

SOCIAL SCIENCES✓

✓DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY APR 8 1960

APRIL, 1960

25¢

New World

REVIEW

THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Report from the USSR

RICHARD MORFORD

Wedding in Leningrad

AILEEN H. MORFORD

Overseas Chinese Come Home

ANNA LOUISE STRONG

Reflections on Soviet Justice

PAVEL NILIN

PEACE GROUPS IN THE USA

NEW WORLD REVIEW

APRIL 1960

Essay Contest 3
For Disarmament

Jessica Smith 4

Swords Into Plowshares
Eslanda Robeson 11

Tour of Five Cities
Richard Morford 13

Wedding in Leningrad
Aileen H. Morford 18

For a Humanist Approach
Pavel Nilin 20

Overseas Chinese Come Home
Anna Louise Strong 25

The Art of Longevity
Dr. Yuri Spassobukotsky 30

The Teahouse of Nether Borsch
V. Bezorudko 34

Youthful Albania
Arthur D. Kahn 37

Peace Groups in the U.S. 40

BOOK REVIEWS

The Flowers of Hiroshima—
Edita Morris
Murray Young 45

The Lost Cities of Africa—
Basil Davidson
W. Alpheus Hunton 46

New People in New China—
Maud Russell 47

*The Key to World Peace and
Plenty—*
Elsa Peters Morse 47

JESSICA SMITH, *Editor*
MURRAY YOUNG, *Managing Editor*

ESLANDA ROBESON
Our Roaming Correspondent
*Editorial Consultant on Negro and
Colonial Questions*

Vol. 28, No. 4, April, 1960. Second
Class postage paid at New York, N. Y. Sub-
scription \$2.50 per year. \$1.25 for 6 months
(Canadian, \$3.00, foreign \$3.50 a year.
Draw money orders or checks payable in
New York.) Published monthly by the
N.W.R. Publications, Inc., 34 West 15th
Street, New York 11, N. Y. Indexed in Bul-
letin of the Public Affairs Information Serv-
ice. Phone: CHelsea 3-0666.
PRINTED IN U.S.A. 209

SPECIAL OFFER TO ESSAY CONTESTANTS

If you are interested in taking part
in the New World Review essay con-
test and are in the 18-25 age group,
we are offering a special subscription
rate that will bring you the magazine
for nine months for the price of one
dollar (\$1.00).

This subscription will enable you to
follow the progress of the contest,
supply you with information useful to
your essay—for example see the article
on peace groups in this country and
the discussion on disarmament—and
cover the issues in which the prize-win-
ning essays are published: one of which
might be your own!

For those unfortunately too old to
participate themselves in the contest,
here is an excellent opportunity to pro-
vide a young friend with the chance to
do some thinking about the great prob-
lems that face our country—and pos-
sibly win a handsome prize.

NEW WORLD REVIEW
7th Floor, 34 West 15th St.
New York 11, N. Y.

I enclose () \$1.00 for special 9-month
essay contest sub, or () \$2.50 for a year's
subscription to be sent to:

Name

Street

City Zone State

Attention All Young People!!!

NEW WORLD REVIEW

Announces an Essay Contest on

"A Peace Program for Our Country"

*Open to students, workers, all young people
from the age of 18 through 25*

\$500 IN PRIZES

(Donated through the generosity of a friend)

First Prize \$200

Second Prize \$100

Third Prize \$50

TEN HONORABLE MENTION AWARDS OF \$15 EACH

J U D G E S

**REV. HENRY HITT CRANE, *Pastor Emeritus,*
*Central Methodist Church, Detroit***

GEN. HUGH B. HESTER, *Brigadier General, U.S. Army (retired)*

DR. GUY EMERY SHIPLER, *Editor of The Churchman*

DR. JOHN SOMERVILLE, *Author of The Philosophy of Peace*

Rules for submitting your essay on above subject

1. Length — maximum, 1,000 words. (It may be a little shorter, but must not be longer.)
2. Deadline — must be received in our office (34 West 15th Street, New York 11, New York) not later than May 15, 1960.
3. Form — four typewritten, double-spaced copies.
4. Name and information indicated below to be typed on a separate sheet. (Judges will receive manuscripts without names of writers.)
Address.
Age (Please give year and date of birth.)
Occupation.
Other information — any you wish to give.

(For further details, write our office, address above)

For Disarmament

by JESSICA SMITH

DISARMAMENT, the most important question in the world today, is now being discussed by the ten-nation East-West Disarmament Committee in Geneva, as it will be at the Summit Conference in mid-May, along with other vital international issues.

The People's Role

The present and future negotiations are not a matter for the diplomats alone. The question of disarmament belongs to the people everywhere, for whom it is no less than the question of life or death. What the people demand will help determine what the diplomats do.

The disarmament negotiations place on us all the immediate and solemn obligation to do all in our power toward creating a mass pressure for agreement on at least partial measures for controlled disarmament to open the way for the abolition of all means of war.

To do this effectively we must be fully informed on all the issues involved, and on the positions of both our country and the USSR, the leading world powers.

We need also to know of the tremendous scope and power of the world peace movement to hearten us in our efforts here, and to find examples for things that we may do.

Most Americans are unaware of the extent of the great world drive for peace, so little of it is reported

in our press. The World Peace Council, of which the eminent British scientist, Professor J. D. Bernal, is Chairman, represents hundreds of millions of people in over seventy of the world's countries. All the socialist countries are represented, all the neutral countries, as well as leading people from the countries that are America's allies in NATO and other pacts. It combines people of many different political views, statesmen, cultural and scientific figures, millions of ordinary people.

As our evil heritage from the McCarthy era, no American group is affiliated with this organization, only individuals, since it has been dubbed as "Communist controlled."

It is true that representatives of the socialist countries are among its most active participants. But when we hear the charges that the USSR and other socialist countries are not sincere in their struggle for disarmament and peace, we must soberly consider why then they should so actively encourage the formation of a mighty public opinion for peace everywhere in the world, which is the continuous concern of the World Peace Council and its members. They have spoken out vigorously for every measure to promote peace. They have campaigned constantly for the ending of nuclear weapons tests and the banning of all weapons of mass destruction. In their latest statement on disarmament, January 24 of this year, they stated:

... Public opinion can see to it that 1960 is the year of initial measures for controlled disarmament. ... The combined forces of peace, which will make themselves felt in every country in the world, will lead to disarmament and the ending forever of the threat of war.

In addition to those groups affiliated with the world peace movement, there are of course powerful independent groups in almost every country, working indefatigably for a world without war.

We should also give special attention to the great world women's movement for peace, which also has no counterpart in this country. The Women's International Democratic Federation, of which Mrs. Eugenie Cotton of France is President, and which includes women from socialist, neutral and many other countries, consistently campaigns for peace, along with other issues of primary concern to women. This organization has now joined with representatives of national women's organizations of many countries to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of International Women's Day in an Assembly in Copenhagen, April 21-24. Along with consideration of all aspects of the role of women today, their families, children and work, this Assembly will lay special emphasis on what women can do toward disarmament and cooperation among the peoples.

In this country, Mrs. Cyrus S. Eaton, wife of the Cleveland industrialist who himself has done so much toward peace, has become U.S. President of the group of ten women from various countries who have formed the international presidency of the Assembly.

In a move to help mobilize peace

sentiment in this country, Mrs. Eaton has personally initiated a statement which is being signed and sent to the President and members of Congress by women throughout the country, declaring that they will vote in the coming elections "only for candidates who have publicly endorsed immediate world disarmament, a ban on nuclear tests, and an honest, responsible approach to cooperation with all nations."

This is one effective way to help insure progress toward disarmament.

Another example that might be followed is the "Little Summit" meeting being planned by a group of people in San Francisco to discuss the same issues the big powers will discuss, with disarmament as the main issue, and help influence the course of events. This project is organized by the Peace Workshop, which grew out of the Peace Walk held last June under the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice to protest further atomic testing.

Elsewhere in this issue we are beginning a review of peace efforts by various groups in this country, through which, or through others, ways may be found to help create the massive expression of the peace sentiments of the people that is necessary. Let us now examine some of the trends in Washington and in world relations which will suggest where the pressure should be exerted.

Roadblocks Along the Way

We must soberly assess the cold war trends operating to block progress toward disarmament. Their result has been that our government seems to be lacking in any firm determination to reach agreement

on some measure of disarmament or any other outstanding East-West issue. There are divided councils in Washington, and no clear line for the new and more flexible policy that seemed to be on the order of the day after the death of Dulles and the Eisenhower-Khrushchev exchanges, has yet emerged.

Statements by government and official figures, newspaper editorials, radio and TV commentators, even plain news dispatches, continue to be studded with such phrases as "the Soviet threat," "the danger of Communist aggression," "the menace of Soviet imperialism," and "You can't trust the Russians." "Positions of Strength" policies persist. Public fears of attack are aroused by the campaign for obligatory construction of atomic air-raid shelters in New York and other cities. Hysteria about "closing the missile gap" replaces sober planning to disarm. Administration policies, and demands from the Pentagon and leaders in both parties are for more arms spending, greater military efforts. Pressure and preparations for continued nuclear weapons testing continues, stalling the Geneva test negotiations, while plans to give nuclear weapons to NATO countries, to establish a joint nuclear force under NATO and arrangements for West German military bases in Spain and other countries go forward.

Defense Secretary Thomas S. Gates tells a Senate Committee: "I have no desire to lull the people into complacency. At the Defense Department we are constantly stressing that you can't pay any attention to the 'Spirit of Camp David' and

must push forward as if there were no talk of peace."

President Eisenhower himself disclaims knowledge of any "spirit of Camp David"—although he also declares "too many of these generals have all sorts of ideas" when SAC head General Thomas S. Powers and others begin talking again of the need to put on a continuous airborne alert, with all that means in terms of a possible accidental nuclear war breaking out.

It is true that many of the remarks made by Soviet Premier Khrushchev on his trip to India, Burma, Indonesia and Afghanistan about U.S. policies and Western imperialism and colonialism did not fall sweetly on Washington ears. But nowhere were there any suggestions of opposing these policies by military strength. Mr. Khrushchev went to these countries with offers of greater Soviet aid in their development and all the communiques recording discussions with their leaders supported disarmament.

On his return to Moscow, the Soviet Premier stressed the determination of the Soviet Government to enter upon the talks ahead fully prepared to search for ways of further relaxing tensions and urged that no country should take actions that would complicate the situation.

Wisdom prevailed in Washington when President Eisenhower vetoed the provocative decision that had apparently been made to fly planes above the 10,000-foot ceiling along the Berlin air corridor (a ceiling Soviet authorities hold has been established by custom since 1945) although maintaining its right to do

so if there was "operational necessity" for it.

On its side, the USSR revoked an action that was causing new frictions. Last month, Soviet military authorities replaced travel permits for members of Allied Military Missions authorizing travel through the "Soviet zone of occupation" in East Germany, with permits authorizing travel in "The German Democratic Republic," for which they have constantly sought recognition as a sovereign state. However, the original formula was restored on March 14 "for the time being," on the ground that the Soviet authorities did not wish to do anything to worsen the relations between the great powers.

We must note here, however, that one of the greatest friction points in East-West relations has been our government's support of Adenauer's militarist policies. Adenauer, wanting to bring control of all Germany under his Federal Government, and restore its prewar borders, is doing everything in his power to prevent any agreement being reached at the Summit Conference to change the status of West Berlin, still under the Allied military occupation that followed World War II. The much talked about Soviet "threat" to Berlin consists of its proposal that the consequences of the war be ended, that Allied troops be withdrawn from West Berlin and *Soviet troops from East Berlin*. It would make West Berlin, 110 miles within the German Democratic Republic, a free city, with either token Western or UN forces in control, continuing the capitalist system if the people desire, and with GDR instead of So-

viet authorities in charge of access to and from the West, which would be guaranteed to proceed without interference.

The USSR also proposes that a peace treaty, long overdue 15 years after the war's end, be signed, and that the existence of two Germanys makes necessary a peace treaty with each, until such time as German unification can be effected by the German people themselves. President Eisenhower himself has stated that the situation in Berlin is "abnormal." A reasonable solution must be found, and Adenauer must not be permitted to dictate our policies as he did in the days of Dulles.

Ten-Nation Disarmament Conference—Two Plans

On March 15 the Disarmament Committee set up by the Big Four Foreign Ministers, and instructed to report back to the United Nations, opened its meetings in Geneva. It is made up of representatives from ten nations: the United States, Canada, Britain, France and Italy from the West, the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Rumania from the East.

The Soviet plans for complete and universal disarmament had already been before all its members since last September 18, when Premier Khrushchev outlined them in an address to the United Nations, and the official Soviet text of the proposals was presented.*

We shall have to confine ourselves at this point to giving the es-

* For full text of Khrushchev speech and Soviet disarmament proposals, see *Total Disarmament in Four Years*, published by National Council of American-Soviet Friendship. Copies available through NWR, 10 cents each.

sence of the Soviet proposals as summed up by Mr. Khrushchev:

The Soviet Plan

The essence of our proposals is that over a period of four years all states should effect complete disarmament and should no longer have any means of waging war.

This means that armies, navies and air forces shall cease to exist; general staffs and war ministries shall be abolished; military educational establishments shall be closed; dozens of millions of men shall return to peaceful creative labor.

Military bases in foreign territories shall be abolished.

All atomic and hydrogen bombs at the disposal of states shall be destroyed and their further production terminated. The energy of fissionable materials shall be used exclusively for peaceful economic and scientific purposes.

Military rockets of all ranges shall be destroyed and rocket facilities shall remain as a means of transportation and harnessing outer space for the benefit of all mankind.

