

SOCIAL SCIENCES

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20c

Review



WHAT PRESS HIDES ON USSR DEFENSE BUDGET
Close-ups from China, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia

"Be Awake!"

Tulsa, Okla.—Warmongers are spending millions on war propaganda, and it is up to us, people who want peace, to chip in with every dollar we can spare to fight for peace. I am enclosing \$1 for the magazine, as I am a poor woman and can't spare more. I am an invalid and bedridden and NEW WORLD REVIEW is the only encouraging piece of information I get in this part of the country. Feeble as I am, I cannot fight for peace otherwise than support a magazine which fights for it so effectively as you do. To close, I would say as Julius Fuchik, victim of the Nazis, said in his *Notes from the Gallows*: "People, I love you; be awake!"—K.H.

Promotion Idea

Laguna Beach, Calif.—After all, the proof of the pudding is in the eating, so why not select a good reliable list of intellectuals and send them the magazine directly. The public today is so high pressured with reactionary propaganda that sales letters telling them of the good points just fall like rain off a duck's back. Whereas the terrific punch of your self-explanatory magazine will smash through mental concrete and really have the selling effect desired.

—Lionel Goodwin

Do We, Really?

St. Louis, Mo.—NEW WORLD REVIEW is something we have needed for a long time, something the whole country has needed. There is one weakness—the articles are too highfalutin' for the average reader. Of course, if your audience is Supreme Court judges, Einsteins, etc., you can go ahead shooting over the heads of us working guys. To be of

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The Fight for Peace Can Be Won

by DR. WILLARD UPHAUS



OVER a year ago when I spoke to the Second World Peace Congress in Warsaw I said that there was a strong sentiment for peace in the United States, but no movement like those our sixty-three delegates had seen and felt in European countries. Individual families have been saddened by the loss of loved ones in Korea, but our whole people have never experienced a deep national sorrow from the wiping out of cities and the destruction of millions of lives. Tragically, wars for us have meant full employment and profiteering in death.

But we are now beginning to see the tidal wave for peace set in motion at Warsaw splashing against our shores. The sixty-three of us who were stabbed awake by the sight of ruins and the indomitable courage of those who have the faith to build for an era of peace have talked to many gatherings, large and small. We have tried to get American hearts in rhythm with the pulse of a war-stricken humanity. Symptomatic of deep changes going on in American minds is the statement of a skilled machinist making over \$3 an hour on war production who confessed, "I

would be glad to work for a third of this amount to have the satisfaction of working for peace."

We should give credit to numerous peace groups for the constructive service they have rendered—among them the Committee for Peaceful Alternatives, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Foundation for Enduring Peace, and the official groups of the churches like the Methodist Peace Commission. But something more was needed. In January, 1951, a small group of peace leaders, meeting in New York, recognized the demand for a grass roots movement that would be nonsectarian, interracial and representative of all minorities; that would bring together workers, farmers, housewives and young people; that would exclude no one because of his political views. The United States must have a movement, they believed, that, though not an official part of the World Council of Peace, would feel itself a part of this world-embracing force.

Time is fully vindicating those few brave spirits who founded the American Peace Crusade. It has grown. The first response of the people in numbers came when 2,500 Peace Pilgrims from nearly forty states joined the pilgrimage in Washington to demonstrate for peace and to ask the President and Congressmen how peace could ever come through supporting Chiang Kai-shek, rearming

DR. WILLARD UPHAUS, Methodist clergyman, is Co-Director of the American Peace Crusade. He was former Executive Director of the National Religion and Labor Foundation.

Germany, and from the ill will created by "Operation Killer." Then came the great Chicago Congress in July that drew over 4,000 delegates from more than forty states. There the delegates agreed to go to the nation on three issues: 1) stop the killing in Korea, 2) work for negotiation among the major powers as a way to peace instead of bloodshed, and 3) spend less on armament and more on human welfare.

The passing months since last July have seen the ebb and flow of action, the ebbs coinciding with the lack of that form of life-blood called money. APC staff members have gone to the field to speak and organize. The Crusade joined in the fight to vindicate Dr. Du Bois and his associates in the Peace Information Center case. Field letters have maintained contacts with cooperating committees and councils across the nation. Delegations called on the State Department and the UN.

To the Crusade peace is indivisible and universal. A representative went to Washington to appeal to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to recommend rejection of the Japanese Treaty. APC has warned again and again of the new threat to peace that comes from the U.S.-prompted revival of militarism and nazism in Germany. It holds that the issues of war and peace are indissolubly tied up with racism in this country and Western intervention against the independence movements of colonial peoples. There is a relation between the killer psychology in Korea and the terror instigated in this country by white supremacists against the Negroes.

One of the best proofs of the vitality of the Crusade and the growing response of the people was the

Eastern Seaboard meeting held in New York, February 24. This meeting was the auspicious forerunner of the much greater April 1 Washington National Delegates Assembly. It brought into focus as never before the fact that the basic solution of the world's tensions lies in the willingness of the five major powers to resolve at the council table the differences that threaten war. Given this willingness to negotiate, no matter how much time and patience it takes, the world will begin to relax, and the first fruits of agreements will soon come in reductions of armaments, East-West trade and a new peaceful prosperity based on it, and many forms of cultural exchange. It was the sober realization that Washington stood adamant against real negotiation that gave impetus to a petition drive to net 500,000 signatures calling for a Five-Power Pact in time for the Washington meeting.

Some of the reports included touches of warm human interest. In one city a woman emptied the last 68 cents out of her pocketbook to help. In another there was a Sunday canvassing in which there was not one refusal to sign. In still another when 1,500 leaflets were given out at shop gates very few were thrown away. A speaker for the councils of Greater New York ventured that President Truman had never received so many Christmas cards, for these councils had put out 200,000 peace cards for people to sign and send to him.

This Seaboard meeting heard reports of peace action in more distant areas. Miss Halois Moorhead, secretary, American Women for Peace, told of a transcontinental trip in which she saw remarkable evidences of courage and drives for peace. She stressed the growing action among

Welcome, Fred Field!

OUR READERS will share our joy in welcoming back our fellow editor, Frederick V. Field. Fred Field has spent almost nine months in jail, sentenced for contempt of court because he invoked his rights under the Fifth Amendment in refusing to divulge the names of the thousands of contributors to the Civil Rights Bail Fund, and thus exposing them to unwarranted persecution. With his fellow trustees of the fund, he refused to join the sordid ranks of the informers who are such a blot on American life today. While these evil characters are acclaimed by government and press, people like Fred Field who uphold the finest American traditions are refused their constitutional rights and deprived of their freedom. We too have suffered by being deprived of his council and his work during this period. It is good to have him back again!



women and among the Negro people as a whole. Arthur Kahn, author of *Speak Out*, an indispensable handbook for all peace workers, described an eight day trip in New England. Despite the snow and winter cold eager people came to hear him. Among the many concerns were those of mothers worried about the effects of war propaganda on their children and those of unemployed workers in mill communities where the highly profitable textile industry is trying its best to beat down hard-won standards of labor.

Thomas Richardson, APC National Co-Director, opened the sessions with a critical examination of the present crisis in foreign policy. The writer reported on growing peace action outside the Crusade, one very important act being the issuance of a Prayer for Peace, sponsored by ten eminent churchmen. These sponsors include Dr. Henry Hitt Crane, pastor, Central Methodist Church, Detroit, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam of New York, Rabbi B. Benedict Glazer,

Temple Beth-El, Detroit, and Dr. Edward Hughes Pruden, pastor, First Baptist Church in Washington, which President Truman attends. The Prayer, which is being sent by tens of thousands to the clergy of the nation, calls for penitence over America's own sins, trust in the power of justice and good will instead of in armed might, and for peace through negotiation.

The reader will not infer from a few rosy pictures that the battle is won; far from it. The spirits of Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Moore hovered over us and reminded us of the shameful violence being perpetrated against Negroes and other minorities. We remembered the McCarrans, the McCarthys, and the McGraths with their programs of intimidation and character assassination. Yet we believed what President Frédéric-Joliot-Curie told the Warsaw Congress in November, 1950, that since there are more honest people in the world than dishonest people the fight for peace can be won.

BIGGER AND BETTER COLLECTIVE FARMS

*Recent mergers mean more income, less
work for farmers, vast gains for USSR*

by

AARON YUGOW

BASIC organizational changes in the size, administration and functioning of Soviet collective farms have taken place in the years 1950-51.

These far-reaching and dramatic changes are the result of a process of amalgamating small and medium-sized collective farms into larger economic units. As a result some collective farms are now as much as ten times their former size.

Instead of units with an average cultivated area of from 250 to 1,200 acres, such as existed in the USSR in prewar years, collective farms have been organized with an average cultivated area of from 5,000 to 12,000 acres.

Among the many advantages that have been noted as a result of the amalgamation of the farms into larger units are the following:

- The elimination of the odd-shaped fields and inefficient lay-outs which in the past hampered proper

utilization of the largest tractors and other farm machines.

- Each department of the farm's activities now permits a greater degree of specialization, and hence more efficient work, by the brigades in charge. This applies to both grain and industrial crops, truck farming, orchards, cattle raising, beef, swine and poultry. The greater economic power of the amalgamated farms also makes it possible for them to command the services of highly skilled experts and scientists to guide the various departments of their work.

- In addition to greater specialization in actual farm work, it is now possible to organize permanent construction crews from among the farm's members skilled in building. Brick factories and saw mills can be put up, and extended building programs entered upon, including not only administrative and farm buildings, schools, hospitals, clubs and so on, but also the homes of the farmers which they formerly had to build themselves in after-work hours.

- Larger hydroelectric stations, serving wide areas, can be built, providing power on a much more efficient basis than in the smaller stations so many of the collective farms have

AARON YUGOW, economist, is co-author of "Management in Russian Industry and Agriculture" and author of "The Russian Economic Front for War and Peace." He has written extensively on the USSR and has contributed to the Encyclopedia Britannica.



Collective farmers in Daghestan tend the sheep and goat herd high in the mountains. Radio-telephone helps them control the vast grazing area

had to construct and depend upon in the past.

- The more concentrated operations permit a great increase of on-the-job schooling, paralleling the factory school system under which many millions of industrial workers have raised their qualifications.

THIS NEWEST reform in collectivized agriculture can only be understood against the background of the whole development of agriculture in the USSR since the Revolution.

The extraordinary changes which have taken place in the Soviet village since the establishment of the collective farms provide striking evidence of the creative achievements of the Soviet system.

The large-scale mechanized collective agriculture of the Soviet Union has not only brought about a swift growth of agricultural production, but has wrought a fundamental change in the social, cultural and living conditions of the Soviet peasant.

The great Revolution of 1917 did not stop with the elimination of the landlords' estates and the distribution of the land among the village

working peasants, but went on to create a new large-scale socialized agriculture on a high technical and productive level.

The collective farm system not only provided a long overdue solution for the problem of increasing agricultural production for the whole country. It guaranteed food for the urban population and raw material for the factories, and at the same time enormously increased the physical well-being and cultural facilities of the agricultural producers themselves.

The land area sown to grain and technical crops was extended; the yield per acre was raised; the number of cattle, livestock and poultry was increased; new and diversified types of farming were introduced. In a comparatively short period the outworn system of extensive farming was transformed into a modern system of intensive, mechanized agriculture.

The 1951 harvest, despite unfavorable meteorological conditions in the Volga, Western Siberia and Kazakhstan, was higher than during the previous year. (For detailed figures

on agricultural progress see Results of the USSR's 1951 Plan, p. 51).

Machine and tractor stations have increased by 23 per cent in comparison with 1940, and at the present time are the decisive productive power serving the collective farms. The number of tractors has increased one and a half time over prewar. Each year sees the introduction of new specialized types of machinery in collective farm operations.

The increase in the amount of electric power at the disposal of the machine and tractor stations and collective farms and the improved utilization of existing machinery has lifted the mechanization of agricultural processes to a still higher level.

Under a combination of government planning and the initiative of the collective farmers themselves a broad program has been introduced in many regions of the Soviet Union for tree planting, building of ponds and reservoirs and other measures for combating drought and "transforming nature." A wide network of irrigation canals, hydroelectric stations and factories for working up agricultural products has been completed or is in process of construction.

These new methods of scientific

farming, mechanization and electrification have completely transformed the agricultural production of the Soviet Union.

IT WAS against this background that the collective farmers could think in terms of amalgamating their already substantial holdings into enormous merged collective farms. As a result of the mergers in 1950 and 1951, there were altogether 128,000 collective farms in the Soviet Union at the beginning of this year, instead of 252,000 that existed in 1948.

The number of collective farms in the Moscow region has been reduced to one-fifth of the former number. In the Ukraine the average size of the collective farm is now over 6,000 acres. In Siberia, collective farm "giants" of 25,000 to almost 40,000 acres have been organized. In Saratov region the merged collective farms have from 2,500 to 10,000 acres of cultivated land.

The mergers came about through the requirements dictated by the trends in the development of the collective farms themselves. Experience showed that the transition to a fruitful system of agriculture, the guarantee of high and stable harvests, the

House of Culture of the Budyonny Collective Farm. In addition to other amenities, the House contains an auditorium accommodating 300



development of livestock farms and the efficient utilization of complex machinery and electric power, made necessary larger collective farms. In addition, the larger farms make possible a more economical and rational system of administration and cost accounting. Actual experience had shown that the larger collective farms brought much higher incomes per member than the smaller ones.

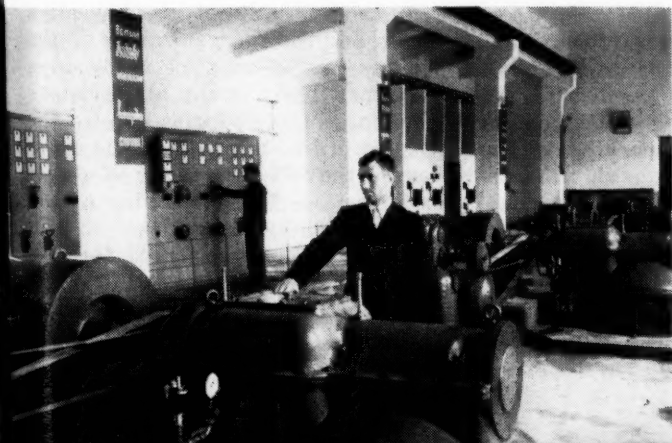
This reform had become both necessary and realizable because the present day collective farms already had at their disposal a sufficient number of tractors, combines and other complex agricultural machinery on the one hand, and because by this time there had become available in the country a sufficient corps of experienced and trained collective farm directors. At the present time the majority of the collective farms have chairmen who have received specialized agricultural education and have taken courses in collective farm administration. And in addition the largest collective farms have on their staffs agronomists, livestock specialists, cotton specialists and so on with a higher education.

The new and higher stage reached by the collective farms has made it possible to place experienced and es-

pecially trained directors at the heads of this entirely new form of agricultural undertaking instead of the former type of leading local peasant, fired with a passion for building up the collective farm but often lacking the necessary specialized knowledge which had to be made up for by heroic labor and devotion. It should be noted in passing, however, that it is many of these same people who have had the opportunity to receive the necessary training for the more skilled administration now required of them.

The collective farm mergers have meant not only a reorganization of the administration and production processes of the collective farms, but have brought about important changes in the social, cultural and living conditions of the Soviet countryside.

The merged collective farms encompass the inhabitants of several villages. The distance of the homes of the collective farmers from the administrative center, and especially from their place of work, complicates their labor and interferes with the collective life of the farmers. This has raised the question of reorganizing the old type of village inherited from the past. The old-fashioned



Rural hydroelectric station that serves 16 collective farms, a machine and tractor station and the district center of Broslaw, the Ukraine

peasant *isba* (hut) carries with it the imprint of pre-Revolutionary poverty and primitiveness.

The possibility is now present for a long overdue reform in the type of living quarters and settlements of collective farmers. In many places the population has been transferred from the scattered outlying sections into a more central and comfortable place. This is frequently built up around the former landlord's establishment, since the landlord usually built his own manor and surrounding buildings in the most attractive and convenient spot. This, of course, requires radical adaptation of existing buildings to new needs, and extensive new construction. Some of the largest and most enterprising of the new collective farms have either already established or have drawn up plans for model, well-built "agro-gorods," (rural cities) with comfortable modern houses, schools, sport stadiums, hospitals, clubs, libraries, theaters and other buildings for administrative and social purposes.

In connection with the strengthening of the collective farms and the creation of new settlements, the question has arisen of the collective farmer's own farmstead. According to the model collective farm constitution, each family has the right to a small plot for personal use, where they have their gardens, orchards and their own cows, pigs and poultry. Each collective farm member is guaranteed the right to a plot of one or two acres or more, varying in different localities, and the right to consume or sell the products he raises as he sees fit. This arrangement took into account the sense of property ownership that still survives among many of the collective farmers. In carrying out the reform of

amalgamating the collective farms and the villages, the government and the collective farm leaders are in no sense attempting to infringe upon this right.

But it is extremely interesting to note the extent to which this sense of property ownership has weakened and in some cases practically disappeared during the years of collective farm life. In transferring the villages into one central place there have been many cases where on the initiative of the collective farmers themselves, the decision has been taken to reorganize their private plots. Many of the collective farmers prefer to have them concentrated together in one place on the outskirts of the village, leaving around their own cottages only yard space for gardens, sheds, etc. They are motivated in this decision by the fact that under such a system their own plots can be worked more efficiently with the help of the collective farm tractors, can be watered from the general system, served by the farm's experts and so on.

Some of the American newspapers, in reporting on the collective farm mergers, have falsely reported that the Soviet government intends to "dispossess" the collective farmers and deprive them of their plots. In fact the merging of the collective farms and the reorganization of the villages has taken place solely on a voluntary basis, since all decisions concerning their policies require the consent of two-thirds of all the members of the collective farms at a general meeting. The replanning of the private plots has taken place only in the case of those collective farmers who have directly requested it.

