

# NEW WORLD

MARCH  
1953

*Review*

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**THE SMOKESCREEN OF "ANTI-SEMITISM"**  
**Women of the New World • Factory Owner in China**

# LETTERS

## From Western Germany

**Hamburg, Germany**—Your magazine is an excellent and most timely publication, and I am glad that I had the opportunity to get a copy. The articles "The Nazis Are Back," by Gordon Schaffer and "Strait Jacket for Germans—Threat to World Peace," by Margrit Adler were of course of special interest. These reports concerning Germany and German conditions are absolutely true and reliable, and every German desiring an end of the era of fear of neo-Nazism and neo-Militarism will be grateful to you for the timely defense of peace and good will.

The majority of the German people are absolutely against any German rearmament and against any war participation. But although we are subject to endless rearmament propaganda which reminds us of the totalitarian activities of Goebbels, we still hope that an awakening world will not tolerate the re-introduction of the system of brutal force which we were glad to get rid of in 1945.

Good luck to you! You are putting up a brave fight! And many thanks for the encouragement which your NEW WORLD REVIEW has given me—A Grateful Reader (British Zone), Germany.

## An Old-Timer

**Sikes, La.**—I am enclosing \$2.25 for the book "American Imperialism," by Victor Perlo. I sure do like the NEW WORLD REVIEW. I have been watching  
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Vol. 21, No. 3, March, 1953, Entered as second class matter June 27, 1951, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Subscription \$2.00 per year. \$1.00 for 6 months (Canadian, \$2.50; foreign \$3.00 a year. Draw money orders or checks payable in New York). Published monthly by the S.R.T. Publications, Inc., 25 West 26th Street, New York 10, N. Y. Indexed in Bulletin of the Public Affairs Information Service. Phone: MUrray Hill 3-3855.  
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

# Every American's Job—PEACE

by JESSICA SMITH

**T**HE new Administration lost no time in repudiating Eisenhower's pledge that its first task would be "to bring the Korean war to an early and honorable end."

Among President Eisenhower's first acts was his order opening the way for Chiang Kai-shek to attempt the monstrous and impossible adventure of reimposing his hated dictatorship on the 475,000,000 people of China through a new bloody civil war backed by American arms.

Leading Administration spokesmen called for an all-out offensive in Korea, the bombing of the Chinese mainland, and a blockade of China—itsself an act of war.

While these plans to engulf all Asia in war were being hatched, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles rushed around Europe giving ultimatums to the NATO countries and the West German Government to speed the ratification of the Bonn agreement and step up the stalled preparations for a European army based on a revived Wehrmacht.

He quickly learned that the people of Europe have no stomach for the war plans either for Europe or Asia, and that deep fissures threaten the whole NATO structure. There was a marked contrast between the boastful words uttered by Dulles before his departure and his somewhat chastened remarks on his return.

On February 18, India's Prime Minister Nehru voiced the fears aroused in all the peoples of Asia by the Administration's war moves. Unmistakably referring to General Eisenhower he decried the substitution of military considerations for statesmanship in world affairs, and warned "This intrusion of the military mentality into the chancelleries of the world represents a very great danger."

Eisenhower's callous refusal of

clemency to the Rosenbergs aroused a new wave of revulsion against U.S. policies.

The worldwide storm of protest, and the astounding disclosure of the suppression of the Pope's appeal for clemency last December, which was followed by a new papal appeal, gained precious time. The period for preparation of a new appeal to the Supreme Court is now extended to March 30.

There is still time to save the lives of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, and to save our country from an act of injustice and inhumanity that will shame it forever. But it means unceasing efforts.

As public pressure has won time in this case, so also it can win time in averting war. Already the President's reckless proposals for the abrogation of sacred international agreements have been reduced to a vague general formula, and there seems to have been a partial backtracking on the issue of blockading China.

These retreats, even if only in words, are a sign of what the people can do. But much, much more must be done. The "wait and see" period is over. The arrogant monopolists and militarists have shown their hand.

War may be good for General Motors, but it is not good for the people—and only what is good for the people is good for the country.

The American people must gather their forces as never before, and develop new strength and unity in compelling demands for an end to the senseless dying and killing, an end to the military preparations and war threats, and in their stead a cease-fire in Korea and the peaceful negotiations the Soviet Union has offered so many times, which alone can guarantee a secure, bright future for our country and the world.

# **NEW CAPITAL**

## **Of an Ancient Civilization**

by

**ISOBEL and EDWIN CERNEY**

**C**IRCLING the capital of Soviet Armenia, we saw what seemed to be a beacon on the highest hill above Erevan. We did not know then that this was a statue of the great architect of the national policy we had come to study in the smallest Constituent Republic of the USSR. In our childhood in Chicago, we had collected food and clothes "for the starving Armenians" at Church and in public school. Flying in several days before the 32nd Anniversary of Soviet Armenia, we saw so many industrial plants beautifully built to an over-all city plan that the image of abundance had replaced our childhood picture of Armenians even before we landed in the modern airport. As we took the hands of the impressive dele-

gation that had come to greet us, our one wish was that the thousands of Armenians who were celebrating this great anniversary in America could share this visit.

"Do you have the 15-Year Master Plan for the city always in your mind's eye as you go about inspecting new and old buildings?" we asked G. Aghababian, who took us on our first excursion. The Chief Architect's brown eyes and handsome face flashed with pride.

"Yes, of course!" He asked us what our first impression of the city had been as we drove in from the airport, and we told him the clay houses and walls at the edge of the city reminded us of Chinese villages we had recently visited.

"Not long ago," the chief architect said, "Erevan was a simple Asian rural town."

He took us first up the street on which most of the eleven Armenian institutes for higher learning are concentrated, including the Academy of Science they opened in 1944. Along the wide boulevard more than half of these imposing buildings in rosy-hued stone are located. They are quite plain, in the mass, with traditional large windows and doors highly ornamented.

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**ISOBEL and EDWIN CERNEY both have long teaching records in American schools and colleges. Mr. Cerney studied at Notre Dame and Yale School of Fine Arts. Mrs. Cerney studied at Carleton College and at Harvard. Both received their teacher's training at Winnetka Graduate Teacher's College. Both have been heads of departments at New London Junior College; both have trained teachers for the Government. The Cernys reside in California and only recently returned from a trip to China and the Soviet Union.**

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"We do not like repetition. Our craftsmen always vary designs. No two are ever alike," he said proudly. "But, as in our music, there is always a dominant motif, then many asymmetric variations."

We saw the first major example of this principle at the huge public market place where collective farmers come to sell their produce. This vaulted structure of reinforced concrete has an intricately patterned facade of cast iron and clear glass. People stand about talking on the shallow front steps and can enjoy new aspects of traditional designs each time they come to market. Aghababian introduced cast iron for this grillwork. Stylized sheep, goats, calves, fish, bees, honey, grain, wine jugs, and every type of fruit and fowl—literally every product sold in the market—appear in the graceful geometry of glass and iron.

Inside the farmers' market is one enormous room with a very high ceiling, vaulted with oval arches in an openwork pattern unlike any we have ever seen. The effect is one of austere harmony in the simplicity of the white interior. Yet a feeling of intimacy is created by the lace-like decor above and by the splashing fountain in the center below. Children enjoy the bright fish darting in the pool of the fountain.

The market is thronged by healthy, well-dressed peasants and Erevan people trading at the wide, low stalls. For those who have come from a distance, there is an attractive hotel downstairs. State shops along one side of the market sell products of industry and culture—tea, books, tobacco, hardware, dry goods etc. They are well stocked and sell at prices which have been reduced for the fifth time, and are standard throughout the Soviet Union.



Edwin and Isobel Cerney in front of the cast iron grillwork of the collective farmers' market in Erevan.

