism in our country, in the introduction of a new, socialist, labour discipline.

The trade unions can only achieve this task if they carry out extensive explanatory work among the working people, help to abolish absenteeism and labour fluctuation, and help to make the most of the working day. Many trade union organisations have already made headway on this sector of the struggle for the Five-Year Plan. But what has been accomplished so far is only an insignificant part of the work to

be done. Tightening of socialist labour discipline is, and will continue to be one of the principal tasks of the trade unions.

The trade union organisations are also faced with the task of giving help to the countryside. The trade unions of the metal-processing, transport, electrical and other industries are sending technical brigades into the countryside to help the agricultural cooperatives and machine-tractor depots to repair agricultural implements. The district trade union councils are giving direct assistance to the people's councils in organising these technical brigades. Agricultural workers and agronomists, teachers and office workers in the countryside are actively explaining what needs to be done for the spring sowing and are encouraging the use of advanced agronomy.

By helping the countryside with the spring sowing plan the workers are strengthening their alliance with the working peasantry and ensuring that the first year targets of the Five-Year Plan will be reached.

Realisation of the Five-Year Plan is inseparably linked with improving the material wellbeing of the working class and the people as a whole. The first results of the Five-Year Plan will be evident this year.

Large-scale housing construction has started at the Pernik mines, in Dimitrovgrad, Sofia, Gabrovo, Plevna, Haskovo and other towns. Thousands of workers will move into new homes this year. Canteens are being built at many factories, market gardening started and stock raising farms organised. The trade unions are organising public control over the social measures to improve the health protection of office and industrial workers, as envisaged in the Five-Year Plan,

Our trade unions are studying the teachings of Marxism-Leninism to use as a guide in their work. A one-year trade union school has been opened in Sofia, cadres courses are being started by the central leadership of nearly all trade unions, trades councils and trade union federations. Permanent

three-month courses will be opened this year in Sofia, Plovdiv and Yarns.

Courses and discussion groups are being organised for active members to study Marxism-Leninism, the experience of socialist construction in the Soviet Union, the report of Comrade Dimitrov and decisions of the Fifth Congress of the Communist Party. Workers' universities have been opened in Sofia and Plovdiv. Meetings are held at factories and others at which questions of proletarian internationalism and the struggle against nationalism are explained to the workers, and at which they are educated in the spirit of firm friendship with the peoples of the Soviet Union and the new democracies.

The Five- Year Plan will lay the foundations of Socialism in our country, the struggle for its realisation is an important and honourable task of the trade unions. The working people of Bulgaria, united in the trade union, will spare no efforts to make the Five-Year Plan a success.

RUMANIA PREPARES FOR MARCH 8

The women of Rumania are enthusiastically preparing to celebrate international Women's Day. Meetings on the significance I.W.D. in the present political conditions are being held in factories, offices, regional centres and villages. Industrial women and peasants are pledging to fulfil and surpass the State Plan.

The Rumanian Union of Democratic Women has decided to form 2,805 more rural branches by March 8. It also plans to extend the network of women's committees to help the public health organisation.

To raise the political level of women, the existing 848 short-time courses for propagandists already taken by 12,774 women will, by March 8, be increased by another 275 courses in regional, centres and 80 in the towns. In connection with I.W.D. the General Confederation of Labour is publishing two pamphlets about Soviet women: "Heroines of the Patriotic War" and "Heroines of Socialist Labour." The Women's Union is publishing three pamphlets on women's struggle for peace and freedom in Asia, Greece and Spain.

On March 8, women's meetings and demonstrations will be held in towns and villages and concerts will be given in cultural centres. During the first week in March, news-reels about the work of Rumanian women will be shown throughout the country. Portable projectors with films showing how Soviet women are building Socialism and Communism will tour 44 areas.

In solidarity with the fighting women of Indonesia, the Union will telegraph resolutions to the United Nations, protesting against Dutch aggression.