But the fact is that the desire to merge personal plots has been wide-

spread, and there are even an increasing number of cases of the collective farmers voluntarily turning over their cows to the collective farm herds, preferring to get their dairy products from the collective farm rather than having to spend their time after work in milking, churning and so on. This indicates that a natural process is beginning to take place in the collective farms of the dying out of the survival of petty private ownership, represented by the irrational and inefficient personal plot system. Similarly the need for a personal garden is disappearing as the collective gardens are able to supply vegetables more cheaply and of better quality.

The well-being of the individual collective farmers has increased with the growing productivity of collective agriculture. The former backward, impoverished peasantry has long ago passed from the scene. Today's collective farmer is guaranteed a life of abundance and a constant growth in personal income. His children have good schools, and opportunities for a higher education are open to all. Since the establishment of collective farming, the village has developed its own intelligentsia, its engineers, agronomists, doctors, technicians, scientists, librarians. More and more village homes have electricity. The collective farmers have plenty of books, newspapers, radio, cinema, their own theaters. In their clubs and reading rooms they hear lectures on political, literary and agro-technical subjects. They have concerts by their own amateur talent which often reaches a high level. The collective farm members take an active part not only in the social life of their own farm, but of their own region, of the whole country.

The sharp contrast between the life



More than 600 collective farm children attend this village school in Maloyeshti, Moldavian Republic

of the urban and rural population, which is the rule throughout most of the world, is gradually disappearing in the Soviet Union. The people of the Soviet countryside are already enjoying a many-sided life, full of cultural opportunities, and their demands for still better things grow from year to year. The collective farm youth of the USSR, in contrast with the village youth of France, the United States or other countries, know that for them the door is open to the city, to the factory, to science and art, if they wish to leave the village. Or if they wish to remain and work in the collective farm, to take part in its creative upbuilding, they have the opportunity for full and satisfying participation in the political, social and cultural life of their

U.S. General Plots Atomic War on USSR

"War! As soon as possible! Now!"

This is the diary entry of Maj. Gen. Robert Grow, U.S. Military Attache in Moscow, for Mar. 27, 1951. Mar. 29 he wrote "The time is ripe for a blow this year." Photostats of his diary pages have been published in East Germany in a book by Richard Squires, former British officer, who said they were given him by an American officer, and who used them to back up his own charges that the U.S. is plotting atomic war against the Soviet Union.

The story, first published in the *Washington Post*, was confirmed by a Pentagon spokesman who said the diary was photographed while Grow was attending a conference at Frankfurt, Germany, last summer.

The diary makes clear that Grow's main function in Moscow was spying out the best targets for atomic bombing. Numerous entries concern his prowling around looking for anti-aircraft positions and exchanging notes with others also engaged in military espionage.

At Rostov he noted: "The bridge here is best target in S. Russia. Together with bridge over Kuban R. at Kavkazkaya, would cut off all Caucasus. . . ." He called a big power plant at Shatura a "Good target."

Other entries: Feb. 5: ". . . We must understand that this is total war fought with all weapons. We must start by hitting below the belt. This war cannot be conducted according to Marquis of Queensberry rules. . . . We must employ every subversive device to undermine the confidence and loyalty of Soviet subjects. . . . Anything, truth or falsehood, to poison the thoughts of the population." The Mar. 23 entry implicated Ambassador Kirk to whom Grow had reported his ideas: "Amb. accepted our paper as sound and worthy of serious consideration."

Main criticisms in Washington have been against General Grow's carelessness in leaving his diary around, not against his ideas. Recalled when his diary was found, he now occupies an office among the like-minded people in the Pentagon.

own region. That is why in the Soviet Union there is no great rush of the young people from the village to the city. Part of the collective farm youth, even those with a higher education, return to their own village and collective farms to work there as administrators, doctors, teachers, scientists or agronomists.

In the Soviet Union an entirely new type of rural worker is being born and growing up. The burdensome and literally forced labor of the

old-time peasant has given way to the joyous and creative work of the collective farmer, trained for an active part in the general collective economy of his country. The youth of the village have a new outlook on personal and communal affairs, new incentives to work, new needs and new interests. Not only are new forms of production coming into being, new houses and new settlements, but a new way of life, a new psychology, a new people.



Prof. Gavril Tikhov studies a high mountain plant brought to Kazakh Academy

IS THERE LIFE ON MARS?

by PROFESSOR GAVRIL TIKHOV

Scientists and laymen alike have long been intrigued by the possibilities of life on Mars. Men-from-Mars fiction still stirs the romantic imagination. Scientists remain until this day divided in their opinions. We present here the opinion of a Soviet scientist, Professor G. A. Tikhov, a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and a student of the subject for many years. He is the head of a special Institute of Astrobotany established by the Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan, and he has recently summed up his findings in a book on astrobiology. Tikhov believes that there is life on Mars and probably micro-organisms on Jupiter and Neptune. In this article he explains how he is studying this problem. Although it is a little technical, we believe it will be of rewarding interest to our readers.

MOST Soviet astronomers hold to the theory that there may be vegetation on Mars.

I began studying Mars in 1909. At that time I photographed Mars at the Pulkovo Observatory with the aid of a 30-inch reflector. One of the most

important results was the conviction that the polar caps are composed of ordinary snow and ice well known on Earth. At Pulkovo I resumed my observations of Mars in 1918 and 1920 using a 15-inch reflector, making visual observations using different

light filters. I did not publish the results and little by little I forgot them.

But later, in Alma Ata, while preparing for a public conference on the planets, I studied the 120 drawings of Mars that I made between 1918 and 1920, and discovered indications of phenomena new to me. In fact it turned out that there are areas on Mars that stay green all winter. Thus it became clear to me that besides plants with deciduous foliage there are evergreens on Mars, which because of the severe climate must be of the same type as terrestrial plants growing at high latitudes.

Subsequently I found, in foreign astronomical literature, hints of the existence of evergreen vegetation on Mars but considered of a tropical character—which hardly agrees with the rigorous Martian climate. Becoming interested in the question of vegetation on Mars, I was puzzled by the fact that Martian vegetation does not possess the capacity to diffuse infra-red rays, so typical of terrestrial vegetation. Studying the problem I came to the conclusion that the vegetation on Mars must have lost this capacity in the course of adapting itself, century after century, to the planet's severe climate.

In fact, infra-red rays carry half the sun's heat and the vegetation of Mars must have the capacity to use this heat, a condition indispensable to its very existence. This is confirmed by the fact that our own conifers diffuse infra-red rays three or four times more feebly than deciduous trees. Moreover conifers diffuse these rays less strongly in winter than in summer.

If Martian vegetation resembles the Earth's we must expect that those rays which are absent in the

light reflected by terrestrial vegetation will be absent in the light reflected by Martian. In other words, Martian vegetation must absorb the same rays as the Earth's

One sunny day after the war, in the botanical gardens at Alma Ata University, two spectra of fir trees and four spectra of a small slab of chalk were photographed by means of a diffraction spectrograph provided with a small plate sensitive to



yellow, orange and red rays. In the spectrum of the fir tree, a little to the right of center, is a large dark band absent in the spectrum of chalk. In this case we are dealing with the principal band of chlorophyll absorption. In 1880, Timiryazev proved that photosynthesis occurs more intensely in this part of the spectrum.

One would also expect such a band to appear in the spectrum of vegetation on Mars. Nevertheless, it has not been found in many years of research. Thinking over the problem I came back to the conclusion that this could be explained by the very long process of adaptation to severe climate.

In fact if a terrestrial plant absorbs a relatively restricted area of the spectrum during photosynthesis, Martian vegetation would have to absorb infra-red rays entirely. In order to use the maximum of light energy Martian plants must absorb all the long-wave section of the solar

spectrum, that is the red, orange, yellow, and green rays which also carry a great part of the sun's heat. Consequently the band of absorption must extend from the beginning of the blue rays. Thus another characteristic of many Martian plants can be explained, that is to say their blue and in some cases even turquoise color.

In order to study this problem more deeply, an astrobotanical section was organized by the Kazakh Academy of Sciences. One of the fundamental questions being examined by this section is the study of the spectral character of plants in extreme climates, i.e., on mountains and in the Arctic.

As the reader can see I take my place with the group that is convinced of the existence of vegetation on the planet Mars. It is difficult to foresee what will be ascertained as a result of our studies. Perhaps our hypothesis will be confirmed, or it may be that some or all of it will be disproved by our studies. In the present state of our knowledge, I take the liberty of presenting another hypothesis.

During the great opposition of 1924, according to the observations of Antoniadi, a large part of the Martian desert—situated between the latitudes of plus 30 and minus 5—the grey color changed to pink, and according to Baldet's observations, using the same 32-inch refractor, it changed to purple-violet. (Antoniadi and Baldet are French astronomers.)

ALBANIA'S MUSICIANS MEET

MORE THAN 200 composers, musicians, singers, music teachers and others gathered recently in Tirana to attend Albania's first national conference on music. The conference discussed the work of the recently formed philharmonic orchestra—the first in Albania—and the development of musical education throughout the country.

Against these observations I place the following quotations from Shcherbinovsky's book *Seasonal Changes of Nature*: "Between the end of March and the end of April, we have the period of spring flowering in the desert. During this time the deserts seem inundated with blood. We speak of immense fields of poppies which make a deep impression. In this period, poppies are found everywhere, even on the clay roofs of houses and barns, on the edges of the roads of Tashkent and Samarkand."

I take the liberty of supposing, without insisting on the correctness of my hypothesis, that Antoniadi and Baldet observed the flowering of the Martian desert.

What hopes can we report in further studies of Martian flora? These studies can be divided into two parts. First, the acquisition of new data depends on the further observation of Mars with powerful astronomical instruments enabling the discovery of spectra of single areas of the planet. Secondly, many results are obtainable from further studies of the spectral properties of reflected light of terrestrial plants, above all of those growing in extreme climatic conditions.

Already what has been done by our astrobotanical section makes it possible for us to speak of spectral analysis of plants. With the passage of time it is conceivable that astronomers and astro-botanists will be in a position to establish which species of terrestrial plants most resemble the plants of a given area of the planet Mars.

TOWN AND COUNTRY SEE EYE TO EYE

by C. Y. W. MENG

LONG before liberation, progressive Chinese economists maintained that the industrialization of China must be built on the foundation of her agriculture. It was obvious that the raw materials indispensable to industry are largely agricultural products, and that the nation's vast rural areas should be the major markets for finished products. Most of the necessary industrial capital must also come from rural China.

The most pressing problem was the distribution of land to the tillers. So long as the peasant masses remained on the minimum subsistence level and were constantly harassed by famine and pestilence, no economic progress in China was possible.

In pre-liberation days, Chinese financiers preferred to invest in bonds or urban building and real estate, almost totally disregarding rural industries. Industrialists produced goods without a thought to the development of the potentially vast rural market. They eyed only the immediate profits to be gained by serving the privileged class.

Under the reactionary Kuomintang regime, the urban and rural areas were virtually opposed to each other economically. But after inauguration of the Central People's Government, urban-rural relations changed basically.

Workers and peasants are now working hand in hand to build up the

nation, striving to increase production for mutual benefit. The peasants help the workers, for example, by increasing the supply of raw materials. If 1936 is taken at 100, the indices of agricultural production for 1951 are: rice, 99.4; wheat, 88.5; soya beans, 63.3; cotton, 133; oil seed, 65.9; tobacco, 130.5; and hemp, 227.1. It is anticipated that 1952 indices will be far higher.

These agricultural products are cited because they formerly constituted China's principal imports, even though the country was preponderantly agricultural. But by 1951, such imports had ceased and with the exception of rubber, China's farms now produce sufficient foodstuffs and raw materials for her factories.

After land reform, the purchasing power of the peasants, who constitute more than 80 per cent of the population, greatly increased. In the Northeast in 1951, for example, it was 53.3 per cent greater than in 1950, or 140 per cent greater than in 1949.

Rural purchasing power, furthermore, has increased faster than urban purchasing power. In the Northeast, urban purchasing power for 1951 was 38.7 per cent greater than in 1950, or 96 per cent greater than 1949, while rural purchasing power increased by 67.9 and 223 per cent respectively. In the Southwest, rural purchasing power was 60 per cent greater than in 1950, and even in



A cooperative sorting and packing station cuts costs of marketing litchi nuts grown by farmers who now own the land they till. This is near Canton

North Anhwei, which suffered seriously from flood in 1950, the increase was 200 per cent.

These figures show that many former poor and landless peasants have become middle peasants with far greater purchasing power. China's agrarian revolution has meant that the emancipated peasants, converting their produce into cash, have become the nation's best customers for industrial products.

In the Northeast, for example, the demand for cotton yarn and cloth for the first five months of 1951 was 70 per cent greater than for the corresponding period of 1950, and for general goods 75 per cent greater, while the demand for industrial tools and machinery was five times as great.

In East China, the volume of general goods shipped to rural areas during the second quarter of 1951 was 251.66 per cent greater than during

the first quarter, and during the third quarter 61.45 per cent greater than the second quarter, or 467.7 per cent greater than during the first quarter. Volume for September, 1951, alone was more than three times that of the whole first quarter.

The people are not only demanding more goods, but better quality goods. In Liaohsi province (Northeast), for example, the demand for coarse cotton cloth in the first half of 1951 decreased by two per cent. In Jehol province, 80 per cent of the cloth sold to the peasants was a fine quality.

Toilet soap, flashlights and bicycles, formerly luxuries beyond the peasants' reach, are now in great demand, and great quantities of sugar, glassware, cloth, shoes, cigarettes, matches, towels and hosiery are sent to rural areas.

As a result, more and more factories and shops are opening and the

number of unemployed decreases daily. Established factories are receiving bigger and bigger orders.

China is deficient in capital, but as Chairman Mao said, "Industrial capital must come mainly from the Chinese people's own savings." With the completion of land reform, a portion of the wealth produced by the peasants' labor is transformed into industrial capital through expanding city-village trade and the growing cooperative system. In this way, China becomes independent of foreign capital.

In short, the peasants are helping the workers by producing more food, by supplying the factories with raw materials, by purchasing large quantities of industrial products, and by constituting one of the principal sources of capital accumulation.

Let us turn to the other side of the picture and see how the workers help the peasants. Displayed at the native products exhibitions were many new farm implements produced by the factories. These will have a far-reaching effect on the development of agriculture. It is said, for example, that if all the peasants of North China should use new plows, they could increase their yearly output by 700,000 tons and could save 10,000,000 man-days of work.

The January-August 1951 average output of insecticide in Shanghai was 36 times that of 1950, yet the factories found it difficult to meet the demand.

Another example shows the workers' enthusiastic and self-sacrificing spirit of service to the people: the completion of the engineering parts for the Huai River project by the 12,000 metal workers of Shanghai. This great project benefits more than 55,000,000 peasants and safeguards

40,000,000 *mow* of land from flooding.

The 163 sets of parts for the project were manufactured by the technicians of the East China Industry Department and workers from more than 70 factories. The fabrication of 1,000 tons of steel was completed in 50 days' time, ahead of schedule, which saved 25,700 man-days of work.

Those sent to the Huai River for the installation job worked day and night, rain or shine, and completed this task ahead of schedule, too. Tens of thousands of peasant workers cooperated with the installation crew, and the project was completed before the floods came. This is a shining example of how China's new construction will be carried out, on the firm basis of the worker-peasant alliance.

Although significant progress has been made toward economic reconstruction, industrial and agricultural production have not yet been equalized. The "scissors" differential, the divergence between prices of industrial and agricultural products, still exists.

This divergence is an inheritance from the past, when China was a semi-feudal, semi-colonial country, whose industry constituted only 5.5 per cent of the national economy, whose factories were heavily concentrated in a few coastal cities. Urban-rural trade showed a marked disequilibrium of relative volumes of production and prices.

In the course of new democratic construction thus far, agricultural production has developed more rapidly than industrial. The supply of industrial products is still short of demand. Also, as a result of the year's bumper harvests, large quan-

ties of agricultural products came to the market. Thus the "scissors" differential still exists, and this divergence of agricultural and industrial prices affects the welfare of the peasants.

But, while under the Kuomintang regime the "scissors" differential was deliberately encouraged in order to exploit the peasants to the utmost, in New China every effort is made to narrow the gap in prices.

In August, 1950, the government established a reasonable ratio between the prices of cotton and rice, and of cotton yarn and cloth. This gave protection and encouragement to both agriculture and industry.

Also, the Ministry of Trade bought cotton, cereals and other goods from producing regions, as the price index for farm products dropped farther than the manufactured goods price index. In August, the former declined by 5.6 per cent, while the latter dropped only 1.8 per cent. While the Ministry supported farm prices, it also made every effort to maintain an equilibrium in the flow of manufactured goods and farm products.

During the same month, the selling prices of cotton and cloth were lowered, and the price of rice was raised. This was done to protect the interests of farmers and to encourage them to plant cotton, as their income from cotton would be as good or better than from cereals. This step also minimized the difference in prices in relation to other agricultural products and to manufactured goods.

In November, 1951, the price of cotton yarn was again reduced by 2.8 per cent, cotton cloth by 1.8 per cent, in the interests of consumers—principally the peasants.

The output of native products and

agricultural by-products in 1950 formed a large part of total agricultural production, ranging from 25 to 40 per cent in the various sections of the country; in Inner Mongolia, it was 50 per cent.

Urban-rural differences, including the "scissors" price differential, will diminish as China advances toward socialism. For the present, through correct economic policies and the city-village mutual aid system, city and village are already in much closer harmony than ever before. Politically, the worker-peasant alliance has greatly consolidated the people's democratic dictatorship, and on this firm basis the industrialization of the nation will go forward with great speed.

