

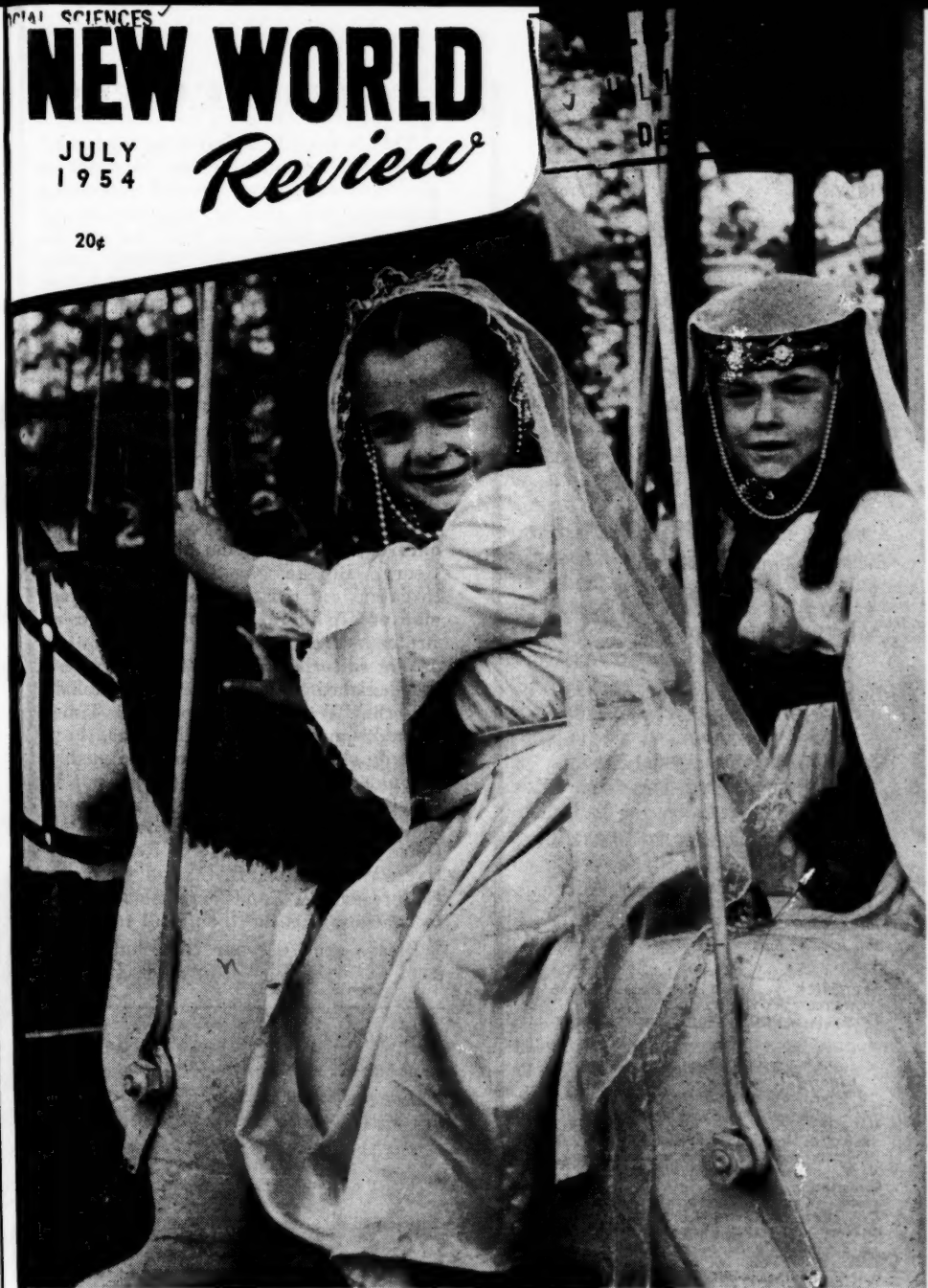
SOCIAL SCIENCES

NEW WORLD

JULY
1954

Review

20¢



WHAT A U.S. ARTIST SAW IN GUATEMALA
Women in the UN • Leisure Time in Moscow

NEW WORLD *Review*

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OUR COVER. Two youngsters of the Soviet Caucasus enjoy the merry-go-round in the Children's park in Batumi. Photos in this issue by Sovfoto.

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TO OUR READERS

This is frankly a "catching up issue," which we are rushing out in order to get back on a more normal publishing schedule. It is also an "economy issue," with fewer pages, so that we can do justice to the special People's China issue (see back page), that will follow IF YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE.

We appreciate deeply the generous response of our readers to our Spring appeal. But now we must ask that all of you who have not yet sent in your contributions do so at once, to insure our survival during these summer months when it is more difficult to raise money.

We also appreciate your response to our requests for action against the St. George Bill to gag the press, which threatens our existence, and the expression of all liberal opinion. Widespread protests from all over the country, strong editorials against this un-American legislation in "Editor and Publisher," the "Washington Post and Times Herald" and other publications, have already slowed up the efforts to push it through. To insure that it shall not be enacted protests should continue to pour in to Rep. E. H. Rees, Chairman, Post Office Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., and your own Congressmen. Funds are also needed to continue this fight, so vital to us all.

Please send in your contribution today!

NEW WORLD REVIEW

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Indo-China — Guatemala

THE interventionists throughout the world suffered a sharp defeat in the election of Pierre Mendes-France as the new Premier of France by the rousing majority of 419 to 47. The demands of the French people for an end of the war in Indo-China forced the downfall of the Laniel-Bidault government. Mendes-France won on a platform of achieving a cease-fire in Indo-China by July 20, and a revision of the European Defense Community by mid-summer.

A meeting of Mendes-France with Chinese Premier and Foreign Minister Chou En-lai, is reported to have resulted in an accord on a political settlement, if an armistice is achieved.

This means that there is a real chance for peace in Indo-China. While the foreign ministers have left Geneva, negotiations are continuing on a deputy level. Contacts have been established between representatives of the opposing military commands to plan the preliminary details of troop withdrawals, not only in Vietnam, but in Laos and Cambodia.

Secretary Dulles has stated flatly that he never wanted the Geneva Conference to succeed, and General Walter Bedell Smith, who replaced him as head of the United States delegation, spoke on his return to this country of the seven weeks of "unsuccessful negotiations."

The Korean phase of the negotiations, broken off on the initiative of the United States, need not have failed. Many points of agreement

had already been found by the conferees, on the basis of which all-Korean elections could have been held, and all foreign troops withdrawn. The Soviet Union and North Korea were prepared to make further concessions. But the Western powers refused any concessions on the point that the international commission set up to supervise the elections should be set up by the United Nations. As the United Nations had the status of a belligerent in Korea, this could not have been acceptable to the other side. Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov urged that efforts to reach a peaceful settlement of the Korean question be continued.

The decision of the United States to take no further part in the negotiations on Indo-China only emphasizes American opposition to any peaceful settlement there.

How close our country came to direct military intervention in Indo-China is revealed by an article in the *Washington Post and Times Herald*, June 7, by Chalmers M. Roberts, which declared:

The United States twice during April proposed using American Navy carrier planes and Air Force planes based on the Philippines to intervene in the Indo-China war providing Congress and our allies agreed. But the British would not agree and the plans fell through.

The Eisenhower Administration even set a tentative date for an air strike to aid the then besieged fortress of Dien Bien Phu. The date was April 28, two days before the opening of the Geneva Conference. President

Eisenhower was prepared to go to Congress Monday, April 26, to ask for passage of a joint resolution to permit American intervention.

The author presents a blow by blow account of the sequence of events that could have set off an atom bomb war, *and can still do so* through intervention in Asia or in other parts of the world, unless the American people continue and increase their pressure against it.

Now little Guatemala, with its 3,000,000 people, and army of 6,000, has become the latest victim of intervention.

The present invasion has been long in the making. In April, 1953, Guatemala informed the United Nations of the threat of interference in its internal affairs, and last January exposed an invasion plot. At the Caracas Inter-American Conference, Secretary Dulles forced through a resolution, aimed at Guatemala, that "the domination or control of the political institutions of any American state by the international Communist movement . . . would constitute a threat to the American states, endangering the peace of America." Guatemala is far from being a Communist state. It has a capitalist government of the New Deal type. It threatens no one. But it is tired of being dominated by the United Fruit Company, with which many members of the Administration have close connections, and has decided its land and facilities belong to its own people. Therefore it has incurred the hostility of Mr. Dulles and others. Deprived of the possibility of purchasing arms for its own defense in this country, it has legitimately sought them where it could get them. A shipment of arms received from

a Polish port caused an uproar in Administration circles, and a demand that the United States have the right to search vessels of allied nations on the high seas. U.S. arms were sent by air lift to neighboring Honduras and Nicaragua. Nicaragua broke relations with Guatemala and Honduras rejected Guatemala's offer of a non-aggression pact.