STRIKING DEMONSTRATION OF SOLIDARITY BETWEEN BRITISH AND SOVIET WORKERS FOR PEACE, AGAINST INSTIGATORS OF WAR

Nearly a million workers in the North-West of England were represented at a Conference in Manchester on February 19 held under the joint auspices of the Lancashire and Cheshire Council of the British Soviet Society and the Lancashire and Cheshire Federation of Trades Councils, which called for peace and friendship with the Soviet Union.

The resolution adopted by the Conference called on the British Government to honour the alliance of friendship and mutual aid concluded with the Soviet Union in 1942, to refuse to sign the North Atlantic Pact, and to resume with the aid of the United Nations, cooperation between the Great Powers.

The delegates stressed the desire of the British people for peace and friendship with the people of the Soviet Union and of the need to strengthen this friendship. The Anglo-American warmongers and the Atlantic Pact which violates the principles of the United Nations, were strongly denounced.

The text of the Declaration addressed to the Leningrad Regional Council of Trade Unions by the Lancashire and Cheshire Federation of Trades Councils on behalf of 950,000 workers, was read at the Conference:

Mr Newbold, Secretary of the Manchester and Salford Trades Council said: I am proud that I've been chosen to transmit this declaration to the Soviet Trade Unions, I send with it the very best wishes of the Trade Union movement in Lancashire and Cheshire. Long live the solidarity of British and Soviet workers!

Mr Newbold recalled that, in the past, British trade unionists had fought for recognition of the Soviet Union. They

combated the opposition of the ruling class which attempted to destroy the young Soviet Republic. Today, there is no need for us to call for recognition of the Soviet Union... The Soviet Union is the most powerful State in the world. We are calling for an extension of trade, for strengthening friendly relations with the Soviet Union in the interests of the security and very existence of our people. The declaration sent by the British workers to the Leningrad trade unions says:

We are seriously alarmed that so quickly after the conclusion of this terrible war in which millions were killed, that preparations for another war should be under way. We believe that the peoples of the world—British, Soviet, American and all others do not want war. Moreover, we believe that war can be prevented, and that the cause of universal peace would be considerably advanced by an improvement in Anglo-Soviet relations and by strengthening Anglo-Soviet friendship, in the interests of which we undertake to do everything in our power.

This Declaration of the British workers was warmly received by the people of Leningrad and the Leningrad Region, who suffered bitterly during the war years. Six days later, on February 25, 10,000 trade union delegates representing 1,400,000 factory and office workers of Leningrad and the Leningrad Region, attended a gathering in the Winter Stadium at which the Declaration of the Lancashire and Cheshire workers was discussed.

Comrade Grigoryev, President of the Leningrad Regional Council of Trade Unions, who opened the meeting said:

“We know that the working people of Britain, like the working people of the Soviet Union do not want war and that they scorn the predatory clique of warmongers. We are firmly convinced that the international solidarity of the ordinary people of the world, the International unity of the members of trade unions, and the strengthening of friendship between the

peoples are vital to the preservation of world peace.

“The Government of the U.S.S.R., stubbornly and consistently is carrying out a peaceful policy. The peace policy of the Soviet Government which is directed by our great leader and teacher Comrade Stalin, invariably meets with the unanimous support of the working people of our country. We are sure that this policy corresponds to the sentiments of the Lancashire and Cheshire workers. and of progressive people throughout Britain.

The British workers may rest assured that their call will meet with a warm, wholehearted response, with the most active support of the trade unionists in Leningrad and in the, Leningrad Region.”

Comrade Skobnikov, Chairman of the Factory Committee of the oldest metallurgical and engineering works in the Soviet Union, the Kirov (former Putilov) Plant, sent a message of greeting and friendship to the British workers on behalf of the thousands of trade unionists in the plant He said that the Declaration of the working men and women of Manchester and Salford, Lancashire and Cheshire, calling for a lasting peace had met with the wholehearted response and approval of the workers, engineers and technicians of the plant who have always been in the front ranks of the champions for the victory of Socialism.