Horticultural students on a field trip. Looks like a picnic, but they are really testing fruits for taste



"Liberators" in Striped Pants

by SENDER GARLIN

ORGANIZED subversive activities aimed at the overthrow of the Soviet Government and the People's Democracies by force and violence have the full approval of high U.S. authorities. Counter-revolutionary groups, for many years represented only by letterheads and their own strident voices, now see a field day ahead with the passage, last September, of the Mutual Security Act with its \$100,000,000 fund* to subsidize propaganda and acts of violence against nations with whom we exchange ambassadors and with whom we are, formally at least, at peace. All this ties in neatly with the atomic war plans of U.S. policy-makers.

The conspiracy against the Soviet Union and its socialist system is in direct contravention of the Roosevelt-Litvinov agreement of 1933. This agreement contained a pledge that neither the USSR nor the U.S. would tolerate within its territory any organization or group "which has as its

aims the overthrow . . . or bringing about by force a change in the political or social order of the other."

Persons who make no secret of their desire to destroy the Soviet Union, as well as Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and other People's Democracies, attend conferences abroad to perfect their plotting. They have no difficulty getting passports from the State Department. With the passage of the Mutual Security Act and its succulent appropriation, anti-Soviet groups radiating from the U.S. have, almost overnight, achieved full citizenship. They receive a warmer welcome than ever in the columns of the most powerful newspapers in the country. Correspondents glorify their program and exaggerate their successes. *Collier's*, which in a recent issue defeated the Red Army singlehanded, and other mass circulation magazines, give feature treatment to articles lauding the dirty work of monarchists, tsarists, pro-Nazis and various hole-in-the-wall conspirators who enjoy the good favor and support of American officials here and abroad.

TODAY there are more than a score of groups in this country openly agitating for the destruction of the Soviet Government and the People's Democracies of Eastern Europe. Some are more blatant than others; all have found reassurance, and no

* To finance "... any selected persons who are residing in or escapees from the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, or the Communist dominated or Communist occupied areas of Germany and Austria, and any other countries absorbed by the Soviet Union either to form such persons into elements of the military forces supporting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or for other purposes. . . ." That acts of violence are contemplated is made clear by Rep. Charles J. Kersten (R., Wis.), who sponsored this clause in the Act. He explained that it "provides a method whereby the U.S. can render aid to the underground liberation movement in the Communist countries." Later, in an exchange with American UN delegate, Warren Austin, Kersten emphasized this "method" included terrorist activities.



doubt sustenance, in the subsidy for terrorism provided by the Mutual Security Act.

Recently, Mr. William H. Stringer, chief of the London Bureau of the *Christian Science Monitor*, asked whether the time had not come for the U.S. and Great Britain "to launch a bigger campaign of political agitation and propaganda warfare" against the USSR. "Should the western allies," he wrote, "organize political sabotage, subversion among the satellites, stepped-up radio offensive, and perhaps even parachutists in the Ukraine . . . ?" Mr. Stringer answered his own question:

"I have heard at least one high policy-making American official in Europe suggest that a limited campaign of this sort might not be a bad idea."

The most active and vociferous group plotting counter-revolution in Europe is the National Committee For a Free Europe. Its fund-raising subsidiary is the Crusade for Freedom, headed by Gen. Lucius D. Clay, who pardoned the notorious Nazi

criminal, Ilse Koch, fashioner of lampshades of human skin. Chief of the parent organization is Joseph C. Grew, former U.S. Ambassador to Tokyo, who long ago was ready to condone the crimes of the Japanese imperialists.

Americans who have been cajoled and bludgeoned into contributing to the Crusade for Freedom have not been given the full story. Fancy brochures and Sunday supplement stuff tell of balloons dropping propaganda material, of broadcasts in Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Bulgarian, Rumanian and Albanian over "Radio Free Europe" stations in Frankfurt, Munich and Lisbon, but these stories seldom say the programs add up to incitations of violence against the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies.

The National Committee for a Free Europe does not monopolize the field. Also in the liberating business is the American Committee for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia, Inc. The "firm" was organized not long ago by Eugene Lyons, one of those who have made a profession of organizing hatred of the Soviet Union and of liberal thought in the United States. In February of this year Lyons retired as chairman to give way to Adm. Alan Kirk, former U.S. ambassador to Moscow. Lyons is now director of the Committee. Kirk promptly announced that his committee would provide material and moral aid to individuals living in the U.S. "to undertake anti-Soviet activities."

Lyons, an editor of *Reader's Digest*, has a roving representative in Europe on behalf of the Committee. He is Isaac Don Levine, an old Hearst handyman who has been seeking to effect a fusion of the various anti-Soviet groups for joint action. Lyons' professed love for the Russian people

(as against their leaders) is belied by his record during World War II when he was a favored source of propaganda for both the German and Italian fascist army commands. Among the tons of material found in the cache of an Italian lakeside villa were the writings of "Eugene Lyons, anti-Russian American journalist who once edited the *American Mercury* magazine. . . ." This vital fact was reported in the U.S. Army newspaper, *Stars and Stripes*, (May 19, 1945), in a story by staff correspondent, Sgt. Stan Swinton.

Lyons is optimistic about the chances for overthrowing the Soviet regime. He was equally sanguine about Hitler's chances against the Soviet Union and the western democracies. On the day Hitler invaded the Soviet Union Lyons proclaimed over a nationwide radio hookup that the Red Army would "not last two weeks—it has no morale." Isaac Don Levine, long-time ghost writer for turncoats and deserters, admitted—in a talk before the Overseas Press Club in New York—to having ghosted the late "General" Walter Krivitsky's memoirs which appeared serially in the *Saturday Evening Post*, and has had a hand in numerous anti-Soviet whodunits.

A PROTEGE of the Lyons-Kirk Committee is the National Alliance of Russian Solidarists (NTS), a Russian counter-revolutionary group founded in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in 1930. Its press summary, recently sent to major U.S. newspapers, boasted that leaflets "calling on the Red Army to plot the liquidation of Premier Stalin" had been spread around the streets near Soviet military headquarters in Vienna.

Starting in January, 1951, a number of Russian émigré conferences,

sponsored by the American Committee for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia, were convened in the hope of creating a unified center for anti-Soviet intrigue. The first confab was held in the German resort town of Fussen, and the most recent in Wiesbaden. The aim of the West German conferences was to unite the National Alliance of Russian Solidarists with four other Russian émigré groups with idealistic-sounding names: League of Struggle for People's Freedom, Russian Peoples Movement, Union of Struggle for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia and the Union of Struggle for the Freedom of Russia. "Sparking their effort," says *Collier's* in a recent issue, is the



"year-old American Committee for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia." The Lyons-Kirk crowd, reports *Collier's*, "is backing them with money and moral support . . ."

Internal strife seems, however, to have afflicted these unity gatherings, with harsh words being exchanged between Alexander Kerensky, who appeared on the post-tsarist stage for a brief moment, and Isaac Don Levine, the European emissary of the American sponsoring committee. While Kerensky denounced Levine for "misrepresentation" and called on "all honest Russians" to boycott the unification efforts, a spokesman for tsarist Russian émigrés in Stuttgart assailed Kerensky for "paving

the way" for the October Revolution and for receiving aid to reestablish his claim to resume the Russian premiership "at some unspecified time."

The ideological figleaf used to conceal the sordid scramble for authority and expense accounts among the anti-Soviet cabal is the issue of federation *vs.* decentralization—that is, if and when the Soviet regime is overthrown.

There are those who express fear that the Russians among the exiles will dominate the "new order" and subordinate the non-Russians. The latter, reports have it, even object to the reference to Russia in the very title of the American Committee for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia. Whatever their disagreements on this issue, they are, to be sure, united in their demand for the restoration of capitalism.

Meanwhile, there is evidently no shortage of cash, for, with one conference on the rocks and another convened shortly thereafter, "all the while," the *New Leader* of Dec. 31, 1951 recorded, "delegates were coming and going from Germany, France and the United States."

There are sharp jurisdictional disputes which block the efforts of the interested parties to weld a joint action front for anti-Soviet purposes. Competition for State Department patronage keeps animosities among the would-be liberators at the boiling point. A Russian émigré editor in Paris complains in the *New Leader* that "there is no justification for the support given by U.S. representatives to Russian monarchists and fascists in Germany. Nor is there justification for the cold shoulder given to the truly democratic Russian organizations here," by which he means a piece of the pie. (April 29, 1950.)

Some nasty facts emerge. The same writer, evidently irked that his Social-Democratic friends were done out of anti-Soviet concessions handed out by the State Department, grumbles that a "Col. N. E. Baranovsky, former White Guard officer, an extreme monarchist and wartime Nazi, now in Munich with ample funds at his disposal, enjoys the unlimited confidence of American representatives."

Those whom the American Committee crowd is trying to unify under the new command of Admiral Kirk "are still fighting each other as savagely as they oppose the common foe," according to a recent Munich dispatch to the *New York Times*. Friction among the anti-Soviet plotters is so great, judging by a report in that newspaper (Feb. 21, 1952) that it resulted in the near-killing of a leader of one of the Ukrainian groups connected with the "American Committee."

THOSE WHO PLOT violence against the Soviet Union and its people find no difficulty obtaining halls in American cities. At a blood-and-thunder rally in New York last November, "Major" Petro Mykelenko-Bayda gave his word of honor that he was a former Russian Army officer. He turned in a colorful description of an underground group. This group, he said, holds permanent emplacements in the forests and mountains of the Ukraine. He added that while the force is not in a position to take the field, it is able to carry out "individual reprisals" against Soviet officers in the Ukraine. This is one way of getting a fair day's wage for a fair day's work on behalf of the Washington atom-war schemers.

In such an atmosphere, where

every war-inciting statement against the Soviet Union gets semi-official governmental approval, no holds are barred and any publicity-hungry politician is sure of a good "play" in the newspapers if he comes through with a sufficiently lurid anti-Soviet yarn. Thus Rep. Alfred D. Sieminski (D-N.J.), told a Polish-American Congress dinner in Newark in February that "Russia is sending 880 tons of opium to the democratic nations, hoping to undermine the youth of free nations."

The State Department itself called a press conference so that "ten refugees from the Soviet Union" could make the announcement* that war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union is "inevitable" unless the latter is made to feel that such a conflict would be "suicidal." The Department covered itself by the use of a familiar formula: the opinions to which it gave such wide publicity had not been "evaluated" and "did not necessarily reflect the views of the Department." No wonder James Reston of the *New York Times* was impelled in a cynical moment to refer to the psychological warfare crowd in Washington as "a sort of Department of Dirty Tricks" whose function is "to create behind the Iron Curtain all mischief short of war." (Dec. 9, 1951.)

Anti-Soviet groups in the U.S. are presented as proof of dissidence in the Soviet Union. One must therefore examine the character of the present-day émigrés, as well as the longtime organizers of the "liberation" committees.

Under today's immigration regulations, and Justice Department polic-

ing, "political" immigrants are those acceptable and useful to the purposes of the cold war program.

The especially selected new arrivals include individuals who: (a) compromised themselves with the Soviet people because of their inclination toward the Nazis during World War II; (b) were indoctrinated by Hitlerite notions while prisoners of war; (c) became import articles of peculiar value for the State Department which is in desperate need for "authentic testimony" to justify its aggressive policy.

Pro-Hitler enthusiasts get along swimmingly with the Immigration Department and get quoted in the



press. "We really enjoyed it very much when Hitler declared war on Russia," Pastor Hendrickssen, Estonian DP in the U.S. told the *New York Post*. "Soon we were wearing Russian boots and coats. Oh, yes, we stole them. We had to kill them first. I did not kill, for I am a clergyman, but I gave the command to fire."

Attempts at subversion are not confined to the Soviet Union and the Eastern European People's Democracies. There is, for example, a Committee for Free Asia, with headquarters in San Francisco. Its stated aim is "to pierce the iron curtain surrounding the 1,000,000 radio sets of China and those of other Asian na-

* "The Soviet Union As Reported by Former Soviet Citizens." Distributed by External Research Staff, Office of Intelligence Research, Department of State, Washington.

tions." Doubtless the Asian people tuning in on these sets have already heard the story of Mr. Sing Sheng, former intelligence officer with Chiang Kai-shek's nationalist army. Mr. Sheng, now an airline mechanic at the San Francisco airport, found—after putting down a \$2,900 deposit on a home in the Southwood residential district of South San Francisco—that “non-Caucasians” were not welcome.

When the chairmanship of the Committee for Free Asia was assumed by Mr. Brayton Wilbur, he said he would work closely with the National Committee for a Free Europe and the Crusade for Freedom. Mr. Wilbur's qualifications for liberating the peoples of Asia include his experience as president of the import-export concern of Wilbur-Ellis Company and as head of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. President of the Free Asia Committee is George H. Green, Jr., for many years an executive in Asia of the National City Bank.

WHEN THESE TYCOONS do not operate in shiny, new “liberation” committees they swing their weight around in the various foundations created by profits squeezed from American workers in mass production industries. Thus vast funds are being poured into the cause of counter-revolution against the USSR and the people's governments in Europe and Asia. The Ford Foundation has set up the East European Fund, formerly the Free Russia Fund, and has approved a \$200,000 interim budget for the Fund's organization and initial operations. Formed in May, 1950, the first president of the fund was George F. Kennan, who resigned last November to return to

government service. Mr. Kennan, first as “Mr. X,” later under his own name, issued veiled appeals for overthrow of the Soviet Government to which he is currently accredited as U.S. ambassador. Paul G. Hoffman, former Marshall Plan chief, is president of the Ford Foundation. Trustees include R. Gordon Wason, vice president of J. P. Morgan and Company, and Frank Altschul, chairman of the board of the General American Investors Company. The Carnegie Fund, too, has announced an initial grant of \$22,500 to the Council of Foreign Relations for “a study of techniques necessary to win over native leaders to sympathy for the U.S. position in nations where Communist influence is strong.”

That the anti-Soviet conspirators find it hard sledding is admitted by some of their best friends. A world news roundup in the Scripps-Howard press Feb. 4 of this year brings this doleful conclusion:

“A survey of best available reports and expert opinion on Soviet life throws cold water on any rosy predictions that . . . the Russian people are likely to revolt. . . . The consensus is that the great mass probably has no urgent desire to oust their rulers.”

The variegated counter-revolutionary groups and cliques in this country are in some respects ludicrous, but it would be a mistake to underestimate their capacity for evil. While they undoubtedly know their dream of overthrowing the Soviet regime is a chimera, they spread their propaganda to create suspicion and discord between the American people and the people of the Soviet Union. Although they disguise their pernicious activities as a “liberating crusade,” their assignment is part of the master plan for atomic war.

When This Collective Farmer Talks, Scientists Listen

THIS is a true story about a collective farmer who has done remarkable things with plants and delivers lectures to scientists about his work, and about a friendship that has continued for three decades.

Thirty years ago Gavril T. Shkoda, a peasant, decided to attend some agricultural courses at an experimental farm near Rostov. His teacher was a young scientist, Anton I. Nosatovsky.

Shkoda evinced such interest in the

scientific aspects of the course that Nosatovsky took him far beyond the limits of those early classes and acquainted him with the foundations of advanced agrobiolgy and plant breeding. The friendship they struck up continues to this day.

These thirty years have brought substantial achievements to both, it is revealed in an article in the illustrated monthly *Soviet Union*. Nosatovsky is now a professor, the author of some fifty scientific works. Of the

Gavril Shkoda (right) describes his work in plant breeding to a group at the Kuban Agricultural Institute. Professor Nosatovsky sits in front of him. Front row, left to right are I. Mitrakov, Institute Director; I. Kuznetsov, agricultural scientist; and Professors G. Raskhodov and D. Beketovsky





Gavril Shkoda and his laboratory assistants inspect the collective farm's fields in preparation for a drive against agricultural pests

students he has taught, many are professors, agronomists, heads of State and collective farms and machine and tractor stations.

Farmer Shkoda, now seventy-two, is the manager of the agrotechnical laboratory of the Krasnoye Znamya (Red Banner) Collective Farm in the Starominskaya District of Krasnoyars Territory.

This is a large farm, 17,000 acres, and it raises spring and winter wheat, oats, barley, sunflowers, cotton and maize. Its livestock breeding is well developed, and it gathers a rich harvest from its orchards and vegetable gardens.

Shkoda, who is carrying forward the work of that great Russian selectionist, I. V. Michurin, must be given no small part of the credit for the successful scientific methods of work on the collective farm.

The Red Banner's experimental fields are used for scientific research on twelve varieties of cereal crops and four of fodder grasses. In agrotechnology, extensive experiment is being conducted on different methods of fertilization and different periods of sowing.

Shkoda's greatest and most recent success—which crowns fifteen years of effort—has been the creation of a new variety of winter wheat. His ob-

jective was to produce a high-yielding winter wheat which, like summer wheat, would have beardless ears so that its chaff and straw might be used as fodder.

With the support of his old friend Professor Nosatovsky, and the help of the entire collective farm, Shkoda won his objective. The new wheat, "Shkoda Beardless," is being introduced not only in the Kuban, where thousands of acres were sown last autumn, but in many other districts. And on the Red Banner experimental plot, he obtains 64 bushels per acre of this new wheat.

Nosatovsky frequently visits his friend on the collective farm. And Shkoda makes trips to the professor in Krasnodar where he delivers lectures not only to the students of the Kuban Agricultural Institute, but to members of the faculty.

Shkoda is now working on a new problem, and of course, the collective farm Michurinist has the unfailing assistance of his old friend, Professor Nosatovsky.

He wants to "divorce rice from water." He wants to grow rice in ordinary, unflooded fields. During the past four years, with this end in view, he has been steadily improving a hybrid of barley and rice. Both friends are confident he will succeed.