On June 18, Guatemala was invaded by planes from the direction of Honduras and Nicaragua, and by forces under the political exile Col. Carlos Castillo Armas, based in Honduras. The Guatemalan Government avoided any counter-attack as long as possible, wanting no frontier incidents that could lead to an international war.

The Security Council of the United Nations met in special session June 20 to consider Guatemala's charges that it has been subjected to open aggression. A resolution referring the complaint to the Organization of American States (where the United States can still muster votes, though with an increasing difficulty) was defeated by a Soviet veto. The Security Council then passed unanimously a resolution calling "for the immediate termination of any action likely to cause bloodshed" and requesting all members of the United Nations to abstain from giving any assistance to such action.

The American people must act quickly to halt the invasion of Guatemala and prevent further bloodshed in that country and this new threat to our own security and world peace. Our government must cease its encouragement of the Nicaragua and Honduras regimes in furthering this war plot. There must be the widest support for the Security Council resolution, which applies fully to the United States.

What I Saw in Guatemala

by ANTON REFREGIER

ON MAY 1st I returned to Mexico from a three-week sketching trip throughout Guatemala. I traveled on its railroads. I saw its seaports. I also saw what the democratic government is doing for the people in improving the standard of living, in land reform, in education, in its program of social security, child care and the provision for the right to work, and how the tight grip of the United Fruit Company on the economy of the country attempts to retard these progressive government measures.

I have traveled all over the country, and everywhere I found a friendly, creative, optimistic spirit and confidence in the future.

In Guatemala City I found the kind of freedom that would impress the most conservative North American. Many of the newspapers sold on the newsstands were reactionary and attacked the government. Here and there anti-Communist posters were to be seen on the walls of the buildings, not particularly disturbing anybody.

I saw more concrete displays of freedom of thought and investigation. On a visit to one government school, I found a study group work-

ing on pictorial maps of the American continent, with one group of children doing special research on the United States. Their source of material was a magazine published by the U.S. State Department, copies of which the teacher obtained from the United States Embassy. In their work students selected pictures of Washington, Lincoln and Roosevelt, the latter much admired in Guatemala.

I was talking with the school principal on the steps of the building when the classes ended, and I noted a large number of students leaving for home with copies of the Embassy magazine under their arms. I could not help but wonder what teacher in the United States today would dare supply students with an official government publication of Guatemala!

I saw workers struggling under heavy loads of bananas on the United Fruit Company plantations, and I saw workers on cooperative farms who, after fulfilling their required working time on cooperatively owned coffee plantations, were spending the rest of the time on their own newly acquired land.

I made drawings of the construction of the Atlantic Road and later as I flew to Puerto Barrios I saw the yellow ribbon of the road winding through the green mountains, stopping and again picking up from the other end, connecting with the nationally-owned seaport at San Tomas (a little distance from Puerto Bar-

ANTON REFREGIER, well-known American artist, made extensive coverage of Guatemala in order to gather material for a book on that country which he is doing in collaboration with Asa Zatz.

rios), under construction by a leading United States building firm. I stood there in the company of one of the leading writers of Guatemala who with tears in his eyes, said it was all very well to read and hear about the road, but to see it there was to witness a work of national liberation. This sentiment was typical and I heard it expressed time and again under various circumstances. This feeling can be understood when it is realized that this road is the first state constructed communication artery across the country, where railroad transportation is controlled by the United Fruit Company.

I have seen the groups of peasants receiving their plots of land for them to work and keep—uncultivated land taken by the government from private owners and paid for with government bonds. I have visited a number of child feeding stations, particularly one in Guatemala City which gives a nourishing meal to 600 children every day. That day I also visited a day nursery for the children of working class mothers, where they were given the best of care by a staff of social workers.

I have seen the first accomplishments of the graphic artists and mural painters under the sympathetic sponsorship of the government. In conversations I have learned of plans for the extensive use of work of the artists in their future construction, the first project being the new library and government archives, half completed, in the capital. They were extremely interested to learn of our experience of government sponsorship of art under the Roosevelt Administration, particularly the procedure of allocation of one per cent of cost of all government building for purchase and commission of art work.

In Puerto Barrios I visited a trade union hall of dock workers. On the walls were hanging graphic prints recently issued under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Education and Propaganda. I noticed that under each print there were a few lines of typewritten explanation which, I learned, were written by one of the workers' leaders. In simple poetic words the work of each artist was explained and linked to the interests and problems of the local people.

In one small village in a straw-covered house I saw a group of Indian girls learning reading and Spanish. I also learned that since 1944, when the people installed their progressive government, two leading Indian languages have been transcribed into alphabets.

In my travels I was deeply impressed by the beauty and dignity of the people. I found no hate, no suspicion. I only found a creative spirit.

In many ways what I saw and learned of Guatemala reminded me of the best years of our New Deal. The people are proud of their social gains and I believe they are willing to fight for them.

But why should they have to fight for them? I am convinced that if the American people were aware of the true meaning of what is going on in Guatemala, they would want only friendly and peaceful relations with it. They would demand an end to all support of the reactionary elements who have invaded the country with the help of outside powers. They would demand that our government exert all its efforts to bring about a cease-fire, an end of intervention, and let the Guatemalan people develop their own way of life in peace as they and their government have demonstrated they want to do.

Women in the United Nations

by **ESLANDA ROBESON**

IT IS unfortunate, but true, that our general press pays too little attention to the activities, and important contributions, of the women at the United Nations. This is an omission that the press should rectify, for these delegates represent women throughout the world and they deal with vital matters.

During the Eighth Annual Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (March 2 to April 9) convened at UN Headquarters in New York, I sat through their deliberations, observed them at work, noted their serious approach to problems that touch every woman in every land, and I would like here to give a kind of kaleidoscopic report of what I saw and learned.

•
The 18-member Commission, all women, unanimously approved its Report to its parent body, the Economic and Social Council, and also unanimously decided to hold its next session in Geneva.

•
Some of the women this year were especially interesting and colorful. There were the familiar figures:

Miss Minerva Bernardino (Dominican Republic), again Chairman, plump and very feminine with her

fascinating hats, perched at precarious angles on the far side of her curls. Miss Bernardino is a very experienced chairman, and conducted the deliberations of the Commission with efficiency, discretion and tact.

There was equally plump Mrs. Faina Novikova (Byelorussia), complete with dimples, soft voice and warm smile; and plump irrepressible Mrs. Fortuna Agustin Guery (Haiti), a school teacher whom her students must enjoy; and Mme. Marie-Helene Lefauchaux (France), charming, chic, very brisk, very French, and friendly; and Miss Uldarica Manas (Cuba), with the familiar braids coiled over each ear.

Among the not-so-familiar figures were Mrs. Agda Rossel (Sweden), very tailored, a stunning white streak in her dark hair; quiet, wistful-looking Mrs. Mitra Mitrovic (Yugoslavia), Member of Parliament, author, partisan heroine; tall cropped hair Miss Gabriela Mistral (Chile); quietly friendly Mrs. Vera A. Fomina (USSR), university professor; Mrs. Lorena Hahn (USA), trim and businesslike, important personality in the women's auxiliary of the American Legion; Mrs. John Warde (United Kingdom), First Vice-Chairman of the Commission, a

countrywoman in tweeds; Mrs. Zofia Dembinska (Poland), Second Vice-Chairman, Vice-Minister of Education, with a nice sense of humor; and dark-haired Mrs. Safiyeh Firouz (Iran), Rapporteur, very serious-looking but attractive.

There was also Mrs. Isabel S. de Urdaneta (Venezuela), Mrs. Laure Tabet (Lebanon), President of the Red Crescent (Red Cross) and leader in her country; tiny little Miss Daw Khin San Yi (Burma), who usually sat forward on the edge of her chair; and not-too-tiny Miss Grace Yang (China, Formosa), who always sat slumped back in hers.

And finally there was the beautiful and glamorous Begum Anwar Ahmed (Pakistan), graceful in her gorgeous saris, always taking keen interest in the deliberations.