At the disposal of states there should remain only strictly limited contingents of police (militia) agreed upon for each country, armed with small arms and intended exclusively for maintaining internal order and protecting the personal security of the citizens.

To insure that no one would violate their obligations, we propose the setting up of an international control body comprising all states. There should be initiated a system of control over all disarmament measures which should be created and should function in conformity with the stages by which disarmament should be effected.

We wish to call particular attention to the paragraph just above. It has been constantly stated that the Soviet disarmament plan provides for no control or inspection arrangements until complete disarmament has gone into effect. In Khrushchev's UN speech, in the official text of the Soviet proposal, in elaborations by Soviet leaders since

then, it has been explicitly and unequivocally stated that control measures should be initiated at once and carried out in conformity with each stage of the disarmament process. Valerian Zorin, head of the Soviet delegation at Geneva, has made clear that this includes foreign inspectors on Soviet territory.

It has been further charged frequently that the Soviet Union insisted on an "all or nothing" program. This also is not true. Although the Soviet leaders feel that the only real and final solution can come through complete and universal disarmament, they have expressed their readiness to consider modifications of their own plan, alternative programs from others, and also proposed partial disarmament if agreement on the total program proves impossible. According to Mr. Khrushchev the major steps for such a program should be as follows:

1. The creation of a zone of control and inspection with reduction of foreign troops on the territories of the respective countries of Western Europe;
2. The creation of an atom-free zone in Central Europe;
3. The withdrawal of all foreign troops from the territories of European states and the liquidation of military bases on foreign territories;
4. The conclusion of a non-aggression pact between the NATO member-states and the states party to the Warsaw Treaty;
5. An agreement on the prevention of surprise attack by one state upon another.

The Soviet disarmament plan, despite the negative attitude toward it in some Western circles, immediately won world-wide acclaim among the peoples and support from all socialist and a number of neutral

governments. To show its good faith, the Soviet Government last January announced a further troop cut of 1,200,000 men to help provide a better atmosphere for the disarmament negotiations, bringing its armed forces down to 2,423,000 men. Its program calls for a reduction to 1,700,000 for the United States, the Soviet Union and China in the first stages of the plan for full disarmament.

"For a long time," wrote A. M. Rosenthal in the *New York Times*, March 13, "Washington seemed to have no specific disarmament policy and there was a scramble to put one together in time for Geneva." The idea seemed to be to find something to "counter" the Soviet plan, rather than to work out ways of reconciling East-West differences. General de Gaulle, having terminated the settlers' uprising, then refused negotiations on a cease-fire with the liberation leaders in Algeria, and told French army units it was necessary to achieve a military victory there. Therefore he opposes reduction of French armed forces. These and other differences were finally smoothed out, and the five Western nations submitted their plan as the Disarmament Conference convened. It falls into three parts:

The U.S. Plan

Part I. An International Disarmament Organization (IDO) to be set up following a joint study of the composition, functions and relations to the UN of such an organization. Each country would give prior notification to the IDO of all proposed launchings of space vehicles.

After collection of data on all armaments, and when inspection arrangements have been agreed upon, U.S. and Soviet armed forces would be reduced to 2,500,000 men, with agreed reductions in certain

other states. The nations would place in storage depots in their own territories, under IDO supervision, agreed types and quantities of conventional armaments.

Meanwhile, joint studies would be undertaken—including elaborate verification procedures for each—on the following measures: to insure that no nation placed weapons of mass destruction in outer space; on prior notification of missile launchings, on ceasing manufacture of fissionable materials for weapons and transferring produced fissionable material to non-military uses; to verify budgetary data; on an international organization to prevent aggression [police force]; on extending a disarmament agreement to other states with significant military capabilities, with a view of holding a disarmament conference.

Part II provides for carrying out the steps outlined above after the completion of the studies and the reaching of agreement on them. At this stage, U.S. and USSR armed forces would be reduced to 2,100,000, with reductions [not specified] for other states.

Part III would begin after all the measures outlined in Parts I and II had been put into effect, and after further studies. It would include:

Banning of production of nuclear, chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction, further reduction of stockpiles of all such weapons, and further transfer of fissionable materials to peaceful use, with a view to the final elimination of these weapons; measures to insure the use of outer space for peaceful purposes only; control and final elimination of military missiles; establishment of effective control over military budgets; final reduction of military manpower and armaments and control over all remaining types of armaments to insure their production for internal security purposes alone.

All these measures would be phased to coincide with the establishment of an international police force and the extension of IDO inspection arrangements.

Space does not permit any full analysis of the East and West proposals. We urge our readers to study them carefully, in their full texts and to follow closely the pro-

ceedings at Geneva, and make their own judgments.

Yet it must be noted that the Soviet plan, however it might have to be modified, calls for an exact timetable toward complete and universal disarmament within four years, *with control at every stage*.

The Western plan includes no timetable at all. It calls for such an elaborate and complex study of every step before any single measure of disarmament even begins, and the setting up of such intricate inspection procedures in advance, that any real disarmament, as many commentators have noted, seems to be put off into the far, far future. And even at the end, it is not at all clear how complete disarmament would be.

For if all the nations indeed disarmed, and if the inspection measures to insure compliance were to be as airtight as the West insists they must be, why in the world should an international police force to prevent aggression be needed?

We trust there may be a hopeful augury in the fact that President Eisenhower, in his March 12 letter to Frederick M. Eaton, the Wall Street lawyer who is heading the U.S. delegation at Geneva, emphasized that the United States "is prepared to explore every possible avenue to find a way toward general disarmament."

Concessions, of course, will be needed on both sides if any measure of agreement is to be reached. We feel sure that pressure from the people demanding that at least partial steps toward disarmament be taken, will help to bridge the gap that now exists between the East and West disarmament proposals.

SINCE the above was written, new possibilities of agreement at the nuclear test conference have arisen, arousing new hopes that progress may be made at the disarmament conference as well. As is known, the latest U.S. proposal had been to exempt underground nuclear explosions below the level of the Hiroshima type bomb from any ban, since such tests are considered undetectable. The Soviet Union's first reaction had been a negative one, since their position from the beginning has been a complete ban on all nuclear weapons tests of whatever size. In a move obviously made to clear the way to agreement at both conferences, Mr. Tsarapkin, the Soviet representative, announced at a meeting of the test committee March 19 that the USSR would concur in the U.S. proposal on condition that a moratorium be declared on all underground explosions. In connection with the moratorium, he proposed that joint efforts be undertaken, during an agreed period, to establish satisfactory means of detecting smaller size underground tests. (This plan, incidentally, is one which Britain has supported, although going along with the United States.)

First reactions in Washington were that the Soviet proposal would be "studied carefully," although there were some skeptical remarks, and opposition on the part of Pentagon and AEC officials who want the United States to start a new series of tests.

Those Administration officials who believe that tests should be ended, hailed the latest Soviet proposal as offering real possibilities for negotiating an agreement.

Swords into Plowshares

The Soviet People Call for Disarmament

by **ESLANDA ROBESON**

ON FEBRUARY 15 and 16, a Soviet public conference was held in the Kremlin Theater in Moscow. Delegates from all parts of the Soviet Union and from all walks of Soviet life attended this conference to discuss the most burning question of our time: How to achieve universal disarmament. The Soviet people and their government have set their hearts upon world disarmament. They are convinced that disarmament will bring about a relaxation of tension and diminishing hostility, opening the way to mutual understanding, cooperation, friendship and peace. And, say the practical Russian people, with the money saved on arms, we can all raise the standard of living, and help the underdeveloped countries to develop their own resources.

Mr. Nikolay Tikhonov, Chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee, who is a distinguished poet and writer, opened the conference, and then made a report on "The Soviet People Are for General and Complete Disarmament," which he said, provides a clear way of delivering mankind from the disasters of war. "We are gathered at our conference to discuss a most important problem which evokes anxiety among all humanity, and on whose solution the destiny of peace is hinged," he said. Concluding his speech, Tikhonov said: "All organizations, all movements and all political, public and religious leaders should unite to

work out joint demands and to say their word in defense of peace, liberty, humanism and life against atomic destruction. . . . It is necessary to mobilize for this all efforts, and explain to plain people in all parts of the globe the historic significance of the Soviet proposals on general and complete disarmament. This is the decisive hour for the future of all nations. We hear from everywhere the voice of millions of people demanding an end be put to the threat of war."

Delegates to the conference included gray-haired scientists, young women collective farmers, eminent writers, actors, scholars, trade union leaders, soldiers of the Soviet Army, administrators, a famous Polar explorer, youth leaders, the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, economists, artists, a school-mistress from the Oryol Region who had been an inmate of the Oswiecim concentration death camp. Also present were the Chairman of the Canadian Peace Committee, representatives of the Quakers in the United States, representatives of the World Council of Peace and from peace organizations in many other countries.

The Soviet representatives said that their people had sent them to this conference to say a resounding NO to war. A Marshal of the Soviet Union, a sculptor and many others spoke urgently of the desire of the Soviet people for peace and cooperation with the peoples of the world.

For two days the delegates discussed the efforts which their government had made to achieve disarmament, especially Mr. Khrushchev's proposals of last September to the 14th General Assembly of the United Nations for General and Complete Disarmament, and the new law on another substantial reduction of the armed forces of the USSR by 1,200,000 men, which was adopted by the Supreme Soviet January 15, 1960. The delegates unanimously approved and supported these two major steps toward peace, and urged people in other countries to go and do likewise.

The conference adopted two resolutions as follows:

1. ON THE REDUCTION OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES.

The participants in the Soviet Public Conference on Disarmament fervently and unanimously approve the vital peace move, the law adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet on the reduction of the Soviet armed forces by one-third. The workers, collective farmers, intellectuals, all strata of Soviet society highly appreciate this wise and bold step initiated by the Communist Party and the Soviet Government. . . .

The way to a stable peace lies through general, complete and controlled disarmament. The reduction of armies and expenditures for military purposes, elimination of military bases on foreign territories, termination of nuclear weapon tests everywhere for all time—all these meas-

ures will make it easier to reach agreement on general and complete disarmament for all states. Many millions of soldiers will return to peaceful pursuits. Many thousands of millions of dollars, pounds sterling, francs and rubles will be switched from military budgets to budgets for construction, public education and health services, and for aid to underdeveloped countries. The conference hopes that the Ten-Nation Committee on Disarmament will carry out the United Nations General Assembly resolution on general and complete disarmament and will prepare an international agreement which will create the foundation for the elimination of all means of warfare. . . .

2. ON THE ENDING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS

All people of good will are disturbed by the fact that the powers possessing nuclear weapons have still not concluded an agreement on the banning of all nuclear weapons tests for all time. . . . Public circles in the Soviet Union share the justified indignation of the world public at the atomic weapon test conducted by the French Government in the Sahara in defiance of the Appeal of the United Nations General Assembly. . . . The Soviet public express their sincere hope that the Geneva Conference will reach agreement on the ending of nuclear weapons tests universally and for all time.

"Beat Swords Into Plowshares" is the motto of the day declares *Izvestia* in a leading article (Feb. 18, 1960), reflecting the Soviet people's will to peace.

SOVIET TOURISTS ABROAD

EACH YEAR SOVIET TOURISTS are going to more and more countries. In 1959 some thirty countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and America were visited by tourist groups; for the first time Ghana, Ethiopia and Iraq were included.

In 1960 groups of tourists will go to about forty countries, including for the first time the Sudan, Tunisia, Thailand and Vietnam.

One of the many sea cruises planned is a 45-day cruise from Vladivostok to Odessa with stops in nine countries: Japan, China, Indonesia, Ceylon, India, France, the United Arab Republic, Greece and Turkey.

Tour of Five Cities

We see children at play and at school—visit a nearby collective farm—seek answers on Soviet democracy

by RICHARD MORFORD

A MONTH'S tour of five cities—Moscow, Leningrad, Riga, Kiev and Tashkent—and the near countryside, provides little basis for major conclusions about Soviet life. Yet, as guests of the Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations in each of these cities, Mrs. Morford and I enjoyed extraordinary opportunities. We saw many institutions not on the tourists' sightseeing list; we talked with many leaders and people. We were not diverted by the natural beauty of parks and boulevards in which each city abounds, for we came in the winter-time. We visited in a season when tourist crowds and excitement were missing; we witnessed the normal life of each city and its people. Notwithstanding, it will be wise to take what is said here as impressions of and not conclusions about the Soviet way of life. However, since there are fundamental questions about the Soviet Union in the minds of people, let us regard the impressions as fragments of evidence in answer to these serious questions.

Children—Children—Children!

First, about children and young people.

We went to a New Year's Party

REV. RICHARD MORFORD is Executive Director of the National Council for American-Soviet Friendship. With his wife, Mrs. Aileen Morford, he has recently returned from a Soviet tour.

in the Kremlin in St. George's Hall—the most beautiful hall, I think, I ever saw. Perhaps 2,000 children—the younger ones that day—grades 2, 3, 4, 5—what a beautiful sight—lined both sides of the hall—a great tree in the center. Then at both ends of the hall simultaneous pageants—gorgeous costumes, eager faces and great pride for all these selected participants in a program arranged by the Komsomol. The climax came in a child's pinning a red star on the face of the moon rising high (30 feet perhaps) at the end of the hall. And then as the program concluded the master of ceremonies announced the presence of foreign guests and the Morfords got pulled into the center of the hall by the great tree to be introduced and presented with gifts. A complete surprise! Just us. And I made my best two-sentence speech into the hand microphone, telling the children how happy I was to be there. Indeed, we saw children—children—children all through that holiday period, the best possible introduction to the Soviet Union and one that filled us with present satisfaction and gave supreme confidence concerning the future.