“Comrades, working men and women of Britain,” stated Comrade Skobnikov, “the efforts of progressive mankind, particularly of the working class organised in trade unions, must be united in the struggle for peace. Let, us turn the World Federation of Trade Unions into an invincible barrier to war!

“Let us counter the warmongers with our will for peace, our sincere friendship; let us crush in embryo their criminal attempts to hurl mankind into the abyss of new slaughter.

“Let the mighty call: ‘Down with the warmongers!’ resound throughout the world.”

Addressing the meeting, the chief designer of the Stalin metal plant, Comrade Kovalyev, denounced the instigators of a new war, the Wall Street militarists, the organiser of the Atlantic Pact and similar pacts of aggression and called for stronger fraternal ties with the working people of the world. Addressing the Manchester, Lancashire and Cheshire workers, Comrade Kovalyev said:

“All members of the trade unions—industrial and office workers, engineers and technicians of the Stalin metal plant in Leningrad are convinced that you expressed the hopes and desires of the working people in every part of the world, who are vigilantly guarding peace and who are prepared to cut short any attempt of the imperialists to unleash a new war.

“We certainly believe that the evil designs of the instigator, of a new war will end in fiasco, as our wise leader and teacher Comrade Stalin, has predicted.”

In her message to the working men and women of Lancashire and Cheshire on behalf of the women of Leningrad, Comrade Maximova, a weaver at the “Rabochi” mill said:

“We do not want the new war of devastation and enslavement which the capitalists are trying to unleash. The voice of trade unionists, of women throughout the world is being raised ever louder against the danger of a new war, against reaction, against fascism.

“I, a working woman, a Soviet woman who loves her Motherland more than anything else in the world, call upon the women of the world to stand firm in defence of friendship between peoples, not to succumb to provocation, and to do everything to prevent war.

“The friendship held out to us by the British trade union members is one of the conditions for keeping the peace.

“The Soviet people never have and never will reject friendship. On behalf of our Leningrad women I call upon British women to strengthen this friendship and to fight for

peace. I say to them: Together, dear comrades. we shall strengthen the united front of struggle against the warmongers, we shall not allow the friendship between peoples to be destroyed, we shall form a solid barrier against the growing danger of a new war. The attempts of the imperialists to start a new world war will then come to grief against the mighty force of the united front of peace.”

Comrade Grebenshikov, member of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., spoke on behalf of Leningrad intellectuals. He declared that scientific workers could not remain aloof from the struggle between progress and reaction. Progressive men of science and culture throughout the world were raising their voice against the warmongers. He called for the unity and solidarity of scientists throughout the world in the struggle for peace.

Comrade Breikin, a Stakhanovite turner, sent sincere greetings to the advanced workers of Britain who have raised their voice in defence of peace and the security of peoples, on behalf of the thousands of workers of the Ordjonikidze Baltic plant. He called on the British workers to join the active struggle for peace and friendship among the peoples, to smash the attempts of the inveterate warmongers, the hirelings of the Anglo-American imperialists to isolate the homeland of the working people of the world—the great Soviet Union.

In conclusion the meeting enthusiastically addressed a call to the Lancashire and Cheshire district council of the British-Soviet Friendship Society and Lancashire and Cheshire Federation of Trades Councils. This call stresses the unwavering, sincere desire of the Soviet Union to strengthen international cooperation, to establish friendly relations with the United States and Britain, to secure the broadest possible mutual economic ties in which the Soviet Union is interested just as much as Britain and the United States. Ruling circles in the United States and Britain, says the message, have replied to

this Soviet policy of peace by organising the North Atlantic Pact and other aggressive blocs against peace and against the Soviet Union.

“You are absolutely right,” it declares, “when you stress in your Declaration that the peoples of the world do not want war and that war can be averted. Our great teacher and leader, Comrade Stalin has said: ‘The horrors of the recent war are too fresh in the minds of the people, and the social forces standing for peace are too great for the Churchill disciples of aggression to overcome them and turn them towards a new war.’”