A grizzled man with a star in his cap followed us about with great interest. He was attentive to what the architect and professor of history were telling us, adding significant comments and bits of news. We learned he had been a colonel, is now on a good pension, and likes to come to market not only to get the new things easy to pay for now, but also to fraternize with people from all over the Republic.

While we were looking at recent Erevan publications and asking about best sellers, some twenty people gathered round. The colonel and another man cut in with authors and titles and it was explained to us: the classics, ancient and modern, are what the people buy most. Our friend from Moscow found the beautifully bound and printed collected works of Stendhal which had sold out in less

than a week when it had been issued in Moscow a short time before. We found that Fast's *Freedom Road*, in Armenian, is being reprinted.

Erevan is a publishing center where everything except the paper is made, and soon they will make their own paper, too. We were given sample copies of arithmetic books, primers, and modern American writers translated into Armenian. People told us that technological books are in great demand because of the rapid industrialization of Armenia where many-sided development of autonomy is a basic economic principle. And they told us they are very proud of their large export business in electrical machines, as well as of their mechanized copper mines.

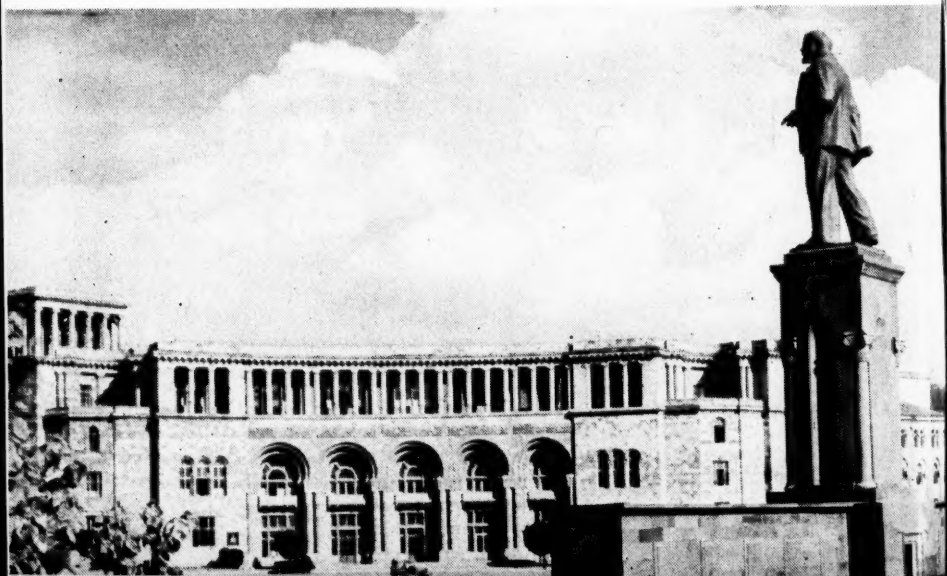
Even though our arms were filled with books, someone brimmed them with chrysanthemums from the lovely flower stall. We were touched by having mothers hold up their babies "to see the American friends," for our

hosts had told us it had been a long time since these hospitable people have had American visitors. They did not ask us: what Armenian writers are being sold in super-markets, or anywhere in America? Yet Armenia is one of the oldest centers of human civilization on the territory of the Soviet Union and her writers could deepen our vision of life.

Immediately opposite the market is an ancient Mosque which has been carefully restored and preserved. We noted how creatively Aghababian, the son of the new Armenia, has designed his market to fit in with the Mosque.

He was able to do this because he studied many of the 400 Armenian monuments which still stand after two thousand years. He teaches his own students to master these basic styles, though many of the best relics are not available. As we drove about the city with him, Aghababian pointed out the many different mar-

Lenin Square in the center of Erevan, capital of Soviet Armenia. The building across the square, the Trade Union Center, is constructed of rose tuff.



bles indigenous to this Republic. They are used for wide, beautiful staircases, for walls and columns in public buildings. His own favorite stone is the native touff, which he used in one of the public schools and in several apartment buildings he showed us. Touff is not only beautiful, but wears and shapes up well.

We were shown apartment buildings and clinics, schools and theaters that had been designed and supervised by newly trained architects as their first projects. As we were driving, Aghababian told us of their program for the practical training of architects. In the summer of the first year, the student measures ancient monuments for proportion and style. The second year, he or she does much field work and studies geodesy. Third year students take part in construction work going on in this Republic. Then the fourth and fifth years are spent at construction sites outside Armenia where major works are going forward.

"Thus the very first day after graduation, he or she is ready to put up a good school, clinic, or other small buildings. I will show you great buildings designed by women. They don't go down in the first blast of wind, either!" he laughed. He was very emphatic about the fact that each man and woman who completes the five years of training "will have an independent, practical job. And as they develop, they get bigger jobs."

Everywhere we saw scaffoldings, large crews of construction workers, many of whom had on bright kerchiefs and wore gay cottons over heavy underwear, for it is foggy and cold in Erevan in November—very like San Francisco. Mr. Aghababian told us proudly:

"Ninety-eight per cent of these workers are Armenians, trained as

I was in Armenian building trades schools and higher institutes of technology."

Young women were carrying two full pails of water on shoulder poles, or one full pail of sand or mortar. Older women were mixing cement and doing light sawing and woodwork. We saw a woman engineer of fifty who has built several dams nearby. We saw old stone masons teaching their craft to young boys high on the scaffolding of the new Philharmonic Building. The basic foundations, sides, and roof of this splendid building are finished. We watched elaborate installations being made and decorations such as we have never seen rivaled anywhere being carved in plaster—bird, leaf and floral patterns. We picked up a fragment of the pebbly composition they take from the ground in big hunks and use for special acoustical effects.

Even though the basic pattern of big buildings in harmony with each other and with an over-all city plan has long ago been well established, the most striking characteristic of Erevan at present is the number of scaffolds and saplings you see everywhere. The absence of large old trees accents the newness of many districts, particularly in the brilliant mountain atmosphere and in a society which is very proud of its great and ancient heritage.

We passed tanneries, wineries, factories in keeping with the city plan, and thousands of private dwellings. The quality of "the dark satanic" mill is absent. The line between places built for dwelling, for culture and for production, is not sharply drawn. At home, we mused, we make dwellings more and more like factories: streamlined, austere, chrome and steel, glass brick. Here they make factories more

like dwellings. The only way you can tell a cultural center from these other places, as you pass by, is that it is generally massed higher and given more ornamentation. The way in which man has built, irrigated, planted where nature had always eroded, to a pattern that will delight unborn generations, must be a constant joy to the many very old people we saw serenely going about the streets of Erevan.

"The over-all pattern of Erevan is like a tree, whose main trunk is always in the line of vision of the monument to Stalin we built and dedicated two years ago," the architect told us as we left the city and started up the hill. "Each district is like a rounded bower of branches. You will see, when we get to the monument how we have made a large new park to crown the city. There was not a single tree there in 1940!"

An old man was guarding the gates to this park at the top of the high hill. He scolded our hosts vigorously for trying to drive through the barrier. We all laughed heartily at the arrogance of asking special privileges for foreign guests and hugged the old man for his faithfulness to the people. We walked about half a mile through shoulder-high evergreens and mountain ash, oaks, and other trees now grown twelve feet high in what, fifteen years from now, will be a dense wood.

Mr. and Mrs. Cerney with the chief architect of Erevan, G. Aghababian, gazing up at the top of a monument.



In a clearing rises their great monument to Stalin. The architecture of the pavilion and base of the monument is indigenous, impressive, and as simple as the great figure. The whole is one hundred and fifty feet high. This is the beacon we saw from the air and which the people of Erevan and the surrounding collective farms can see from any vantage point.