Gradually the American people have come to believe that children are at the center of Soviet life, that "everything" is being done for them. The question is raised by some of our educators (and it is

in the minds of some Soviet educators and citizens): Are the Soviet children being spoiled by the complete, almost overwhelming provisions being made for them?

We visited nurseries and kindergartens. Surely every facility is provided: clean, light rooms, ample play yards, wholesome food, comfortable rest, etc. Good teachers are provided, adequate in numbers and training and, we say, also adequate in their attitudes toward the children, full of understanding and appreciation, yes, warm and loving. In the kindergartens we saw the beginning of training in self-discipline and cooperation in group living. The training was successful: the sharing of toys in happy play; the toys stored neatly when play was done; exemplary eating habits at meal time. In one kindergarten our escort was the Director of Upbringing. To us a strange title but meaningful. One teacher fulfills this role in every kindergarten. We learned sufficiently about the program of upbringing and saw enough of the results to say for ourselves "These children are not being spoiled."

We visited a public school in Moscow: an old building, the classrooms with unadorned walls and obsolete desks. The halls, however, were pleasant with plants, pictures and maps on the walls, exhibits of the children's work, photographs of outstanding activities. When classes were dismissed there was a burst of children into the halls, then huddles of animated conversation. But again there was demonstrated the self-discipline of which we had seen the beginnings in the kindergarten. And now we began to note

as we talked with teachers and students the serious attitudes concerning the studies.

The principal spoke of curricula. What a wide offering in the ten-year school he directs! The basic subjects were there, of course. As the youngster proceeded through the elementary grades, opportunities opened. For example, to begin the study of English or other foreign language. In upper grades, in line with recent educational reforms, the students were being introduced to technical subjects. Class-room instruction is coupled with visits to manufacturing establishments to see at first-hand; even more, to work in these shops for limited hours under the guidance of the regular workers and technical experts. Wherever an interest and a capability shows, there is encouragement. Graduating from this school, the student would have a head start, so to speak, if he chose to take employment in a plant or to proceed with more training in a technical school. To develop thus early an appreciation of the processes of production and of the dignity that belongs to taking one's part in productive enterprises is to reduce the chances that the child may be "spoiled" by manifold opportunities afforded by the educational program.

Opportunities for the enrichment of life abound in the activities of the Palaces of Culture. Sometimes a Palace is exclusively for children, other Palaces serve all ages: both children and their parents attend. What may the youngster do at the Palace by way of self-expression? Handcraft, art, dance, dramatics, sports, etc. The list of choices amazes the visitor. For each ac-

tivity there is a competent instructor, who, under informal arrangements, becomes a companion and friend of each participant. Many activities are organized: they call the organization a "circle." Children share in planning and take on specific responsibilities.

In the Palaces we visited we could see the role of the Young Pioneers, ages 9 to 15. To become a member is to accept responsibility for helping all their classmates, their teachers and their parents; to serve their school and neighborhood; to begin training in leadership. We were thrilled by Natasha, a girl of 14 who was our escort at the Young Pioneers Palace in Leningrad. Of course, she spoke English. She was president of the International Circle, seeking our help in arranging exchanges with corresponding youth groups in the United States. Precisely because of the high standards of membership in the Young Pioneers there is great pride in belonging but this is not the kind of pride that spoils the child.

When the student attends a technical or vocational school after completing the secondary school, there is no tuition. When he enrolls in Institute or University, he pays no tuition. If he is a good student there is a graduated stipend to help with living expenses. What serious students they are! Filling every library. Wherever you turn there is a library with its reading room—in the factory and Palace of Culture as well as in school and university. While studies are in progress, if that seems wise, or when studies are completed, a good paying job is assured in the field of one's training.

By this time the "upbringing," the training in self-discipline and community responsibility which is not a special school subject yet is integral to the whole educational process, has produced a mature person. We talked with a number of students in higher education and employed young people. The student may be a Komsomol member. We know that members in this organization for older young people, the Young Communist League, are not spoiled. The discipline is exacting. The service activities required are strenuous. We saw the results of their leadership in the Kremlin New Year's party—only one of the daily Kremlin parties during a week of celebration! Such parties go on all over the city, many of them under Komsomol leadership. The Komsomol example exerts a salutary influence on non-member youth. The leadership of the Soviet Union tomorrow will be the "graduates" of the Komsomol.

Our impression then, as a result of contacts with Soviet children and youth, is that they are not being spoiled. They appear to appreciate fully and employ well the opportunities which the leaders of their country put before them with self-sacrificing prodigality.

Who Runs the Collective Farms?

Let us try a series of related questions: How far has the process of decentralization in the Soviet Union been developed? Does the local community and the ordinary citizen have a real voice in making plans and decisions or are these all handed down from Moscow? How much real democracy exists?

We offer a bit of evidence gained

from a visit to the May First Collective Farm near Kiev. This is not a show-place collective farm to which tourists are customarily taken. It is just an ordinary farm. Compared with the many giant collective and state farms of the Ukraine, this is a small farm, embracing some 4,000 hectares (one hectare = 2.47 acres) of land providing livelihood for 919 member families. The farm raises the full range of cereals, corn for fodder, flax for industry, vegetables of all kinds. There are 90 hectares in orchards. They have 1,500 head of cattle, an equal number of pigs, 800 sheep. They raise rabbits to sell and produce a large quantity of honey.

We saw part of the farm, walked through the cow barns, were introduced to the dairy maids among whom we met a holder of the Order of Lenin, awarded for superior production of milk from the cows in her care over a period of years. We saw their community center—it was hardly a Palace—an old one-story building with only a few rooms besides the central hall used for meetings of the farmers, for regular movies and for stage presentations. One hundred yards away there was being erected a new Palace of Culture—a two-story brick building which is to have a great many rooms to accommodate varied activities and a large and modern auditorium. The Palace is being built with a portion of the 1959 "profits" of 5,200,000 rubles (20 per cent of net earnings are always set aside for capital investment—new construction, new machinery, etc.). Across the road a long row of new homes is under construction—single family dwellings of good brick.

But all of this has not anything to do with the questions we started with. On second thought, maybe it has! Upon arrival we were met by three stalwarts—the Deputy Chairman of the collective farm, the Bookkeeper (always a top official in a collective) and the Chairman of the Regional Soviet. We sat down in a small administration building to talk. The Deputy Chairman led off but turned to the Bookkeeper for exact information. How proudly he reported the accomplishments of a collective organized by villagers of the area in 1930, lost to them during the Nazi invasion, recovered in 1946 but with the necessity of beginning at scratch once more.

At one point I led with a provocative question: "Who furnishes the production quotas which your farm is required to meet?" "We set the goals *ourselves*, of course," was the reply. My friend and interpreter, Igor Alexandrov, translated without emphasis, but the emphasis put by the farmer was unmistakable. "But," I said, "the total production for this region and for the whole country has to go ever higher. Others are concerned that you do the best you can. So they must have some say in establishing the quota." "Not so," was the reply. "Our member farmers have all the say around here—they get together once a month, sometimes twice—they run the farm. They have been working it a long time. They know how much we can hope to produce. They want it to produce the most it can because this increases their family earnings. If any advice is needed about how to increase production, we turn to our agronomist or to the zoologist—these are well trained men employed

by the farm, our own boys, in fact, they grew up here. No outsiders—we decide for ourselves."

I pressed hard. "But this region, the Republic, and the whole Union has to know how the country's coming out with the crops in a given year. The strength of this society is supposed to lie in its careful, over-all planning. You have to submit your plans to a regional center and regional authorities may not be satisfied with your goals, the way you divide your acreage among the various cereals, the kinds of livestock you choose to raise. What then?"

"Well, of course, we get together with the other farms around. There are meetings of the chairmen among themselves and with representatives of the Republic Ministry of Agriculture. We cooperate in experimentation. We adjust our plans sometimes. But when it comes to a test, we decide for ourselves about the operations of this farm and try to do our part for the good of the whole country."

Once more I tried: "It still remains true that all the problems of agriculture in the Soviet Union are not solved. Far from it. Pre-

mier Khrushchev admits it. And for several years he has been trying to do something about it. He is talking bigger production figures all the time. He and the Minister of Agriculture of the Union must be making up quotas. These get passed down the line, and proportioned, until, in the end, you here on May First farm will be told what you ought to do—what increases you are to match."

"No, that is not the way it works now. We here make the decisions based upon our experience. We lift our goals if we think that by harder work or more efficiency we can produce more. Certainly, we listen to Premier Khrushchev. We respect him—he knows about agriculture—he visits the farms; he has been around the farms in the Kiev region. We want to cooperate with him. But if you are talking about how this May First farm operates, then we say that our own members make the decisions about production quotas and everything else."

By this time I was impressed!

(The second installment of Mr. Morford's report will appear in the next issue of NWR.)

KHRUSHCHEV HAILS RESCUE OF SOVIET SAILORS

PREMIER KHRUSHCHEV sent a message of "deep appreciation" to President Eisenhower for the rescue of four lost and starving Soviet Navy men by a United States aircraft carrier in the Pacific.

The Soviet leader, joining in the acclaim of the rescue in the Soviet press, said he saw in the event "an expression of the friendship that is developing between our two countries."

Mr. Khrushchev also sent a message to Mayor George Christopher of San Francisco. He said the Soviet people would not forget the humanity of the American sailors and the warmth shown them by the people of "your beautiful city of San Francisco."

Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky, the Soviet Defense Minister, also sent a message to Thomas S. Gates, U.S. Secretary of Defense.

—*The New York Times*, March 17.

Wedding in Leningrad

by AILEEN H. MORFORD

AFTER five wonderful days in Moscow, with happy memories of the New Year festivities for children, we took the comfortable overnight train to Leningrad.

Leningrad is the Soviet Union's second largest and second most important city.

It is a beautiful city even in winter with snow falling steadily and adorning the trees. It must be even more beautiful in summer with its myriad parks, flower gardens, rivers and canals.

It is difficult to pick out one thing to write about in a brief time. However, we saw something so new that not very many of you could have seen it. In October, 1959, a new service agency was opened by the City of Leningrad for its citizens—a Palace of Weddings.

The building which houses this agency is, in truth, a palace. It had been the residence of one of the nobility. It was not pretentious in appearance on the outside although fronting on a boulevard running along the banks of the Neva River. But as we stepped inside the door we could see the palace had been restored to its original splendor.

We left our coats, hats and boots in the cloakroom. This is the opening ceremony whenever you enter a building in the Soviet Union in the winter time. We turned from the cloakroom to be greeted by the Director of the Palace who had awaited our coming. I am sorry I do not remember her name; so interesting

were the events that followed I had no time to make the usual entries in my notebook. She was a good looking young woman, tall and blond, attractively dressed in a dark, well-fitted suit. I decided afterward (and I think Dick agreed) that of all the women we met in the Soviet Union she was one of the most attractive. We could see at once that she enjoyed her job!

She took us into the office on the ground floor. Here the young couples come to make application for marriage and for the use of the Palace for the ceremony. The clerks were also good-looking young women, dressed in attractive suits. About six desks were set well apart from each other in a very large and beautifully furnished room. There is always at least one week's interval from the time of application to the wedding day, which serves as a thinking-over period in case either one or both wish to change their minds.

From the office we went with the director up the red-carpeted, marble staircase to the first floor. There we saw the well-filled shop where young people or their friends purchase gifts and flowers for the wedding. Then we saw the bride's room; next the groom's room. Then we entered a reception room which provides facilities for those attending the ceremony to make their toasts to the happy couple and enjoy a buffet if they wish, prepared and served by regularly employed attendants. We knew, of course, that a second cele-

bration would shortly follow in the parents' homes. I should tell you that the facilities of the Palace itself, apart from the gifts or flowers or food, are entirely free.

From the reception room we went into the main hall where the ceremony takes place. It was the ballroom of the old palace—a beautiful room—high-ceilinged with crystal chandeliers, French windows from floor to ceiling at one end, looking out upon the river, a parquet floor in elaborate patterns.

At the opposite end of the room from the windows there was a low platform across the entire width on which stood a long table and several chairs. The only other furniture in the room were gold chairs around the edge of the hall. A rich appearing rug in oriental pattern well out from the platform clearly marked the place where the young couple would stand for the ceremony.

We were invited to remain as two couples were about to come in to be married. We were introduced to a Deputy of the City Soviet. He was serving as assistant to the Director for the day. Deputies of the City Soviet take turns doing this, a day at a time. The Deputy said he enjoyed this part of his city job very much. He told with great pride that he was a simple man, a worker, a turner in a small-tools factory. His father had been a peasant. He was happily married and had been for many years. There were two married children.

The Director and the Deputy took their places on the platform. The first couple came, arm-in-arm, followed by family and friends. I was interested to note the traditional white dress and veil and the bouquet

carried by the bride. The couple took their places before the platform. A few words were spoken by the Director indicating the legal obligations that were being undertaken. The couple moved to the platform and there signed the marriage register of the city and returned to their place. The Deputy came down from the platform and after the young couple had exchanged rings, he spoke to them quietly and briefly. And it was all over. The newlyweds left amid tears and kisses as newlyweds do the world around.

The second couple were students from Leningrad University—the bride a Korean student. They were accompanied by perhaps a dozen or more fellow students as well as the groom's relatives. This couple seemed to touch the feelings of the Deputy even more than the previous pair. He appeared to talk to them more earnestly and longer and when he turned to go back to the platform he had tears in his eyes. Our interpreter and companion, Igor Alexandrov, a newlywed young man himself, said that the Deputy's remarks to each couple—as a father to a son and daughter—were very beautiful.

We were deeply impressed. The Palace of Weddings is clearly an answer to a need. Simple registration which is all the law requires is not enough. There should be a ceremony where obligations can be undertaken in a solemn (and we would say sacred) way in a setting of beauty. The idea has taken hold. We are told that in Moscow preparations are now under way for three such Palaces of Weddings and that other cities are likely to follow suit. We think it is a most commendable development in the Soviet Union.