The personalities of the women were varied and interesting, and some of them were very attractive, and so were their clothes, suits, and hats.

And let's face it—the best dressed women of the West are just no match for the women of the East in their simple, colorful, graceful, flattering, comfortable, fascinating saris.

There were some men occasionally in attendance during the meetings of the Commission. Most of them (Burma, China, Poland, USA) remained respectfully in the background, acting as consultants and advisers. But two of them, namely Mr. Patrick Attlee (Britain) and Aleksandar Bozovic (Yugoslavia) sometimes took the seat of the women delegates and expressed their views.

Mr. Attlee was most conspicuous in this respect, especially during a sharp exchange which occurred in the closing meeting of the Commis-

sion, when Mrs. Fomina, Mrs. Novikova and Mrs. Dembinska criticized the decision of the Economic and Social Council to remove consultative status from the Women's International Democratic Federation.

Both Mrs. Hahn and Mr. Attlee kept interrupting the speeches, raising points-of-order, objecting that it was not for members of the Commission to criticize the decision of a higher body. Finally, Mrs. Novikova, annoyed especially by Mr. Attlee's continued interruptions, raised her dimpled arm, asked for the floor, neatly called his hand, verbally spanked him and put him in his place as a mere man in the Women's Commission.

In her soft, calm, quiet, firm voice she said, in effect: She saw no reason why her delegation, or the delegations of the USSR and Poland, should not express regret at being deprived of the services of the WIDF. This Commission is a *United Nations body* in which everybody has the right to express her opinions freely; it is *not* a *United States club*; it seems a pity, she added gently, that the one man in this Commission (Mr. Attlee was sitting in the official UK delegate's chair at the time) should raise so many objections to our procedure.

A titter went around the room and Mr. Attlee, disconcerted, subsided, and was not heard from thereafter.

The Commission accomplished a lot of work during its three-week session, and the results of this work were reflected in the resolutions which were adopted.

There were two resolutions on the principle of equal pay for equal work for men and women workers. (We Negroes think of "equal pay for

equal work" in relation to Negro and white workers, as well as to men and women workers).

One proposal, introduced jointly by Sweden and the United States, recommends that

... further attention be given in each country to the development of appropriate measures by which the principle of equal pay for men and women for work of equal value be given practical effect. ...

Another proposal, introduced by Byelorussia, recommends that

... all Governments ... take necessary legislative and other measures to apply the principle of equal pay ... and urges all States to encourage the activities of governmental and non-governmental organizations directed towards the practical application of the principle of equal pay in all countries, including Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. ...

In the debate around the equal pay issue, two different viewpoints emerged. One, led by the United States, felt that further practical application should be left to trade unions and employers; the other, led by Byelorussia, felt that governments should enact laws for practical application, and then see that those laws are carried out.

It was pointed out that so far only six countries—Austria, Belgium, Dominican Republic, France, Mexico and Yugoslavia—have ratified the International Labor Organization Convention on Equal Pay.

The Resolution on Women's Access to Education, submitted by the USSR, recommends that:

... States, both members and non-members of the United Nations should:

1. Take the necessary steps to ensure that women have equal access with men to all types of education, without distinction as to nationality, race or religion;

2. Enact laws and regulations to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in education and to ensure access for women to all types of education, including vocational and technical education, and equal opportunities to obtain scholarships for education in any field and in preparation for all careers.

Two resolutions on the rights of married women covered a wide field. A proposal submitted jointly by Haiti and France recommends that:

... governments take all necessary measures to ensure the right of a married woman to undertake independent work, to carry it on and to administer and dispose of her earnings without the necessity of securing her husband's authorization.

A resolution submitted jointly by Haiti and Iran:

Requests the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council, as appropriate, in collaboration with States administering Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories to take all appropriate measures to ensure complete freedom in the choice of a spouse ... to guarantee the right of widows to the custody of their children and their freedom as to remarriage ... to ensure also that family allowances, where these are provided, be administered in such a way as to benefit directly the wife and children. ...

A joint resolution by Sweden and Yugoslavia recommends that

governments take all necessary steps to eliminate legal discrimination against married women in property

rights . . . that men and women shall have equal rights and responsibilities as to marriage, during marriage, and at its dissolution.

The Commission proudly announced that the International Convention on the Political Rights of Women had now received its sixth ratification, and would therefore come into force on July 7th, 1954. The Convention provides that:

. . . women shall be entitled to vote in all elections on equal terms with men; that they shall be eligible for election to publicly elected bodies; and that they shall be entitled to hold public office and to exercise all public functions on equal terms with men. . . .

The six countries which have so far ratified the Convention are: the Dominican Republic, China, Greece, Bulgaria, Sweden and Cuba. (The USSR has just ratified the Convention, also, making seven, in all.)

The Commission recommended, by a vote of 16-0, with 2 abstentions (UK and USA), that a renewed ap-

peal be addressed to governments to sign and ratify the Convention.

And last but not least, the Commission, by unanimous vote, adopted a proposal submitted by the Chairman on the participation of women in the work of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies:

The Commission on the Status of Women. . . Looks forward with confidence to a constantly increasing number of women in policy-making or senior positions in the Secretariat of the United Nations;

Recommends to non-governmental organizations that they continue to emphasize the importance of expanding opportunities for women in public service at the national level as a means of encouraging their participation in international civil service.

I might add, that the women of the world look forward to the time when women, appointed by their governments, will sit, side-by-side with men, in the top policy-making bodies of the United Nations—in the Security, Trusteeship, and Economic and Social councils.

That will be the day.

USSR MOVES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL TIES

ON APRIL 29, the USSR became a member of the International Labor Office, after having notified the ILO of its decision to accept the commitments under the ILO Charter. In Geneva, the U.S. challenged the right of the USSR worker and employer members to be seated. The Credentials Committee, however, recommended seating, and the conference, by a decisive vote, supported the Credentials Committee. The New York Times report described the vote as "a considerable triumph for the Russians."

On April 21, the Soviet Union became a member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

On April 23, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR ratified the 1949 Geneva Conventions concerning the protection of war victims, including the conventions on improving the lot of the wounded and sick in Field Forces and Naval Forces; the convention on the treatment of war prisoners and the convention on the defense of the civilian population during wars.

SOVIET SCIENCE SERVES AGRICULTURE

by LEMENT U. HARRIS

NEW PROBLEMS confront Soviet agriculture, problems of a character different from those of its earlier years. In those years, the main effort was to transform a backward peasant economy into a modern type, operating large acreages with power equipment. Today, with an increasing volume of heavy machinery flowing from the many new factories, the problem is shifting to the determining of the best use of the equipment, the best soil tillage methods, the best rotations, in short the application of the latest findings of science to all phases of agriculture.

The study of scientific agriculture has become a widespread and popular pursuit. The Soviet press, both urban and rural, devotes much space to such scientific questions. The works of leading agricultural scientists, Timiryazev, Dokuchayev, Williams, Michurin, Lysenko, and also Darwin, Burbank, Carver, are studied not just in the higher academies of learning but are the subjects of study on the thousands of collective farms.

LEMENT U. HARRIS has worked for years on farm problems in the United States and has made a first-hand study of Soviet agriculture.

Two important decisions of the Government are largely responsible for this nationwide focussing of attention on science in agriculture. The first was the decision of October, 1948, announcing the "Plan for Planting Shelter Belts, Introducing the Grass-Field Crop Rotation, Building Ponds and Reservoirs in the Steppe and Wooded Steppe Districts." The second was the decision of September, 1953, to encourage hundreds of thousands of technically trained workers in factories and scientists in institutions to move permanently to the villages to speed the development of a scientific agriculture.

So ambitious a plan, affecting so vast an arable area, has inevitably been encountering special problems. As these occur, the Soviet press and government leaders give them publicity and encourage public discussion. This spring, such a serious problem came to light.

It was found that widespread sowing of perennial grasses in place of grain in the more arid regions of the South and Southeast was materially reducing the grain crop. In such areas grasses struggle to survive, while grain crops can flourish if dry-farming techniques are employed.

This "extensive" and "ill-considered" practice was the subject of an editorial article in the March issue of the leading theoretical journal, *Communist*. It pointed out that this costly error came as the result of a too literal application of the teachings of Williams regarding the benefits of perennial grasses in the rotation. It was a mistake made "in the name of science" participated in by important leaders of the Ministry of Agriculture.

In February of this year, N. S. Khrushchev, Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, called further public attention to this situation. Referring to the late Academician Williams, he stated:

Instead of applying [Williams'] teaching creatively, they began to turn it into a dogma, and to introduce the grass-crop system everywhere. . . .