WHAT THE PRESS HIDES ON USSR DEFENSE BUDGET

***The facts on Soviet armaments and on
living standards in the US and USSR***

by VICTOR PERLO

IN THE UNITED STATES and other capitalist countries living standards are reduced while more and more resources are diverted to war. In the USSR living standards are rising rapidly, and the main economic emphasis is towards insuring a still faster rise. This is the outstanding contrast in world economics today.

All means of mass communication in our country are devoted to hiding this contrast, or even to turning the facts upside down. Official propaganda emphasizes supposed enormous armaments expenditures and reductions in living standards in the Soviet Union.

Everybody who visits the USSR testifies to the rising living standards, and the absence of signs of war preparation. So the anti-Soviet propaganda is limited to unsupported assertions, and to elaborate distortions of Soviet statistics.

Last summer the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe published a report which to a certain extent brought out the real contrast

between trends in the U.S. and the Atlantic Pact countries, on the one hand, and in the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, on the other. (See *New World Review*, August, 1951). American officials and big businessmen made angry statements, and threatened to end the UN agency altogether. The officials of the E.C.E. backwatered to save their jobs.

Their latest report, "Economic Survey of Europe in 1951," contains a special chapter on the USSR. This chapter includes facts about peaceful progress in the USSR, but "interprets" and "adjusts" these facts to end up with conclusions loaded to support the State Department thesis. The leading U.S. papers suppressed the facts in the UN report. They started with the biased analysis, and then went far beyond the report's cautiously worded slanders. The *New York Herald Tribune* and the *Washington Post*, among others, featured their own extravagant charges, falsely attributing them to the UN report.

The armaments budget of the USSR cannot be considered by itself, but only in comparison with that of other countries, especially the U.S. The present UN report fails to make the comparison. It finds that in the

VICTOR PERLO, a leading economist, is the author of the recently published book "American Imperialism."

Soviet Union "the claims of national defense have been extremely heavy," and that they are increasing.

How heavy? How fast are they increasing?

Defense expenditures in the USSR rose moderately from 19 per cent of the total State budget in 1949, before the Korean war, to 24 per cent proposed for 1952. U.S. military expenditures (for "majority national security programs") rose from 44 per cent of the total Federal budget in 1949-50 to 76 per cent proposed by Truman for 1952-53, a far higher proportion than in any previous peacetime year (see Chart A).

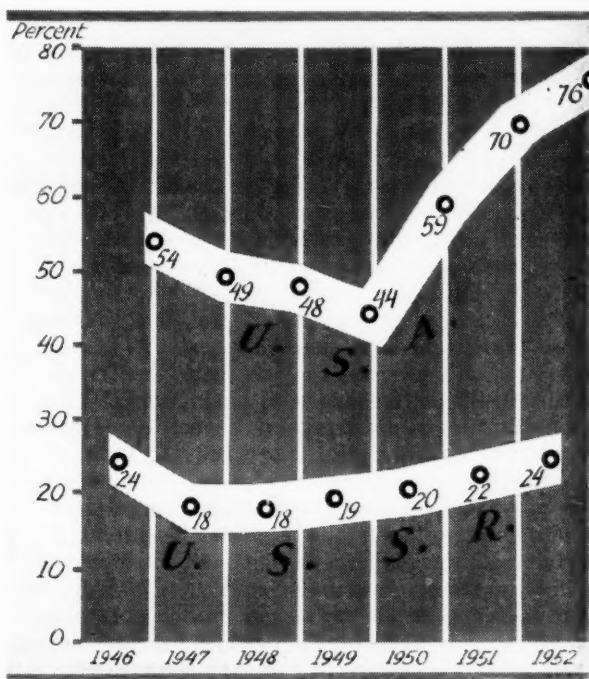
The total resources of the Soviet Union are increasing rapidly. So the amount, in rubles, spent on defense has increased more than the percentages show. Between 1949 and 1952 the ruble expenditures for national

defense are scheduled to rise 44 per cent. Here, the corresponding three-year increase in U.S. dollar expenditures for the military is 266 per cent.

The guns instead of butter character of the U.S. budget is indicated by the fact that the latest proposal calls for a rise over the previous year of 15 billion dollars in military expenditures, but a drop of one billion dollars in all other expenditures. In the Soviet Union, on the other hand, the proposed rise in military expenditures, 18 billion rubles, is matched by an equal rise in all other expenditures.

The difference in the military efforts of the two countries can also be seen by comparing the use of economic resources. The central government budgets do not tell the whole story, because many activities car-

Chart A
POSTWAR U.S.
AND U.S.S.R.
MILITARY
BUDGETS
AS PERCENT
OF TOTAL
BUDGETS



USA figures fall between the lines because the budget is based on the fiscal year. USSR budget is based on the calendar year.

ried in the State budget of the USSR correspond to activities carried out here by state and local governments, or by private companies. Addition of the proper private and state and local government expenditures to the U.S. Federal budget permits a rough comparison with the total USSR budget. The result is most striking:

In the Soviet Union proposed military expenditures in 1952 take *third place*, coming to only 63 per cent of the amount of the expenditures for development of the national economy, and to only 91 per cent of expenditures for social and cultural purposes. In the U.S., Truman's new military budget is in *first place*, amounting to 120 per cent of the current level of gross private domestic investment; and to four times the combined expenditure of all governments for education, health, and other social and cultural purposes (see Chart B).

Moreover, in the U.S. the relatively large amount of current private investments is devoted, admittedly, to expansion of war potential. Indeed, it is difficult to get materials for expansion of consumers goods capacity. In the Soviet Union the main emphasis is on the great Construction Works of Communism. Certainly, the huge dams, power projects, irrigation systems, shelter belts, etc., will increase the strength of the USSR in war as well as in peace. But it is obvious that such projects are principally for peacetime development, and their long period of scheduled completion shows that their planning is divorced from the immediate war dangers.

The new UN report cites these projects as signs of "greater emphasis" on consumers' goods, which "should begin to bear fruit increas-

ingly during the next decade." It also interprets the important November 6, 1951, speech of the Soviet leader L. P. Beria as suggesting that "increasing attention is, in fact, being paid to the consumption sector of the economy."

Despite these remarks, the UN report slurs over the unprecedented rise in living standards in the USSR since the end of World War II. It says that the output of consumers goods has "of course" risen from the low levels at the end of the war. Why "of course?" Is it not true that in Western Europe under the Marshall Plan and the North Atlantic Pact the supply of goods to the population goes down each year, and is in fact lower than at the end of World War II in some of these countries? Is it not a fact that in the U.S. the real incomes of workers are lower than at the end of World War II, and that the supply of consumers goods has been falling since the Korean War began?

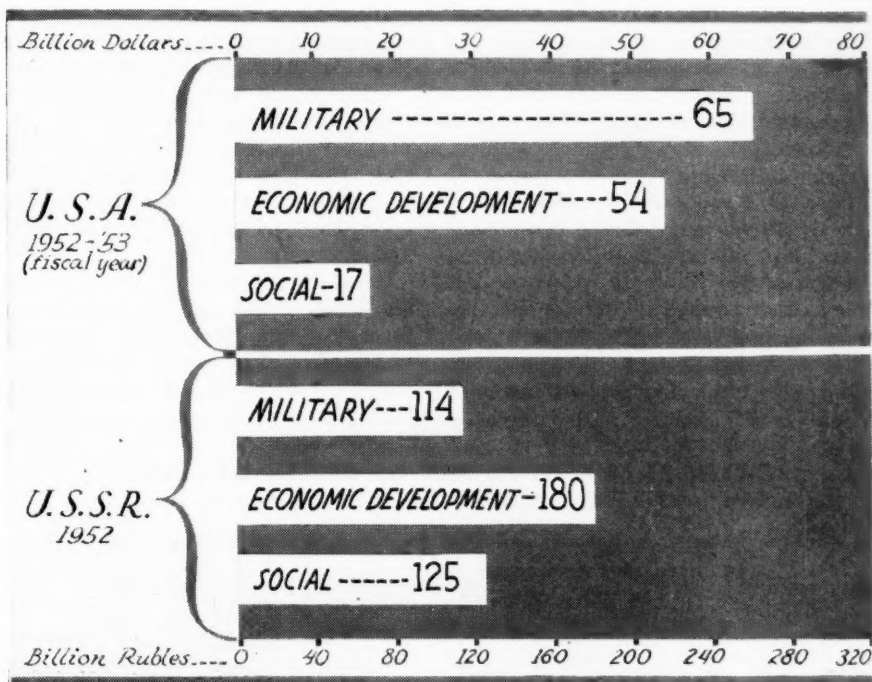
The report finds in the Soviet Union a "substantial diversion" to defense in 1951, because prices to consumers were reduced less than in former years! The poor people of the USSR saved from price reductions last year "only" 34.5 billion rubles, while we fortunates in the U.S. lost 12 billion dollars from higher prices. The Soviet people got "only" 20 per cent more housing, 12 per cent more meat, 17 per cent more leather shoes, 16 per cent more radios, more than 100 per cent more refrigerators than in 1950, while we got less of all of these things! (See Chart C—similar contrasts appear for almost every kind of consumers goods.)

Paying little attention to these recent gains, the UN report concentrates attention on comparisons with 1940. It claims that consumption is

Chart B

EXPENDITURES ON MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PURPOSES IN THE U.S. AND THE U.S.S.R.

(U.S. includes private firms and local governments)



For U.S.: Military is President Truman's new proposed budget for national security. Economic Development is the total gross private domestic development, annual growth in the fourth quarter of 1951. Social is President Truman's proposed budget for health, social security, education, etc., plus corresponding items in the latest state and local budgets, increased to allow for costs.

For USSR: All items are from the proposed 1952 budget, for defense, national economy, and social and cultural measures respectively.

little higher now than before World War II, and implies fraud in the official Soviet figure of a 62 per cent rise in the total incomes of the working population, in comparable prices, between 1940 and 1950. (The added gain announced for 1951 brings the total rise over 1940 to 78 per cent.)

However, even the figures shown in the UN report, based on free evaluation of Soviet statistics, sup-

port the officially announced increase in the living standards of the people. The report, brought up to date with the newly announced figures for 1951, shows increase in production over 1940 of food items as follows: butter 81 per cent, vegetable oils 20 per cent, fish 57 per cent, sugar 38 per cent. For textiles and allied items the increases are: cotton fabrics 19 per cent, woolen fabrics

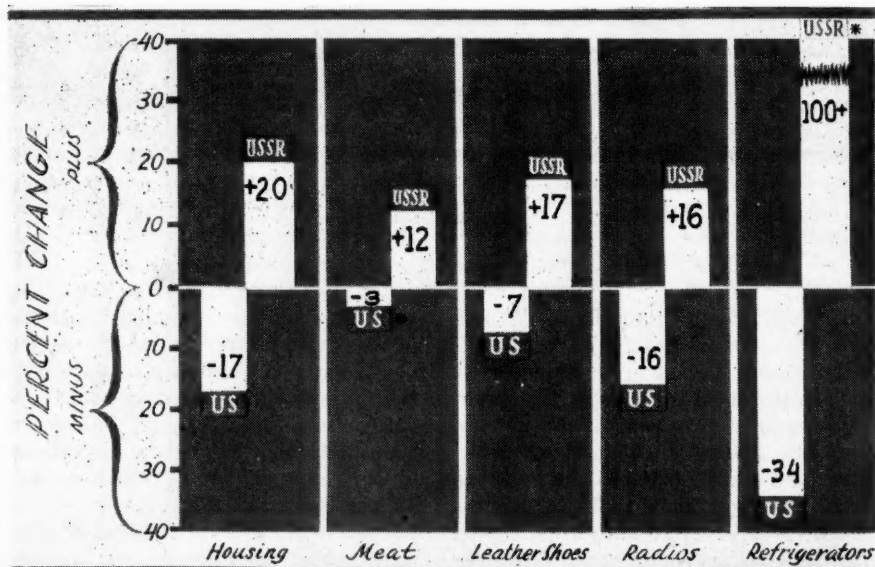
58 per cent, silk fabrics 142 per cent, leather shoes 17 per cent. For building supplies: cement 110 per cent, slate 173 per cent. These are all the consumer goods items for which 1940 and 1950 figures are given by the UN, and for which the Soviet Union has announced the percentage increases in production for 1951.

They do not cover the passenger automobiles for ordinary use, the household appliances, the frigidaires, furniture, radio and television, which in recent years, for the first time, have appeared on a mass scale on the Soviet markets as completely new additions to the living standards of the people. They do not cover the more than doubling of the electric power supply, a proportionate part of which has gone to increase the electrification of everyday living.

They do not include the sizeable flow of consumers' goods manufactures from Czechoslovakia, Poland and the German Democratic Republic, goods which formerly were traded with Western Europe, but which now are sold to the USSR in return for raw materials and industrial equipment on terms much more favorable to the People's Democracies than their pre-war terms of trade with capitalist countries. They do not cover the rapid extension of the network of services to the population, the theaters, the vacation and rest homes, the camps for children, the hospitals and doctors.

They do not consider the improved quality of goods coming from Soviet factories, nor the modern plumbing and central heating in new homes, nor the improved breeds of cattle

Chart C
CHANGES IN PRODUCTION OF CONSUMERS GOODS
IN THE U.S. AND U.S.S.R.—1950-1951



* Supply for civilians

with which the war-devastated herds of the Soviet Union were replaced. Thus the moderate increase in the numbers of livestock, as compared with 1940, means a much greater increase in the supply of meat, dairy products, wool and hides.

Furthermore, in 1940 the Soviet Union was girding for the expected invasion by Hitler Germany. Even the UN report admits that the proportion of Soviet resources devoted to military purposes was greater in 1940 than today. Consequently a considerable portion of the production of food and textiles had to be diverted to military stockpiles. So the increase in consumption is even more than the increase in production of consumers goods since 1940.

Perhaps the surest proof of the really vast improvement in the living standards of the Soviet people *in comparison with 1940* is the recent dramatic announcement of L. P. Beria that the mortality rate in the USSR has dropped to half of what it was in 1940. It takes more than improved medicine to accomplish such a result. It takes, in addition, better food, better housing, more secur-

ity, and, of course, a happier life.

And a country cannot accomplish these improvements while engaged in all-out war preparations. Soviet speakers have stressed the need to increase their military preparedness, in the light of the increased threat of aggression from the U.S. air bases springing up all around the Soviet borders. But as yet there is no sign that the Soviet Union finds it necessary to so intensify military measures as to prevent the continued and rapid increase in living standards. The Pentagon Planners have failed to drive the USSR into a ruinous armaments race.

The facts justify the recent statement of Soviet Finance Minister Zverev, in introducing the 1952 budget, that this budget is sufficient to assure the defense capability of the Soviet Union but proof that the USSR harbors no aggressive intentions toward any other nations and that it firmly supports the cause of world peace.

It is high time that the people of the United States draw the necessary conclusions, lest we be ruined as the first victims of the war drive.

NORTH KOREA CARRIES ON

DESPITE the severity of the war conditions, the Korean Democratic People's Republic is going ahead with plans to enable adult workers to continue their education and to bolster the economy of the country.

A concentrated period of short-term winter courses for adult education is now drawing to a close. This involves 20,000 study groups that were warmly welcomed and supported by the people. From the various districts of North Korea, residents sent contributions (like the 50,000 notebooks from the people of North Hamkyung) and loaned fuel, funds and houses.

On the economic front, Vice-Premier Bak Hung Yung, at the beginning of this year called on livestock raisers to produce more, saying that this year North Korea is planning to increase oxen by 13.6 per cent over last year; pigs by 79.5 per cent; sheep, by 35, milch cows, by 19.7, and ducks, by 313 per cent.

BUILDING FOR

It stands to reason that if the Soviet Union is not reducing but, on the contrary, is expanding its civilian industry, if it is not winding up but, on the contrary, expanding the construction of great new hydroelectric power station and irrigation systems, is not stopping but, on the contrary, continuing the policy of price

reduction, it cannot
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The Tsimlyanskaya excavation, part of the project linking the Volga with the Don, as it appeared (above) the day before the Don was diverted into its new channel, and (below) after the gates were opened.



R PEACE

it cannot simultaneously with this inflate
try to multiply its armed forces without
of finding itself in a state of bankruptcy.

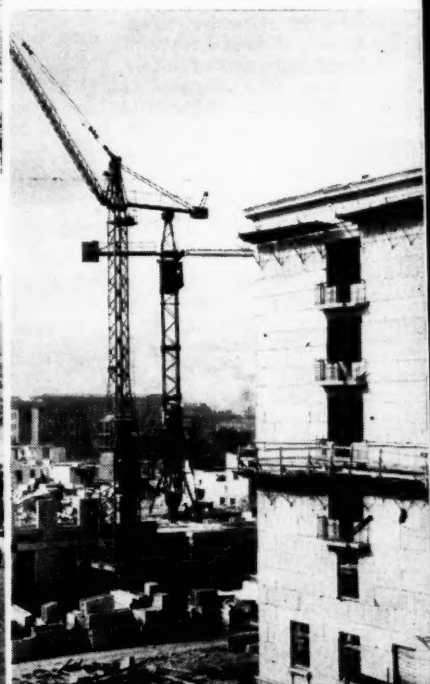
Stalin, in an interview with Pravda
on February 16, 1951



Building pre-fabricated houses. This method
has spurred building, given the peo-
ple 20 per cent more houses last year. ▶



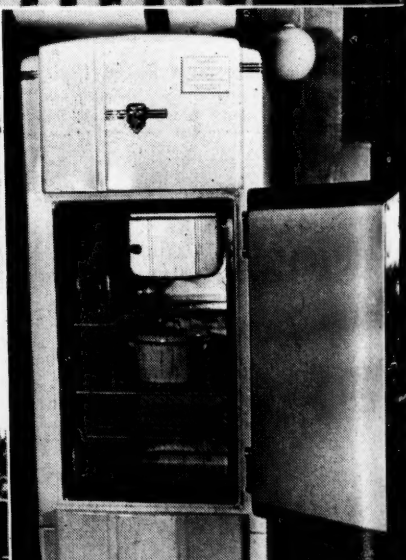
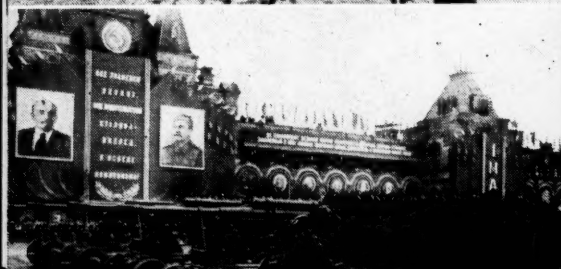
New model passenger cars roll
off the assembly line. Last
year the Automobile Ministry
exceeded its plan of output.