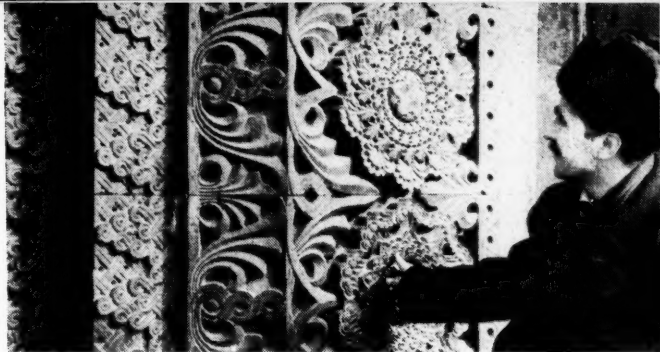
"Now, after centuries of suffering and oppression, we Armenians have a rich and free life. This statue of Stalin hammered from our native copper and placed for ages to come on our highest hill is one expression of our gratitude to him and to our Communist Party," the professor of history from the local university told us.

On the surrounding hills we saw factories built of the bright tuff whose beauty grows on you in this wild mountain country so like parts of Northern California. We saw purple mountains and racing green and white waters and grapes more rosy than the native stones. And among these, the cheese factory is beautiful, as it should be in a land of bright foods, magnificent poetry, of massed stone and waters, where for 2,500 years man has loved the simple daily bread, cheese, wine and stuff he weaves as much as he loves animals, power of sun and water.

All this is in the epics of Armenia. There is even the legend of Noah descending from Mount Ararat with the recipe for winemaking in his fist!

As we descended, we passed many private homes built on government loans since 1945. There are five basic styles of architecture, among which the people choose when they plan a new home. Not only is the architectural service free, but the govern-

Edwin Cerney studies the stone carving on the doorway to the monument to Stalin.



ment gives full grants and long-range, low-term loans. Throughout the Republic five million square feet of new living space were constructed between 1945 and 1950 and much was done to repair and beautify older housing. Though there is already a very large network of hospitals, resorts, and health and maternity centers, new ones open every day. This is chiefly because people come to Armenia for rest and treatment from all over the Soviet Union.

We ended our first full tour in Lenin Square where celebrations and parades are held for the entire Armenian Republic.

There we saw how Armenian native love of variation is worked out not only in designs for ornament but also in the colors of stone used in the chief buildings. Thus the Museum, behind the fountain directly opposite the reviewing stand and the statue of

Lenin, is yellow touff. On the right, the corner Trade Union Center is built of rose, the Administration of lavender touff. On the left the very large corner Cooperative is made of lavender touff. From the reviewing stand, the eye passes from rose-lavender through yellow to the tawny orange touff. One of the chief buildings has a light green cast. When it is finished, the square will be completely bounded by new people's centers and will have a road surface of colorful touff mosaic.

This will be one of the most dramatic illustrations of how art in the Soviet Union is socialist in content and national in form. Here where the Armenian people freely gather to celebrate and to plan new advances, they will march and dance on an inlaid paving of native stone which will look like one of their magnificent, traditional woven carpets.

## THE "QUIRK" IN SOVIET PLANNING

THE MAGAZINE *Fortune*, for February, 1953, writes of the fifth Five-Year Plan of the Soviet Union:

"Its deceptive name is in accord with tradition, for (apart from a quirk in the history of Plan III) Soviet master plans have always been for five-year periods."

The parenthetical "quirk" which cut short the third Five-Year Plan was World War II which cost the Soviet Union 15,000,000 human lives, a third of its industry, 80,000 ruined towns and cities.

# A Private Businessman In the New China

***Says government helps private enterprise with loans and raw materials, explains profits, and tells what the future holds***

by JULIAN SCHUMAN

**P**RIVATE ENTERPRISE is an integral part of the economy in China's new democratic system. Mao Tse-tung has described it as "an indispensable part of the whole national economy at the present time," and has pointed out that "a development is required of it in all those branches that are beneficial to our national economy."

Much has been made in the Western press of the drive to "wipe out private business" in new China. Watching developments here in China one is amazed at the difference between such reports and reality. The fact is that in three and a half years of liberation China's economy has progressed rapidly, after decades of foreign invasion and a dozen years of aggression and civil war. And as a part of the nation's economy, pri-

ivate industry and commerce has also progressed.

Before liberation, private enterprise was generally in the hands of foreign firms and bureaucratic capitalists—Kuomintang officials and their cohorts. This twin domination prevented industrial development and stifled attempts by private Chinese entrepreneurs, removed from the dominating factions, from growing. The Chinese economy was that of a semi-colonial and agrarian country for decades. There was no real heavy industry and light industry was relegated to a few large coastal ports such as Shanghai. The fact that China's economy remained backward for so long is evidence that private capitalism never really developed here.

At the time of the liberation of Shanghai, for instance, business in the nation's largest industrial city was bad except for the speculators, hoarders and blackmarketeers. A good many businesses had been forced to the wall, while price fluctuations, raw material shortages, and a sharp decline in markets due to shrinking purchasing power all made for endless difficulties. Chiang Kai-shek's rampant inflation, which saw

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JULIAN SCHUMAN is an American journalist who speaks Chinese and has lived in China since 1947. He has written for the Denver "Post" and Chicago "Sun-Times" and for a year prior to the victory of the Chinese People's Republic, also served the American Broadcasting Company. He is at present Associate Editor of "China Monthly Review," an American-owned magazine published in Shanghai.

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In the Mei Lin Cannery, a privately-owned enterprise in Shanghai.

prices change several times in one day, and the dumping of American goods played no small part in bringing the economy and business to a state of chaos.

Figures on private enterprise before liberation reveal that in Shanghai in 1947, only 582 of the 5,418 big and medium sized factories were operating. In other large cities the situation was similar: In Tientsin, in North China, 70 per cent of the factories were idle; in Tsingtao, 50 per cent, and in Canton, 30 per cent.

A stabilized currency and steady commodity prices since liberation have done much to put private industry back on its feet and set it on the road to development. The very existence of private enterprise under a government in which the Communist Party plays a leading role may be startling to people in the West. New China, however, is not yet a socialist society and in its period of new democracy, which its leaders say will last for several decades, the government is relying on private enterprise to play its part along with state enterprises to industrialize China as quickly as possible.

Since liberation most privately-owned factories have not only been rehabilitated and re-equipped, but in many cases they have been expanded to meet the rising demand for both industrial and consumer goods. Land reform and the growing purchasing power of 400,000,000 peasants in the countryside, around 80 per cent of the population, offer a tremendous market.

To meet new China's needs there has been a great deal of investment of private capital. The total value of the output of private industrial enterprises has risen 70 per cent since 1949. While 80 per cent of heavy industry is nationalized, having been taken over from the Kuomintang bureaucratic capitalists, the remaining 20 per cent, and about 70 per cent of light industry, is in private hands.

The laws of the land testify to the fact that private industry and commerce in China today are being encouraged. For example, the Common Program, which plays the role of the nation's constitution until one is promulgated, in Article 30 states: "The People's Government shall encourage the active operation of all

private enterprises beneficial to the national welfare and to the people's livelihood and shall assist in their development." In order to clarify further its basic policy, the government has issued a set of "Tentative Regulations Governing the Control of Private Enterprise in China." These regulations encourage private investments, guarantee them legitimate return and fix standards for distribution of profits.

Anyone reading the Chinese press since liberation, has been able to see that private business and commerce is being encouraged and helped by the government. Loans have been granted and large orders placed with private firms—at the time of liberation when so many businesses were on the rocks this was essential. A government bent on "wiping out" private business does not guarantee development of private enterprise in its very laws.

In present day China, there is much room for private enterprise. The only kind which cannot flourish is that serving to exploit the Chinese people by imperialism, bureaucratic capitalism and the landlords. Many establishments of this kind were parasitic, dealing in luxuries, speculation or extorting excessive middlemen's profits. For the national capitalist, the private businessman who never had a chance to develop before liberation, there is much opportunity.