For a Humanist Approach

Reflections on Soviet Justice

by PAVEL NILIN

THOUGH insignificant in the commotion of a large city, an incident in Lvov some years ago led to distressing consequences.

Two young fellows just out of the Navy were walking down the street in a somewhat buoyant frame of mind. Just where they were going and why is not exactly known. What is known, however, is that one of them suddenly saw fit to run across the street at a point where people were not supposed to cross and was at once quite justly detained by a militiaman who said: "Pay the fine or come to the militia station." [For safety, in Soviet cities as in some in the USA, there are fines for jaywalking.—Ed.]

Unwilling to do the one or the other, the young man offered resistance. This was not a wise thing to do, of course, for the militiaman got his whistle out to call for aid. The result was a fight which embroiled the second sailor.

It goes without saying that the second young man, Sasha by name, had acted more wisely than the first, since the militiaman had threatened neither with dire punishment. Unfortunately, Sasha had too literally assimilated the rules of friendship

and etiquette impressed on him in the Navy by some voluntary mentor ("Stick to your chum through thick and thin!"), and felt obliged to get hastily into the brawl, without reflection.

And with equal haste and as little reflection the court sentenced Sasha to five years imprisonment for "resisting the authorities." Nor could one deny that such resistance had actually occurred, and that was something which called for punishment in any country.

Things would have been quite different if a really thoughtful and well-meaning Soviet judge, armed not only with a knowledge of the laws, but also with common sense, could have examined the "essence" of this "resistance to the authorities," and gauged the social danger presented by such a young fellow, the miner's son who had just finished five years of honest service with the Navy. Such a judge no doubt would have found the proper law to fit the punishment to the crime.

When a judge under Soviet conditions sentences a man, and particularly a young man, to imprisonment, he ought not only to be guided by a high sense of official, but also of human responsibility for the destiny of the person he is sending to prison; for neither the prison nor the work colony is the best place to rear and educate a man. The inmates gathered there are by no

PAVEL NILIN is one of the important younger Soviet writers. His novel *Cruelty*, published in this country as *Comrade Venka* in 1959, was widely acclaimed because of its splendid combination of stirring action, lyrical style, and searching concern for moral problems.

means the best representatives of mankind. In spite of anything the prison authorities can do, the inveterate criminals can sometimes mold a young man who has fallen among them for some comparatively small crime into a hardened enemy of society, capable of serious crimes in the future.

I have heard that many work colonies and prisons have their own libraries, amateur art groups, and lecturers nowadays; and these, no doubt, exercise a favorable influence on the inmates. But a prison, for all that, remains a prison with all its cheerless characteristics despite clean cells, steam-heating and the other conveniences recently so eloquently described in the newspapers by an acquaintance of mine. His description of a certain prison was so tantalizing (the place seemed better than any rest-home I had ever heard of) that I telephoned him and asked if he was not reserving a cot in that place for himself just to be on the safe side. "No!" he laughed. "I'm not at all tempted!"

And Sasha, the ex-sailor, was not at all tempted either. Though kept in a well-arranged work colony he was harassed by a sense of injury until he escaped. Soon caught, however, he received an additional sentence and was sent to a place of stricter custody. When he escaped once more and was caught again, the authorities had every *formal* reason to regard him as a dangerous criminal.

Strangely enough, none of the court officials who lengthened Sasha's sentence and transferred him to stricter custody cared to recall just how it all began, just what lay behind the initial crime.

This was recalled only when

Sasha wrote a letter to Elena Dmitriyevna Stassova.

This veteran Communist was the first to grow anxious over the destiny of the young stranger. Writing to him, and carefully investigating the case, she sent books to him in prison, heartened him as well as she could, urged him not to worry and keep calm until she could induce the authorities to reconsider the sentence.

The young man was released before he finished his term. He was freed, moreover, not only because of Elena Stassova's intercession, but because many things have taken a definite turn for the better in the life of the Soviet people in the past few years. It is not the showy appeal to solicitude for man, but true humanity that figures increasingly in our realities and social relations.

One cannot help welcoming this, of course. Nor can one help rejoicing over the fact that our public and our social leaders of every degree have been persistently penetrating administrative affairs. It is noteworthy that a series of the functions of the State institutions are coming gradually under the jurisdiction of social organizations, that the struggle against the lawbreakers has come to concern not only the militia, the prosecutor, and the court, but also the citizens at large, and that the problem of regenerating the miscreants has more and more frequently come up for public discussion.

We Communists firmly believe in the victory of the good in man, and have introduced the boldest social ideas on the strength of this. And that, too, is why we believe that crime will not accompany the development of society forever.

Nikita Khrushchev has said that no one is any longer brought to trial on political charges in the Soviet Union. To this one should add that crime of the scale and nature of two or three decades ago is unknown in the Soviet Union now. Organized crime, though centuries old, has been swept away by powerful social factors. Gone are its subdivisions of killers, house-breakers, purse-snatchers, etc., with their hide-outs, little kings, thieves' jargon, and even folklore. Crime as a profession and theft as a specialty have vanished from the Soviet Union.

No normal person in a country where social inequality has been eradicated and the very word "unemployment" is forgotten will turn to theft as a profession, risking the wretched danger of discovery from hour to hour, when he can freely choose any honest trade or profession he likes.

In other words, we no longer have soil fertile for crime. Yet we still have crime, though it might have disappeared if not for general catastrophes such as war.

Although we no longer have any professional gangs or thieves' organizations of which there were so many before the revolution, we still have criminal elements.

The criminals even attempt to organize from time to time to make a big "kill." They make the best of the stupidity, laziness, inexperience, or complacency of those obliged to safeguard the people's property. They avail themselves of a shortage of some type of goods to engage in speculation. This may be seen at the furniture shops, for instance, where the enormous demand for furniture, stimulated by our vast

housing construction, is greater than the supply. Before the lucky tenant of a new flat can buy the wardrobe or table he needs he must often slip a bribe to the salesman. There are still plenty of crevices, alas, where parasitic elements can find shelter.

Nearly every day the newspapers stress how important it is to stop a man in time when he has strayed from the right path, and give him the chance to regain his bearings.

At the same time a great deal is still being written about crime in former days. The authors of these books seem unable to resist giving a poetic view of the thief. This is particularly true of those authors who write about how thieves used to be in the first years of the revolution or during the NEP (New Economic Policy) period, eloquently describing their fearlessness and ingenuity. The reader could almost shed a tear that such valiant scoundrels no longer exist!

Other books deal of course with the reform of criminals, and there is no denying that some of these have played a constructive role. But some of this writing often includes an attitude verging on tenderness for the criminal who stole and stole until he was kind enough to reform. This unfortunate attitude can be found in a number of books and newspaper articles today. Is there any need to add that this kind of tenderness has nothing at all to do with the policy of the Communist Party, of the Soviet State, and the humanism of socialist society?

We should realize that we are not relaxing, but intensifying the struggle against the lawbreakers. The whole of Soviet society is taking a growing part in this.

The application of new and flexible methods of regeneration in the struggle against the lawbreakers does not imply the renunciation of compulsion wherever necessary.

That which was humane and wise with regard to a man who slipped up accidentally, a man like Sasha let us say, must not be allowed to prevent the punishment of the confirmed criminal, since this would keep him from the realization of his guilt, and in some cases free his hands for fresh crimes.

Our country, as it stands today, was not ushered in with brass bands. It came as the result of the all-out effort of the people, at the cost of great deprivations and sacrifices. And it goes without saying that the figure of the man who has honestly contributed his labor to the common cause all his life is a far more sympathetic and dearer image to us, the readers and citizens, than that of the thief, even thrice-reformed. But we do not say that the reformed criminal should be constantly reminded of his shady past to his dying day; indeed we heartily endorse all manner of aid to the ex-thief who has chosen to travel on honest path.

However, the idea of justice and kindness, advocated by the Communist Party in defense of those who have made a misstep on the intricate paths of life must not be discredited through Philistine sentimentality or condescending generosity which always see-saws from one extreme to the other.

Having said and written so much about the regeneration of those who have been tried or are now facing trial, we ought to give some thought to the growing role of those called upon to pass judgment, to those who

have been entrusted with this most responsible process by the State.

I do not, of course, think that our judges are incompetent, but I cannot help recollecting the judge whom I saw at work in a people's court in Moscow. A comparatively young man who had prematurely lost his hair, he astonished me by his lowering looks and jerky, nervous movements. Everything about him and everything he said or did seemed to imply that he had more important business elsewhere and was in an awful hurry. He would interrupt the accused, the witnesses, and the counsel, before they could really say anything, as though he had quite made up his mind about the sentence anyway.

"He's a fearful judge, he is!" said an old woman hugging a bottle of milk in the event of a recess for lunch. "You can't get out of his clutches, you can't!" she went on with an air which could pass equally for glee or censure. "He sends them all to prison, all of them!" She was evidently a habitual onlooker at the courts.

It occurred to me later that the same judge would probably dump everyone out of prison just as hastily and with as little discrimination if he were ordered to do so, for behind that lowering glare of his I could easily discern indifference—deadliest indifference to the fate of those who filed by the long table of the court, and the three tall chairs with the carved backs (the chairs of the judge and the two jurymen or people's assessors).

And yet how important it is, how important to the state indeed, that our judges should neither glare nor hurry, that they should give them-

selves all the time they need to look thoroughly into the case at hand and study the man behind it in all the complexity of his personal life, work and social ties.

It is absolutely imperative that they determine very precisely and with an eye to all the circumstances just whom they should not punish too severely to avoid breaking his spirit, or to whom they should provide the opportunity to earn the confidence of society through labor in the place of custody.

It is important that young fellows, who are not essentially bad but have slipped up and found themselves on trial, should be able with the aid of the court to look confidently and without fear to their native state, knowing that it will never punish them without cause

nor ever prove indifferent to their fate.

But he who thinks approximately as follows—"I'll keep stealing for a while, and when I've had enough I'll reform"—ought to understand that the judge has no right to be big-hearted at the expense of the people's welfare, and that the state is obliged to protect the peace of the population with even the severest means at its disposal. Such people should realize that the workers' state that came through the gravest difficulties, stood the test of the most harrowing of wars, and emerged in outer space in spite of everything, is capable of courage and kindness, but will never tolerate cynicism or maudlin sentimentality.

(Translated from *Literaturnaya Gazeta*.)

A JAIL WITHOUT INMATES

WHENEVER I COME TO PINSK I take time out to stroll through the quiet streets of this West-Byelorussian little town.

The other day I was walking through Brest Street. I passed the House of Culture, a boarding school under construction, retail shops and residential houses. As you proceed away from the center of the city, the houses grow smaller, they have front gardens and shine with gay, clean windows.

Presently I came to a building with grim, barred windows. I opened a screeching door and found not a soul in the guard room. I opened the door into the yard and there, too, there was no one.

Crossing the yard, I met a militiaman in front of what looked like an office building. I showed him my press card.

"You want to see the jail?" he asked, and volunteered to take me around the place.

"This is the punishment cell. Here the inmates had their daily walks. There is the bathhouse. Farther away is the doctor's office and the library."

As we walked through the depressing corridors, the militiaman told us that the jail was built in 1900, that under the rule of the Polish capitalists and landlords it was frequently used to imprison revolutionaries.

Later, talking to the Secretary of the Pinsk Party Committee, I was told that in the early years after the war bandits and criminals were kept in the jail. With the liquidation of the aftermath of the war and with the increasing well-being of the people, most cells had become empty.

"Lately," the Party Secretary went on to tell me, "when the public began to fight seriously against crime and hooliganism, the entire jail became empty. So we decided to close it. We intend to hand over the building to one of the new local-industry enterprises."

—From *Izvestia*, March 3, 1960.

Overseas Chinese Come Home

by ANNA LOUISE STRONG

*Cocanut Villas, Hainan Island,
China.—*

THE recent signing of the Treaty on Dual Nationality between China and Indonesia calls attention to the plight of many millions of Chinese who live in the various lands of South Asia and the South Seas.

Some have lived there many centuries, for Chinese began adventuring into the South Seas 2,000 years ago. Larger numbers went in the great trading days of the Ming Dynasty. But by far the greater number were kidnapped off the China Coast fifty to a hundred years ago and sold as slaves to the tin mines and plantations owned by European nations in colonies which have since become free.

These people survived, married, brought up families and remained Chinese, always seeking ties with their homeland. They maintained Chinese schools, Chinese banks, Chinese community relief. They kept up interest in China's politics. They are still today listed by China in her population statistics and have representatives in the governing body of China, the National Congress.

ANNA LOUISE STRONG, world famous correspondent and author of many books on the USSR, China and our own country, has been visiting in China for over a year. Last summer she visited Tibet with a group of correspondents, among whom she was the only American—and the only woman.

That they were and are an asset to the lands in which they live is undoubted. Industrious, frugal, thrifty, they are good family people, looking after their young and their aged. Whether as traders or as industrial slaves, they helped build the basic economy, the mines and plantations in most of the southern seas. Yet, as aliens they pose a problem, becoming the scapegoats for the tensions in any society where they live. They have been persecuted and even massacred in one land after another.

The problem is complicated by the rise of new independent nations in South Asia, and by the conflict of allegiance among Chinese, to Peking or to Taiwan. Chinese fall under a contradictory attack as "Communists" and as "exploiting capitalists." It has happened in Malaya, Thailand, the Philippines: just now it is Indonesia. Let no Americans think that these lands are sinners above America. We also, a hundred years ago, imported thousands of underpaid Chinese to build railroads and mines, and threw them out when various interests did not want them any more. It is, moreover, taken for granted today in South Asia that Washington's energetic "contain China" crusade does nothing to lessen the present attacks—and something to stir them up.