Increased attention is given the production of consumer goods of all kinds. The woman at the right helped the electrical industry exceed its plan, and the output of refrigerators (see bottom, right) rose more than 100 per cent in 1951.

Surveying the Kara-Kum Desert (below), which will be transformed into lush fields by the great hydroelectric and irrigation scheme along the Amu-Darya River. The project is the Main Turkmen Canal.

To safeguard this peaceful construction against any aggression, the USSR maintains its defensive forces. Bottom picture shows artillery parade on Red Square.



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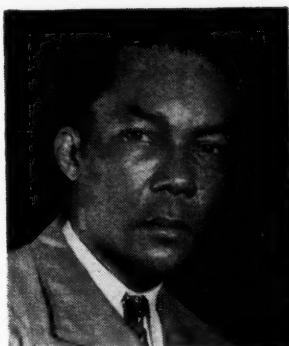
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BULGARIAN SNAPSHOTS

by FERDINAND SMITH



ONE OF THE MOST striking features of the recent congress of the Bulgarian trade unions was the extent to which the delegates, men and women, participated in discussion. The expression of their freedom of criticism was very refreshing. The acceptance by the leaders of this criticism, which was in the main a constructive one, illustrated the relations existing between the leaders and the rank and file.

Trade union activity in the field of culture is another example of the important role played by the trade unions in the life of the workers, and of the people as a whole.

Their houses of culture and rest, with their libraries and amateur entertainers have brought education and culture to the factories and the remotest villages.

The liberty of the workers in Bulgaria can be summed up by saying that when you find workers singing and dancing in the streets, then freedom and liberty is truly theirs.

Another outstanding feature of Bulgarian life is the position of their children. Everywhere I went in Bulgaria I found that the welfare of the children occupies an important place in the plan-

ning of the economy and the cultural life of the nation.

I have not been able to find a single downcast look on the faces of the thousands of people I have seen in the streets, in the factories, or wherever I went in the many places I have visited.

Under the labor code, the unions are equal partners in bargaining on wages, conditions of work and rest and on all aspects of the relations between workers and management.

The unions set the basis for the social insurance system, and are responsible for its operation. Under the system everyone in Bulgaria is entitled to, and in fact receives, free medical care.

The new city of Dimitrovgrad, which was started a short time ago and is now a fair sized city, can be described only as a marvel of the power of socialist construction. Factories are being built and put into operation simultaneously with the building of modern houses, schools, hospitals, theaters, movie houses, hotels, and all that is necessary for a modern city.

A government which is preparing for war would not have used its energy in building modern houses where there were hovels, in cities, towns and villages. It would not be producing materials intended to raise the living standards of the people.

The Bulgarians are a friendly, peace-loving people. All they ask is to be left alone to build their country into a modern industrial state. This they are determined to do.

FERDINAND SMITH was for many years Secretary of the National Maritime Union. Ordered deported to the West Indies because of his militant activities on behalf of labor, Mr. Smith won the right of voluntary departure. He is now Secretary of the Executive Committee of the World Federation of Trade Unions. The accompanying article, from "Free Bulgaria," is based on a recent visit to Bulgaria.

MUSICAL "TOWN HALL" IN SOVIET CAPITAL

250 new compositions, including seven operas, three symphonies, are heard at sessions of Union of Soviet Composers

by RALPH PARKER

IN ALL its ninety years, the Moscow Conservatory can scarcely have matched the musical events that took place at the year's end. These were connected with the Fifth Plenum of the Board of the Union of Soviet Composers, a session devoted to auditions of some 250 new compositions, including seven operas and three symphonies, followed by many days of fierce debate on their merits and shortcomings.

For some time before the plenum, members of the Board had been visiting the many centers of the USSR's musical life and, in consultation with Union branches in the Republics, selected works to be performed in Moscow. Attendance at the auditions, however, was not confined to members of the Board or even to students of music; the public was drawn in to listen and to judge. This was one of the ways the Composers Union took to meet the allegation four years ago that it was dominated by a clique.

My own participation in the event was simply a matter of chance. At-

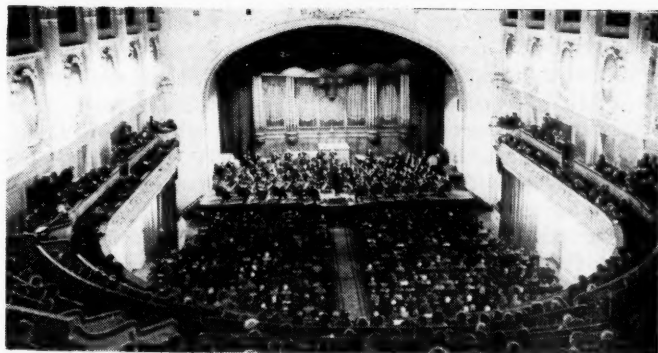
tracted by the prospect of hearing for a second time Dmitri Shostakovich's new Ten Songs for Unaccompanied Choir, I dropped into the Conservatory just before the concert began. The first surprise was to find the price of tickets, cheap enough at all times, reduced by over a half. The second, to be handed a sheaf of literature, including a long printed questionnaire inviting the listener's views on the new works being performed and suggesting that he take part in the ensuing debate.

Once involved, I attended concert after concert for a fortnight, not only at the Conservatory but in other halls. And though I found myself a partisan of that group of critics who maintained that the plenum was overburdened with listening and that somewhat more discrimination should have been used in drawing up the lists of music to be performed, there is little doubt that the event was a success.

Certain features are worthy of note. First, the wide range of the *genres* of music performed. Not only operas, symphonic music, piano and violin concertos, cantatas and chamber music, but music for national (folk) instruments and brass bands, popular songs and dances, and even the humble *chastushki* or couplets

RALPH PARKER formerly represented the "New York Times" in Moscow and now covers the USSR for newspapers in England and America.

The Large Hall of the Moscow Conservatory where the Soviet Composers Union held its sessions



composed on topics of the day. Second, the participation of composers from all parts of the country with particularly important contributions from Central Asia and Transcaucasia. And finally, the opportunity provided young composers to have their works performed in public by leading soloists and orchestras.

The Symphonic Concert illustrates these features. It opened with a suite on Latvian melodies by one of Latvia's oldest composers, Alfred Kalinn, a pupil of Lyadov at the Petersburg Conservatory at the close of the last century. This was followed by another Latvian work, Yanis Ivanov's new violin concerto. I. N. Shamo, Kiev-born composer, offered a ballad for pianoforte and orchestra. Shamo is twenty-six years old and has already established a reputation in the Ukraine. His work was followed by a suite in memory of Lessya Ukrainka, the Ukraine's greatest poetess, by A. Shtogarenko, a composer who spent a considerable part of his life working among amateur choral societies. The concert closed with a new suite by Serge Prokofiev consisting of excerpts from the ballet music he has written for "The Stone Flower" now being rehearsed by the ballet company of the Bolshoy Theater.

A concert a few days earlier

showed how wide was the choice of music included in the auditions. It opened with Dmitri Shostakovich's Ten Songs, beautifully performed *a cappella* by the State Choir conducted by Sveshnikov. For his latest composition, Shostakovich has drawn from an anthology of verse written by revolutionary poets between 1890 and 1917.

This song-cycle is so important a stage in the composer's development towards the new opera he is understood to be working on that it is worth while examining it in some detail. It opens with a setting of the words of a professional revolutionary of the 90's, L. Radin, a laconic, defiant, marching air which sets the emotional tone of the whole cycle. Then comes "One of the Many," in which another well known revolutionary, Yevgeni Tarasov, tells the story of the tragic death of a young rebel in a tsarist prison, followed by a stirring "slogan-song" in which the words "On to the Streets" are repeated with compelling effect.

Two settings of poems by Alexei Gmyriev, a ship-yard worker who died in exile, come next. Written in that pensive felicitously innocent manner at which Shostakovich excels, the recitative passages in which a tenor voice sings of a brief en-

counter between two lovers in exile are profoundly moving. The second song "The Executed" tells of the death of two revolutionaries. The composer constructs his chorus on two elements, starting with a fugato and following with a recitative episode.

Up to this point the cycle has consisted of fairly short songs, in two groups roughly characterized as expressing defiance and grief. Now, however, comes a longer chorus "The Ninth of January," a poem by A. Kotz which was exceedingly popular among working people during the 1905 revolution. The poet tells, in folk-ballad style, how the people came to their "little father"—the tsar, burdened and broken with the tragedy of their lives and unburdening before him their troubles, their hopes, their complaints against the landowners and factory owners. "We cannot bear it," they petition the tsar. "Look around yourself and see what is being done to us." The tsar said nothing, did nothing, heard nothing; he just lifted his hand, and on the

Square before the Winter Palace in Petersburg the people fell before the rifles of the tsar's soldiers.

Shostakovich's setting is worthy of the theme. His music has a grim quality, that of the lives of the working class in a Petersburg winter with the clammy cold striking at the throats of the workless, bread queues in the long straight streets, expeditions in search of firewood into the marshes on the city outskirts, the ever-present image of the grim prison of Peter and Paul across the ice-bound Neva. It is a song that one listens to with clenched fists. Musically, Shostakovich uses the style of Russian folk-epic, a recitative narratory melody leading into a chorus with elaborately changing rhythmical devices, the rhythm of popular songs as Mussorgsky knew to vary them. Rather less successful are the two following songs, but the cycle ends with choruses where Shostakovich is at his best, closely knit harmonically, robust, compelling. Particularly effective is the setting of a poem by Walt Whitman translated by Tan-Bogoraz,

The famous Pyatnitsky Choir offered interesting folk songs and dances—the first time this genre of music was reviewed by the Union of Soviet Composers



where the echoes of famous revolutionary songs enter and depart from the texture of the music with an ingenuity that is almost tantalizing.

A second hearing of this distinguished work strengthens my conviction that it is a major step in the composer's development, though it may well be that when we hear Shostakovich's opera we shall have to consider these new songs as being in the nature of sketches for an opera.

The Sveshnikov choir then made way for the Pyatnitsky Folk-Music Choir. An interesting point about the work of this Choir is the serious musical research it sponsors into contemporary folk-music, a number of its songs deriving from expeditions into the countryside. All the songs it performed were in traditional folk-style, yet they were all new. Some were work songs about people setting out on the new development schemes; others, in ballad style, were about events on the farm in which the tractor driver replaced the traditional shepherd. But though the milkmaids of the modern *chastushka* know all about electricity, the songs they figure in have as pastoral an atmosphere as ever.

This was the first time that light music of these genres had been included in the works reviewed by the Union of Soviet Composers. That a place was found for it is a logical development in the course the Composers Union has been taking since 1948, when, to put the matter at its briefest, it was called on to serve Soviet music lovers as a whole and not only the musically "enlightened."

The formation of choral societies, amateur operatic groups and orchestras is a stage in the raising of the cultural and material standards of living that a vast number of communities entered during the final

years of the post-war reconstruction plan. In 1948, there was a real dearth of music reflecting the mood of a people engaged on peaceful construction with their eyes on the road ahead, this being particularly true of those new industrial communities formed by people who had broken their links with the villages.

How, then, was the demand for music to be performed by amateur groups throughout the USSR to be met? In this context, it is necessary to point out that these worker-performers of music, and their audiences, are determined not to be classified as unworthy of the best music. Few things are so revealing of the nature of Soviet society as this insistence by the rank-and-file on the services of the most talented members of their society. Just as they would not tolerate a great scientist being monopolized by a single firm, they would consider it equally unjust if their own intellectuals were to write for the few. For this is a society which attempts to involve every man, woman and child in the cultured life.

This approach to art and culture raises certain difficulties. I think most here feel that ways have yet to be found of encouraging experimentation. There has to be constant vigilance against vulgarization and crudeness of form, and it is significant that the 1948 decision on music while calling for depth of content also stressed the need for high craftsmanship and works such as Yuri Levitin's oratorio "Fire Over the Volga," the content of which meets all the requirements of today, were severely criticized for certain primitive aspects of its orchestration.

In an attempt to make a general conspectus of the fortnight's auditions I should say that the most dis-

tinguished music performed was Shostakovich's Ten Songs; a dynamic colorful joyful piano concerto by Otar Taktakishvili; the chamber music of S. Tsintsadze, another young Georgian; a Moldavian Rhapsody for violin by M. S. Wienberg, brilliantly played by David Oistrakh; Sorokin's oratorio "Alexander Matrosov"; a symphonic poem "For Peace" by the Azerbaidzhanian composer D. Gadzhiev; a violin concerto by a young Russian composer Afanasiev; and, finally, V. Zakharov's new chorus on the theme of the struggle for peace. This is a short list and a good many other works of real value or promise might be included, such as Aruntunian's bright if rather stereotyped piano concerto, the symphonic dances of Hodzha-Einatov and new songs by Yuri Shaporin.

A great deal was said about opera in the discussions. The secretary of the Board of the Composers Union, Tikhon Khrennikov, while praising Kabalievsky's "The Family of Tara," "The Young Guard" by the Ukrainian composer Meitus, and "The Decembrists" by Shaporin, which is now in rehearsal at the Bolshoy Theater, admitted that results since 1948 had fallen short of expectations. He called for a higher professional level of craftsmanship and for the creation of positive heroes. The main task, he said, was to create operas around the idea of Soviet man as creator of a new society, the Bolshevik for whom every success in refashioning society and transforming nature for mankind's benefit was only the beginning of still greater and more audacious undertakings. This he said was the real source of the romanticism that modern operas ought to reflect.

Point was given to his remarks



The Sveshnikov Choir that performed Shostakovich's Ten Songs

by the fact that of the seven operas heard, some in concert performances, others from records, only one had a theme drawn from post-Revolutionary life, and this was a partisan war theme. Whether Dzerzhinsky's opera "Far From Moscow" will meet the requirements Khrennikov outlined remains to be seen. It is not yet finished.

Another problem that was raised at the Fifth Plenum was that of the vexed question of the "national content" of music. The Russian word "narodnost" is practically untranslatable today, so many new shades of meaning has the literal translation "nationality" or "folk" acquired in recent times. Perhaps "people's democratic" corresponds most closely to what is meant. However, we shall have some light on the question when the Union of Soviet Composers meets again later this year to wrestle with it.

How the People Live In Czechoslovakia

by FRED WELLS

SINCE the victorious termination of the struggle against Hitler fascism, there has been a gradual stepping up of hate-propaganda against the People's Democracies in the newspapers, radio and films, and from the platform of the major political parties in Australia.

At the end of the Third World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace at Berlin, the youth organization of Czechoslovakia invited fifteen Australians to visit their country and see for themselves exactly what was happening. I was one of the fortunate ones selected to go, and in view of the campaign that is being waged against Czechoslovakia in many countries and having had a chance to see the truth for myself, I feel I should describe some of my experiences.

On our second day in Czechoslovakia, we visited a workers' holiday resort at Hamr on Jezere where some of the young and adult workers from all over Czechoslovakia come to spend their holidays. Here in a quiet village, built on the side of a lake and set among pine forests, is every convenience for a worker and his family to spend and enjoy a holiday. Cine-

mas, dance halls, lecture rooms, volley and basket ball courts, sailing, boating and canoeing on the lake and, of course, swimming. We found that many of these workers enjoyed these holidays free of charge. One man told me that for the holiday of three weeks, including rail fares for his wife and himself, the cost was the equivalent of three days' wages. In no instance would the three weeks' paid holiday for the family cost more than one weeks' wages.

At this resort was a cross-section of Czechoslovakia, comprising youth and adult students, miners, factory workers, office workers, housewives and many people of other occupations. They explained that never before had they been able to enjoy such a full working, cultural and athletic life devoid of any feeling of insecurity for the future; for the first time in their lives they could buy those things so dear to the heart of a family, comfortable and modern furniture, radios, as well as a sufficiency of good food and other essentials.

They were happy too in the knowledge that every door to opportunity and advancement was open to their children, for truly never have I seen such a superb system of education and apprentice training as is available to the youth of Czechoslovakia.

FRED WELLS is a young Australian maritime worker, a member of the Seamen's Union of that country.



New apartment house for shoe workers in Gottwaldov, Moravia

On visiting the city of Liberec some twenty miles from the holiday resort, I saw some of the reasons why they wished to keep that freedom they had won at such a cost. There I visited the home of the infamous Henlein, the former leader and gauleiter of the Sudeten area who played such a role in betraying the people. This home, formerly the scene of so much evil, is now fittingly converted into a museum of fascist barbarism, and here, set out step by step, were the reasons, so easily understood when seen, for the vehemently expressed desire of the Czechoslovak people to keep their freedom in spite of the saboteurs, agents provocateurs and spies smuggled in by imperialist nations.