Pan Yung-gang is a private businessman in new China. His story is not basically different from his counterparts all over the country:

THE ROUND-FACED MAN sitting next to me in the hotel lobby in Canton fingered his striped necktie which was knotted between the points of a stiff white collar. As I asked him what I considered the "\$64 question," a growing smile around his lips be-

gan to broaden and by the time I finished he could contain himself no longer. He let out a hearty laugh, his portly frame shaking in his tan gabardine suit.

"If what you say were true I wouldn't be here talking to you. Moreover, business has improved as a result, and all of us have learned that business today can be carried on profitably without resorting to sharp practices."

This Canton factory owner had given a direct answer to a direct question: "What about the reports in Hongkong and American newspapers that the Chinese Government is bent on eliminating private business, and the Wu Fan movement last spring was the culmination of this drive?" (The Wu Fan movement throughout China was the five-anti's—anti-bribery of officials, anti-tax evasion, anti-theft of government property, anti-cheating on government contracts and anti-searching out of economic information for speculation.)

Pan Yung-gang, 42 years old, is the manager of the Ching Hwa Battery Factory, one of the largest in China. He owns it with his brother. It was started 25 years ago with about 30 workers. Today, the factory, which turns out products for flashlights, radios and telephones, has more than 300 workers, more than it had just before the liberation of Canton in October, 1949.

From V-J Day until the Kuomintang was driven out of Canton, Pan's factory was just able to keep its head above water. With an influx of foreign imports from nearby Hongkong, a restricted market and a soaring inflation, things kept getting worse. Prices jumped daily.

"To run a business at that time was not easy," Pan said. "Of course

there were all kinds of wild rumors about what would happen if the Communists came, but things were so hopeless that most businessmen were ready for any change. As to the rumors, well, many people I knew had good-sized investments at stake and we tried to sit down and examine them rationally. They were really absurd—'all factories and shops would be confiscated,' 'people would have to renounce their families,' 'young girls would be given to old men and old women would be given to young men.'"

Most businessmen were so fed up with the Kuomintang by the time the city was about to be liberated, Pan said, that in many cases management cooperated with the workers who formed their own armed guards to forestall the possible Kuomintang looting of factories which had taken place in other cities.

I asked him to tell me something of what happened immediately after liberation. His factory, he said, at first kept going as usual but by 1950, as a result of a gradually expanding market, capital was needed to increase production. So the Ching Hwa Factory got two government loans, one short-term and one long-term.

The chief reason for increased production, Pan related, was the restoration of communications with all parts of the country and the increased purchasing power of the peasants in Northeast and North China where land reform had been or was being carried out. Also, by this time, the currency and the economy as a whole had been stabilized for the first time in many years.

Pan listed some production figures: Taking the highest pre-liberation mark of the factory as 100, production reached 130 in the first half of 1951, went up to 155 in the second

half, and by the autumn of last year it was up to 180.

But wasn't he afraid of government competition? The answer was simple: There are two government factories operating in other parts of China but there was no conflict because the demand both in the countryside, where peasant demands are insatiable, and in the cities is far beyond the supply. Production and more production is what the Ching Hwa Factory is striving for, Pan said.

"Do you think the government discriminates against private business?" This time it was Pan who had put the question. Before I could reply, he went on: "Let me put it this way. Before, the Kuomintang and its camp-followers had a virtual monopoly on anything foreign firms didn't touch. Except for these people, and hundreds of speculators, there was no real development and legitimate private business was hard put to get along. On top of all this, there was the chaotic currency inflation." Pan paused a moment as if to give me a chance to let this sink in.

"China has a tremendous market inside the country itself," he continued, "and the building up of our country will be on a vast scale. The government has said very plainly that we national capitalists have an important part to play. We not only get loans, but as in our factory, the government has helped us get raw materials. I'm not just talking when I say that things are better than ever.

"Recently, the government helped us choose a site to erect a new building. We have worked out our own factory 'five-year plan' and we aim to increase production by four times in this period. There will be living quarters and a clinic for the workers, and at the end of the five years our

building space will be 20 times its present size. Actually, in the entire 25 years we've been operating we were never able to expand in such a way. However, in the last three years we've earned enough to be able to set out on such a scheme."

"What about your profits?"

"After taxes, net profits are divided as follows," Pan said: "Ten per cent is set aside for reinvestment. Dividends, not exceeding 8 per cent annual interest on their investment, are paid to shareholders. Any remaining balance is distributed in the following way: 60 per cent in bonuses for



shareholders, remuneration for directors, bonuses for supervisors, superintendents and managers; not less than 15 per cent for safety and hygiene; and 15 per cent or more for welfare funds and special bonuses for workers and staff members.

"Actually, the level of profits in factories handling government processing orders runs from 10 to 30 per cent, and gives a clue to the profits of private enterprise generally. The rate of profit in China today is high in comparison with any capitalist country," Pan said settling back in his chair.

As an afterthought, he said: "You know, there was a conference of private businessmen from all over China held in Peking last summer. The chief purpose was to organize to protect the interests of private business and to help develop its scope."

I had a new question. What about relations with the workers, surely

their interests conflict with management in many cases?

"Administration is mainly in the hands of management, but at the same time there are labor-capital consultative meetings where the workers' ideas and demands are brought up. Sometimes there may be great differences of opinion but compromise is always possible. The workers know that their position has changed greatly from before liberation, when management had all the say," Pan's gold-banded wristwatch glittered as he stroked his chin with his left hand.

"At the same time, the workers also know that they have a direct interest in raising production and increasing their efficiency. In fact, the new attitude of both the workers and management here has been shown by our increased production. I must confess that before, we in management probably wouldn't have even listened to a worker who came up with a new working method unless its benefits were so evident and on such a wide scale that we couldn't help ourselves. Now, there have been all kinds of new working methods and dozens of improvements on machines brought forth by our workers."

I still had another "\$64 question": How does it feel to be a capitalist in a society which admittedly is going toward socialism?

Pan's round face broke into a wide smile. "You may be surprised but I personally have no qualms. Before, in the old society, what did we strive for? To make as much money as fast as we could, both for our children and for position. Some of us more for the former, others for the latter. Under socialism there will be no need for either, for the very nature of society will be an orderly one and there will be no need for private en-

terprise, though I'll still own my personal property."

Pan Yung-gang rubbed his smooth tan chin and went on: "Lest you think I'm being irrational in saying I'm looking forward to a society which will put me out of business, let me say that although the name will be different my job will still be here. People like myself will be fully qualified to serve as managers and administrators in government factories."

"But how about your profits?" I insisted.

"I won't need them. My children will have no need for inheriting anything from me. They'll all have their own jobs, remember I said that we will be living in an orderly society. And certainly, whatever job I have will be a responsible one."

Pan looked at his watch and I realized I had kept him some time. He said he was glad to be able to talk with me and by way of a final ques-

tion I asked him about his family.

He has a wife and three boys and two girls. The eldest boy is studying radio in a technical school in Hankow and the eldest girl is a civilian employee in the air force in Peking. She came to Canton last September to participate in the 1952 National Swimming Meet and the whole family was very proud of her. The British-made Singer which Pan bought here in 1951 has replaced the jeep he had been using since V-J Day. The auto was waiting outside to take him home, the same house he and his family have lived in for nearly 20 years. It is a Western-style house and has ten rooms, three bathrooms and a large garden.

We shook hands as Pan Yung-gang rose to leave. I walked to the hotel door and watched him get into his shiny black car. He waved a final good-bye through the open window as his chauffeur drove off.

Trade unionists check production for quality and quantity in this private cotton mill in Shanghai—part of the Wu Fan campaign against corruption.