Williams was a great scientist. He worked out the grass-field crop system. However, some of his followers do not wish to take into consideration that for the most part Williams studied the central belt of Russia and therefore it should not be presumed that his conclusions hold for all parts of our country. . . .

We have respect and do respect Williams and his teachings. However, we say to his pupils that if Williams were still alive, he would long ago have added the necessary qualifications to his teachings on the grass-field crop system of agriculture. . . . Consequently it is necessary to make wise use of the grass-field crop system of agriculture, but to recognize that it is impossible to apply any one scheme mechanically to all parts of the Soviet Union.

Public discussion of this matter has led to an airing of the state of affairs in the agricultural academies

where the main responsibility is lodged. One of a number holding such responsibility was a scientist, V. S. Dimitriev, who was active in introducing the grass-field crop system into unsuitable districts. When the error was apparent, he was advised to go to such an area to make a study of the growth of grasses there. Instead, he prepared a doctorate dissertation in the field of biology which was not accepted by the examining board.

T. D. Lysenko, President of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences, intervened in behalf of Dimitriev's dissertation, and according to a letter published in *Pravda*, March 26, "with his customary sharpness, called all the reviewers who had spoken negatively of the dissertation (including the writer of the letter), Weissmannist."

In spite of this intervention, the dissertation remained rejected. The resulting trend of scientific work is towards closer contact with those actually doing the work on the collective and state farms.

The *Communist* editorial referred to above adds that there must be no "rule by fiat in science," and "no monopolizing of opinions in science." It concludes:

Only in an atmosphere of free, business-like discussion, of creative competition, can one advance science. Each branch of science has its unsolved and disputed questions, which require thorough consideration. . . . To organize a discussion correctly means to enlist in it the representatives of differing viewpoints, to give them the opportunity to express themselves freely on the question under discussion, and to insure broad publicity for the discussion in the press.

US-USSR Chess Match Points the Way

by ANDREW VOYNOW

WHAT has been called one of the greatest events in chess history occurred in New York in mid-June when an outstanding team of eight American players met a team of eight Soviet masters in a match of four games each.

The event was considered of tremendous magnitude for several reasons:

It was the first time that a team from the USSR (or from tsarist Russia) had come to this country to compete with an American team.

The two teams represented what Alexander Bisno, non-playing captain of the American team, called "the greatest aggregation of chess masters ever seen at one time in the history of the game."

It drew an audience that, according to veteran chess enthusiasts, was the largest ever to attend an international chess match.

And it was evident to everyone—players, audience and sponsors—that the friendly contest was somehow symbolic of the friendly competition that could easily exist between the two countries, and that the rivalry across the chess boards succeeded to a degree, even if small, in helping to lessen East-West tensions.

On the opening of the match, the evening of June 16, the Grand Ballroom of the Roosevelt Hotel was

tastefully appointed to accommodate the comfort of both contestants and audience. At one end, across the entire room there was a raised platform on which the eight tables stood. In front and below each table small flags of the United States and the Soviet Union indicated the nationality of the player. Above and behind each table there hung a huge chessboard, and attendants moved pieces on these giant boards as the players moved. So well organized was it that people at the far end of the ballroom could follow the plays. And on the back curtain, facing the audience were large flags of the two countries.

Before play began in the first round, the platform was flooded by light as newsreel and television cameras recorded the historic event. And later, when these lights were extinguished, the flashes of newspaper cameramen periodically punctuated the evening's play.

Brief speeches of welcome opened the event, and it is significant that every one of them emphasized the friendly nature of the meet and the need for friendship between the two countries.

Each of these statements was met by enthusiastic applause, but a thunderous ovation greeted the speech of Harold M. Phillips, president of the

United States Chess Federation which sponsored the match.

This match, Phillips emphasized, represented friendly rivalry. The problems the opponents will face shall be solved over the board. We hope, he said, that some day soon, throughout the world, all problems will likewise be solved across the table.

Alexander Bisno in his opening remarks declared that it was obvious that this chess match would not solve all problems, but, he hoped, that this match would play some part in relieving tensions between the two countries. The applause was deafening.

On behalf of the Soviet team, Dimitri Postnikov thanked the United States Chess Federation for the invitation to play, presented a beautiful enamel vase to the American team as a trophy of respect and friendship, and expressed hope that the match would help strengthen cultural ties between the two countries.

Bernard Baruch, America's "elder statesman," in a brief speech welcomed the contestants and then shook hands with the American and Soviet players.

Then the play began. A hush settled over the audience, a hush that was sustained until the situation at some of the boards created excitement. Then there was talk and consultation, and discussion about whether this or that play was the most advantageous. When the hubbub grew to disturbing proportions, the referee, Hans Kmoch, pleaded through the microphone for quiet so that the players' concentration would not be impaired.

The overflow audiences consisted of chess experts from all parts of the country—and from abroad, for there was hardly a spoken tongue that could not be heard—English, of course, French, Italian, Russian,

Chinese, Polish, Turkish, German.

In an ante-room across the foyer, several American chess experts stood before giant chess boards that reproduced the play in the ballroom. They answered questions about the games in progress, about the players, conducted discussions about every phase of chess imaginable including anecdotes, some of which had meaning only for those initiated into the mysteries of the game.

The players, the best from their respective countries, were as follows:

American team: Samuel Reshevsky, Arnold Denker, Max Pavey, Donald Byrne, Israel Horowitz, Robert Byrne, Arthur Bisguier, Larry Evans, and alternates Arthur Duke and Alexander Kevitz.

Soviet team: Vassily Smyslov, David Bronstein, Paul Keres, Alexander Kotov, Yefim Geller, Yuri Auerbach, Tigran Petrosian, Mark Taimanov, and alternates Isaak Boleslavsky and Igor Bondarevsky.

As we go to press the score for three rounds is: Soviet team 15½ points, American team 7½ points. One game had been adjourned and not yet played off. And there was still a final round to be played. It was pretty clear that the Soviet team had won, for they needed only an additional point to take more than half of the total of 32 points.

But victory was not the sole aim of the match. As Harold Phillips declared in his remarks opening the match, there is more than victory in such a meet, it is the spirit of friendliness, the spirit of brotherhood that prevails.

Let us hope that the chess players will have led the way toward friendly competition and exchange in all phases of activity between the two countries.

LEISURE TIME

IN MOSCOW

by RALPH PARKER

WHEN the youth of Moscow, clad in sporting dress, opened the giant procession through the Red Square on May Day by bearing their vast, multi-colored, silken banners past the mausoleum, they opened a season that promises to outvie all others for gaiety and interest.

Three weeks later the tercentenary of the reunion of the Ukraine with Russia was celebrated by a festival more vivid and picturesque than the Soviet capital has seen for many a day. The more welcome because it was late, summer burst on Moscow just in time for this festival. For once the well-worn phrase about nature laying a carpet of green made sense, for lawns that were shabby and brown at dawn would be bright with a tender green by sunset. Country-folk stood on the approaches to

the railway stations offering great bunches of bird-cherry and lilies-of-the-valley. Roses appeared in the shop windows.

The word *gulyanye*, which the Russians use to describe these festivals, is difficult to translate. Literally it means "a walking," and it must have got its meaning in the times when popular festivities took the form of processions in the countryside. There is still something of the processional about these holidays. The broad walks of the Moscow parks are packed with people strolling with even pace under the lime trees and past the pastel-shade borders of peonies.

But in addition to this easy-going and rather low-pitched way of enjoyment, modern city life has provided livelier excitements, though it

A family (left) relaxes beside a cool stream near Moscow. Right: The outdoor concerts are popular at Gorky Park of Culture and Rest in Moscow.





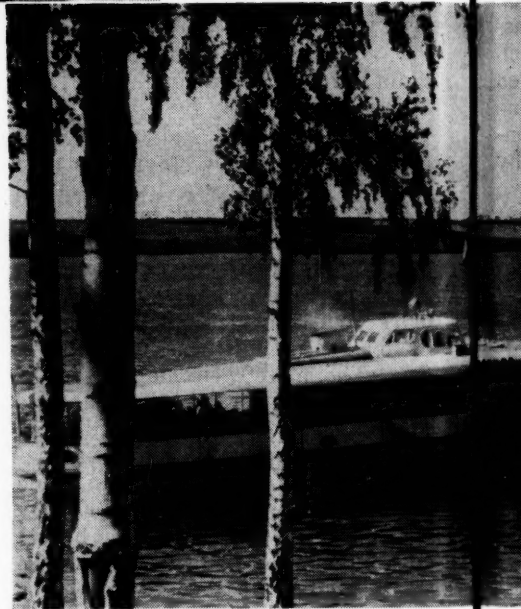
A popular dining spot is the restaurant at Khimki River Port, the Moscow terminus of the Moscow-Volga Canal. The veranda (left) of the restaurant overlooks the canal port.

must be said that the average Russian's idea of a day out is not only one of sitting in a stadium or a cinema watching others entertain him. The spectacle of sport and public entertainment appeals to many; but there are still a great number of people who like to spend their holiday ambling about and talking.