Most Indonesians deny that there is any "anti-Chinese drive," and add "if the Chinese obey the laws." It is true that there is no official con-

certed action, and no explicitly anti-Chinese laws have been passed. But there are laws banning retail trade in rural districts by aliens, whose object is specifically to sweep away tens of thousands of small shops and peddler's packs owned by Chinese. Their enforcement at times means burning homes and collecting large numbers of their owners in concentration camps. Laws on education are passed whose effect is to close Chinese schools. Laws on foreign residents' tax, applicable to individual well-to-do foreigners, impose on Chinese tin miners and unemployed and aged dependents debts for more than they ever owned, and bar free movement until they pay. Another law suddenly closes the big Chinese bank that financed the business and welfare work of Chinese communities.

If these drives have not reached even more extreme proportions, it is partly because the Chinese have a strong and very self-controlled government close at hand in Peking, which is determined to be friendly to the nations in the southern seas. Even after listing a series of anti-Chinese actions in Indonesia, any responsible leader of the Commission for Overseas Chinese will tell you—as one told me: “The anti-Chinese action is only a provocation by a small section of the people, chiefly those who want to turn attention away from the economic invasion by the Western imperialists. Between China and Indonesia has existed a deep friendship for more than fifteen hundred years.”

This remains the official view which China will hold, as between states. But for the Chinese living in Indonesia, the anti-Chinese ac-

tions still exist. So the Peking Government gives considerable thought to analyzing the sources of friction and to working out solutions in treaties. It frankly suggests that Chinese who by long residence feel that their future lies in Indonesia should apply for Indonesian citizenship and, if accepted, drop participation in China's affairs. That those who decide to remain Chinese will get normal consular protection but should not protest Indonesian laws, and get out if they cannot conform. That Chinese who have become homeless and jobless or for other reasons wish to leave Indonesia and are without means, will be brought back to China with Chinese Government help if they desire.

The analysis is clear and useful. It is a beginning, but only a beginning. For Chinese who apply for Indonesian citizenship have thus far been refused. And when China suggests, as she does, that men who have given a lifetime of work to build industries in Indonesia should be allowed to take their money back to China or that if such men, after a lifetime of labor, are now destitute, the Indonesian Government also should help them and not put financial barriers in their way, then Indonesia will not very readily agree. Thus far, Chinese leaving Indonesia must expect to abandon any money they possess.

The promise of the Chinese Government to bring them home again still stands, and more than 300,000 Overseas Chinese have come back to China in recent years from various lands, and been received and cared for by the Commission for Overseas Chinese.

A top level commission for re-

ceiving these repatriates is set up with provincial sub-committees in the four southern provinces: Kwangtung, Kwangsi, Yunnan and Fukien, from which most of the Overseas Chinese went, mostly fifty to a hundred years ago as contract labor slaves. A program of ships, ports, hostels, state farms and other outlets is being worked up. Canton is the main reception port, but Swatow, Chankiang and Haiko are also being provided with hostels, schools, hospitals, etc., for the refugees. Six ships were sent to Djakarta this February; the first returned to Canton on the 25th, to Whampoo port, but the river into Canton city is being widened for ocean-going ships.

Canton's hostel now accommodates 1,500 at a time; three other places are being arranged to raise the facilities to 5,000; and the other three ports will more or less duplicate this. The present hostel is a big compound with four or five big dormitory buildings, each three stories high with porches ten feet wide, where the mothers hang out the children's laundry in greater profusion than New York tenements ever saw. When I was there a group of 40, mostly mothers and children, arrived the previous evening, had clearly been washing up from the ten-day steorage trip. The usual stay in the hostel is about a week. Those who have relatives or home villages move more quickly; others sign questionnaires, listen to lectures on opportunities and move out to jobs.

Hainan Island prepares to accept 40,000 this year; now that two great drives have brought the malaria under control, Hainan thinks its

population of three million can be easily raised to 10 million, but not too fast. Skeleton state farms have already been set up with some dormitories and some rubber trees and nurseries, to give the colonists a start. The arriving crowds get welcomed by dinners and fleets of autos, a welcome no immigrants had before. Which does not mean that their lives will be easy; reclaiming jungles is hard work.

So let us take a trip to Shinlung Farm, a large state farm on Hainan Island where 700 Chinese deported in 1951 from British Malaya pioneered in reclaiming a malaria-infested jungle.

I visited Shinlung because I had been spending some weeks in a cocoanut grove on the southern tip of Hainan Island resting up from last summer's trip to Tibet. And there being little to do but swim in the warmest and bluest of oceans, and watch for the sea breeze to bring down a cocoanut from a tree, I decided to drive some eighty miles north to Shinlung to see its festivities on the Chinese New Year's Day, now more commonly called Spring Festival to distinguish it from the other New Year's which Chinese also celebrate.

After watching the young people at their sports, dancing and singing, I talked at some length with the director who came in 1955 from Thailand, and learned that Shinlung Farm grows over a hundred kinds of crops, mostly tropical. It has 24,000 arable acres, of which less than ten thousand have been developed.

Shinlung Farm, he explained, has a dual nature and a dual leadership. It is a self-supporting and profit-

making state enterprise, under direction of the Hainan Island Department of Cultivation. It is also a relief project under direction of the Commission for Overseas Chinese. The Commission contributes welfare and relief funds and its demands take precedence.

"As a state enterprise," said the director, "it might be more profitable to concentrate on a few crops instead of having so many. But we have people from many areas and we want, if possible, to give each of them the kind of job he likes and is skilled in. In addition to our crops, we have fifteen factories. We have also a fishing colony by the sea, where a hundred people live, with two motor boats, two large sailing boats and six rowboats."

The story of how the colony began was told me by one of the actual founders, Dan Tsai, a thin, energetic, intelligent man of fifty who came in 1951 with the first group from Malaya, and is now manager of one of the farm's five "cultivation districts." The British in Malaya had burned their villages, confiscated their meager belongings, put the people in jail and then in concentration camps for over two years and finally driven them out.

"What did they charge you with?" I asked.

"Communism," he replied. "Anyone that had fought the Japanese or belonged to a trade union was called a Communist. If you felt pride in China's new national independence, that was enough to confirm the charge. They found me guilty on all these counts, kept me in jail nine months, in a camp two years, and then sent me out. The Chinese Government paid our fares."

By the time they had been met in Canton and taken to the hostel of the Overseas Chinese Commission, and all persons who had relatives or local connections had gone where they wanted to go, there were 700 refugees from Malaya who chose to pioneer in the land development that set up Shinlung State Farm.

It was October of 1951 when they began planting. In 1952 there came drought, then flood, then a typhoon that destroyed all the first year's crops. Some of the colonists grew discouraged. But when relief came from the government, nearly all decided to stay. The first year they worked as individual families. In September, 1952, they formed a collective farm. Later it became a state farm, because of the extent of state participation through the Commission for Overseas Chinese. People kept coming from overseas until now there were 6,700 people. They have offered to take 4,000 more this year.

"Are you better off than in Malaya?" I asked. Dan Tsai grinned.

"I myself," he answered, "am several times as well off as manager of a cultivation section of the farm at fifty a month wages, with housing and food all very cheap, and medical care and education free, than I was as a tin miner in Malaya in the depression! But we have people here whose housing and wages are not as good as they had abroad. Nonetheless, they are very glad to be here. Here you are secure and have a future. You are in your own land. Nobody persecutes you. Your children get education. In Malaya all I could manage was to get my oldest son through six years of primary school. Now he is studying commerce in Canton, and my second

son is studying animal husbandry."

On the way out of Shinlung I stopped at the Old Folks Home. I had asked to see an old man just arrived from Indonesia. I was met by all the twenty-two members of the home, lined up on a big second-story porch. It was their parlor, very large and spacious, with doors that could open it to all breezes or turn off the northern wind. They had gathered to await a delegation of youth that had not yet come.

I turned to the man I had come to see, Tang Ba, who had been sold from China to the Dutch tin mines as a slave many decades ago, and had worked in the mines till they threw him out as over age at 55, and had then lived by odd jobs in fisherman's labor to the age of 73. Then he was fired again as too old and, having no relatives, he went to the Chinese Embassy and was sent back to China. He told them he thought he would like the climate of Hainan so they sent him to Hainan. In Hainan they told him he was too old to live by himself and should go to Shinlung where there was an Old Folks Home.

It seemed very simple the way he told it. "But didn't you have a residence tax to pay before you could leave?" I asked. He said the residence tax got paid with six months' wages. I asked how he ever got six months' wages at once. "I never did," he said.

Then he explained that the "capitalist" he worked for had taken his wages for six months and paid the tax with it, giving him meantime a little "rice money." At the end of six months when his tax was paid and he thought he would begin to get wages, they fired him. The employer had kept him only to get the tax paid, for which the employer was also liable. The Chinese Government had brought him all the way to Shinlung and found him a home.

The sound of drums and bugles interrupted us, and the old folks left me and rushed to the second-floor railing to see a long file of young folks with drums and banners swing down the road and into the Old Folks yard. The leader of the column advanced, put a very large bunch of very loud firecrackers on the ground, lit them and stepped back while they went off with loud noises.

At this point everyone began to throw firecrackers—the young folks from their now-broken ranks and the old folks from the railing above—in the traditional greeting of New Year's Day. The young people moved towards the stairs.

I never knew if they made any speeches. I knew that I had ceased to be the guest of honor and that it was time to go. I ducked out fast between the firecrackers. I think it was the first place in China where nobody saw me off.

FROM SQUAW VALLEY TO MOSCOW

LEV KASSIL, one of the Soviet Union's most popular writers, telephoned *Pravda*, the Communist Party paper in Moscow, last night from the Winter Olympic meeting at Squaw Valley to say:

"Never has this part of the earth been so excitingly beautiful as now. And the reason for this is the wonderfully sunny atmosphere of friendship which seems more pure than mountain air."

—*New York Times*, March 1.

The Art of Longevity

by DR. YURI SPASSOBUKOTSKY

THE WHOLE WORLD knows that every condition has been created in the USSR for long and full life. We are so accustomed to this fact that we sometimes begin to ignore its significance. And yet the battle of longevity is far from won.

The first problem to be settled once and for all is the normal duration of a man's life.

Does it really fluctuate from 100 to 150 years? And if so, is the human life span of 100 to 150 years a natural phenomenon or merely an exception to the rule?

In this regard one may point to the many cases of extreme longevity cited in the press. But the question is, how accurate are the ages of the people described? And—exactly how many of them are there in the Soviet Union? Perhaps their number is too limited to be taken into serious account?

We can trust only those records of longevity that are based on certificates of birth or whose salient points dovetail with the historical events of the given period. Sometimes a centenarian's age can be established from the documents of his close relatives. A disregard of these points fre-

quently leads to highly sensational but erroneous stories of people living to the age of 140, 150, 160 and over, without any solid data to bear them out.

In giving extreme longevity the benefit of the doubt, many have gone to the other extreme and questioned the limits to life generally, proceeding from the scientifically established fact of the continuous repair of old and decaying elements in the living body. They say: "Cannot medicine make this process of repair eternal?"

It is true that the process of degeneration and repair continues unceasingly within the living body. Suffice it to say that every 24 hours, billions of erythrocytes (red blood corpuscles) are completely destroyed and replaced by new ones.

Basing themselves upon careful estimates, some scientists abroad have drawn the conclusion that the human body undergoes a complete change every seven years.

However, the process of repair in the body grows weaker with time, and is limited. The body develops in set stages—from childhood, youth, maturity, and advanced age to senility. If the tissues of the body are capable of being repaired, the central nervous system regulating the functions of the body are not endowed with this capacity. This has been ignored by the scientists who speak of the full repair of the human body every seven years. It is on the aging of the central nervous system that the aging of the body depends.

DR. YURI SPASSOBUKOTSKY is a professor at the Bogomolets Physiological Research Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Science in Kiev. The author of more than seventy research articles, Dr. Spassobukotsky heads the work on problems of longevity and the biological application of active substances that enhance the vitality of an organism.

Still unsolved is the problem of whether the division into natural (physiological) and premature (pathological) senility is justified. Many maintain that there is only one senile period—the one which we are accustomed to witnessing—beginning at the age of 60 and ending anywhere between 70 and 80. Life beyond these limits is regarded by the advocates of this contention as an exception, all the more so that up to the present, recorded cases of longevity have been few and far between, and therefore of an allegedly chance character.

Before World War II, the A. A. Bogomolets Institute of Physiology under the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences made an investigation of the centenarians living in the Caucasus. After the war, this investigation was carried over to the Ukraine, and has recently been completed, with the exception of the Crimean Region.

As a result, records of extreme longevity cases (from the age of 90) were drawn up and filed. At present there are 11,000 men and women over the age of 90 residing in the Ukraine, and not 40,000 as the press would have us believe. Of these 1,145 are over 100 years of age, and of the 1,145 about 100 are over 110 years of age. The oldest is 120 years old.

A careful analysis of the data collected shows that natural (physiological) senility is an indubitable fact: the 11,000 men and women of 90, 100 and over are not an exception but a natural phenomenon. This is convincingly substantiated by the fact that our longevity cases were found not in a single locality, but distributed evenly throughout

the different regions and districts of the Ukraine (an average of 15-19 per district).

Strange as it may seem, the question sometimes arises of whether man profits by illness. It is maintained, for instance, that sickness tends to fortify or "train" the defensive facilities of the body. Our longevity cases refute this viewpoint. Their defensive mechanisms have required no special "training" to provide for a normal existence.