# Canadian Garment Worker Sees How Soviet Workers Live

by KATE HLADIY

**W**HEN our Canadian delegates arrived in Moscow, on August 10, 1952, it was not the beautiful buildings, the wide, clean streets, but the people that caught my eye. Being a needle trades worker in Canada for almost 18 years, I was anxious to see how they dress, to visit their wearing apparel industries, and speak to the people. Being Ukrainian I could understand Russian enough to talk with as many people as I wanted and asked about their life, working conditions and wages.

Today back in my own country, thinking of those people far away, I can say they are wonderful. They are satisfied with their way of life, they love their country.

Each man, woman and child has a right and privilege to visit and enjoy the many summer resorts. In Yalta alone over 179,000 visited that paradise during the year. In our five days in Yalta and elsewhere on the Crimean Peninsula, I saw hundreds

of thousands of people from all spheres of life. People like myself. They looked so contented with life. I was told that over 300,000 visit the resorts of the Crimean Peninsula on the Black Sea every year. Could it be that they would wish to destroy life? I was told over and over again when speaking to the workers that in their country, "it is life above all."

The rest homes and sanatoriums are run on a pattern similar to the exclusive resorts in Canada. But in the USSR the fees are very nominal and such institutions operate on a mass scale. Every trade union worker pays only one-third of the total cost and about 20 per cent of the passes to these institutions are given free of charge every year.

In Rostov-on-Don we visited Sewing Factory No. 4, where 1,000 workers make men's suits, ladies' suits, men's trousers and children's dresses. The building is large with lots of windows and good ventilation; all "line system" and yet there is no speed up. In the factory they had a large recreation room, canteen, nursery where mothers breast-feed their babies, reading room, and a special room for trade union officers, two union paid officials.

We were asked to have dinner with the workers. It was a delicious meal and we had the privilege of speaking

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MRS. KATE HLADIY, a Canadian needle trades worker for 18 years, is a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. She visited the Soviet Union with the Second Canadian Trade Union Delegation to the USSR, a group sponsored by the Canadian-Soviet Friendship Society upon the invitation of the Soviet Trade Union Council.

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Workers of Sewing Factory No. 4, in Rostov, gather in the factory yard in a send-off meeting for the visiting delegation of Canadian workers.

to many workers. Later all the workers left their machines and came out in the factory yard to bid us farewell. It was an unforgettable event. "It is peace and friendship we want with you Canadian workers. When you go back home, extend our hearty greetings to your people. Let us all work for peace as war brings only death and destruction." These were the words spoken by many workers gathered around us, and they kept waving to us as we drove away.

In discussions with the women, I was told that during the war this factory was completely destroyed, but as soon as the invaders were driven out the women organized a brigade and with bare hands cleared the debris and started rebuilding their sewing factory and gathering machines from all over the city and country to supply people with clothing. Women get equal pay with men and 70 per cent of the cutters and designers are women.

Every worker has a chance to study and become highly skilled. The school is free. A beginner gets 360 rubles a month for six months while learning and works only five hours a day. The rest of the time he studies.

In Odessa we visited the Vorovsky Clothing Factory which has 1,500 workers. This is a modern factory, line system, where they make women's coats. N. Katsnelson, of Jewish nationality, is the director. In this factory they had an apparatus that did the office work, a huge machine in contact with the whole plant, checked the work of each shop by electric buttons. Yes, every coat finished was accounted for and over 800 beautiful garments were finished every day, also some cheaper grade garments.

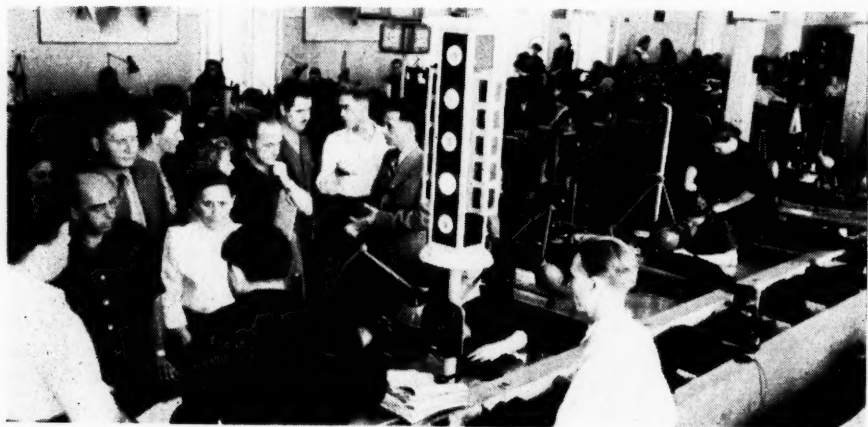
Average wages of the workers in both these factories were from 700 to 1800 rubles a month. When they learned I was a seamstress, they gave me and the other woman delegate, Constance Leech, lovely "shorty" coats—just as nicely made as the one I had from Canada.

Sixty women were on the pregnancy list in this factory and when I spoke to some, I learned they had no fear of losing their jobs, besides which they had nearly three months leave of absence with up to 100 per cent of their pay. Nor did they worry about children being left home alone. Every factory has a nursery for children up to seven years. A mother could leave her child for the day or over-night if necessary. The cost is between 20 and 35 rubles a month—on a percentage basis of their wages.

When writing about the wearing apparel, I would like to mention that we also visited a fur dressing, dyeing and sewing factory in Moscow. It has 900 workers, and we found the factory so clean. We were amazed by the absence of raw skin odor. There were large windows and good ventilation. Persian lamb and other furs were prepared. In five years they had only two cases of hand disease. Sixty per cent of the leading posts were occupied by women.

We spoke to an old man who started in the fur trade in 1905. He

Canadian workers' delegation visits the Vorovsky Clothing Factory, Odessa.



had to work five years for nothing to learn the trade. He works today only because so many people were killed during the war, and he is healthy and wants to help the younger ones. He is an instructor in the sorting of furs. He told us that today they have special courses of three years training free, and the worker gets wages besides. "I was born too soon," said the old gentleman.

E. F. Melnikova, instructor in finishing of furs, has been 27 years in the trade. She looks healthy and gets a long-service bonus in addition to her wages. Many of the workers get fur clothing.

The floors in the dyeing and cleaning rooms are constantly washed. Every worker has a platform beside his machine so no one has to stand on the cement floor.

Outside they have a 15-acre park in front of the factory. A sewing factory is in the adjoining building. This we found to be clean, airy and with plenty of space between the machines. The workers coming out after eight hours work looked happy, were nicely dressed in summer clothes, and were full of life.

In the Skorokhod Shoe Factory in Leningrad, where 10,000 people work, we saw all types of beautiful shoes on display, every bit as nice as ours, and I would say many of the children's shoes are much better than we have here. We were told that before 1917 all leather was brought from foreign countries and all shoes were made by hand. Today this is a modern factory. They produce their own leather and by 1940 all work was done on a conveyor system. The people of this factory were very proud of their achievements. Their factory has won the Order of Lenin more than once for the best work and most modern machinery as well. The

workers of the whole shop got special bonuses from the government.

Attached to every one of these factories were well equipped and adequately staffed clinics. All of these clinics have X-ray machines and every three months each worker gets a physical check-up. Also specialists are provided for treatment of eyes, ears and respiratory organs. "Prophylactoria" are attached to the clinics to prevent the spread of any disease. Special gynecological departments for women were provided. When I compare our first aid box with the clinics I have seen in those factories, free of charge to all workers, I feel that the greatest care is taken of the workers' health in the USSR.

In speaking to the workers about their trade unions, we found their unions were organized on an industrial basis, the shop groups being the basic unit. They have factory committees, also district and national organizations.

Collective agreements are concluded to govern relations between workers and administrators of the enterprise. Trade unions are free and independent. It is not compulsory to belong to a union. Trade unions take care of workers, not only in the shops, but plan recreation after work, build rest homes, children's camps, as well as distribute the new apartment blocks they live in.