The tercentenary celebrations gave Moscow symphony orchestras playing in the open near the walls of the Kremlin; the superb spectacle of the State Folk-Dance Ensemble, just back from a tour of the Virgin Soil districts; popular comedians cracking jokes into microphones in the shadow of the new University building on Lenin Hills.

For the first time the new Russian and Ukrainian republican flags were widely displayed in Moscow, the dark and light blue among the red bringing a quite unfamiliar color into a city one has so often seen decked in crimson and gold.

Apart from these officially-inspired jollifications Muscovites are finding greater opportunities for laughter and fun in their city this summer. There are more comedies on the screen, a variety theater has been opened (till now variety was confined to concert halls and to seasonal



theaters in the parks), jazz is being played, dancing in the cafes has never been so popular.

Outside Moscow at the attractive'y built River Station at Khimki there is a restaurant. It is always packed. Outside there is dancing on the decks of the ships that run overnight excursions to bathing beaches on the chain of lakes intersected by the Moscow canal. You can take one of these small motor vessels late of

an evening, sleep on the beach under the pine trees and travel in to work by water the next morning. At weekends you can go farther—to the Moscow Sea, a huge artificial expanse of water created by the canal that links the River Moskva and the Volga.

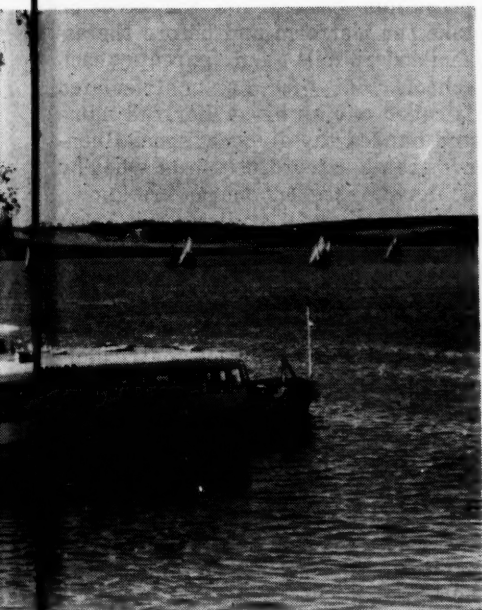
National restaurants and cafes have become a popular feature of the city. Of these the oldest is the well-known *Aragvi* Georgian restaurant,

built in the style of the Georgian Renaissance with highly polished marble walls and slender, twisted pillars. Soups flavored with mountain herbs, whole chickens or special cuts of mutton roasted on skewers, light wines that travel better than any others in the Soviet Union—these are the specialties of the *Aragvi*.

Armenia, Uzbekistan, Azerbaidzhan, the Ukraine, among other republics, offer their own dishes in characteristic setting including suitable music. To the Park of Rest and Culture has come a chef from Peking to supervise the cooking of Peking duck and other specialties.

One small but significant development that has made life brighter is a great expansion in the production of gramophone records. They are still amazingly cheap. There are specialized gramophone shops in Moscow as well as departments in the large stores. Collectors are, generally speaking, young men. Sometimes you see someone consulting the catalogues with a long list in his hand—a collective order from the village.

One special feature of the early summer in Moscow is school graduation day. Lessons end in mid-May, but for boys and girls taking the



One of the main excursion boats (above) on the Moscow-Volga Canal.

Bathing beach (right) at Khimki, Moscow port of the Moscow-Volga Canal, is well attended throughout summer.



RALPH PARKER, who formerly represented the "New York Times" in the USSR, is a veteran Moscow correspondent whose reports are well known to our readers.

graduation examination—the "Matric"—there is another month of cramming and taking exams. Every few days the examinee has to go before a commission for oral or written exams—oral predominating.

On a table before the board of examiners lie, face downward, the numbers relating to a list of questions which the examinees have had many weeks to study. In turn each candidate picks up a number some twenty minutes before his or her turn comes to answer—and in this time thoughts are put in order and the answers prepared. Questions are usually in groups of three. After answering, the examinee may have to answer supplementary questions put by the examiners whose duties include the responsibility of trying to draw the knowledge out of a shy or hesitant pupil. Exams are marked from five (excellent) downwards, but final marks—and thus the matriculation diploma—take into account the scholastic performance during the whole year at school.

Generally speaking there is a tendency to reduce the importance of

the exam, and this year their number has been reduced. Nevertheless the exam month is an ordeal and its conclusion a tremendous relief.

This relief is fully reflected in graduation ceremonies and festivities. These do not follow any set pattern. Sometimes parents and children organize a buffet dance or invite a well-known writer or performer to take part; at other times the occasion is more intimate. In any case the school director and a presidium elected for the occasion take the platform and before the assembled pupils and parents each school child that has matriculated is called out by his or her full name and handed the diploma, special honors being accorded those who by achieving excellent marks are known as "medallists"—a distinction that may excuse the holder from entrance exams at institutions of higher education.

For the scores of thousands of Moscow school children matriculating this year—twice as many as last year, which is an indication of the rapid increase in secondary education—the summer only really begins after graduation. And then to the strains of music and singing that fill the parks and squares of the Soviet capital with melody is added that buoyant, lively tune.—Dunayevsky's *School Waltz*.

U.S. EDITOR SAYS USSR WANTS PEACE

WILLIAM E. MATHEWS, editor of the "Arizona Daily Star," after a visit this spring to the Soviet Union, Poland and Czechoslovakia, declared in a series of articles in his paper: "Because the peoples of these countries, especially the Poles and the Russians, have suffered so much, all they ask is to be allowed to live in peace. Only an actual invasion . . . can arouse these people to support a war." He said there was no danger of internal revolt "as long as conditions continue to improve." He made clear he had no love for the Soviet system, but felt it had succeeded "as a viable form of society."

A LETTER FROM WARSAW

*From a woman who lived and worked
in the U.S. for thirty-three years*

by EULA MENDES FIGUEIREDO

ELLA MENDES FIGUEIREDO, born in Portugal, was brought to the United States in 1921, when she was ten years old. At 14, poverty forced her to go to work in the New Bedford Textile Mills, where later she was active in a strike against wage conditions, and became a charter member of the New Bedford Local of the ILGWU. She also worked in other industries and as an organizer for the CIO Textile Workers. In 1950, she was arrested in deportation proceedings on the basis of alleged membership in the Communist Party.

A VICTIM of the deportation drive and the Walter-McCarran Law, I was given the choice of leaving the United States "voluntarily" to a country that would accept me, or being forcibly deported to Portugal where I faced persecution and possible death.

The People's Republic of Poland offered me asylum on the basis of Article 75 of the Constitution which states:

The Polish People's Republic grants asylum to citizens of foreign countries persecuted for defending the interests of the working people, for struggling for social progress, for activities in the defense of peace, for fighting for national liberation or for scientific activity.

So, on May 25, 1953 an immigration agent checked me out of the country where I had lived for over

33 years, and I boarded a plane on my way to People's Poland.

It was difficult to say "good-bye" and leave my family, friends and co-workers with whom I had grown up and worked.

People's Poland has opened its doors to victims of fascism from many countries and to foreign-born Americans who faced deportation to fascist countries. Many anti-fascist fighters from Spain and Greece are alive today thanks to Poland's hospitality. The Polish people understand very well what the fight against fascism and reaction is and they go out of their way to help us in every way and make us as comfortable as possible. I have found the Polish people to be wonderful, warm-hearted, friendly and very hospitable.

On my arrival I was met at the airport. As we drove through the city, I saw some of the remaining

bombed-out buildings and war ruins. This was my first experience of what war does to a city—not to speak of what it does to the people.