“The forces of democracy are growing daily throughout the world. If the peoples of all countries will oppose the warmongers with their firm determination to defend the cause of peace and will consolidate their ranks, the forces of reaction will never be able to realise their evil designs, they will never be able to hurl mankind into a new bloodbath.

“We call on you, on all workers in Britain to strengthen the friendship between the people of Britain and the peoples of the Soviet Union so that together we may fight against the instigators of a new war.

“Long live the unity and friendship of the workers of Great Britain and the Soviet Union in the struggle for a firm and lasting peace throughout the world!”

RUMANIAN WOMEN TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN LIFE OF COUNTRY. Constanza Craciun, Member, Central Committee, Workers' Party Rumania, Chairman, Union of Democratic Women of Rumania

Under the bourgeois landlord regime the life of the Rumanian woman was one of hardship and humiliation. The liberation of our country by the Soviet Army gave our people the perspective of advancing toward Socialism. This, in turn, made possible the complete emancipation of women of all nationalities in the country.

The Rumanian Workers' Party has pursued a consistent policy of defending the rights of women and drawing them into the political and social life of the country. Because of this policy thousands of women entered production and took part in the struggle to bring about a people's democracy and lay the foundations of Socialism.

The number of women holding responsible posts in the Party and State apparatus is steadily increasing. The Rumanian Workers' Party is paying special attention to women cadres and is giving them every encouragement in their work.

After the judicial reform, hundreds of women, among them many peasant women, were elected people's assessors. There are now women members of the Academy of Science, judges, prosecutors, mayors and members of the Government. Thirty two women have been elected deputies to the National Assembly, 238 women are working in the provisional area commissions. There are 10 women mayors, or deputy mayors, In the cities not to mention a large number in the rural districts.

Thousands of women will be drawn into social work in the local and area People's Councils. Seventy-six women are factory directors. There are so far 5,714 women on trade union committees, but the number elected to executive posts will increase with the new trade union elections.

The one-year State Plan met with warm response among women industrial workers, especially in the textile mills where 80% of the workers are women. The State Plan envisages a 28 per cent increase in textile manufactures and a 15 per cent increase in the productivity of labour.

Following the example of the steel smelters who are competing to shorten labour processes, the textile workers are also studying new methods of work. Women workers of the "Victoria" spinning mill in Jassy are competing with the workers of the FRB mill in Bucharest to eliminate idle time. The two factories have already achieved considerable success: work brigades at the "Victoria" mill have reduced idle time from 10 minutes to 3.6 minutes and at FRB to 1 minute and less. On the second day of the emulation drive at the FRB mill, the output of yarn increased by 360 kilograms, that is, by 3,800 metres of fabric. Most of the spinning mills in the country are taking part in this emulation drive. Hundreds of women workers are studying better work methods, exchanging experience and asking help in this from the technical personnel. The number of women weavers operating 4, 10 and even 12 looms is increasing.

Rumanian women have the opportunity for mastering professions that were previously closed them. They are becoming turners, welders, smelters, electrical technicians and crane operators. Tractor-driver schools, opened throughout the country, are attended by a large number of women and the first contingent of women tractor drivers is already at work.

Big changes have taken place in the life of the peasant women. Of the 7,600,000 electors who went to the polls in

March 1948, half were women, for the most part peasants. Many peasant women are doing responsible work as members of various committees, cooperatives, as mayors and village elders. Peasant women took an active part in the struggle against kulak sabotage, exposed the kulaks who hid seed, who refused to carry out their obligations to the State and who spread hostile rumours. Many peasant women, side by side with their husbands, are carrying on propaganda for the establishment of peasant unions for the purpose of utilising the State-owned agricultural machines and tractors, and are popularising the work of the State farms and machine-tractor depots.

Peasant women are eager to study and to acquire political knowledge. During the past two months, nearly 8,000 peasant women have attended short-term courses for propagandists, organised by the Union of Democratic Women of Rumania. At these courses they studied the Constitution, learned about the significance of the nationalisation and development of industry for the countryside, about the policy of the Workers' Party in the countryside, about the Soviet Union, and the struggle for peace, about collective farms in the Soviet Union, about the State Plan, the establishment and role of the People's Councils, and so on.