Perhaps I shall never see those people in the Soviet Union again, but after speaking to them, looking at them, I say—we the people of the Western world would be much happier people if we had friendship, trade and no hate propaganda against the people in the East. The people of the Soviet Union want no enemies. We felt there was no hate toward us as Canadians.

# ALBANIAN WOMEN

## Draft Their Own Plan

by

BEATRICE KING

**I**N ALL the People's Democracies, the fulfillment of economic plans would be impossible without the participation of the women. The higher the targets set by the plans, the greater the women's participation. Albania is no exception to this rule. But in Albania the task of persuading the women to work outside their home or family circle is probably more difficult than in any of the other People's Democracies. Geographic, historical, social and religious factors all combined to create a deep-rooted opposition and distrust to entering what from time immemorial had been considered the male sphere, which in fact included the whole world outside the home with its occasional strip of land.

For five years or so, the Albanian Democratic Women's Union has been carrying on an intensive, but carefully thought-out campaign to break down reactionary tribal customs that had for centuries enslaved the women and hindered their contribution to

the country's development. Their success has been most impressive. Encouraged by this and supported by the experience gained during past campaigns, they have taken on new obligations, as their contribution to the fulfillment of Albania's first Five-Year Plan.

To think of Albania having a Five-Year Plan is quite staggering. The Women's Union, the advance guard of the women in the progress of their country from a primitive to a modern economy, know full well the importance of the first Five-Year Plan for Albania, and perhaps for others too. It will not only advance the country economically, raise the standard of living, allow for more nurseries, schools, universities, clubs and theaters, hospitals and health centers, new housing, better food and clothing. Its fulfillment will create confidence in those distrustful peasants who may still lend an ear to hostile propaganda. It will help to convince other doubters, too, that a small nation particularly, has much to gain from being a People's Democracy.

Thus the fourth Annual Assembly of the Union of Albanian Women, held in Tirana in mid-June, having heard and discussed a report on

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A leading cotton grower on an agricultural producers' cooperative in the village of Mamantias, in Albania.

the first Five-Year Plan, set out the tasks which faced their organization in the fulfillment of the Plan. Since for Albanian women, Enver Hoxha, Secretary General of the Albanian Workers' Party, is someone very close, they wrote to him about their decisions. This is what they said:

"Albanian women welcome the first Five-Year Plan as a great victory in our life, made possible by your leadership and that of our beloved Party, as well as by the help of our precious friend, the Soviet Union, and Comrade Stalin. Our energies are redoubled by the successes we are achieving under your guidance. We assure you, Comrade Enver,

that we will merit the confidence you have placed in us women by making us 25 per cent of the construction forces of the Five-Year Plan. We will do our utmost to fulfill the tasks assigned to us in time, in quantity and in quality.

"In completing the tasks which the Five-Year Plan assigns to us, we will also say to you in 1955, 'Illiteracy has been abolished among women.' We are going to work so that by the end of 1953 illiteracy will be abolished among the workers on state and cooperative farms.

"We pledge that by the end of the Five-Year Plan, 17,000 women and girls will have taken up work outside their home. Already we have undertaken that by the end of 1952, there will be 250 entrants into the nursing profession, 225 entrants into the teaching profession, while by the end of September 447 women and girls will enter the textile industry, and between now and the end of December 5,024 women will take up other jobs concerned with the Plan.

"We will do our best to see that all women attend the Mother and Child schools to learn how better to bring up their children and to help the country to solve this problem.

"The women of the villages are mobilizing themselves in the campaign to overfulfill harvest targets in time. They will reap and thresh without losing one grain."

The campaign for fulfilling their undertakings started off with large meetings in every department, district and village to explain the decisions of the Assembly and to make clear that the fulfillment of this first Five-Year Plan was a great contribution to the struggle for world peace.

The pledges made to Enver Hoxha have inspired the women everywhere

and mobilized their forces not merely to fulfill but in many cases to over-fulfill the Plan. By the middle of July, the Department of Korca had sent 11 girls to train as teachers and 23 to the textile industry. The women's organization in Fieri has recruited 25 for the textile industry and 10 girls for nursing. Similar reports were given of other districts. A short recruiting campaign for workers in the power industry resulted in 350 new workers, women and girls.

Once these young women, peasants and workers have finished their training, they will return to their villages and districts as teachers of the new generation that will carry out further economic plans. They will care for the health and the hygiene of their people. They will become the workers of tomorrow capable of manning the great machines of the vast Stalin Textile combine.

The spirit of emulation released among the workers has similarly been let loose among the peasants by these pledges to Hoxha. Everywhere they were working to complete reaping and threshing ahead of time. With this aim in view the women in 11 departments had by the middle of July, formed 918 cooperative teams, comprising 9,637 women.

In the Department of Lezha 90 per cent of the crops had already been gathered by the women. Everywhere the countrywomen have given great help with the threshing, and with hoeing of industrial crops. They promised to help families without a bread-winner, and the families of soldiers. A great many women have already pledged themselves to attend the Mother and Child schools and to read journals and newspapers.

There is no doubt whatever that the women will fulfill their pledge to Enver Hoxha.

### **SUSAN WOODRUFF 1869-1953**

**U**NTIL the illness of which she died on January 28 laid her low, there was hardly a meeting in New York concerned with peace or some other issue of deep concern to the people, in which one could not see, shining out from the crowd, the bright blue eyes of Susan Woodruff. No one could miss those eyes sending forth the pure, clear flame of the love for humanity that infused her devoted and courageous spirit.

We of NEW WORLD REVIEW share with many other groups a deep sense of loss and everlasting gratitude for the many ways in which she helped us in our work. She carried word of our magazine with her when in the years after her visits to the Soviet Union she spoke to many groups of what she had seen, showing pictures she had taken of the life of the Soviet people, visiting many communities, going into the mines to take her message to the miners.

It was Susan Woodruff who inaugurated the gift fund through which it has been possible to get our magazine into many libraries, writing personally to thousands of libraries all over the country asking whether they wished to receive it.

A teacher for many years, a veteran of the woman's suffrage movement, an indefatigable worker for peace, she finally came to believe that only through socialism could the ideals of the American Revolution for which her forebears fought be finally achieved.

# How a City Soviet Works

by RALPH PARKER

Local government elections were held in February throughout the Soviet Union. Deputies were elected to the Soviets (Councils) in regions and territories, districts, towns and cities, city districts and villages and hamlets. How do these local Soviets function? Our Moscow correspondent here describes the set-up, the aims and the work of one City Soviet.

**I** PROPOSE to examine in some detail the activities of a City Soviet whose members were elected during the last local elections. It was on December 17, 1950, that elections were held in Syzran, a city of Kuibyshev Region. Five days later the Syzran City Soviet held its first session. Here it elected the Executive Committee of the Soviet, set up nine permanent commissions — including Trade, Local Industry, Culture and Education, Municipal Economy and Amenities, Health — and confirmed the appointment of departmental heads. After the session, the Executive Committees of the City Soviet and of the three city District Soviets, and the permanent commissions, drew up their plans, based on the main directives indicated by the Government and the Party, the city's economic plan, and the instructions of the electors.

In Syzran it is tradition that the first Friday of the month is Soviet Day. What this means may be seen from the events of Friday, February 2, 1951, when seven of the permanent

commissions held sessions. At the Municipal Economy Commission, in addition to the eight deputies comprising it, there were thirty-two activists: house managers, chairmen of street committees, representatives of city and district housing departments, municipal employees. At the Health Commission there were nine deputies and fifty-four activists, mostly doctors and teachers. Twenty-five activists attended the session of the Local Industry Commission. In all, more than two hundred deputies and activists attended that day.