Here one can see the tattooed human skin taken from the tortured victims of fascism and used for lamp shades and book covers. Here also are all the fiendish weapons of torture the Nazi madmen used on their victims—spiked knuckle dusters, wire whips, a huge swinging club with iron spikes, used to beat some fighter for peace and freedom while he was strapped by the wrists and ankles to an iron sheet. Here also was the guillotine used at Pankrats Prison that had beheaded 1,048 patriots. There

was also the exact replica of a concentration camp cell, 30 ft. by 30 ft., where in scenes of indescribable horror and brutality, 300 to 700 people were condemned to a living death.

Seeing these things, I could understand why the Czechoslovak people were so proud of the regime based on freedom and peace they had built and why they wished to and would keep it.

After leaving the holiday resort, we visited the town of Ostrava in Moravia. Ostrava is a city founded on coal and steel production, and under capitalism was exploited to the utmost, the prime aim being more profit for the owners with never a thought for the betterment of the workers' conditions. Consequently there grew up a city of contrasts. Luxury homes for the rich, and smoke-drenched slums for the workers. In many cases, because of wrong methods used, due to greed on the part of the owners, workers' homes would be undermined by the coal mines and sink several feet into the earth, with no attempt made to remedy this danger.

But today, there is arising out of this heritage of capitalism, with a scope and speed that is breathtaking, a city such as the workers of my

country as yet only dream about. For the city of Ostrava is being completely rebuilt not only with accommodation and amenities for the present population, but also for the further 200,000 people the increased productive capacity will absorb.

This city will be built in quarters, and each quarter, surrounded by green parks planted with trees and shrubs, will have a central House of Culture with cinema, club rooms, libraries and puppet theater. Each district in the quarter will also have a House of Culture with a seating capacity of 1,000 with all amenities. Also to be built is a theater seating 2,000, museums, another 600-seat theater, parks, swimming pools, playgrounds, pioneer houses, kindergartens, and nurseries in each quarter for the youth and young people. All homes are to be centrally heated and built with every consideration for the welfare of the family.

Talking to individual workers on various projects, I was impressed by the knowledge each had of his or her own particular part in the construction. This was explained to me by the workers by the fact that regular meetings were held of all engaged on the project, from the manager down to the laborer, so that in an atmosphere of constructive criticism, explanation and suggestion the best method of work was arrived at.

From Ostrava we went to Gottwaldov, formerly the city of Zlin and part of the monopolist Bata empire built on exploitation. We came first to a magnificent hotel, quite the best I have ever been in, which formerly had been only for the use of the Bata clique and their hangers-on. Now it belongs, appropriately enough, to the Trade Unions that Bata tried so hard to suppress. Passing through the doors which formerly only the

wealthy used are now proud and happy workers and their families, some perhaps to dine cheaply and well in the enormous restaurant or some to one of the dance or lecture halls in the hotel, and others with their families making the hotel their headquarters whilst they are on holiday in Gottwaldov.

In this city also are being built, and have been built, spacious and modern homes and apartments for the workers, also schools, hospitals, sports grounds and houses of culture.

In Gottwaldov, I visited one of the many huge buildings for the housing and training of apprentices. In this building, as far as one could see, was every amenity and training device youth could desire in the period of training they undergo prior to entering the industry of their choice.

This training school was typical of many others I visited, and in all cases I asked the same question: could they, the trainees, choose the trade they desired? In all cases I received the same answer; not only could they freely choose whatever profession or trade they desired, but if, on entering that chosen field of work, they wished to change to another, they were at perfect liberty to do so.

From Gottwaldov to Bratislava, where over coffee in a restaurant I was fortunate enough to make the acquaintance of two Roman Catholic priests, and so availed myself of the opportunity to ask questions on the supposed persecution to which they were subjected. From this conversation, these facts came to light. In no way does the government of Czechoslovakia hinder or attempt to hinder any religious movement, but, on the contrary, they are given direct and material help by many methods, one being a subsidy paid to religious organizations by the government. This



A rest home for Czechoslovak workers situated in Kosice, Slovakia

has always been paid, but whereas formerly the amount never exceeded 70 million crowns, in the past year it was one billion crowns. Another is the building of seminaries and colleges for the training of those who wish to enter religion, and the restoration and repairing of churches and religious monuments.

Furthermore, in Czechoslovakia priests and ministers receive a monthly wage from the government of 5,500 crowns per month. In most cases, this is more than they received under the old regime.

These facts I checked and rechecked and can assure all who read this that in Czechoslovakia there is no religious persecution but, on the contrary, all are free to practice in

peace the religion of their choice.

Lastly I wish to deal with the question of the role and function of the trade unions of Czechoslovakia. Instead of the puny, oppressed trade unionism depicted as existing in Czechoslovakia by the press of many countries, the trade union movement of Czechoslovakia is the largest organization in the country with a membership of three and one half millions. All industries have their trade union, and trade union press, and are welded into one central organization which of a certainty has and wields the power and influence that rightly belongs to trade unions.

All elections for officials are held by secret ballot and any member of the trade union who wishes, may nominate and take part in the elections, held every two years for senior officials, and every year for junior officials. All officials are liable to recall by the membership if at any time they are proved to be guilty of malpractice or incompetence.

Trade union officials in Czechoslovakia in most cases receive lower wages than the workers. When I asked why this was so and was it not a little unfair, a senior official replied:

"We do not pay large salaries, and so attract men and women whose only concern is to go into the big salary bracket. We want and have men and women whose only ambition is to serve their country and fellow workers well and wisely."

On the question of the desire of the Czechoslovak people for war, a true answer was given by the people in the recent ballot, when 98.2 per cent of the people voted overwhelmingly in favor of peace, a policy which their government is carrying out to the letter.

The Choice Before Us

The Lisbon road to war, or a four-power conference on a German peace treaty?

by JESSICA SMITH

TWO CLEAR alternatives are offered by the decisions of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Council at Lisbon on the one hand, and the Soviet Government's new proposals for a four-power conference on a German Peace Treaty on the other. One spells war, the other peace.

The NATO decisions mean a Western Europe burdened to the point of present economic ruin by a colossal arms program and threatened with ultimate total ruin by the revived Nazi legions on which the new European army is to be based.

A rearmed Western Germany with a restored Ruhr war industry, will not be concerned with the security of Western Europe, but with recovery by arms of the Eastern territories transferred to Poland under the Potsdam agreement, and the forcible unification of a re-Nazified Germany. To gain these ends the arrogant heirs of Hitler will not hesitate to turn westward as they did before, cheating the new Munich-men as they did the old, and unleashing a new world war.

The establishment of a democratic Germany, peacefully unified by the will of its own people, as proposed in the Soviet note, would lift this threat of war from Europe, remove the crushing burden of arms from its people, permit them to return to constructive labor and open the way to friendly, cooperative relations.

The Soviet Peace Offer

In this latest of its ceaseless efforts for peace, the Soviet Government on March 11 sent identical notes to the United States, Britain and France,

proposing the earliest possible convocation of a four-power conference to prepare a draft German peace treaty to be submitted to an international conference including all states that participated in the war against Germany and Germany itself.

The outline for such a treaty suggested by the USSR, as reported in the press, called for the withdrawal of all foreign armed forces and the liquidation of all foreign military bases in Germany.

The Soviet note said that the object of the treaty should be the development of a united, independent, democratic and peace-loving Germany as agreed upon at Potsdam. It suggested final establishment of Germany's frontiers as they now exist in accordance with the Potsdam agreement, and a pledge by Germany not to enter any coalition aimed at any power that had fought against Germany in World War II.

The note further declared that the German peace treaty must be worked out with the direct participation of an all-German government, and that therefore the four powers must consider "conditions favoring the most rapid formation of a general German government expressing the will of the German people."

The Soviet Government warned of the dangers of any revival of German militarism, proposing that its arms and armed forces be limited to defense requirements. It declared that full civil rights should be secured for the German people, and free functioning for all democratic parties and organizations, but not for those hostile to democracy and peace. Economic provisions included the proposal that "no limita-

tions whatsoever be placed on Germany regarding the development of a peaceful economy which is to serve the growth and well-being of the German people . . . [or] in respect of trade with other countries, sea navigation and in access to world markets."

The Soviet Government made clear that it was prepared to consider other proposals and asked for the earliest possible answer.

Rejection of the Soviet proposals can only serve to convince the people of Europe and the world anew that the Western powers are bent on war. The new Soviet peace offer has raised new obstacles against the fulfillment of the mad plans for aggression hatched at Lisbon, and immensely heartened the peace forces everywhere.

The Lisbon War Parley

The NATO Council meeting at Lisbon February 20-25, despite the sanctimonious glow of "quiet pride" with which Secretary Acheson returned, announcing it as an "historic parley" which made "giant strides" toward a powerful United Europe, revealed instead the giant fissures in the Western war front. Yet the fact remains that the United States was able to push through plans for remilitarizing Germany that had failed at Ottawa and Rome.

European resistance to the plans for rearming Germany has become so strong that it appeared on the eve of Lisbon that the whole NATO structure might crack apart.

The Bonn Government had raised ever more arrogant conditions for its participation in the proposed European army, demanding full membership in NATO and complete sovereignty in all respects, which in turn aroused new alarms at the prospect of revived German militarism.

The pre-Lisbon debate in the French Assembly revealed the deep fears of the French right as well as left not only of a rearmed Germany but of U.S. war plans, and no fears at all of any dan-

ger of aggression by the USSR.

It was made clear in the course of a debate punctuated by the reminders of the horrors of the Nazi invasion that the French wanted new efforts for settlement with the Soviet Union. Former Defense Minister Moch, a leader of the Socialist Party, urged that discussion of German rearmament be deferred until June 1 to give the new UN Disarmament Commission, on which he is French representative, a chance to make progress. He told the deputies: "My long debates with Soviet Foreign Minister Vyshinsky at the Paris UN Assembly make me believe that progress can be made this year in the difficult process of reducing mutual distrust."

The final acceptance by the French Assembly of the Faure Government's proposals to meet U.S. desires for arming the West German Republic as a partner in the European system, carried the condition that the Bonn Government be barred from full NATO membership and that measures be taken delaying actual recruitment of German troops.

The United States kept the French in line by promising that their conditions would be met and Germany kept under control. At the same time the assurances given to Adenauer when he met with the three Western Foreign Ministers in London before the Lisbon conference, filled him with elation.

The mounting suspicions and distrust of the United States compelled new disavowals by Secretary Acheson at the opening of the Lisbon Parley of any preventive war intentions on the part of the U.S. Government, although the policies he proceeded to push through could have no other basis. The thirteen other NATO nations whose foreign, defense and finance ministers were present, well know they are not threatened with Soviet aggression and could not fail to realize that had the USSR planned aggression it would certainly have been launched before Western rearmament had proceeded as far as it already has.

Yet by threats of withholding the dollar aid necessary to bolster up the economies of European states already tottering from previous "aid," Secretary Acheson was able to force through a plan including the following points.

It was agreed to put fifty first line and reserve divisions under General Eisenhower by the end of 1952, backed by 4,000 planes and strong naval forces. The goal is 90 or 100 divisions by the end of 1954, when the core of the European army will be the revived German Wehrmacht. The decision to build an integrated European army must however be ratified by the parliaments of the participating nations, France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg before German army units can be recruited.

Bonn's demands were met by promising West Germany a very large measure of sovereignty and a sort of associated membership in NATO through the European army.

After this year, the forces of Greece and Turkey, newest Atlantic Pact members, will also be included, as eventually will be those of Franco Spain and Tito Yugoslavia who are back door NATO members through the military agreements with the U.S.

The plan envisions dividing among the member nations the huge expenditure of \$300 billion in the next three years for the arming and equipping of troops and for expanding the network of airfields already facing the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. This includes great stretches of some of the best agricultural land in Europe which has been grabbed away from the peasants.

The Lisbon parley also decided on the inclusion of the French protectorates of Morocco and Tunisia in the aggressive NATO system, adding huge reaches of territory to air bases already under construction there.

The storing of some of America's atomic weapons in Europe was strongly hinted in the announcement that "the latest and previously unused weapons developed in the United States" would

be sent to Europe in the near future.

While the Lisbon war plans are aimed against the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, it is clear that their immediate victims are the working people of Europe doomed to still further reduction in living standards by the huge military sums assessed, and the colonial peoples. Immediately following the meeting the French government announced that the United States had agreed to increase supplies to the French war against the people of Indo-China, and a new sell-out of the people of Egypt was implied in an AP dispatch in the *New York Herald Tribune* of February 27 which reported: "High level British-American talks are under way on possible alternate plans for defense of the Suez which would be more palatable to the Egyptians."

Aftermath of Lisbon

The Lisbon decisions have served to intensify the mass protest movement against war in Europe, and created new government crises in the Atlantic Pact nations.

In France the Faure government crashed immediately following the Lisbon conference, having been in existence only forty days after it replaced the Pleven government. The French Assembly rejected the 15 per cent tax increase proposed to meet the astronomical 1,400,000,000 franc assessment imposed at Lisbon for France's share in NATO. It is not likely that the French people will submit to the new burdens proposed by the extreme rightist Cabinet formed by the reactionary businessman Antoine Pinay, a member of the Vichy Government's National Council, or that any government that ties itself to America's war chariot can long endure.

In Britain there is growing dismay at the prospects of the war spreading in the Far East as well as the crushing arms burdens imposed by the NATO decisions. Prime Minister Churchill was temporarily able to get himself off the difficult spot he was in

as a result of commitments made in the United States in relation to extending the Korean war into China only because he was able to disclose that the Labor Government before him had already made such commitments.

The new Churchill budget, with its main stress on arming, means new and substantial sacrifices for the British people, with heavier taxes, less food and higher prices, and can only serve to increase the militancy of the trade unions, the rank and file of the Labor Party and the movement for peace embracing the widest sections of professional people as well as the workers.

In the German Democratic Republic in the East both the government and the people are firmly committed to a policy of peace, and against remilitarization. Premier Grotewohl has proposed a four-power peace treaty along the lines advocated in the Soviet note.

In West Germany the movement against rearmament is growing, as shown by recent elections in southwest Germany where one-sixth of the West German electorate displayed strong opposition to remilitarization. The rank and file opposition to rearming has forced the Social Democratic leaders to take a stronger stand against rearmament. Large circles of the trade union movement have protested through demonstrations and strikes against the Bonn policies. Not only Protestant circles represented by Pastor Niemoeller and others have been active in the protest movement, but large Catholic circles.

All this, added to the fact that the proposed fifty divisions are still largely on paper, and that the NATO European army plans must run the gamut of bitter parliamentary debate in six countries before they can become reality, show the difficulties ahead.

But we must not permit these difficulties to obscure the real and terrible dangers inherent in the NATO decisions and the fact that these very difficulties can drive the warmakers to desperate adventures.

We cannot forget that our country

is now committed to give military "protection" to some 37 countries—almost half all the rest of the world—while altogether some 60 nations have agreements for U.S. military and economic aid under the Mutual Security Act for which the President now asks another \$7,900,000,000 as part of the \$85 billion budget, three-fourths of which is for war.

We cannot forget that parallel with the new war plans of Lisbon are the American plans for spreading the war in Asia. The recent signing of the Security Pact in Tokyo perpetuates U.S. military occupation and bases in Japan, to be built up anew as a base of aggression in the Far East under the Japanese Peace Treaty.

We cannot forget that in Korea American napalm bombs continue to bring devastation to the land and the people, that the lives of Americans are still being needlessly sacrificed, while the U.S. negotiators raise ever new obstacles to agreement in the armistice talks, and new threats of spreading the war to China by bombing the Chinese mainland and arming Chiang Kai-shek for an assault.

The rising tide of the peace sentiment in the United States, described by Rev. Willard Uphaus elsewhere in this issue, has recently been vividly reflected in the blocking of legislation for Universal Military Training.

This indicates the strength of the peace forces. But there must be a stronger and more united effort than ever before if peace is to be won. New avenues for the peace fight are opened up in the peace ticket of the Progressive Party, with Vincent Hallinan, leading West Coast labor attorney, as candidate for President, and Mrs. Charlotta Bass, distinguished Negro leader for Vice President. And above all, the great campaign of the American Peace Crusade and other organizations for negotiations for a Five-Power Peace Pact, open to all nations, by the United States, the Soviet Union, the Chinese People's Republic, Britain and France, needs the support of all Americans.

Results of the 1951 USSR Plan

On January 29 the Central Statistical Administration of the Council of Ministers of the USSR issued a statement on the fulfillment of the Plan for 1951. Below, in abridged form, we publish the report on the results of the Plan in industry and agriculture.

Fulfillment of Industrial Production Plan. The 1951 plan for the *gross output* of industry was fulfilled as a whole by 103.5 per cent. The extent to which the various Ministries carried out their plans for industrial gross output is shown in Table A.

In 1951 the production plan was exceeded for a large number of items including coal, oil, natural gas, gasoline, diesel fuel, electric power, metal-cutting machine tools, spinning machines, tractors, combines, flax pullers, tree-planting machines, trucks and automobiles, main line locomotives, diesel locomotives, excavators, bulldozers, ball bearings, synthetic rubber, tires and a large number of chemicals.

Government assignment for additional manufactured goods and foodstuffs above plan was overfulfilled. The items

included large quantities of cotton, woolen and silk textiles, clothing, hosiery, sewing machines, clocks and watches, sausage products, condensed milk, cheese, vegetable oil, sugar, confectionery, canned goods, wines, champagne, beer, soap, cigarettes.