In the past year, women's committees, embracing a large number of peasant women, were formed in 10,200 of the 13,408 villages. Their formation was preceded by explanatory work, carried out by industrial worker, on the instruction of the Party.

In the cities, the Union of Democratic Women is carrying on political educational work among housewives, who are organised in street committees, and is also working to wipe out illiteracy and to mobilise women for social work. Last summer women worked some three million volunteer hours, repairing schools, bridges and roads, building houses of culture,

organising children's playgrounds, seasonal kindergartens in the countryside, and so on.

Women's committees are being formed to help in maternity homes, children's kindergartens and milk centres which cater to 400,000 children daily.

The women of the Rumanian People's Republic have learned a great deal about the Soviet Union, which they love deeply. They know that the Soviet Union heads the struggle for a democratic world peace, that the Soviet Union has opened the path to Socialism for our people and the other new democracies. In their day-to-day work they follow the militant experience of the Soviet people and Soviet women. The women of Rumania often turn to the Soviet women for advice on various questions.

The women of our country are active in the struggle for peace and democracy. They organised more than 15,500 meetings to explain the decisions of the Second Congress of the World Federation of Democratic Women, which were attended by more than 850,000 women. Women in the towns and villages are collecting funds and clothing for the democrats of Greece; they voice their solidarity with the peoples of China, Spain, Viet Nam and Indonesia, who are fighting imperialism for their national independence.

We still have a great deal of work to do among women: to raise their class consciousness and vigilance, to improve their political and ideological education, to combat a bourgeois attitude to women and to overcome the lack of confidence the women have in their own strength.

Undoubtedly the women of Rumania, who have already taken the path of developing their political and civil consciousness will, under the leadership of the Rumanian Workers' Party and by learning from the experience of the Soviet Union, fight firmly in the ranks of the proletariat and its allies to lay the foundations of Socialism in our country.

FRANCE PREPARES FOR MARCH 8

A large-scale campaign preparing for International Women's Day has begun in France.

Carrying out the decision of the recent International Women's Congress at Budapest, the French Committee of the World Federation of Democratic Women has sponsored the circulating of "Peace Books" to collect from women, signatures and demands for peace.

The Peace Books will be handed on March 8 to the prefectures for delivery to the Government. Later they will be sent to the United Nations.

During this campaign, trade union organisations are also drawing up demands to present to their employers. These are being worked out on the basis of proposals made by the working people.

Organisations affiliated to the French Committee of the World Federation are preparing demonstrations throughout the country for Sunday, March 6. Big meetings will be held in Paris, Marseilles, Lyons, Toulouse, Perpignan, Troyes, Lille and other cities.

Members of women's organisations, are showing considerable initiative. In Alès, women plan to organise a children's demonstration. The director of a secondary school has sent a peace letter to the head of the departmental educational board which will be read in all schools.

On March 8, under Communist Party auspices, a meeting of women members will be held in the Pleyel Hall in Paris. The meeting will have for its slogan the struggle against poverty and war, for bread and peace. Maurice Thorez will address the gathering.

The Government is seeking to ban the demonstration

scheduled for March 6 in Paris on the grounds that no such demonstrations were held before the war. However, despite the efforts of Queuille and Moch, International Women's Day will be marked by an unprecedented mobilisation of forces.

CONSOLIDATION OF GERMAN ANTI-FASCIST BLOC

The recent Plenum of the Central Board of the German Christian Democratic Union in the Soviet zone and greater Berlin passed a resolution protesting against Anglo-American policy aimed at breaking off the German laenders, splitting, dismembering and enslaving Western Germany.

The Board contrasted this Anglo-American policy to the policy of the Soviet Union. "The Soviet Union and the States which took part in the Warsaw Conference," says the resolution, "expressed their readiness to support the democratic forces of Germany. The German people grasp the hand extended to them. The Christian Democratic Union underlines the need for genuine cooperation with the Soviet Union. Those Who oppose this peaceful policy and are engaged in anti-Soviet agitation must be expelled from the Union."