The principal item on the agenda of the Municipal Economy Commission session was discussion of town amenities, on which about thirty million rubles were to be spent in 1951, including expenditure on housing. The chairman declared that it would be necessary, if all the plans were to

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be fulfilled, to attract the people themselves to such jobs as tree-planting, laying new water mains, paving streets and highways. Deputy A. S. Kuznetsov suggested that the Executive Committee discuss the most effective ways of doing this. House manager I. O. Nesmelova advised a discussion on extending the practice of "Socialist upkeep of houses" (the tenants undertaking a public obligation to maintain them in good order). She pointed out that several instructions from the electors had put this forward. S. V. Shmonin, the oldest deputy, was worried about repeating last year's delay in the work of the town Building and Repairs Office, Water and Drains Department, and Parks and Open Spaces Committee. Both he and deputy Sidorkin (chief engineer of the town power station) recommended that the Executive Committee hear a report on the subject. During its three-hours session many other proposals were put forward and included in the Executive Committee's plan, together with those coming from the other commissions in session that day.

There were, however, other ways in which proposals reached the Executive Committee. These included meetings of the city Party activists, and consultations held by deputies among rank-and-file citizens in their homes.

The plan was adopted in its final form by the City Executive Committee on February 5, many persons active in the city's affairs being present by invitation for the occasion. At this meeting it was decided to hold mass town meetings to discuss participation in the improvement of amenities.

I have before me a copy of this Plan, as adopted. It lists the questions to be prepared and discussed

at meetings of the Executive Committee of the City Soviet, lays down rules of procedure for the monthly meetings of the permanent commissions and the City Soviet, and lists a number of measures of a mass character to be taken in order "to rally the workers by hand and brain for the fulfillment of the economic plan, to extend more advanced methods of work, and to give practical help to Soviet personnel in improving their work."

A group of deputies of the City Soviet are called on to prepare a report on the extension of personal service shops (hairdressers, tailoring, shoe-repair shops, etc.) and improvement of their work. The chairmen of permanent commissions and the Secretary of the Executive Committee are to report during March on the fulfillment of electors' instructions by Executive Committee departments. The Municipal Economy Department is to report on the City Housing Department's work. The Department of Culture and Education is to report on the repertoire of the City Drama



Theater and the workers' clubs. The Committee for Physical Culture and Sport is to report on the development of physical culture and sport in the spring and summer months; and so on.

Among measures of a mass character the following are typical: the Executive Committees of the city District Soviets to organize a conference of street committees and

public sanitation volunteers on the spring campaign for town cleaning and improvements; the Executive Committees of the District Soviets and City Education Department to hold a conference of members of school-parents' committees on school-family relations and spring examinations; the Permanent Commission on Culture and Education to call a conference of workers in cultural and educational institutions on improved cultural services to the working people; the Executive Committees of the District Soviets to hold town meetings in the workers' housing estates, factories and offices, on improvements of town amenities, etc.

These are plans. What about their fulfillment?

I have a report on this, too, from Syzran, made some months after the adoption of the plan of work in February. The town meetings had been held. The first spring Sundays saw mass participation by the citizens in public works: they planted 18,000 trees and 35,000 shrubs, laid out nearly 170,000 square feet of lawns and got all parks and squares ready for opening. Workers, employees, housewives and school-children of one city district laid out a large new park. Many courtyards and streets were cleaned and decorated. Nearly the whole of the city's housing accommodation was taken over by the tenants for "Socialist upkeep." Conferences of street committees, sanitation representatives, medical workers and house managers, tenants' meetings and sessions of the Permanent Commission for Municipal Economy, preceded the beginning of the work in the wards.

Other measures taken include a fortnight's investigation by teams of deputies and activists into postal communication in the city outskirts,

where there had been complaints of late deliveries.

The sessions of the City Soviet and the Permanent Commissions, well attended by activists, were marked by sharp discussion. After three months of the operation of the plan the deputies started to report to their electors on their work and on progress in fulfilling the electors' instructions. Eighty-two instructions were given



on questions of municipal economy and amenities, roads, water supply, drainage, street cars, open spaces and lighting. Twenty-two of them had been completely carried out after three months work by the new City Soviet, thirty-four (involving new buildings in each case) were to be completed in the next few months, while twenty-seven were included in the 1952 plan. There was much serious criticism at the meetings of the Soviet and commissions, leveled at the Ministry of Municipal Economy of the RSFSR and personally at the Minister, for delays in approving the technical drawings for a street car line and Palace of Culture.

This glimpse into the working of a typical City Soviet will, I believe, leave no doubt about the broad participation of ordinary Soviet citizens in the running of local affairs, a matter which, with the Soviet Union in its present stage of construction, involves them not only in administering what they have, but also in building for the future on a tremendous scale.

# Crime Drops in Poland

***Dramatic decline and rehabilitation of offenders are cited as reasons for amnesty bill that slashes sentences***

by DAVID TURNER-SAMUELS

**C**RIME is falling dramatically in People's Poland. In 1951, the seventh year of people's rule, the number of convicted persons was exactly *one-third* the 1937 figure.

While in 1937, the number of persons convicted for murder was 1,330, in 1951, it was 258, that is, less than one-fifth the 1937 figure.

In 1951, the number of people convicted for robbery and armed robbery amounted to only one-third those convicted for the same offenses in 1937. In 1951, the number convicted for theft was only one-fifth the 1937 figure for the same offense.

These figures were given by Stanislaw Radkiewicz, Minister of Public Security, when he presented an Amnesty Bill to the new Parliament on November 22, 1952.

They are all the more interesting because of the problem of the increasing crime which faces us in Britain, where indictable offenses rose 85 per cent between 1938 and 1951.

The Minister's explanation of this decrease is that improved economic and political conditions have steadily removed the cause of crime.

"After Poland's liberation," he said in his speech, "People's Poland

inherited among other things a grim legacy of demoralization and depravation, including a high incidence of crime. This could not be otherwise.

"Before the war, Poland had a capitalist system in which prevailed a jungle law of exploitation of the people by the propertied classes, an exploitation resulting in growing poverty and pauperization. In order to stifle the growing class consciousness of the people, the rulers poisoned their minds and kindled their basest instincts by demoralizing propaganda spread by films and the press. This demoralization was increased and aggravated by the cruel and gangster-like policy of the Nazi invaders during the six years of occupation.

"To-day, all this has become a memory. The system of people's democracy has changed the basic living and working conditions of the population. These changes and the stabilization of conditions are reflected, among other things, in the steady decrease in crime."

He gave further examples of the decrease in crime and the relationship to developing conditions.

"The situation of women in this

country has basically changed and as a result the crime of infanticide has fallen to one-tenth the 1937 figure," he said.

"The living conditions of young people have also changed. Thus, despite cases of hooliganism which we are stamping out, the total number of persons convicted for participating in brawls and for using lethal weapons fell in 1951 to less than one-fifth the 1937 figure.

"The number of serious offenses is dropping from year to year. Thus, in 1951, the number of persons convicted for murder was less than half; for robbery one-fifth and for theft, half of the 1947 figures.

"These figures clearly testify to the beneficial influence of the people's rule on the moral level of the broad mass of the population."

The Amnesty Bill provides:

(a) full remission of sentence for those sentenced to not more than one year's imprisonment;

(b) reduction of sentence by half for those sentenced to from one to three years' imprisonment;

(c) reduction of sentence by one-third for those sentenced to more than three years' imprisonment;

(d) commutation of the death sentence to fifteen years' imprisonment;

(e) reduction of a life sentence to twelve years' imprisonment.

The only prisoners to whom the amnesty will not apply are those who have committed the gravest offenses against the State in the service or pay of foreign agencies or who directed criminal activity against the political and economic foundations of the existence of the independent sovereignty of the Polish people, and certain habitual criminals.

As a result of the amnesty more

than half those in prison will be freed and many others will have their sentences reduced.

Those released will have no difficulty in obtaining work and becoming honest citizens, stated Mr. Radkiewicz.