Although 1951 saw continued improved quality and range of output, not all industries filled their assignments in the variety and quality of certain items. Thus, in ferrous metallurgy, the plan was not fulfilled for certain items of rolled ferrous metals; in heavy engineering, it was not fulfilled for steam boilers and steam turbines; in machine and instrument-making, for certain types of chemical equipment, compressors and calculating machines; in agricultural machinery, for tractor-drawn seed drills, grain cleaners, sort-

TABLE A
How Ministries Fulfilled 1951 Gross Industrial Output Plans

Ministry	% of Fulfillment of 1951 Plan	Ministry	% of Fulfillment of 1951 Plan
Ferrous Metallurgy	104	Paper and Woodworking	103
Non-ferrous Metallurgy	102	Light Industry (USSR)	102
Coal	100.7	Fishing (USSR)	109
Oil	103	Meat and Dairy (USSR)	103
Electric Power Stations	102	Food (USSR)	107
Chemicals	104	Industrial Enterprises of Ministry of Cotton Cultivation (USSR)	99.7
Electrical Industry	103	Industrial Enterprises of Ministry of Transport	99.1
Communications Equipment	102	Industrial Enterprises of Ministry of Health (USSR)	106
Heavy Engineering Industry	100	Industrial Enterprises of Ministry of Cinematography (USSR)	103
Automobile and Tractor	100.6	Ministries of Local Industry and Ministries of Local Fuel Industry of Union Republics	106
Machine Tool	100	Industrial Cooperatives	106
Machine and Instrument-Making	100.9		
Building and Road Construction Machinery	106		
Transport Machinery	100.9		
Agricultural Machinery	104		
Building Materials (USSR)	102		
Timber (USSR)	94		

TABLE B

Output of Major Manufactures in 1951 in Percentages of 1950

Pig iron	114	Grain combines	115	Gramophones	124
Steel	115	Main line electric locomotives	111	Pianos and grand pianos	121
Rolled steel	115	Motor buses	134	Cotton fiber	133
Iron tubing	114	Motorcycles	102	Cotton textiles	122
Copper	114	Excavators	105	Linen textiles	111
Lead	125	Calculating machines	201	Woolen textiles	113
Zinc	115	Ball bearings	130	Silk textiles	134
Coal	108	Soda	109	Hosiery	126
Oil	112	Caustic soda	108	Leather footwear	117
Natural gas	108	Dyes	115	Rubber footwear	111
Gasoline	120	Mineral fertilizers	107	Fish	122
Paraffin	103	Chemicals for combating agricultural pests and weeds	185	Meat	112
Diesel fuels	145	Synthetic rubber	120	Sausage products	117
Electric power	114	Cement	119	Butter	106
Steam turbines	110	Bricks	120	Milk products	144
Large hydro-turbines	245	Roofing felt	113	Condensed milk	144
Turbo-generators	211	Roofing slate	127	Cheese	120
Hydro-generators	193	Prefabricated houses	116	Vegetable oil	112
Large electrical machines	137	Haulage of marketable timber	117	Confectionery	116
Electric motors	124	Paper	112	Sugar	118
Electric lamps	120	Bicycles	178	Alcohol	111
Large, heavy and unique machine tools	111	Sewing machines	133	Grape wine	124
Chemical equipment	138	Clocks and watches	127	Champagne	121
Agricultural machinery	115	Cameras	137	Beer	116
Tractor-drawn seed drills	115	Radio sets	116	Canned goods	118
Tractor-drawn cultivators	117			Matches	106
				Cigarettes	113
				Tea	131

ers and certain other agricultural machines; in building materials (USSR Ministry), for certain kinds of cement, and in timber (USSR Ministry), for the haulage of the main kinds of marketable timber.

Growth of Industrial Output. The output of the major manufactures in 1951, compared with 1950, increased 16 per cent. A number of the individual increases last year over 1950 is shown in Table B.

Last year, in accordance with the plan, the national economy received considerably more raw material supplies, fuel, electric power and equipment than in 1950.

Improvement in the utilization of equipment continued in 1951. Thus, in ferrous metallurgy utilization of useful volume of blast furnaces increased more than 5 per cent compared with 1950; production of steel per square meter of open-hearth furnace increased nearly 5 per cent. At enterprises of the Ministry of Oil Industry, exploitation drill-

ing speed increased; the percentage of light fractions rose. In coal, productivity of coal combines increased 19 per cent. There was improved utilization of production capacities for synthetic rubber and synthetic ammonia, and also increased utilization of equipment in the cotton goods and cement industries.

Expenditure of raw materials, supplies, fuel and electric power per unit of output in 1951 was lower than in the previous year and, in many industries, was also below the planned rates.

The plan for reduction of industrial production costs set for 1951 was overfulfilled, the economy thereby effected amounted to more than 26,000,000,000 rubles, exclusive of savings as a result of the reduction of wholesale prices of raw materials and supplies.

On the basis of successes in the development of industry, the rise of labor productivity and the reduction of production costs attained in 1951, the Government carried out, effective January 1, 1952, a new reduction of wholesale

prices of metals, machinery and equipment, fuel, chemicals, building materials, and paper, as well as a reduction of rates for electric power and heat, and freight carriage.

Introduction of New Equipment. The machine-building industry in 1951 developed about 500 important new types and models of machinery and equipment.

There were developed new types of powerful steam turbines and high pressure boilers, hydro-turbines and hydro-generators, aerial switches, high tension disconnectors and arresters for long distance power transmission.

Powerful suction dredges, single-bucket walking, and multi-bucket excavators, powerful concrete mixers for automatized concrete-making plants, and 25-ton trucks were produced to mech-

anize labor-consuming jobs on the giant hydro-technical installations.

The machine tool industry mastered nearly 150 new types of highly efficient metal-cutting machine tools and forge and stamping machinery and a considerable number of hard-alloy tools.

New types of equipment were produced for the oil, chemical, light, food and other industries and for transport.

New types of machine and implements for soil cultivation, sowing, planting, harvesting and processing of grain and industrial crops and vegetables were manufactured for the further mechanization of agricultural field work. In addition, a number of new machines were produced for the mechanization of fodder preparation as well as for shelter-belt planting.

The level of mechanization rose considerably in all branches of the national economy.

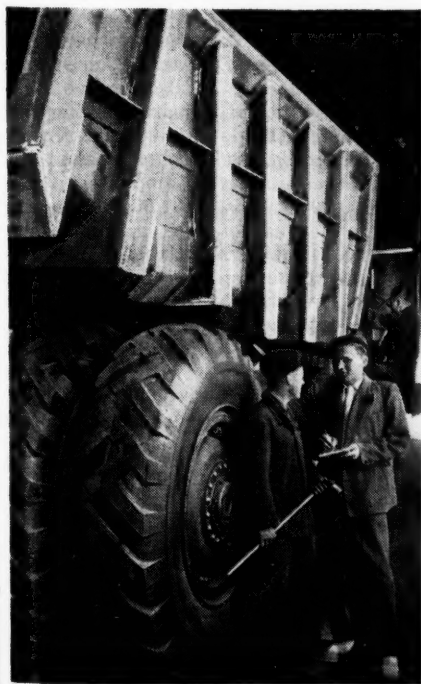
In coal, mechanization of cutting, breaking and delivery, and underground transport was completed as early as 1950. In 1951, the introduction of new types of combines for working thin and steep sloping seams was started, thus making it possible to raise the level of mechanization in coal loading. More than 1,500 combines and coal-cutting machines and 1,350 conveyor lines were transferred to remote control operation.

Volume of mechanized work at enterprises of the Ministry of Timber of the USSR increased in felling and haulage of timber 1.7 times, compared with 1950; in loading of timber, 2.2 times; and in haulage, 1.2 times.

Introduction of new efficient technological processes was continued in all branches of the national economy and work was carried on for the further automatization of production.

At mills of the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgical Industry, 87 per cent of the entire production of steel was smelted in open hearth furnaces equipped with automatic regulators of the heat processes. There was an increase in production of special shapes of rolled metal which make for a considerable reduction in the expenditure of metal during further treatment.

A 25-ton dump truck. One of the many new machines to help the work on the great hydroelectric constructions





Collective farmers use a tree-planting machine to hasten work on the shelter belts that will prevent future drought.

New methods and improved technology of the concentration and comprehensive processing of ores, concentrates and slime, which make for fuller extraction of non-ferrous and rare metals, were introduced in non-ferrous metallurgical industry.

Application of turbine drilling was expanded substantially in the oil industry. Oil production applying the method of maintaining strata pressure, which makes for fuller extraction of the oil, was further developed. New technological processes of oil refining employing Soviet-made machinery were introduced, which made it possible to increase the yield of oil products and improve their quality.

Advanced methods of metal working—high-speed cutting, new electric and thermal methods of treating metal—were further applied in machine-building. Automatic and semi-automatic devices were introduced to control the sizes of parts produced on a mass scale.

Work was carried on for comprehensive automatization of hydroelectric stations and automatization of the thermal processes in boiler units of the power stations. More than 90 per cent of the district hydroelectric stations have automatized operation of units.

In 1951, nearly 700,000 inventions and rationalization proposals by workers and engineering and technical personnel, designed to perfect or radically

improve production processes, were applied.

Agriculture. 1951 saw new successes in the development of farming and animal husbandry and in the organizational economic consolidation of the collective farms.

Total grain harvest, according to figures of the Chief Harvest Assessment Inspection of the USSR Council of Ministers, despite unfavorable weather conditions in districts of the Volga Valley, Western Siberia, Kazakhstan and certain other districts, amounted to 7,400,000,000 poods (121,000,000 metric tons). Harvest of food grains—wheat and rye—was higher than in 1950. Unginned cotton crop was above 1950 and higher than in preceding years. Sugar beet harvest was above 1950 and exceeded 27,000,000 tons.

Area sown to all crops in 1951 was 6,700,000 hectares (16,500,000 acres) above 1950. Area under cotton, sugar beet, sunflower and other industrial crops expanded. Sowing of perennial and annual grasses, fodder root crops and silo crops expanded considerably.

Collective and State farms successfully fulfilled the plan for sowing winter crops for the 1952 harvest. Area plowed in autumn for sowing of spring crops in 1952 was 5,400,000 hectares (13,300,000 acres) above that plowed in the autumn of 1950.

The technical foundation of agriculture grew still stronger in 1951. In 1951, farms received 137,000 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p. units), 53,000 grain combines of which 29,000 were self-propelled, 59,000 trucks, as well as 2,000,000 soil cultivating implements, sowing, harvest and other agricultural machinery.

Increase in the technical equipment made it possible still further to mechanize agricultural work. Work by Machine and Tractor Stations on collective farms in 1951 was 19 per cent above 1950. These stations did more than two-thirds of all the field work in the collective farms; nearly the entire plowing and three-quarters of the sowing was mechanized; more than 60 percent of the entire grain area was harvested by combines. In the State farms, the main agricultural work is almost completely mechanized.

Simultaneously with mechanization, much work was accomplished on the electrification of agricultural work. Electricity used in treatment of grain, preparation of fodder, water supply, milking and sheep shearing on collective farms increased considerably.

Increase continued in the socially-owned livestock on collective farms. The socially-owned collective farm animal husbandry together with that of the

State farm has become predominant in the total livestock herd.

The head of socially-owned collective farm livestock increased as follows in 1951: beef and dairy cattle, 12 per cent (cows 15 per cent); hogs, 26; sheep and goats, 8; horses, 8. Poultry increased one and a half times.

The increase on State farms of the Ministry of State Farms: beef and dairy cattle 15 per cent (cows, 14); hogs, 21; sheep and goats, 11; horses, 14. State farm poultry increased 27 per cent.

The total head of livestock in all categories of farms—collective farms, State farms, stock owned by collective farmers, manual workers and office employees—increased by nearly 14,000,000 head, including more than 1,600,000 head of beef and dairy cattle, 2,600,000 hogs, 8,500,000 sheep and goats and nearly 1,000,000 horses. Poultry increased by more than 60,000,000 during the year.

The collective farms, forestries, Machine and Tractor Stations, as well as State farms in the steppe and forest-steppe areas of the European part of the USSR planted shelter belts on an area of 745,000 hectares (1,840,000 acres) in 1951.

(Fulfillment of the 1951 Plan in other spheres will be described in our next issue.)

POLAND LICKS ILLITERACY

THE CENTRAL Social Commission to Combat Illiteracy in Poland has been closed down, its task accomplished. Government Minister Stefan Matuszewski, in charge of the campaign against illiteracy, said, "after two and a half years of strenuous work by educational and social workers, by teachers and the youth, more than one million persons have been taught to read and write." Textbooks and school aids were produced in huge numbers, including 1,000,000 copies of an elementary reader.

MORE POWER FOR ALBANIA

CONSTRUCTION will start soon on a 20,000 kilowatt hydroelectric station, one of the biggest projects in Albania's electrification plan. On the River Mati, some 50 miles north of the capital, Tirana, the station, supplementing the great Lenin Power Station completed last November, will bring electric light and power to the farthestmost corners of the country. Hundreds of villages, where once there was not even sufficient oil for the lamps of the peasants, will be electrified.

Handcuffs for Scholars?

by MARY RACKLIFFE

INTEREST has been steadily mounting, since the indictment last fall, in the case of Dirk J. Struik, Professor of Mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge.

Professor Struik was indicted by a Middlesex County grand jury, along with two others—Harry Winner and Margaret Gilbert—on charges of conspiracy to advocate, advise, counsel and incite "the overthrow by force and violence of the Government of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Government of the United States of America." In addition, Professor Struik alone was charged with advocating, counseling and inciting "the overthrow by force and violence of the Government of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

Says Professor Struik: "I have never advocated force. I advocate social change by constitutional means. . . . Marx and Lenin made it clear that they opposed attempts of 'revolutionary romantics' in minorities to grasp power by violence. . . . As to such charges as that I advised workers to be armed for revolution . . . that is an intellectual insult and untrue."

The case against Professor Struik rests, apparently, chiefly on the testimony of an FBI agent sent into the Communist Party of Massachusetts. The alleged conspiracy and incitement are said to have occurred in 1947 and 1948. Bills of particulars have been reluctantly provided by the prosecution; attorneys for Professor Struik and Mr.

Winner have filed motions to quash the indictment. The motions are scheduled for hearing March 11.

Manifold efforts are being made to persuade the public of the virtues of the prosecution witness. The State of Massachusetts itself set aside a day officially in his honor. The day was proclaimed, it is worthy of note, over two years after the witness's first testimony at the trial of the eleven Communist leaders in New York. The day itself occurred not long after the indictment of Professor Struik.

But neither the acclaim for the prosecution witness, nor the general climate of fear which has been invoked, nor any other device, has succeeded in keeping people from joining in defense of the defendants' right to think and speak their beliefs. As the Struik Defense Committee, headed by Professor George Sarton of Harvard University, has stated: "Without taking a stand on his political opinions, we feel his indictment is a potential threat to the freedom of expression of all of us."

The special attack on academic freedom implicit in Professor Struik's indictment was pointed up by the report of the Committee on Un-American Activities in which Harvard and M.I.T. were particularly blasted for harboring such people as Professor Struik and Professor Kirtley F. Mather, well-known geologist who has taken a lead in many cases of civil liberties, including this one. Professor Struik has, incidentally, been suspended by M.I.T., remaining on salary during suspension.

Professor Struik was already a renowned mathematician and a confirmed socialist when he arrived in this country over twenty-five years ago. Since his arrival he has been made a full professor at M.I.T., and has produced a

MRS. MARY RACKLIFFE was State Director of the People's Party of Connecticut 1947-1949, and is now Treasurer of the Massachusetts Progressive Party.

variety of technical works, chiefly a two-volume *Concise History of Mathematics* (1948); *Lectures on Classical Differential Geometry* (1950); and his *Introduction into the Newer Methods of Differential Geometry* (1935-1938), written with J. A. Schouten.

He has worked steadily for peaceful relations between the U.S. and USSR, serving as director and chairman of the Massachusetts Council of American-Soviet Friendship.

One is reminded of Henry Thoreau's comment on his imprisonment by the

state in the 1840's for refusal to pay a tax to what he considered the "slave" government of Massachusetts: "I wondered that it should have concluded at length that this was the best use it could put me to, and had never thought to avail itself of my services in some way. . . . I saw that the State . . . was timid as a lone woman with her silver spoons, and that it did not know its friends from its foes."

Sooner or later the state which has learned to revere Thoreau will likewise give to its latter-day friends their due.

Cracks in a Historian's Integrity

A review by EDWIN S. SMITH

CRACKS IN THE KREMLIN WALL,
by Edward Crankshaw, Viking Press,
New York, 1951. 279 pp. \$3.50.

MR. CRANKSHAW travels in this book a roundabout course to the purpose he discloses in its final chapter, namely, to plead support of the West's armaments program. It is only as a propaganda effort that the book can be taken seriously. Although it purports to apply a scholar's approach to Russian history, the Russian character, the aims and tactics of the Communist Party of the USSR, and the general state of affairs within the Soviet Union, it is much more successful in displaying broad "cracks" in the integrity of a professional historian than in the wall of the Kremlin.

Lenin is discovered by Mr. Crankshaw to be the root cause of the maladies to which the Soviet Government has subjected its own people and the world at large. Lenin, in the author's view, by a deliberate perversion of the teaching of Marx, was able to swing the Bolshevik party leaders (described as a "seedy lot") behind the notion that the concept of the exploitation of one class by another must be abandoned. For this was to be substituted the concept of the capitalist countries seeking to exploit "the whole of the East," beginning with

Russia, which had become a natural prey, following its exhausted withdrawal from World War I.

Stalin, it seems, has inherited and approved Lenin's idea. He has also improved upon it by tying it in more explicitly with the expansionist program which throughout history, as Crankshaw asserts, has characterized Russia's international policy.

The purpose of present-day expansion, however, is not to gather the fruits of conquest in the accustomed imperialist sense, nor is it conducted strictly along old-fashioned military lines. The object, rather, is "to encourage revolutions" "violently conducted" against "established governments" through the use of "Soviet arms or the threat of Soviet arms."