But can a man who has been sick reach a very old age? He can, although such cases are less probable. Of decisive significance here is the state of the nervous system, i.e. the vitality of the most important organs, and the environment and mode of living.

The question always arises as to who lives longer—men or women? Our Ukrainian files show that 74 per cent of the extreme longevity cases are women and the remaining 26 per cent men. This ratio is true for the majority of the regions and districts investigated.

As we have pointed out, the longevity cases are distributed evenly in all the localities of the Ukraine, a fact that proves that the climatic conditions do not play a decisive role, although it is believed that wooded and wood-and-steppe districts are conducive to longevity.

It is highly interesting to determine the strata of the population which produces the most centenarians.

Our files tell us that some 90 per cent come from rural districts. It must be remembered, however, that for a long time the rural inhabitants comprised the main mass of

our population. Centenarians of various professions are to be found among the urban residents as well. Moreover, it has been discovered that a good many of them are scientists and writers. The latter fact has led some to think that highly-developed mental capacities are a paramount condition for longevity, since they testify to the perfection of the central nervous system and its state of activity. However, the data in our possession show that the state of activity of the nervous system, its high tone, is determined not only by mental, but also by creative work of any kind.

Thus, we see that centenarians hail from town and village alike. Naturally, we have them in Kiev as well—hundreds of men and women of the age of 80 and over, and dozens of the age of 90 and over. This ratio is to be found everywhere. That is why we have found it necessary to regard only those who have reached the age of 90 as extreme longevity cases. Here are a few facts about some of them:

Dmitri E. Malinsky was born in 1849, in the Poltava Region, Reshilo District. A farmer, he spent his whole life in the village of Belokon. He was never ill, and showed the first signs of senility only at the age of 70. He has always liked his work, and still does light jobs, "to the best of his ability." His hearing is unimpaired and he does not need eyeglasses.

Domna V. Marchenko of Kiev was born in 1854. She worked on a farm most of her life, and only recently came to live with her daughter in Kiev. She has never been sick and has always been active. Now

too she finds things to do about the house at all times. She has many descendants, including a great-great-granddaughter. Her two sons Ivan and Pyotr, 87 and 85, respectively, are still alive and working.

Our files include the case of Maria A. Kuropteva of Kiev. Born in 1845, she has been an urban resident and housewife her whole life long. She was never sick, but at the age of 104 was successfully operated on for volvulus.

Since Vassily E. Tolokonin is only 81, we have not included him in our files. But we consider him a candidate for extreme longevity. He is a locomotive engineer, and though he has ailed from time to time, he has led a very active life. At present he is a pensioner, with many social duties.

We also have data relating to Boris Y. Bukreyev of Kiev, one of our long-living scientists—a record-breaker in fact, since he is 100 years old and still heads the chair of higher geometry at the Kiev State University, reads lectures, and carries on a lot of organizational work. On the occasion of his centenary and many years of fruitful work, Professor Bukreyev was awarded an Order of the Red Banner of Labor.

Professor Bukreyev works at home as well, writing textbooks for students. He is one of those about whom it is said that his senility is active and profitable to society.

What, then, are the chief prerequisites of longevity?

Heredity is a positive factor, but not an essential one. Our records show that this factor is found in only 20 to 25 per cent of the longevity cases.

A more important role is played by the individual peculiarities of the body and the influence of its environment—i.e., the active state of the nervous system and the active mode of living. Typical too is the calmness of the nervous system—a quiet character.

All of our centenarians testify to having worked intensively their whole life, but they liked their jobs and were never exhausted by them. Outdoor active life is a powerful factor. It must be noted that historical and scientific data show that

lazy people have never lived to a grand old age.

Fresh food in moderate quantities at regular hours, a systematized mode of life, and no drinking or smoking make for longevity.

To sum up, it depends to a great extent on the person himself whether all these means for longevity are taken advantage of.

It is for this reason that we believe that the art of prolonging life is the art of not cutting it short. One must know both how to work and how to rest.

SOVIET CARS TO BE SOLD IN THE U.S.A.

UNDER A NEW 2-YEAR AGREEMENT, the Soviet trade organization Autoexport will deliver Moskvich bantam cars to Andrea Motors, Inc., Syracuse, New York. Five thousand cars—half the consignment on which the agreement was concluded—will be supplied in the first year.

In connection with the agreement P. A. Gritchin, president of Autoexport, made the following statement:

I am happy that together with Mr. Robert Castle, president of Andrea Motors, I have had the honor to sign this agreement, which I consider one of the first steps toward large-scale Soviet-American trade.

After signing the agreement Mr. Castle remarked: "Not only does my firm or yours stand to gain from this deal, the profits from this agreement will be placed to the account of consolidating peace and good-neighbor relations between our countries!"

The little Moskvich-407 is thus paving the way to better mutual understanding between the Soviet and American peoples. We, the two parties to the agreement, are confident that other agreements and contacts will soon follow. I think that this confidence stems from the ever greater recognition of Soviet technical successes by the Americans.

Soviet goods are widely known abroad. The Moskvich, in particular, is exported to more than thirty countries, including Finland, Iraq, Austria, China, Iceland, Norway, Greece and Afghanistan. At the Soviet exhibition in New York this car attracted the attention of business quarters of the United States, Canada and other countries of the American continent. The Moskvich has been praised at the current car exhibition in Miami, Florida.

The Moscow Bantam Car Works which manufactures these machines is a modern enterprise with up-to-date techniques. After visiting it, the president of Andrea Motors, Inc., said he was greatly impressed with the perfection of the technological process and also the quality inspection, especially the control from operation to operation.

Autoexport provides its clients with a wide choice. We are prepared to broaden our business contacts, to sell cars, trucks and special-purpose automobiles, road-building machinery, tractors, farm machinery, equipment for garages, and many other items, including planes and helicopters of the latest make.

The Teahouse of Nether Borsch

by V. BEZORUDKO

NETHER BORSCH is a one-teahouse township but the fame of that one teahouse extends "from Kiev to Carpathians," as the Ukrainian song goes.

It is patronized not only by the Nether Borschers but also by all kinds of officials from the regional center who are sent, get themselves sent or send themselves to Nether Borsch to look out for this or that or to look into something or other. They are drawn thither by the inspired works of Auntie Arinka, notably her beef-stroganov *po-domash-nemu* (home-style) which only a gourmet-poet could do justice to.

Another of its distinctions is that although the deciduous trees of the neighborhood shed their leaves at only one season of the year the log-built teahouse of Nether Borsch sloughs off one manager after another as season follows season.

This phenomenon caused no little worry to Comrade Krupka, chairman of the Public Catering Bureau at the regional center, to Comrade Grin, chief of personnel, to Comrade Schedrik, senior accountant and to the judge and prosecutor, with whose names, fortunately, you need not be burdened in what follows:

When winter came and the wife of the latest ex-manager of the teahouse was packing provisions for his long journey, Chairman Krupka was holding a little conference.

"Well," he asked, a more-than-usually dismal look deepening the

dewlaps under his puffy cheeks, "who'll it be this time?"

Grin scratched at a shoulder which always itched when he was faced by a problem. "Replacement personnel," he said, "is in short supply. But the circumstances being what they undoubtedly are, I think. . . ." At that point his inspiration failed him.

Schedrik peered from under his glasses. "While the teahouse of Nether Borsch stands on its foundations," he declared, "personnel can be found, and, I make bold to add, will be found. Do we not have Marfa Ivanova? Show me the law that says 'Once a waitress, always a waitress!' She is energetic, she doesn't drink, she. . . . Anyhow, take her and let me balance my books."

Krupka looked at Grin, Grin looked at Schedrik, Schedrik and Grin looked at Krupka and the decision was reached.

It reached Marfa in her home two days later. She rushed to the teahouse and collapsed on a chair. Her colleagues gathered around her solicitously.

"It's me," she sobbed, and, seeing their bewilderment, added by way of explanation, "I'm it." After a pause she went on: "How could they do this to me? Everybody knows I've always done my best. They've gone and made me the manager—me!"

Auntie Arinka laid a comforting hand on Marfa's shaking shoulders. Glafira, who presided over the drink counter and the cash desk, dabbed

her eyes with her handkerchief. Grandad Anisim, the odd-job-man, rolled his eyes to the heavens and crossed himself.

"Mark my words," he declared, "no good will come of this. It's a Visitation."

The Visitation, for good or evil, arrived that very evening and installed itself in the private dining-room off the main hall. It consisted of Krupka, Grin, Schedrik and his two assistants, one fat as a carp in May, the other lean as a pike in March.

"Your guests have arrived, hostess," Krupka called out. "We've come to install you formally in your new position."

After a round of good-evenings Marfa mustered a welcoming smile and said: "Please be seated. . . . I shan't be a minute."

With a sigh of satisfaction Krupka sat down on the seat he usually occupied when enjoying the open-handed hospitality of a long succession of managers. The others ranged themselves on either side of him with the smoothness of long practice.

After a time Marfa reappeared. A short conference in the kitchen had restored her morale and her smile now sat more naturally on her face.

"And what does our new manager offer us today?" asked Krupka.

"The best we have is at your service. Let me take your orders," said Marfa, her pencil poised over her order pad.

"The stroganov—home-style, of course—for me," Krupka began. "Kerchen herring, cod's liver in butter, a chicken salad, any side dishes that are going and—ah!—a well-starred bottle of cognac."

Schedrik and Grin repeated the order with minor variations to taste, and the Carp and the Pike voted in unison for sucking pig as *pièce de resistance*.

"Just one thing more," announced Krupka with a beaming smile. "You are the hostess, Marfa. Sit down and join us."

Marfa called the junior waitress, handed her the order-pad and said: "A glass of tea and a bublik bun for me, Katyusha."

The feast followed the lines of its predecessors, with frequent toasts, with the collective singing of "Oh Pussy-willow, Pussy-willow" and "Grandad's Sowing Poppies on the Hill-top" and a solo rendering by Krupka of "Unharness the Horses, My Gay Cossack Lads" in its unabridged version.

"In proposing the toast to our new manager," stated the chairman, his articulation only slightly impaired, "I ask you to note the inscrutability of things in general. Who would have guessed but a week ago that I would put pen to paper and turn Marfa Ivanova from a hurrying-scurrying waitress to manager of a teahouse of the second category? Marfa, we drink to you!"

The Visitation drank.

Marfa sipped her tea, nibbled at her bun, and smiled.

"We appointed you," Krupka went on solemnly, "to keep due watch and ward over the State Kopek and to permit no felonious pilfering or fiddling or diddling or book-cooking or anything of a nefarious nature. I give you the watchword—probity!"

Marfa accepted the proffered watchword with a grave inclination of her head, took another sip of

tea and another nibble of bublik.

By now the sucking pig had been reduced to the bouquet of parsley it had held in its mouth and the pink ribbon that had adorned its tail. The rest of the table bore similar testimony to the excellence of Auntie Arinka's cooking.

The Visitation made preparations to depart, preparations that included one or more "for the road." Krupka looked at his watch, thanked his hostess profusely, and led the way to the door.

"Just a moment," said Marfa. She called Katyusha, told her to make out the bill, and left.

Krupka rocked on his feet with the shock, his sagging jowls swaying with the motion. Bracing himself, he continued towards the door, ignoring the slip of paper in the waitress's outstretched hand. The new man-

ager, he decided, could be put in her place later.

From the cash desk in the corner came the voice of Glafira: "Your bill, please, citizens."

At the buffet Grandad Anisim was drinking lemonade with a police-sergeant. "Didn't you hear what she said, citizens?" he asked. "It's *you* she's talking to."

Krupka took a pile of notes out of his pocket and walked back in silence to where the outstretched bill was awaiting him.

Four years passed. Four times the deciduous trees of the neighborhood shed their leaves. But whatever sloughing-off of personnel there may have been at the regional center, Marfa remains as manager of the teahouse of Nether Borsch.

Translated from the Soviet magazine Neva by Archie Johnstone.

MUSIC FESTIVAL IN PRAGUE

"PRAGUE SPRING," the traditional international Music Festival will be held in the Czechoslovakian capital for the fifteenth time this year. Starting on May 11, the Festival will continue to June 5.

A large part of the music played will be Czech and Slovak works composed during the fifteen years since the liberation of Czechoslovakia.

From the Soviet Union there will be conductor Kyril Kondrashin, violinist Leonid Kogan, cellist Mstislav Rostropovich and violinist Rudolf Barshai, the Georgian State Quartet and a group of soloists of the Bolshoy Theater with conductor Boris Khaikin.

Poland will send the Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra with conductor Jan Krenz and soloist Stefania Voytowiczovna; Rumania will be represented by conductor Mircea Basaeab and violinist Stefan Ruha; Bulgaria by conductor Konstantin Iliyev; Hungary by conductor Gyorgy Lehel; Albania by conductor Mustafa Krantja. The German Democratic Republic will be represented by conductor Kurt Masur and the wind quintet of the famous Gewandhausorchestra of Leipzig.

From England will come conductor Sir John Barbiroli; Belgium, conductor Eduard van Remoortel; Finland, singer Kim Borg; France, conductor Andre Cluytens and pianist Monique Haas; Chile, pianist Claudio Arrau; Canada, cellist Zara Nels; Mexico, violinist Henryk Szeryng; the German Federal Republic, conductor Karl Munchinger; Austria, conductor Dr. Karl Bohm; and from the United States the conductor Lorin Maazel, the violinist Issac Stern and the Juilliard Quartet.

Besides the usual concerts in Prague galleries and gardens, there will also be concerts for the first time in the courtyard of Prague Castle.

Youthful Albania

by ARTHUR D. KAHN

IT WAS my good fortune to visit Albania for seven weeks at the coincidence of the 150th anniversary of the visit of Byron to that country and the fifteenth anniversary of the nation's liberation. In his *Childe Harold* the great English poet in effect discovered the existence of Albania for the rest of Europe. Thus his tour of this country was commemorated with warm gratitude this October.