The fascists destroyed Warsaw 85 to 90 per cent. Some sections, like the former Warsaw Ghetto, were completely leveled. Just imagine any large-size, metropolitan city—like Boston for example—being machine-gunned, bombed and burned systematically street by street, house by house. Imagine the people buried under these ruins or shot by the barbaric fascists. It's hard for the human mind to grasp the horrible destruction war can inflict upon a city and its people.

United States war propaganda pictures the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies as aggressors. This is the Big Lie used to maintain world tension. From my observation and by talking to people—peace is a central phase of life here. Peace slogans, peace posters, peaceful building can be seen everywhere. The Polish people know what war is. Their six million dead cannot be forgotten. They made a tremendous sacrifice in the fight against fascism and I can understand their deep and boundless desire for peace in Europe and in the whole world.

The heroic Polish people have taken their ruined country into their own hands and in nine short years made tremendous progress and firmly built the foundations of socialism. The whole city of Warsaw is being rebuilt: blocks and blocks of new apartment houses, whole new residential districts, factories, schools, hospitals, clubs, theaters, churches, stores, parks and sport-grounds.

The picturesque and historical "Old Town," which is being restored in accordance with its original design simply takes your breath away. With

every visit to the "Old Town" I marvel anew at the beauty of the colorful buildings and the artistic work in restoring the original style retaining all historical features, while inside the apartments are modern and comfortable.

There are many residential projects going up in all sections of Warsaw, with all necessary modern facilities. One big project is MDM on Marszalkowska Street, a central street in the city. The center of MDM is beautiful Constitution Square with its trees already blooming this spring after being planted last December. Blocks of buildings on both sides of the street provide apartments for thousands of families—and more apartment houses are going up—complete with restaurants, play centers, nurseries and kindergartens.

In the center of the city is the Stalin Palace of Culture and Science. A gift of the Soviet Union to the people of Poland, it is being built by Soviet workers, with Soviet material and equipment, just one of many examples of the help in rebuilding Poland extended by the Soviet Union. I have climbed the ramp many times and stood on the platform especially built for "side-walk supers" to see the progress. The whole frame-work has already been completed. The tower has been finished and the spire on top glitters in the sun. Most of the outside ceramic facing has been placed over the bricks, and interior work is now going on.

The whole area for blocks around is being rebuilt. The center of Warsaw will be a place of beauty, culture, education and recreation. The Palace of Culture and Science is not only a symbol of friendship between the Soviet and Polish people—but also a symbol of peace.

There is construction going on in every part of the city, such as the Park of Culture and Rest along the Vistula River; the big new central railroad station; the subway; the opera house.

Walking along the city and seeing all the construction going on I can see and sense the feeling of confidence in the future. And no wonder! The second price cut within six months was announced on the eve of May 1st—a cut that together with the one we got last November has considerably increased the buying power of the people. The decisions adopted at the March Congress of the Polish Workers Party for a rapid increase in the living standards are thus being put into effect. The national budget, too, shows that the greatest amounts are allocated for health, education, culture, housing and the well-being of the people.

I am naturally very much interested in the life of women here. There is no unemployment and there is equal pay for equal work. Women here have the opportunity and are encouraged to advance to higher positions in industry, agriculture, government, and the arts and they are respected for their work.

In addition to the regular sick and health benefits, there is the pre-natal

and maternity care necessary for the birth of a healthy child. Mothers get three months at full pay, have no fear of losing their jobs, and all medical expenses for childbirth are paid for by the State. A baby can be taken to the nursery where professional care is given. As the child grows, he "graduates" from the infant's room to the play pens and on till at the age of three he goes into the "small" children's section of the kindergarten, and at the age of seven to regular school.

I want to end with the thought that is on the minds of millions of people all over the world—peace. Anyone walking around Warsaw, even for one day, cannot fail to see and feel the desire for peace among the people and the government. The promotion of peace among its neighbors in Europe, and in the whole world is the unswerving policy of Poland. There is no doubt at all that the people—workers, farmers, intellectuals, Catholics and non-believers, men, women and the youth, are united with the People's Government in working for peace. As many people have told me, they want peace to build their country and live a normal healthy, happy life. They want to live in peace and friendship with the people of all countries.

POLISH WOMEN ACTIVE IN TU'S

MORE THAN one-third of the 967 elected delegates to the Third Trade Union Congress held in Warsaw in early May were women. At the close of the Congress, there was elected a Central Council of 101 members and 35 alternates, who serve as the unions' supreme body until the next Congress. Thirty-three members of this Council are women. Five members of the Council's 22-member presidium are also women.

Poland today has 22 national industrial trade unions with a membership of four and a half million. It is estimated that approximately 90 per cent of all Polish workers belong to unions.

Bulgaria's Peaceful Change

How the transition from capitalism to socialism took place by popular consent

by Commander EDGAR P. YOUNG, R.N., Retired

VICTORY DAY in Europe on May 9, 1945, found Bulgaria still nominally occupied by a Soviet army, and still subject to an Allied Control Commission (comprising representatives of the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union), appointed in the first place to see that she fulfilled the conditions of the armistice, concluded on October 29, 1944, and remaining there pending the conclusion of a peace treaty. The "occupation," though nominal, was important because it gave assurance to the Bulgars and to their government that they might go ahead with the reorganization of their country within the terms prescribed by the allied Three Great Powers at Yalta and Potsdam, without fear of intervention from any quarter, or of victimization, in the shape of territorial losses, when the Peace Treaty would be drafted.

EDGAR P. YOUNG, Commander Royal Navy (Retired), is Chairman and one of the founders of the British Society for Friendship with Bulgaria. Since the war he has visited that country, as well as other countries of Eastern Europe, several times. This is the fifth article of a series.

The consequent frustration of certain elements in the United States and Britain which wanted to go back on most of what they had formally agreed to at Yalta and Potsdam has resulted in a complete distortion by such elements of the actual events in Bulgaria, and the charge that its people's democratic regime was somehow imposed upon the Bulgarian people by the Soviet Union. This propaganda has tended to obscure the fact that events in Bulgaria have proved that, given suitable circumstances, the transition from capitalism to socialism can be effected with the approval and collaboration of a great part of the class which is thereby to be removed from leadership, and can be a comparatively painless and quite peaceful process.

The 'suitable circumstances' which made it possible for Bulgaria to achieve this happy solution of a problem which must be faced now in many parts of the world were the following:

(a) The former ruling class (and the monarchy), unpopular in any case because of its oppressive administration, had thoroughly discredited itself in the eyes of all decent people by its betrayal of the national inter-

est in collaborating with Nazi Germany.

(b) A workers' party, with a clear Marxist outlook and with wise and courageous leaders, stood high in the public esteem because of its leading role in the resistance and liberation movement, and this had produced a large measure of national unity, represented by the Fatherland Front under the leadership of that party.

(c) The possibility of foreign intervention in support of unconstitutional attempts by native reactionaries to arrest or reverse the progressive tendency towards socialism could be disregarded because the Soviet Union was in a position to render powerful aid in preventing such intervention.

It is in these circumstances that the Bulgarian people have been able to progress steadily and knowingly from capitalism to socialism under a leadership which contained conservative elements, and to do this constitutionally and democratically, without bloodshed or violence.

What is particularly noteworthy, moreover, is that the government found it possible—doubtless owing to the confidence engendered by the Soviet guarantee against physical intervention by the West—to tolerate the free functioning of a noisy and sometimes very troublesome "opposition." That "opposition," through its unconstructive policy and obstructive behavior, exposed itself as out to frustrate Bulgarian democracy (at the behest of and with the material support, of hostile foreign powers) and just "folded up" for lack of public support.

The steps whereby this transition from capitalism to socialism has been peacefully and constitutionally achieved may be briefly enumerated:

(a) The first post-war elections of November 18, 1945, boycotted by the "opposition," at which 86 per cent of the electorate voted, and of these 88.23 per cent voted for the candidates of the Fatherland Front;

(b) The referendum of September 8, 1946, on the question of the Monarchy, when the high total of 91.67 per cent of the electorate registered their opinions, of which 92.72 per cent were for the abolition of the Monarchy in favor of a Peoples' Republican regime;

(c) The elections of October 28, 1946, of a Grand National Assembly, to draw up the new Constitution, a draft of which constituted the platform of the Fatherland Front, where the "opposition" was defeated by 70.3 per cent to 29.7 per cent, and where the Workers' (Communist) Party secured an over-all majority of 53.16 per cent of the votes cast, representing 75.28 per cent of those cast for the Fatherland Front as a whole;

(d) The launching, in March, 1947, of a Two-Year Economic Plan for industrialization, electrification and modernization of agriculture, accompanied by far-reaching and fundamental social reforms;

(e) The adoption, after discussion and amendment, on December 4, 1947, of the new Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria;

(f) The nationalization of all industry and banking, by Acts passed by the Grand National Assembly on December 24 and 25, 1947; and

(g) The Second Congress of the Fatherland Front on February 2-3, 1948.