Curiously enough, the aim of this Soviet crusade appears not to be to spread socialism. The Russian Bolshevik party, according to Crankshaw, is "misleadingly called Communist" and Stalin's own ideas are described as "anti-Marxist."

To comprehend the wherefore of the revolutionary drive, one has to go back into Russian history. In this field Mr. Crankshaw performs truly remarkable acrobatics for one who ventures to call himself a historian. According to him "expansionism" as conceived and con-

ducted by Stalin is not for the economic advantage of the Soviet Union, and this was also true of Russian expansion in the past. "Imperial Russia," we are told, "did not drive into the Far East for economic motives"; she despised "the preoccupation of what she called the trading nations with markets and commercial prosperity." "The later tsars," rejecting "with sombre loathing the commercial aspirations of the West," exalted rather "the chaos of dynamic impulses . . . into a mystique of pure glory."

If the face of this remarkable claim by Mr. Crankshaw, one can only remark that the Japanese and English who were contending against Russia's designs in Manchuria and Korea, ascribed a much more practical motive to her activities.

The basis of the "mystique of pure glory" which Bolshevism, like tsarist expansionism, forsooth pursues, may perhaps be found in what Crankshaw says concerning the reasons which make the Russians accept their own present regime.

The typical Russian dislikes being governed and has a "hankering after anarchy" based on his desire for "absolute freedom." Anarchy he recognizes is impossible as a state of social living, and "if he cannot have anarchy . . . it does not matter what he has . . . so he washes his hands of the whole business of freedom and has an autocracy instead."

If you find this not too intelligible, I suggest you give the whole thing up, and proceed with Mr. Crankshaw to observations in a less mystical vein, by way of anti-Soviet commentary.

I select three at random: (1) Workers in the Soviet Union "are subject to the harshest labor laws in the world drawn up by the trade unions"; (2) "Women have indeed achieved equality with men; but the chief function of this equality is to compel them to the hardest and dirtiest labor"; (3) "It is calculated that each village is burned down by fire every five to seven years; and the burning is the spring cleaning. The stench and the dirt and the heat in

innumerable Russian homes, hermetically sealed against the killing Russian cold, is such that we could not endure it for ten minutes without turning sick."

What trust can one put in the statements of such an obvious falsifier when he essays the task of demonstrating statistically that Russia is woefully weak, militarily and economically?

Mr. Crankshaw believes that Russia will not, because of her alleged weakness, undertake an aggressive war "at least in this generation." But he goes along wholeheartedly with Mr. Acheson and Mr. Churchill in the belief that the only way to keep her from doing so is to keep on piling up arms.

Mr. Crankshaw does not hold that one can rid the world of the evils of the "Bolshevik conspiracy" by dropping bombs on the Soviet Union; also he would negotiate with Russia on the same basis that business men negotiate with each other "knowing perfectly well that each would happily bankrupt the other if he had the chance." For these isolated glimmers of an approach to common sense from his pen we may be thankful.

As a whole Mr. Crankshaw persuades us of nothing except his own callous intent to deliver a fresh load of anti-Soviet filth and nonsense soberly disguised in academic language, all for the purpose of helping to keep the cold war going.

Document of Historic Importance

AN AMERICAN PROPHET SPEAKS,
Text of Col. Raymond Robins' interview with Premier Stalin in 1933. Published by National Guardian, 17 Murray Street, New York, N. Y. Single copies 10c, 12 for \$1. Rates for larger quantities on request.

THE National Guardian has performed an invaluable service by making available for the first time in this country the text of Col. Raymond Robins' interview with Premier Stalin on the eve of the resumption of US-

USSR diplomatic relations by President Roosevelt. The text was first published in English by the British *Labour Monthly* in a translation from the abbreviated transcript of the Thirteenth Volume of Stalin's Collected Works published in the Soviet Union.

The interview ranges over a wide field, recording important comments by Premier Stalin on questions relating to industry, agriculture, culture, youth, American-Soviet relations, peace and trade. As Cedric Belfrage says in his introduction:

... It is a document of historic importance. We believe it carries to

Americans who will listen a vital message across the years to the present time of cold-war fear, hatred and unreason; a time when humanity's choice of alternatives—mass destruction or an era of world peace and abundance to which we have wrested from nature the key—depends more than anything else on America and the USSR finding a way to live together.

The introduction contains a richly deserved tribute to Colonel Robins, who was head of the American Red Cross Mission to Russia in the early days of the Revolution and has ever since been an unwavering champion of US-USSR cooperation.

A Man on the Horns of a Dilemma

A review by JOHN PITTMAN

STRANGE LANDS AND FRIENDLY PEOPLE, *by William O. Douglas, Harper & Brothers, New York, 1951, 336 pp., \$4.00.*

A REVIEW of this book by William O. Douglas has special and timely pertinence. The author is a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States whose opinions, notably on the Communist leaders' conviction under the Smith Act, have suggested to many Americans that he is a reliable defender of the Bill of Rights. Moreover, owing to the desperation of American liberals in their search for a presidential candidate not bound hand and foot to the pro-war policies of the two ruling parties, Justice Douglas is being mentioned increasingly as an "available" prospect meeting this requirement.

The book is an account of the author's personal experiences and impressions in the course of visits made in 1949 and 1950 to the Middle East. On the whole, the impressions of Douglas congeal into a viewpoint with positive features.

Douglas is opposed to present United States foreign policy as it concerns the peoples of the Middle East and Asia. This policy, he believes, is weak be-

cause it is "negative," "anti-Communist"; "relies more and more on our military to do our thinking and planning"; is subservient "to British policy in the Middle East"; is based on the "belief that we could save the world from communism by dollars." For this policy, Douglas would substitute a policy that starts with the land. "Land reform above all else is the starting point for launching the counter-revolution against communism. No program of reform can long succeed unless land reform is first carried through." And to implement this fundamental program, Douglas recommends the use of American dollars to construct huge TVA's throughout these areas, as a "basis for public health projects, modern villages, good schools, and all the other things that raise the standard of living of people." This would mean that "in every capital of Asia, American sympathy and understanding would be behind the liberal, progressive groups, whose mission it is to break the hold of the feudal system."

"The world is different than we in American have thought," says Douglas. "There are rumblings in every village from the Mediterranean to the Pacific.

... The spirit that motivates these people is pretty much the same as the spirit that inspired the French and the American Revolutions. . . . For centuries Asia has been under the domination of the foreigner. . . . That day is over and done with. Asia is united in one cause—to be rid of the foreigners' domination."

So much for the positive aspect of Douglas's impressions. It may be said that he differentiates such a program from the Point Four project as implemented by Truman and Acheson. "The vast industrial projects for Asia which one hears discussed in Washington, D. C., would merely quicken the tempo of exploitation of the masses and hasten the day when the Communists take over."

Douglas, it is clear from the outset, is no friend of the Soviet Union, nor of the Communists of any country. His reports and impressions omit not a single anti-Soviet cliché.

A second negative aspect of Douglas's thought is the emphasis he places on "racial" matters. He is quite concerned to show the "Aryan" ancestry of the peoples of the Middle East. There are overtones here which are disturbing in a liberal jurist on the highest bench.

In sum, therefore, insofar as the ideas Douglas has expressed in this book throw light on his political outlook, they reveal a man on the prongs of an inescapable dilemma. He proposes a program in foreign affairs which in practice would necessitate a policy of peaceful co-existence with the Soviet Union. But can any realistic supporter of Douglas believe a governmental policy of building giant TVA's throughout the Middle East, and supporting the anti-feudal, democratic elements among the Middle Eastern peoples, could be carried out by an administration whose basic orientation was anti-Communist and anti-Soviet?

Whether Douglas is a man such as Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt, who were able to grow in accordance with the needs of the American people and the pressure from the most progressive sections of the people, remains, of course, a matter of conjecture. But so fast does history unravel the knots in men and situations alike in our times that it would not remain a matter of conjecture long. A powerful people's democratic coalition bent on saving the peace and the Bill of Rights would soon test Douglas's capacity for growth.

Warm Recording by Soviet Composer

A review by SIDNEY FINKELSTEIN

CONCERTO IN B MAJOR FOR PIANO AND ORCHESTRA. by *Tatiana Nikolayeva*. *T. Nikolayeva*, piano, and *USSR Symphony Orchestra*, *K. Kondrashin*, Conductor, 10" long-play record. Distributed by *American Russian Institute of So. California*, 1024½ N. Western Ave., L. A. 29, California, \$3.96 plus tax.

THANKS to the American Russian Institute of Los Angeles, which secured a tape of this music and had it processed on a long-play recording, we have an opportunity to hear the

work of a Soviet composer up to now unknown in this country. There is added interest in the fact that the composer is a woman, one of the hundreds of thousands of Soviet women who are entering into every occupation of life, a living answer to the centuries of feudal and capitalist society which enslaved women and robbed them of ability to develop themselves.

Tatiana Nikolayeva represents the youngest generation of Soviet musicians. She emerged first as an extraordinarily gifted pianist, and gave her first public recital, at the age of

nineteen, in 1943, during the anti-fascist war. In 1950, her performances of Bach won first prize at the International Bach Festival in Leipzig, and she won critical acclaim also for her performances of a composer so far from Bach in period and style as Scriabin. She turned as well to composition, and this concerto for piano and orchestra, composed in 1950, is her first major work.

As the critic whose notes accompany this record writes, her ideas are not "fully realized." The concerto is a welcome work to hear, however, and grows upon the listener with each hearing. The special quality that emerges is a genuine lyricism, made up of cap-

tivating melodic phrases that tease the ear with touches of Asian folk patterns. These themes are developed with tenderness of feeling, a whimsical charm and humor, and an ability to exploit the piano in the most colorful way without lapsing into technical display for its own sake. In the first movement the singing quality of the music is punctuated with little dramatic touches. The second movement has a dreamy quality, and the last an infectious bounce. The piano performance is by the composer herself, who displays a technical ease and tonal beauty that make us eager to hear her again, in addition to looking forward to other works from her pen.

Stirring Film on China Gives View of New World

A review by **AMY SCHECHTER**

THE NEW CHINA, produced by the Central Documentary Studios of Moscow and the Chinese People's Republic Film Studios of Peking. Directed by Sergei Gerasimov, Ivan Dukinsky, Irina Setkina, Elena Svilovoi, M. Slavinsky, assisted by Siu Siao-bin and Su Ho-chin. Released by Artkino Pictures, Inc.

PRESENTATION here of *The New China* documentary is a major event in film history—this is generally conceded. It opens a gate to a new world, adds a new dimension to everything you have read about China. The superb photography catches each tone of the subtle greens and browns and grays of the ancient, highly civilized beauty of the land, and the stirring pace of its new life.

It is not accidental that in this vast work about a vast land emphasis throughout is on the individual. As the film moves from province to province—one alone has 40 million people—through green valleys and fields of rice and wheat and barley, along the great Yangtze River that cuts almost across



Leaders greet a demonstration in "The New China." Left to right: Li Chi-shen, Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government Administrative Council; Vice-Chairman Liu Shao-chi, Commander-in-Chief Chu-teh, Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai

the land, and around the crowded cities of Chungking, Canton, Hangchow, Shanghai, and at last reaches Peking,

the heart and revolutionary capital of the land and of all Asia, the camera brings to the fore a succession of highly individual figures and faces of men and women of every trade and profession, and every age; even the many children and the babies rolling happily around in a kindergarten in a palace that once belonged to a Kuomintang banker are shown as individuals too. For this is a picture of revolutionary China where at last the huge anonymous mass have become people with faces.

One of the critics, writing about the film with a reluctant and apologetic enthusiasm and adding of course the incantations necessary today to ward off the evil eye, said also that he found it rather "terrifying."

This could not be because of any militaristic note: the smallest NATO satellite can and does parade much larger forces than those shown in the one army sequence in a film running about two hours—the army part of the parade held in Peking on the first anniversary of the 1949 revolution.

And certainly the film could not be terrifying because it shows the people as the "barbarians" of lying anti-Asian

propaganda. Without in any way minimizing the primitive labor conditions forced on the people under its native and foreign rulers of the past—you see farmers plowing with ancient wooden plows, longshoremen in the great river ports, completely unmechanized, laboriously carrying their burdens, and the junk as a major means of transportation—the film shows the infinite skill with which the people have utilized every available inch of the land, the marvelous craftsmanship of artisans, the magnificent buildings and bridges and monuments created by the Chinese people—without any debt to the west, ancient drama performed with classic perfection and the vigor and fresh beauty of modern revolutionary plays.

And it shows also the eager intelligence with which they are grasping the new ways, the thirst for education, young and old going to school, the response to the young agronomists working with the peasants in the fields, at experimental stations, and at the lively agricultural exhibition at Shanghai, held at the huge race track surrounded by the modern sky-scrapers of the International Settlement, two years earlier completely barred to the city's Chinese people. And the strong alert faces of workers in scores of industries.

The "terrifying" thing about the documentary is that it carries complete conviction; and the truth it presents is that the vast Chinese land and its people are on the side of peace, and once having become free can never be conquered again.

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value, an article not only must be written. It should be read. Put out material that is readable. You also will be criticized for this. (Some wisecracks in New York criticized me. They said, 'being a lawyer you should write in four syllable words.'). Your magazine is on the right track. It is something we need. I'll help you all I can.—Arley Woodrow

Voices from Canada

Bounty, Sask., Canada—We can see the rising tide of opposition to the Korean war. More peace councils are being formed in your land, in our land, and in England. The voice of the plain folk is now beginning to be heard. The man in Canada who has had the courage to give leadership for peace is our Dr. James Endicott of Toronto, president of the Canadian Peace Council. I have had the opportunity of hearing him from the platform in Saskatoon several times.—

Mrs. C. Pearl Thompson

"Balanced Perspective"

Baltimore, Md.—Unquestionably, New WORLD REVIEW is of vital importance to me in getting a balanced perspective from its excellent contents.—Murray L. Burnett, D.D.

Young in Heart

San Diego, Calif.—I am glad to be able to contribute my mite toward the good work which you are doing. I find I can send you only this \$10 now—though from this on I can only hope to send \$5 a month. I can never be sure how long I can keep on making my own wool suits and all other clothing. It is only by such saving that I can contribute toward the causes I long to help. I am past 80 years of age now and pretty badly crippled by an auto accident in Pasadena, which shattered my

left leg, leaving it two inches shorter than the other. But life still seems very good to me and I have a world of pleasant memories of my work in many parts of the world—in the nursing service.—Genevieve Russell

"Truth Means Much"

Riverside, Calif.—I am writing you in the form of a plea. Please keep on with your magazine. The reactionary forces here in California are passing laws to take all our freedoms away. I think it is more important than ever for the people to be well informed. I am just one of the many little people to whom the truth means so much. I happened to have a friend who told me of your magazine and never will I let the chance go by without telling others about it.—R. J.

"One Man's Meat . . ."

San Francisco—We are absolutely uninterested in your Socialistic magazine, "New World." As far as we are concerned, such publications aren't even given room in our trash can. "New World" is thrown in the fire as soon as it arrives—only helping to make the flame of true democracy grow higher in our home and heart.—H. Jenichen

Antidote to Hate-Mongers

Leonia, N. J.—Congratulations on the excellent job you are doing. NWR presents a convincing picture of the daily life of the people of Eastern Europe, Russia, and the People's Republic of China. It seems to me that if this story could be put into the hands of enough people in the U.S. the hate propaganda that is being fed to the people here could not take root.—Leroy J. Ellis, Jr.

Accent on Foreign Affairs

Montreal, Que.—I hope the magazine will continue to report and analyze trends and conditions abroad, and not discuss domestic affairs. I quite agree that American and Western foreign policy should be treated. But don't go beyond that, for these reasons: first, such publications as the National

MEMO TO READERS

Guardian, Nation, New Republic, Compass, etc., cover domestic issues adequately, and we simply aren't getting enough information on foreign affairs; secondly, I think you will be more likely to get broad support for a policy of understanding foreign affairs if you don't step on toes with a specific editorial policy on domestic affairs; thirdly, foreign affairs have a broad appeal, domestic affairs often have not.—W.A.R., Jr.

Suggestions for NWR

Rockford, Ill.—This morning, as I sat playing Chopin, I remembered your request for suggestions. The only thing that occurs to me is that we would appreciate more material right from the scenes of action. Also, translations such as the Russian short stories and the Chinese "case histories" in a recent issue. These are dark dark days, we know, but when so many are standing up and facing it fearlessly—our confidence is renewed. In your tribute to Mr. Frederick V. Field, I loved the phrase, "who prefer jail to moral degradation." Bravo!—Georgiana Bonita

Antidote to Collier's

Alpine, Cal.—After reading *Collier's* war-mongering screed, what a pleasure it was to read your November issue.—Peace Worker

'Welfare, Not Warfare'

Naperville, Ill.—It is a refreshing experience, after being bombarded from all sides, with fear and hate propaganda, to sit quietly before the pages of NEW WORLD REVIEW and read articles so full of factual information and real human interest. One somehow feels the kindling of strange new enthusiasm for a new world, where life is dedicated to welfare rather than warfare, where human equality is fact rather than pretense, and where loyalty is spelled out in terms of common humanity. Thanks to our editors who are doing a fine work building world citizenship on enduring foundations of mutual understanding and respect.—Prof. E. N. Himmel

APRIL, 1952

It's hard to tell whether they admitted it or boasted about it. But the fact remains that a high Pentagon spokesman confirmed the authenticity of East German quotations from the diary of Maj. Gen. Robert W. Grow, until recently U.S. military attache in Moscow.

The diary revealed that Grow urged war upon the USSR at the earliest possible moment, used his position as military attache to obtain information on prospective bomb targets, forwarding the "dope" via diplomatic mail.

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