The resolution of the Union urges its members to take an active part in carrying out the Two-Year Plan, and declares its readiness to strengthen the policy of the democratic bloc and cooperate with all progressive forces to build up German democracy.

WOMEN IN PAS DE CALAIS DEPARTMENT (FRANCE) DEMONSTRATE FOR BETTER CONDITIONS



Women in Pas de Calais Department (France) demonstrate for better conditions

Women in Pas de Calais Department. (France) demonstrate for better conditions.

POLITICAL NOTES

Hangman Of Iraq And Greek Patriots Must Be Made To Answer For Their Crimes

A few days ago the world learned of new crimes committed by the hirelings of Anglo-American imperialism. The organisers and leaders of the Communist Party of Iraq were hanged in Baghdad: Yusef Sulelman (Fahed), General Secretary of the Party and Comrades Hussein Mohamad Shabibi, Zaki Mohamad Bassim and Yagud Ibrahim Sadyk. Hundreds of Iraqi patriots have been sentenced to penal servitude.

Fahed and his comrades, as is known, were sentenced to death in January 1948 when the Iraqi people frustrated the attempt of the British imperialists to complete the enslavement of the country through the notorious Portsmouth Treaty. Under pressure of popular indignation the Iraqi Parliament did not ratify this Treaty; Prime Minister Saleh Jabur who signed it, fled abroad. The death sentence passed on Fahed and his comrades was then commuted to imprisonment.

By brutal reprisals against the imprisoned Communist Party leaders the British imperialists and their puppets in the Nuri Said Government hoped to crush the resistance of the people of Iraq. Actually, however, their atrocities resulted in strengthening the unity of the national liberation movement in Iraq and other Arab countries.

A few days after the murders in Baghdad, another crime was perpetrated in yet another seat of Anglo-American imperialism. On February 20, Comrade Paparigas, General Secretary of the General Confederation of Labour of Greece, was strangled in an Athens prison. Realising that the people of

the world would rally to save the life of the popular leader of the Greek workers, the Athens monarcho-fascists did not dare bring him to trial. Instead, they disposed of him in the usual Gestapo fashion.

The working people of the world, honest people everywhere, are deeply disgusted and horrified at these crimes against elementary human rights, freedom and justice. Any thinking person will realise that the Gestapo agents Nuri Said and Rentis were merely the executors. It is the imperialists of the United States and Britain who are responsible for the blood of the Iraq and Greek patriots; the hands of Truman and other sponsors of the witch hunt against the Communists are stained with this blood.

Nor will their accomplices in this crusade get away with silence, or evade responsibility before world democratic opinion.

In the past, before the leaders of the Socialist Parties of Western Europe revealed themselves openly as lackeys in the lobbies of the imperialists, they made, a show of their independence and refrained from public disavowal of the principles of working class solidarity, they even found the courage now and then to express indignation and to protest against the atrocities of capitalist reaction.

Today these leaders shamelessly come out in defence of the traitor and currency speculator, the spy and plotter Mindszenty, who was publicly sentenced by a people's court. But when the finest patriots of Iraq and Greece are murdered by the imperialists, these leaders utter no word of condemnation.

Why are the "Socialists" of Western Europe silent? What has happened to their internationalism? Perhaps Attlee and Bevin are silent because they signed the Anglo-Iraq Treaty of enslavement together with Nuri Said, for it was in the struggle against this Treaty that Fahed and his comrades fell. Perhaps,

Leon Blum is silent because the banner of his party is already stained with the blood of French workers, murdered by Moch. And what is there left for the Dutch “Socialists” to say about the murder of Papparigas when they, themselves, are directing slaughter in Indonesia, or for the Italian Saragats who are collaborating with Scelba and preparing for a military alliance with the Greek assassins of Papparigas and the Turkish janissaries?