A hundred and fifty years ago Byron accurately described the abilities and energy of the Albanian people, but he could never have imagined how much this talented nation could accomplish in a brief fifteen years of freedom. Indeed, Byron did speak eagerly of a time when oppression and backwardness would be abolished everywhere, a time to be enjoyed by "our children's children":

And when you hear historians talk of
thrones,
And those that sate upon them, let
it be
As we now gaze upon the mammoth's
bones
And wonder what old world such
things could see. . . .

Today the regime of the last king, Zog, is as strange for Albanian chil-

dren as is the age of prehistoric monsters.

When I asked Albanians what the liberation of their country meant to them personally, they answered in almost identical language: "The beginning of life."

"I had never had a pair of shoes."

"I could not write my name."

"I had never heard the word radio."

"I had never slept in a bed."

"In three months, six infants died in our house, like little birds."

The former docker is now an opera singer; the capmaker is now a member of the Central Trade Union Council; the student whose hands the Gestapo crushed in torture is now the secretary of the Albanian Labor Youth; the shepherdess who tore off her veil and joined the partisans is now a factory brigade leader; the tailor's helper is now a leading composer. For these and all other Albanians, November 29, 1959 was indeed a birthday.

The Albanian achievements during the past fifteen years are probably unique in Europe. For the mass of Albanians, life had not changed for centuries. As a matter of fact, the people had probably enjoyed greater prosperity in Byron's day than in the years just preceding the liberation. In 1944 illiteracy was general. Syphilis and tuberculosis were rampant. Malaria sapped the energy of half the nation. Infants died off like flies. Women were either completely imprisoned in their homes or suf-

ARTHUR D. KAHN is the author of *Betrayal: Our Occupation of Germany*, an account of his experiences in U.S. Military Government, *Speak Out! America Wants Peace*, and a novel *Brownstone*.

ferred a half-imprisonment behind their veils. Corrupt and degenerate beys, a jackal king and ruthless foreign exploiters drained away the wealth of the nation. Few Albanians had ever even seen a railroad, for there was none in the country.

Today the very geography of Albania has been changed. The map now shows new lakes shored up behind hydroelectric dams, rivers shunted into new channels with embankments preventing flood, fertile farm lands where formerly pestilential marshes had stagnated, and new towns linked by new roads. The stark eroded mountainsides are green with groves of olive trees or grape arbors. New mines and new oil wells are being opened. Crops, hitherto unknown, provide a surplus of food where once famine was the rule. In the space of a few years, a vast program of artificial insemination has thickened the wool on the sheep and doubled the milk production.

And the people have changed themselves, too. Albania today is half workshop and half school. From illiterate peasants and shepherds, engineers and professors have been created. In one sector after another, leaders are able to report that the number of specialists suffices. The Turkish heritage of disdain for work has left no trace on the youth, who have undertaken the accomplishment of mighty tasks of construction, planting, for example, 18,000,000 fruit trees instead of the 3,000,000 set in the five-year plan. Teams of women from the towns visit the villages to teach the country women how to improve their housekeeping, how to bring up their children and how to take advantage

of the new equality guaranteed their sex. Throughout the nation work brigades compete in demonstrating socialist discipline in work, study and personal behavior.

In Albania quality of work, cleanliness in housekeeping and social deportment are everybody's concern. For Albania is determined to move into modernity with express speed.

To what can one attribute this burst of national will for recreation of the country?

"Blood will flow like water and tears like mist," said Byron shortly before his death, "but the people will triumph in the end." In the museums, in conversations with people throughout the country and in the many memorials to the partisans, I came to understand that the war for liberation was simultaneously the beginning of a thorough revolution for Albania. The traitors and the reactionary institutions were completely exposed. New leaders trusted by the people and tested in adversity came forth. The backward customs and superstitions were thrown off, and the energy of the people burst forth. United against incredible odds and enduring unparalleled sacrifices and suffering, the Albanian people developed a national sense of unity and confidence.

The titanic impetus of the war effort continued into the peace.

Today Albania still lacks in industry and modern conveniences. Some of my Albanian friends feared that since this was my first visit to their country, I would not be able to appreciate their accomplishments. They thought that coming from a technically advanced country, I might not be impressed with their

new factories, schools, housing developments or their dams. But here and there remnants of the past backwardness offer a measure of comparison. Besides, it was soon clear to me that whatever Albania lacks in modern industry and conveniences, it will soon have. As an American, I was impressed with something more basic in the development of this country, an atmosphere of a clear sense of direction, satisfaction at constant achievement and a certainty about the future.

Coming from a country that considers itself young, I discovered real youthfulness in a nation. Albania

enjoys all the qualities of youth: boldness in attacking difficult problems, inexhaustible energy and optimism, enthusiasm in work and a warm sense of companionship among all the people.

In fifteen years, the Albanians have repaired the war devastation, constructed a new economy and set out to remake themselves. This is an epic of revolutionary accomplishment worthy of treatment by a great poet, a poet of the stature of the English poet who 150 years ago described to the world the tremendous latent capacities of the Albanian people.

THE WOMEN OF ALBANIA

THE WOMEN OF ALBANIA gained their political rights for the first time with the election laws of 1945. In the first elections held for deputies to the Constituent Assembly three women were chosen. At the present time there are seventeen women deputies in the People's Assembly, one of them being a vice-chairman of the Assembly and two of them being members of the Presidium of the Assembly.

In the various branches of local administration throughout the country there are 1614 women holding elective office. There are also 658 women judges and assistant judges and one member of the High Court of Justice is a woman.

In industry, 23 per cent of the workers are women, in commerce 35.7 per cent, in education 30 per cent, in public health 64 per cent. Three women are deputy-ministers, 459 women are engineers and technicians, 72 are agriculturists and veterinarians. Before liberation there was not a single woman engineer or agriculturist.

Before liberation there were no nurseries for babies, now there are 117. The 23 kindergartens throughout the country before liberation has now been increased to 383, and instead of the one maternity hospital in the capital city—the sole such hospital in the country formerly—there are 74 such hospitals in various areas. There are also now 99 consulting centers for mothers.

More than 94 per cent of the women of Albania were illiterate before liberation. Now for all women under forty this is no longer true. The doors of all schools are open to young girls as well as older women, many of whom continue their studies at night and through correspondence in all grades up to the university. In 1958 there were 18,532 girls attending the seven-year schools, 3,517 girls attending the middle schools, and in the State University of Tirana there were 432 girl students.

Elementary education is now compulsory for both boys and girls. Also compulsory is the seven-year school in cities and in those villages in which such schools have been founded.

The population of Albania numbers 1,572,000. Out of this total the Albanian Women's Union has 300,000 members. It is this organization that has led the struggle for the emancipation of the women of Albania in the years since liberation and continues to lead it today.

Peace Groups in the U.S.

IT IS difficult—almost impossible—to measure the American peace movement. There is no over-all council for peace, no broad delegate body, no single information center.

It is equally difficult to describe in its whole. No blueprint can be drawn. No accurate estimate can be made of the number of individuals active for peace, even though we know the Gallup Poll has found that 77 per cent of Americans favor continuance of the nuclear tests ban.

Information is relatively accessible, however, on certain portions of the American peace movement—about what some organizations, loosely knit groups, individuals are doing each in their own way. But even such information, when it takes the form of current news, is often deliberately buried or completely excluded by the policy makers of the major media.

No amount of conspiratorial silence can wipe out the forces for disarmament and peace; but it can leave them isolated from each other and ignorant of the efforts their fellows are making. Lack of information on peace activities can also serve to immobilize large sections of the population who long to do something specific to help end the threat of war, but do not know of the programs and activities of organizations working for disarmament and lasting peace.

It is our purpose to bring to our readers' attention the main groups in our country working toward these ends, beginning in this issue, with a

description of the main non-sectarian national organizations.

National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy

"The test of a nation's right to survive today is measured not by the size of its bombs or the range of its missiles, but by the size and range of its concern for the human community as a whole. . . . There can be no true security for America unless we can exert leadership in these terms. . . ."

These words are from the first published statement of the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, formed in 1957.

SANE offers a wide choice of channels for expression of the American people's desire for a world without war. Under the co-chairmanship of Norman Cousins, editor of the *Saturday Review*, and Clarence Pickett, Executive Secretary Emeritus of the American Friends Service Committee, and with the sponsorship and active support of many noted American figures, SANE provides an elastic organization and comprehensive program through which ordinary people can be effective.

Local committees of SANE exist in many cities, towns, counties, small communities throughout the United States. Their membership policy is flexible and they generally welcome additions to their forces, whether for one particular campaign or on a long-term basis.

These local committees engage in

educational and non-partisan political activities tailored to fit the immediate scene. They hold public events, often issue their own literature, canvass the neighborhood on specific peace projects. They also initiate and support peace activities by other local organizations and work with labor, industrial, religious, educational and civic leaders and groups. Committees in the Greater New York area are lending major efforts at present toward a big SANE rally scheduled for Madison Square Garden on May 19, for which the announced speakers include Dr. Harold Taylor, former president of Sarah Lawrence College, Rabbi Israel Goldstein, and Governor G. Mennen Williams of Michigan.

There is also a National Student Council for a Sane Nuclear Policy and a "Hollywood for SANE" Committee with Steve Allen and Robert Ryan as co-chairmen.

In the interest of public action for disarmament and peace, the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy from time to time places large advertisements in major newspapers. As part of its education program, it distributes hundreds of thousands of copies of its own publications and those of other organizations. SANE also presents its position through television and radio media, and maintains a speakers' bureau which has serviced hundreds of lectures throughout the USA.

On the international front, SANE instituted a world-wide appeal in support of ending nuclear weapons tests; the signers included Trygve Lie, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Bertrand Russell, Albert Schweitzer. SANE also petitioned the UN Trus-

teeship Council on behalf of the Marshall Islanders and protested strongly against the French bomb test in the Sahara. SANE maintains liaison with representatives of related movements abroad, and with the United Nations and UN delegations of the United States and other countries.

SANE believes that international arms control "will ultimately involve the abolition of all weapons of mass destruction—fire, high explosive, chemical and biological as well as nuclear—and the reduction of all conventional arms and manpower down to levels adequate for maintenance of internal order."

Meanwhile, SANE works for cessation of all nuclear weapons testing with adequate inspection and urges public pressure to guarantee:

A continued moratorium on testing.

Agreement by the three major powers at Geneva.

Ratification of the agreement by the United States Senate.

Adherence to the agreement by all other nations which have or might obtain nuclear weapons.

Denial of nuclear weapons, weapons parts and delivery systems to additional countries, pending conclusion of international agreements to control nuclear weapons.

SANE's policy statement adopted in November 1959 expresses the organization's over-all stand:

The development of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems and of other weapons capable of causing unlimited destruction has made war unthinkable as an instrument of national policy. The best hope of a world without war lies in the achievement of universal, total disarmament with adequate inspection and control. Recent events suggest that this goal is within reach as a practical possibility.

Women's International League For Peace and Freedom

Ever since its founding by Jane Addams over 40 years ago, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (which does not exclude men from membership) has advocated "abandonment of the war system." Today its stand is for complete and universal disarmament under United Nations supervision, with a ban on nuclear weapons tests and military neutralization of NATO and Warsaw Pact countries as the first steps in such a program.

The League has national sections in 17 countries; headquarters of the United States section are in Philadelphia and a legislative office is maintained in Washington. Observers are assigned to the UN and delegates sent to the many conferences called by government and private agencies on topics of interest to the WILPF.

Referring to President Eisenhower's announced desire for a change of law to permit the U.S. to share atomic weapons and the unfavorable effect this was bound to have on the Geneva test ban talks, the Policy Committee Chairman of the WILPF United States Section wrote on February 9 in a letter to the *New York Times*:

Would such weapons in French and German hands stabilize the peace among our allies or between them and the USSR. . . ?

It seems to us that it would be better to bend every effort toward achieving a test ban agreement which would prevent resumption of bomb tests and the addition of new H-bomb powers.

We agree with the President that "we do want allies to be treated as partners"—but not partners in a race to general

suicide—rather as partners in world disarmament, the establishment of world law and order and the rising standards of living for which humanity yearns.

By means of a monthly newsletter, *Four Lights*, members of the WILPF, who are organized into hundreds of branches throughout the country, are alerted to latest developments on the peace front and provided with ammunition for peace efforts within their own communities. The League also publishes leaflets and brochures, particularly on disarmament, for its own membership and the general public, and promotes distribution of noteworthy publications from other sources. WILPF material often stresses the importance of political action and of communications from readers to legislators and government officials, in support of practical peace measures.

The following are a few actual examples of WILPF projects:

The New York Metropolitan Branch has a UN committee which holds discussion meetings under the chairmanship of Dr. Otto Nathan.

In Cincinnati, a newspaper advertisement was run, "Will mankind move inexorably toward self-destruction by nuclear war? . . . Not if we as citizens send representatives to Congress with minds open to consider new solutions for problems of this atomic era." Readers were urged to participate in a write-in campaign and to back a peace-minded candidate.

The Pennsylvania Branch has scheduled a dinner meeting on April 26 in Philadelphia at which Dr. Linus Pauling is to speak on "Peace—Jane Addams' Unfinished Business." The Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the Philadelphia Chapter

of the National Association of Social Workers, the American Friends Service Committee, the Philadelphia Federation of Settlements and the social work departments of the University of Pennsylvania and Bryn Mawr College are among the cooperating organizations.

For its 1960 National Annual Meeting, June 18-22 in Washington, the WILPF has planned a Jane Addams Centennial Banquet with Philip Noel-Baker, recent Nobel Peace Laureate, as featured speaker, and a panel discussion on "Strategies for Disarmament-1960."