Here we will stop for the present, for this Second Congress of the Fatherland Front marked a definite and important stage in the process with which this article is concerned.

Prior to this Congress, the Fatherland Front was just a loose coalition of all the anti-fascist groups* and individuals in Bulgaria, with an agreed common program for the establishment of people's democracy in that country, as a step towards socialism. It had no separate membership, no constitution, and no agreed term of duration. The decisions of its executive, the Central Committee, were not binding on its constituent elements.

In October, 1947, at a special meeting of the Central Committee of the Fatherland Front attended by the leading officers of its component political parties, it was decided that the strained international situation and the necessity of formulating in the near future a long-term economic plan to succeed the interim Two-Year Plan, rendered it desirable that the Fatherland Front should be regularized. Drafts of a proposed permanent constitution and of a proposed long-term program were unanimously agreed upon at this meeting, and in January, 1948, these were widely publicized and were thoroughly discussed by the local and central organs of the various bodies concerned and at special conferences of all the political parties.

At the Second Congress of the Fatherland Front, attended by over a thousand delegates elected by the people as a whole, regardless of party affiliations, and coming from all walks of life, the constitution and program were debated for two days, amended, and eventually adopted unanimously.

* These consisted, in the first place, of the five democratic political parties, as follows (in order of strength): Workers' (Communist) Party, Agrarian Union, National Union "Zveno", (Conservative), Social-Democratic Party, Radical Party. The opposition consisting of dissident elements of the Agrarian Union and of the Social-Democrats.

The Fatherland Front became a definite, permanent organization, composed rather like the British Labor Party of collective as well as of individual members, governed by its Biennial Congresses of elected delegates, and between these by a Central Committee elected by those Congresses, the decisions of these governing bodies being binding on all its membership.

Skeptics will see, or will profess to see, in the foregoing, a "window-dressing" procedure, staged by the Bulgarian Communists by order, it may be suggested or implied, of Moscow for the purpose of hamstringing any opposition and of eliminating their political rivals. Such a suggestion would, however, ignore certain irrefutable facts. The worst and most obvious opponents of the Fatherland Front had been dealt with soon after the national uprising of September 9, 1944, and their successors, such as the bogus Dr. G. M. Dimitrov (see preceding article) had been repudiated by the people as they came out into the open. The subsequent opposition had pretty well eliminated itself, as described earlier in this article.

Was it not, then, it may be asked by the same skeptics, the next step in what are alleged to be "the tactics" of Communists—one in which their "fellow-travelers," having served their purpose, are "liquidated"? Before answering, I would refer the reader to the figures quoted earlier for the general election of October 28, 1946. With an overwhelming majority such as it obtained then, the Bulgarian Communists (the Workers' Party) might not unreasonably have regarded themselves as having received a mandate from the people to carry through their own party policy.

They had been frank from the very first in declaring socialism to be their goal, as a first step towards communism. However, it was their policy to aim at winning non-Communist acceptance and approval within the Fatherland Front of their proposed measures to bring about the necessary changes in the direction of socialism, and then to submit these to the verdict of the people as the program of the Fatherland Front.

This was what gave that Second Congress of the Fatherland Front a significance which it is important to understand, because it contains the clue to a correct appreciation of what has happened, in different and less easy circumstances for the Communists in Czechoslovakia and other similar countries.

To make the above point clear, it may be useful to attempt to summarize the procedure of "revolution by consent"—of peaceful transition to socialism—as developed in Bulgaria by its prime exponent, the late Georgi Dimitrov, great anti-fascist and people's leader who at the time of his death was General Secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party, and Premier of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Before the Second Congress of the Fatherland Front, Georgi Dimitrov attended in person the special conferences of the non-Socialist parties which had been convened for the discussion of the agenda for that Congress, and he put the matter to the delegates there more or less in the following terms:

Bulgaria will "go Socialist" because socialism offers more to the common man and woman than any alternative creed. We Communists, with the support of most of the industrial workers and a large part of the peasantry,

are working to that end. You can advance the establishment of socialism, or you can retard it, but you cannot, by any means, prevent it. We appeal to you, therefore, as loyal and honorable citizens, and as democrats, to do the first of these. We have marched so far along the road together, to the evident advantage and satisfaction of those whom we variously represent. Let us go on together to the end, and let us make it quite clear, not only to our common enemies, both here and abroad, but also to our respective followers that nothing can divide us. Thus only can you fulfill your duty to those whom you represent, and thus only can they as a class fulfill their important role during the difficult period of transition.

Asked specifically whether this was "the thin end of the wedge" for the establishment of "a one-party system," Dimitrov replied with candor:

That is a condition which we shall reach in due course, but we do not propose to start off with it. A one-party system cannot simply be established by decree "from above." It would, in fact, be undesirable because it would be unworkable, until existing class rivalries arising from existing class differences have been eliminated, or at least very considerably diminished. It will doubtless be found, though, that prolonged experience of working together within a single organization, the Fatherland Front, will bring all our parties closer together, gradually erasing existing differences of outlook and practice between them, and will thus create the basis which is essential for their eventual fusion, by mutual consent, into the single party, representative of a single class, of the future. In our Fatherland Front we shall con-

* The two quotations from Dimitrov are my translations, condensed, of the speeches as published in the Bulgarian press.—E. P. Y.

tinue to encourage and promote constructive criticism and self-criticism because these will be so essential when we reach the "one-party" stage.

It was in the spirit of the foregoing that the leaders of all the political parties recommended to the Second Congress of the Fatherland Front the adoption of the proposed constitution and program. It was in that spirit that these were adopted by that Congress, and that their adoption was hailed with unfeigned enthusiasm by the mass of the Bulgarian people.

Shortly after this came the next step forward: the two branches of the old Bulgarian Social-Democratic Party decided that it was patently absurd to have two parties for the workers, and the Workers' and Social-Democratic Parties merged into one Bulgarian Communist Party. Some months later the Radical Party, never strong since the liberation, faded out of existence, and the National Union "Zveno" decided that, since there was no longer a class in Bulgaria with capitalist interests "to observe," the continued existence of a "conservative" party was anom-

alous, and "Zveno" dissolved itself.*

These changes succeeded each other quite naturally and without any kind of coercion or unpleasantness, because all the parties concerned worked loyally within the framework of the Fatherland Front, exercising "judgment and patience" with each other and in a genuine spirit of preparedness "to make mutual concessions" to each other, as advised by Georgi Dimitrov, when he set them on this path shortly before he passed away.

There remain now only two parties, the Communist Party and the Agrarian Union, which may eventually be expected to merge. The Fatherland Front, and the People's Democracy of which it is the Bulgarian expression, will then have achieved its first great objective—the revolutionary transition from capitalism to socialism will have been effected with a minimum of hard-feeling, by general popular consent.

* This does not mean, of course, that the members of this "Zveno" have been "liquidated," or even that they have passed out of active political life. They remain active as individual members of the Fatherland Front, in which capacity their former leader, Kimon Georgiev, has continued in office in the Government as Minister of Electrification.

WHERE'S THAT IRON CURTAIN?

DURING the recent May celebration in the Soviet Union, foreign delegations totaling more than 600 persons visited that country. The guests represented people of different political persuasions, occupations, races and countries, including Britain, Italy, Japan, Finland, France and Mexico.

In the past two years more than 600 delegations from some 60 countries visited the USSR. In 1953 alone, 3,746 persons from 55 countries toured the Soviet Union. In addition to the countries mentioned above, they came from such lands as Afghanistan, Greece, Egypt, Iran, Portugal, Brazil, Honduras, Nicaragua, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands.

Canada Acclaims Soviet Artists

INTERNATIONAL cultural exchange received a tremendous boost when six outstanding Soviet dancers and musicians won the admiration of Canada from coast to coast in a concert tour recently.

Performing on the invitation of the Canadian-Soviet Friendship Society, the Soviet artists gave eleven concerts and four recitals in nine Canadian cities. Some 25,000 Canadians attended the performances, and press, radio and television showered them with praise.