The shameful behaviour of the Right Social Democrats over the murders in Iraq and Greece shows once again that today only the Communist Parties, round which all honest democratic forces of the world are rallying, are the true champions of the internationalism and international proletarian solidarity.

Pope Pius XII and The Atlantic Pact

The organisers of the Atlantic Pact have lately been encountering great difficulties. The biggest is that they have failed to lull the vigilance of the peoples and have been unable to conceal from them the aggressive predatory aims of the Pact. The democratic camp has done much to mobilise public opinion in Europe and America to fight against the conclusion of this military alliance.

The Pope has hastened to the assistance of the woe-begone instigators of a new war. On February 13 he addressed an “apostolic call” to the bishops and clergy of the world. The prime object of this call was to give the Atlantic Pact an ideological basis. After noting the existence today of new weapons of mass destruction, the Pope writes: “We gladly welcome and approve the initiative to draw the peoples into a closer union”. Further, expressing justified fears that unions built on an unstable base are liable to fall apart at the first jolt,

the Pope proposes that they should be given the task of combating “atheism”. Objects for such a crusade are then listed with a precision unusual in Vatican tradition: they are countries where “books, pamphlets, newspapers, radio, press, science and art serve to spread a disbelief in holy things.”

The publication of Pius XII’s call coincided with a quite notable anniversary. Exactly one hundred years ago pope Pius IX appealed to the European despots to crush the democratic republic of Rome proclaimed by Mazzini and Garibaldi on the ruins of the Papal domain. A century after, Pius XII calls on the world reaction to unite under the cross and the atom bomb for a crusade against the forces of progress and democracy. On his orders an army of preachers in black cas-socks is being sent to the assistance of the “stalwart sons of the Church”, Bevin, Spaak, Lange and other sponsors of the Atlantic Pact. Their signatures to this predatory alliance will be countersigned by the Vatican seal which, as everyone knows, shows a dove with the olive-branch of peace!..

Wall Street “Adjusts Itself”

The approaching collapse of the Kuomintang State is forcing ruling circles in the United States to seek new ways and means of carrying out their military policy in China which is at the moment suspended in in mid-air. China is not Japan, where the Americans are running the works: It is not enough for some unknown general merely to “hint” at the political line the U.S. would prefer. Searching for new methods to preserve the economic and political position of the dollar in China, American statesmen have come to this rueful conclusion: a foothold can be retained in China only by “adapting” themselves to the new situation created by the victories of the people’s liberation movement. In this respect the recent

statement of “Marshall Plan” economic administrator. Hoffman, merits attention. He said that if a de facto people’s government was formed in China which would meet the conditions of U.S. assistance, America would, in all probability, continue to give such assistance.

Hoffman is still making “stipulations”; the Wall Street tycoons are looking for ways and means of “adapting” themselves, that is, they would like to “Marshallise” new China. But, the all important thing is that the American imperialists are still gambling on the crumbling Chiang Kai-shek regime. After their attempts to get the four Great Powers to interfere in China failed, they are putting forward a new project to organise their interference through the United Nations.

Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Evatt, known by his work in the U.N. Assembly to be a loyal servitor of the State Department, took the initiative in this matter then: two days later, Sun Fo, Prime Minister of the Kuomintang Government, requested “U.N. mediation”. The Kuomintang clique is already dreaming of the day when it will be able to remain in power with the help of a “Uno commission”, as was the case in Greece, Palestine, and South Korea and supported by foreign expeditionary armies.

In a comment on this plan the Communist Party of China has declared that neither the governments of foreign powers nor the United Nations has the right to interfere in the internal affairs of China. Any such plan, no matter by whom, or under what name it is presented, will be resolutely rebuffed by the Chinese people.

Jan Marek

EDITORIAL BOARD

Printed and Published in Rumania, Journal "For a Lasting Peace, for a People's Democracy" appears on the 1st and 15th of each month. Address of Editorial Office and of Publishing House: Bucharest, Valeriu Braniste, 56. Tel. 5.10.59