Federation of American Scientists

There are many American scientists on the side of Dr. Edward Teller and Dr. James B. Fisk, with their specious arguments in favor of further, accelerated testing and development of deadly weapons and against the feasibility of achieving international agreement for a disarmed and peaceful world. But there are also many on the side of Dr. Linus Pauling, eloquent in words and deeds for the sake of a happier and more secure future for humanity.

The Federation of American Scientists, a national organization of some 2,000 scientists and engineers, is active in educating the public on issues involved in disarmament. Its roots lie in that professional field where individuals who have developed the means for a better life for all are now facing the grave realization that the very same means may be used to destroy the world.

The F.A.S. favors the banning of tests of nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missiles. Pres-

ent chairman is physicist David Inglis, who helped to produce the first A-bomb and who is now on the staff of the Argonne National Laboratory. He and his fellow members are untiring in efforts to alert public opinion to the horrors of modern warfare. By virtue of their own special knowledge and experience they are able to provide the basic equipment, the arsenal of facts necessary to the whole American peace movement.

In early February 1960, the Federation characterized President Eisenhower's proposal to share nuclear bombs with other powers a "catastrophic folly" and declared:

Supplying atomic weapons and technology to our allies . . . will make inevitable the spread of nuclear technology throughout the world and virtually doom us to the ultimate calamity of nuclear war.

After this step, there would be no hope of preventing these devastating weapons from sweeping further into completely irresponsible hands.

Immediately following the French bomb test in the Sahara, the F.A.S. sharply reiterated its concern about the lack of progress being made at the Geneva test ban talks. It was the consensus of board members that the latest American proposal, permitting underground explosions below a certain size, would not serve as sufficient bar to development of nuclear weapons by any nation.

The outspoken position of the Federation of American Scientists is echoed in efforts and activities of other groups of scientists devoted to peace-related questions within clearly defined areas. About a year ago, The New York Scientists' Committee for Radiation Information was

formed by a handful of scientists, most of them at Rockefeller Institute, who were aware of public interest in radiation problems and the political issues involved. Presenting their knowledge in language the layman can understand, members of the committee speak before local branches of the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, Parent-Teacher Association groups, and Kiwanis, Lions, church and women's clubs audiences.

In St. Louis a similar, though far larger and broader organization was established in April 1958, under the name of the Greater St. Louis Citizens' Committee for Nuclear Information. The membership numbers many prominent medical doctors and laymen, as well as scientists. It publishes a monthly bulletin of nuclear information, maintains a speakers' bureau, sponsors technical seminars and public meetings on radiation and fallout, and is conducting a 10-year Baby Tooth Survey which calls wide attention to the more dreadful implications of nuclear fallout.

Intensified development of ways to wage chemical and biological warfare and the threat implicit in already existing stockpiles of such weapons is reflected not only in literature circulated among American scientists, such as the *F.A.S. Newsletter*, but also in the current circulation of a pledge for signature by biologists and physicians "never to participate in any effort to develop germ warfare . . . as a crime against mankind." Launched in February of this year by two post-graduate students in biology at Columbia University, it was signed during the first week by 50 faculty members and graduate students at Columbia and

15 at Rockefeller Institute, and copies of the pledge were destined for signature by persons at other research centers and universities throughout the country.

No consideration of the American peace movement can be made without mention of the invaluable functions of certain religious groups such as the National Council of Churches of Christ and its affiliates. Nor is it possible to overlook at any time the outstanding and devoted work of the Quakers, conducted through the American Friends Service Committee and the many other, different groups and bodies belonging to their sphere. An account of all these and similar organizations will be given in the next issue.

(Meanwhile, we welcome communications from our readers about any local peace activities on which they are able to inform us.)

Prepared by NWR Research Department.

FOR YOUR LIBRARY

Bound Volumes

of

New World Review

\$4.00 each

for 1958

Still a few volumes available

Place your order now for

1959

Order through

NEW WORLD REVIEW

34 W. 15th St., New York 11, N. Y.

THE FLOWERS OF HIROSHIMA

Reviewed by MURRAY YOUNG

The Flowers of Hiroshima, by Edita Morris. Viking Press, New York, 1959. 187 pages. \$3.50.

FROM the beginning to the end of this brief story the reader is in a world as enchanting as a Japanese painting—a landscape of flowers, fireflies, crickets, birds and exotically kimonoed figures. To the tall, fair-haired, young Sam Willoughby of Seattle who comes to lodge in the tiny house on the outskirts of Hiroshima, this utterly captivating world centers about the exquisite Japanese girl Ohatsu, whose sister, Yuka-san, tells the story.

Yuka-san is irrepressibly gay, brave, and wholly desperate as she relates the stratagems she invents to keep the nice young American from learning the truth about the people among whom he is living. She needs the money he pays for his lodging and she wildly hopes that this warm-hearted, blond young man may soften and even—one always hopes!—win the heart of her embittered, withdrawn younger sister, Ohatsu.

But bit by horrifying bit the truth that lies beneath the tea rituals, the twilight picnics, the silence of Ohatsu and the whole isolated life of the little community becomes clear to Willoughby.

Innocently, or perhaps the word is ignorantly, he is living among the surviving victims of that fatal August day in 1945 when the atomic bombs were cast on Hiroshima. In spite of the most ingenious disguises of Yuka-san, he comes to understand why Ohatsu hates him, an American, as he learns of her rejection by the man she loves because of the fear that she may bear ill-fated mutations in her lovely body. He comes also to understand the meaning of the scarred and maimed bodies of the gay and chattering people with whom he

chases fireflies and drinks tea in the summer twilight. And finally, he comes to understand most clearly of all when, against Yuka-san's protests, he goes with her to the hospital and sees her husband dying among a score of other victims in lingering, unbearable agony.

Sam Willoughby will return to Seattle no longer innocent or ignorant or quite so young and happy, but at least he will return to his own country understanding a little more clearly the nature of the world in which he lives. And he will remember always—as will also the reader—the valiant, life-giving Yuka-san facing the future alone with her two children who up to the point that she ends her story show no signs, outwardly at least, of atom-tainted blood.

Edita Morris has entered the spirit of another culture with astonishing skill; the shimmering surface of her story remains unbroken from the opening to the close; but she deals with a fundamental issue of our time with unforgettable force and without preachment or one false note of sentimentality.

In reviewing *Flowers of Hiroshima* for the *Labor Monthly*, D. N. Pritt, the distinguished English lawyer who frequently contributes articles to NWR, said of the book:

"It is written quietly, simply and delicately. It is a book of rare and true beauty; it is a terrible book, for it relates terrible things. And it is perhaps the finest piece of propaganda ever written."

Extravagant words if you like, but it is far more than likely that many other readers will find themselves joining Mr. Pritt in his praise for this book which is indeed "of rare and true beauty," but, more importantly at this moment of history, it is also a testament of the human condition powerful enough to waken the conscience of our whole country.

AFRICA'S HIDDEN PAST

A review by W. ALPHAEUS HUNTON

The Lost Cities of Africa, by Basil Davidson. Little, Brown and Company. Boston, 1959. 366 pages. \$6.50.

IN THESE days when, as Pliny the Elder wrote, there is always something new out of Africa, it is customary to speak of that continent as gaining its freedom. It might help toward the better understanding of the revolution there, its origin and goals, if we substituted the verb *regaining*.

For the notion that there is little in African history to speak about until the coming of the Europeans is still too much with us. John Gunther in his widely heralded *Inside Africa*, for example, devotes just one brief paragraph to its pre-European history. In it, after passing mention of South African rock paintings, the Benin bronzes, and what he calls "the Negro or semi-Negro kingdoms which flourished briefly in the Sahara," he states, "But in the main Africa south of the Sahara has little history until the white man came." Similarly, Chester Bowles, in his recent book *Africa and the United States*, speaks of Egyptian civilization as belonging more to the Middle East than to Africa, and states that the only indigenous African civilization was developed in West Africa.

These misconceptions have been refuted time and again by Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, who nearly a half century ago did pioneer work in uncovering Africa's pre-European history, and in the writings of Maurice Delafosse, Carter G. Woodson, M. J. Herskovits and others, including Africans themselves. During a visit to the Soviet Union last year I had the pleasure of meeting scholars there who are also making contributions to this area of knowledge. But the illusions bred of slavery, colonialism, and

racial chauvinism have a way of persisting in the face of scientific fact; the only final remedy is to eradicate the social disease that nurtures them.

Meanwhile, however, we must thank Basil Davidson for what he has done in *The Lost Cities of Africa*. Turning from the contemporary African scene, about which he wrote with penetrating analysis in two earlier books, Davidson has now drawn exhaustively upon accessible historical materials along with the results of archaeological studies in order to fashion a coherent narrative, as clear and detailed as the present limited state of our knowledge permits, of what was achieved by Africans in all of Africa below the Sahara during some fifteen centuries and more before the coming of the Europeans. One may feel that the author is over-cautious and sprinkles the word "probably" about too much; this is because he wishes to mark the limits of what is yet definitely known.

Nevertheless, it is a vast and impressive panorama that unfolds. The civilization of the Nile Valley is first dealt with. There was not, Davidson writes, "a one-way traffic in the diffusion of ideas and ideologies from the valley of the Nile into southern and central Africa. Dynastic Egypt was not born into a void; it emerged from a Neolithic womb, and this womb was African." Then we survey the kingdoms of the old Sudan and West Africa, the achievements in the central, southern, and eastern regions of the continent, and the great trading cities along the east coast that flourished until the Portuguese came and destroyed.

"It was the extension of agriculture and the use of iron, with all the added mastery of environment which these imply," Davidson writes, "that accompanied and governed both the need and the possibility of (the Africans') successful

migration into new and unknown lands. . . . These were pioneering peoples. They tilled where none had tilled before. They mined where there was none to show them how. They discovered a valuable pharmacopoeia. They were skillful in terraced irrigation and the conservation of soil on steep hillsides. They built new and complex social systems."

We know something but not yet enough about how the old cities of the Sudan developed and functioned as trade centers linking the sub-Saharan region with North Africa and Europe across the desert caravan routes, and likewise about the east coast trading cities that linked Africa with India and China across the Indian Ocean. To what extent, for example, did the status and relationship of royalty and its retainers, the priesthood, wealthy merchant, artisan, domestic slave, and farm serf in such societies correspond with or differ from their counterparts in feudal Europe?

Why did Africa fall from greatness? One wishes that the author could have spelled out and emphasized more the manner in which foreign invasion, the overseas slave trade and all it entailed, and European colonization not only cut short the Africans' further economic and social progress but blotted out the results of centuries of development. Perhaps another volume is required to do justice to that other part of the story of Africa's lost cities.

The final sentences of Davidson's book are appropriate for the conclusion of this too brief review: "Their (the Africans') failings have been common talk for years, for centuries. Now it may be time to speak of their achievements. And their achievements, while the fuller canvas of their history unrolls across the years, will increasingly be seen and understood. We are only at the beginning of that story."

(Mr. Hunton is the author of *Decision in Africa*, International Publishers.)

NEW CHINA

New People in New China, by Maud Russell. Far East Reporter, Box 1536, New York 17, N. Y. 35 cents a copy.

MAUD Russell makes you share the pleasure and excitement of her return to China last year for a visit of three months.

A YWCA worker in China in the past, Miss Russell met many of her former friends and colleagues still active in the Chinese branch of the YWCA, and many of her former pupils. Her pupils, now grown with children of their own, proudly talked to her of the new China they were building and eagerly showed her what had been accomplished, and what their astonishing future goals will be.

It was a profoundly stirring China she saw in her lengthy travels throughout the country, and she describes vividly many revealing aspects of the dynamic life she observed.

PEACE AND PLENTY

The Key to World Peace and Plenty, by Elsa Peters Morse. Summit Press, San Francisco. 93 pages. \$2.00.

IN HIS introduction to this book, Dr. Holland Roberts says:

"This is a practical people's guide to a firm and everlasting peace, with prosperity, security, freedom and abundance for all. It points the way out of the dangerous unstable war economy in which the nations of the West now live to an economy of peace. . . .

"In decisive terms and with a wealth of facts from practical life the author shows that until the capitalist countries transform their war economy their warfare states will threaten the life of all mankind. . . .

"All who read it will be enriched and their thoughts pointed to the pathway to productive action—to the Brave New World we will build together in this Space Age."

A FREE COPY FOR YOUR FRIENDS

Through the generosity of a reader
you may now send a free copy of **NEW
WORLD REVIEW** to your friends.

NEW WORLD REVIEW
34 West 15th Street
New York 11, N. Y.

Please send a sample copy of **NEW
WORLD REVIEW** to the persons be-
low: (add other names on separate
sheet if you wish.)

To _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

To _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

To _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

To _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

To _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

Sender _____

Address _____

The Key to World Peace and Plenty

By Elsa Peters Morse

"A practical people's guide to a firm
and everlasting peace"

Paperbound—\$2.00

Order through
Summit Press, P.O. Box 5047
San Francisco, California

SONG OF PEACE

Walter Lowenfels
and
Anton Refregier

Foreword by Linus Pauling

\$1.35 paper back \$5.00 cloth

ROVING EYE PRESS

Order from **NEW WORLD REVIEW**
34 West 15th St., New York 11, N. Y.

NEW SOVIET FILMS

EUGENE ONEGIN

THE CAPTAIN'S DAUGHTER

JOURNEY BEYOND THREE SEAS

THE HOUSE I LIVE IN

THE FLYING CARPET

GIRL WITH A GUITAR

Artkino Pictures, Inc.

723 SEVENTH AVE. NEW YORK 19

Telephone: Circle 5-6570