The Soviet artists were: Leonid Kogan, violinist; Professor Pavel Serebryakov, pianist; Elizaveta Chavdar, soprano; Arturs Frinbergs, tenor; Sophia Golovkina, ballerina; and Leonid Zhdanov, ballet dancer. In addition, there was Galina Maximova and Andrei Mytnik, piano accompanists for the dancers and for Kogan; Alexander Solodovnikov, former director of the Bolshoy Theater in Moscow, who was in charge of the group and producer of the concerts; and Vadim Nekrasov, of "News" magazine, who was the group's interpreter.

The celebrities arrived in mid-April and opened to a packed house at Massey Hall, Toronto. Some of the Toronto headlines the next day: Massey Hall Is Sold Out—Soviet Concert Pleases Audience—Soviet Artists Win Praise. And from that opening concert until they closed their tour in mid-May both Canadian

press and public showered the Soviet artists with unreserved exclamations of appreciation.

The following day the group flew to Vancouver, on the west coast. There the Exhibition Gardens, where they performed, had been sold out four days in advance. Hailing the concert, the *Vancouver Sun* said: "A concert that would be an extraordinary event in anyone's musical experience. At no time during the past 30 years in Vancouver has such excellent artistic expressiveness been heard on one program."

And so, with ovation following ovation, they worked their way east, with the sell-out sign appearing in the box offices of each city that they visited: Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Fort Williams, Sudbury, Ottawa, Hamilton, and back to perform again in Toronto.

In Ottawa the concert was held at the Capital Theater and attended by cabinet ministers, government officials, the diplomatic corps and outstanding cultural leaders. An editorial in the *Ottawa Journal* declared: "We trust that many more Soviet artists will come this way. . . . We would be churlish if we did not declare our appreciation both of the artists and those who said that they should make this tour."

An illustration of the deep desire of all people for healthy cultural exchange can be drawn from the concert held in the prairie city of Sas-

katoon. Because of a tight schedule, only Frinbergs, the tenor, and Serebryakov, the pianist, were to make up the program. Their plane was the last to land at the airfield—because of snow. The concert was to be held in the ballroom of the Bessborough Hotel, with accommodations for 550. That night, despite the snow, an audience of 990 crowded the ballroom to hear the musicians from the USSR!

Another example of how the people extend their welcome to artists of other lands, of how working people are appreciative of the finest things in culture, can be taken from events that surrounded the concert in Sudbury, heart of the Canadian nickle industry. The concert was to be held in the grand new hall of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union. Earlier in the day, the artists went to see the 1100-seat auditorium, as they always did in every center that they visited. They found a group of miners scraping the stage floor. The workers had heard of difficulties the Soviet ballet dancers had at an earlier concert due to faulty flooring, and they were determined to provide all that could be desired. That night, 'the hall was

packed, the majority miners and smelter workers, and after the concert there was a friendly reception and intermingling of artists and audience.

This was the first such Soviet group ever to visit Canada and it is to the credit of the Canadian people that they reacted warmly, with courtesy, attentiveness and a desire to make "Canada" a pleasant word on Soviet tongues.

The Soviet visitors gave generously of their talents, and the Canadians proved very hospitable. When not performing or rehearsing, the visitors toured the cities, attended the Canadian concerts and ballet, conversed with Canadian musicians, dancers and other cultural leaders, and visited historic spots.

It is worth pondering, considering the hysteria existing in our country today, that just north of the border there could be such a warm and enthusiastic demonstration of international friendship and culture. Americans should take note. Such a healthy manifestation can help break down international tensions and build up international amity. If Canadians can do it, Americans can too.

USSR RATIFIES GENOCIDE AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTIONS

ON MAY 3, Mr. A. Y. Vyshinsky, Permanent UN representative of the USSR handed over to the Secretary General of the UN, the USSR instruments of ratification on the Convention of genocide crimes and on punishment for such crimes. The USSR stipulated that in order to transfer any dispute regarding the convention to the jurisdiction of the International Court, agreement of all disputing parties is necessary, and that all clauses of the convention must be applicable to the non-self-governed territories, including trusteeship territories.

At the same time, Mr. Vyshinsky handed over the USSR instruments of ratification of the convention on the political rights of women.

A Novel About Soviet Science

A review by IRENE EPSTEIN

OUR SUMMER, by E. Uspenskaya,
Soviet Literature, No. 3, 1953.

"OUR SUMMER" deals with Soviet man's struggle to subdue nature. But the conflict it depicts is in the realm of ideas—between two concepts of science as different as life and death.

We in this country have heard echoes of the clash between the dogmatists whose approach to science is abstract and sterile, and those who believe science must be dynamic and serve the people, a controversy highly distorted in our press. *Our Summer* tells the story of how the battle was fought out in one small arena—the biology department of the University of Moscow, and the experimental station where its students carried on their summer field work, outside Moscow.

The author was herself just such a biology student, and has drawn on the notebooks she kept in writing her story. She has written an enchanting story of life at the field station, of the eager, imaginative young men and women lurking in the leafy "blinds" watching the birds and noting their habits, dissecting frogs, studying the lives of rodents, foxes—every thing that flew or walked in the fragrant, sun-drenched forest—and all under the illuminating guidance of Professor Lopatin.

Lopatin is a wonderful characterization. There is in him the same deep humanism, the close ties with the people, the hatred for what is false and shoddy and pedantic, which imbued the old scientist in the great Soviet movie *Baltic Deputy*. Lopatin cherishes and nurtures his students; he works closely with the collective farmers nearby, helping them to raise baby foxes, to save their vanishing bees, to improve

their breed of pigs. And he does unrelenting battle with those who would stifle Soviet science, schematize it, lead it into arid byways.

"Shumsky raises laboratory assistants, while what the country needs is scientific innovators," he tells his friend Sharov, who very nearly—but in the end not quite—succumbs to just such thinking as Shumsky's. "The science of life!—It's a great phrase. A broad path. And you and your friends have split it into different words: naturalist, morphologist, systematist, endocrinologist, ecologist. . . . And each of you follows his own path, purposely kept as narrow as possible. You follow them as if there were stone walls between them. But in reality there is one broad path for all. And to know what each is doing, to pursue common aims, is not the same as squandering one's energies. Nor must we restrict ourselves to our own department or our own university. You have a study, Nikolai Alexandrovich. Its walls are thick, its windows rather small. And what is my laboratory? All the nurseries and animal farms of the Union! All the sanctuaries and hunting grounds. Your staff consists of five people, but I have any number of veterinarians, biologists and zoologists working for me! You should see the research work they do! What bold experiments! I can experiment on any scale I choose! . . ."

To his students he cries: "What are you studying for? What is your final aim? Is it knowledge? That is not enough, you must strive for control!"

He demonstrates how the acceptance of the theory that heredity cannot be influenced, that the genes are immutable, or—in another field—of exhaus-

tion of the soil, leads to a perspective where mankind can look forward only to "starvation and slow extinction. What is Man according to the followers of your scientific theories? A helpless creature living on deteriorating soil. The only thing he can do is to sit and wait for capricious nature to throw him a sport or freak. He himself can do nothing."

Lopatin's students do not all follow his lead, and they do not follow automatically. Among them are weaklings who succumb to the temptations of easy success. Some never really understand the struggle going on about them. Others pull up sharply to see their mistakes and weaknesses, and change their course. And there is a whole gallery of heart-warming young people — beset with the joys, hopes and vexations of growing up, who draw on the understanding they have been nurtured on all their conscious lives as children of a socialist society, to carry them through the difficulties of decision until they can take their places as growing, imaginative scientists serving their people.

It is difficult to convey the author's astonishing combination of documented and compelling scientific discussion with warm, humorous and vivid character and incident. The reader will not soon forget Lopatin's efforts to save the tiny fox cubs and to instruct the collective farm girl, Anna, in their care and nurture; how he leads young Nikita and Varya step by step into research, and the emergence of both

from inarticulate adolescence to mature leadership; the infallible and complacent Lyuba and her battle to achieve honest insight into her own character; Lopatin's insistence that the young scientists concern themselves with such crucial problems as that of safeguarding the newly planted shelter belts of young trees from the ravages of insects. Birds alone can hold the insects at bay—by eating them—shall they be brought to the shelter belts by transporting unhatched eggs or fledglings, or in some manner not yet devised.

Nor will the reader forget the recurring theme expressed in every facet of Lopatin's life and work:

"The most important thing that has happened to Soviet science is that it has ceased to be a science of study and observation alone, and has become constructive and creative—a revolutionary science. Nature is not the master of our science—man and his science are the masters of nature."

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