"We have grounds to believe," he said, "that this will come about because our prisons are places where a real attempt is made to reform a prisoner and to re-educate him through a wide program of general, vocational and political training. Today, we can see already the positive results of this policy.

"Through the expansion of a wide system of vocational training in 1951-52, 8,500 prisoners acquired high qualifications in various trades and won diplomas as technicians,



fitters, welders, motor mechanics, etc., and more than three times as many were taught other trades.

"It is the duty of all of us to look after those who come under the amnesty after they have been set free, to help them to find work, to create a friendly and edifying atmosphere around them so that they may be prevented from going back to a life of crime."

This amnesty and the great reduction in crime are signs of the confidence, strength and unity of the Polish people, and are another fruit of their magnificent achievements under people's power.

(From the British publication *Poland Today*)

# "Liberation" in South Korea

***Rhee regime and its horrors likened to fascist patterns by noted correspondent***

**A**LL TOO SELDOM does the true picture of conditions in South Korea and the real aims behind the Korean war emerge in the press of our nation. Our readers will therefore find revealing—as well as shocking—the first-hand reports which recently appeared in the Chicago *Sun-Times*. The author, Frederick Kuh, is a veteran newspaper correspondent. He was Central European correspondent for the *London Daily Herald*, 1919-23; representative of the *United Press* in London, Moscow and Berlin, 1924-42, and since 1942 correspondent of the *Chicago Times*, now the *Sun-Times*.

Following are highlights from a series of six articles which appeared in the *Sun-Times* late in December, 1952. Mr. Kuh was assigned by his paper to Korea to cover Gen. Eisenhower's flying visit and remained to study the situation in the Far East.

## ***Dying for Tungsten***

Mr. Kuh reveals one of the main reasons for which tens of thousands of Americans are shedding their blood in the process of devastating Korea and killing millions of its people:

If the United Nations Command in coming months attempts a major offensive to Korea's narrow waist, one important reason for that action will be tungsten. . . .

Almost half of South Korea's total exports, according to value, are tungsten. . . . All of it went toward America's stockpile. . . . This mineral, used for hardening steel, is of im-

mense value in manufacturing armaments. . . .

But the richest tungsten mines of Korea are beyond the UN's front lines . . . and a successful offensive about 70 miles up the peninsula would transfer possession to the Allied side. . . .

Officers at headquarters of Lt. Gen. James A. Van Fleet have estimated the probable Allied casualties in an offensive to the waistline at 30,000 or more. It would be a great price to pay. . . .

But this appears at the moment to be the favored strategy. . . .

*Sun-Times*, Dec. 23

## ***An American Dependency***

Warning that even a military victory would not guarantee the realization of U.S. aims in Korea, Mr. Kuh states that "the long arm, of the United States," in addition to its military role in South Korea

. . . is also the force by which the dictatorship of President Syngman Rhee is holding down unrest among the 20 million South Koreans. These people, hardened to poverty and misery over the centuries, also have felt the ferment bubbling throughout Asia. Their nationalism, repressed during 35 years of Japanese rule, may rebel in the years ahead against being an American dependency.

*Sun-Times*, Dec. 23

## ***War Breeds Impoverishment And Ignorance***

Mr. Kuh describes the impoverishment and ignorance of South Korea resulting from the burden of spend-

ing 70 per cent of its budget for military purposes:

To imagine how these people live . . . you can picture the slummiest slum in the United States and then multiply its squalor by 10. That describes the condition of almost the entire nation. . . .

Separation of the South from the resources of the North has struck a heavy blow at recovery. . . .

The ministry of finance says of the total budget about 3 per cent is being spent on schooling. That is 1-23rd of the sum being devoted to the armed forces, now to be greatly increased. . . . More than one-third of the 4 million children of school age fail to attend. . . .

*Sun-Times*, Dec. 24

As long as Korea is shedding its blood, deprived of a large part of its productive manhood, squandering its meager resources in war, the road to a healthy economy remains a mirage.

*Sun Times* Dec. 26

### **Hitler-Like Labor Practices**

In another dispatch, Mr. Kuh described the fascist-like practices used by the Syngman Rhee Government toward labor:

Trade unions exist in name only . . . the South Korean Labor Federation has points of likeness to Hitler's labor front or Franco's Spanish labor syndicates.

One of the most authoritative comments on this whole subject is a confidential report by two representatives of the International Labor Office produced after making a study in Korea. Dated September, 1951, its essential conclusions are just as valid now. These UN experts wrote:

"Police play a more important part than the labor administration both in labor recruitment and labor relations. . . . Average wages are between one-fourth and one-half of the min-

imum amount necessary to maintain a family. . . . While prices continue to rise . . . any trade unionists who press for wage increases would be likely to be arrested as Communist saboteurs. . . ."

These findings have been corroborated by other competent experts here, including U.S. military authorities. . . .

*Sun-Times*, Dec. 25

### **Rhee's Terrorist Regime**

Mr. Kuh graphically describes the nature of the Syngman Rhee regime which the United States government and army are upholding:

South Korea is a police state. It is a land of fear. People are afraid—not just of hunger, cold, war, disease, but of each other, of the police and officials.

The 64,000 state police have unlimited power of arrest, detention and torture and they use that power promiscuously. It is common for these so-called guardians of the law to give arrested persons a severe beating before questioning them, just to put them in a receptive frame of mind. . . .

We have under our protection a system with much resemblance to Nazism. The Korean police share many traits of the Gestapo. The Korean youth corps is often an adjunct to the police. . . .

Cases have been reported . . . where people who applauded a critic of Rhee at a public meeting were afterward taken into custody. . . .

Almost universal graft among small officials. . . . But it is the big racketeers who prey on their oppressed countrymen with the greatest brutality. . . .

The harshness of police corruption is striking. If a farmer protests when the policeman seizes part of his food, he is liable to be sent to prison as a Communist or be dispatched to the labor units at the front line.

*Sun-Times*, Dec. 27

# NEW DIGNITY FOR WOMEN

**Soviet women, both as mothers and builders,  
actively participate in creating a new life**

**by VERA GOLUBEVA**

***A Soviet Journalist***

**W**ITH THE founding of the Soviet land women, for the first time in the history of mankind, felt that they were complete human beings, as both mothers and builders. Formerly deprived of all rights and oppressed by the entire social system, they had for the first time the opportunity to develop and express the entire wealth of their creative abilities and talents.

Women in the USSR have equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other public activity. These rights are inviolably protected by the fundamental law of the USSR, the Constitution, and given practical implementation in every sphere of life.

The biography of any Soviet woman is a living example of the great gains which the Soviet system has brought her. Take, for example, Praskovia Malinina, born in a village in Kostroma Region among poor illiterate peasants. At the age of 12 she had to work as a farm hand. Only Soviet power freed her from the gloomy and hopeless fate to which the peasant women were doomed. Capable, energetic and strong-willed, Praskovia soon learned to read and write and became an active builder of a new life. She was among the first to join the collective farm where she worked in the dairy section.

The persistent efforts of the Kostroma cattle breeders, Praskovia Malinina included, resulted in developing a new valuable breed of cattle, known throughout the USSR for its high milk yield. It thus came about that an ordinary collective farm woman delivered a lecture on her achievements to students and professors of the Timiryazev Academy of Agriculture, one of the oldest institutions of higher learning in the country.

Praskovia Malinina is now chairman of the October Collective Farm, Kostroma Region. On the invitation of foreign friends, she has visited Poland, Czechoslovakia and China; the peasants of Rumania, Hungary and Albania turn to her for advice. Praskovia Malinina's heroic labor won her the high distinction of a Stalin Prize. The title of Hero of Socialist Labor was conferred upon her by the Soviet Government, and the people have twice elected her deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR. This is how a peasant woman became a stateswoman.

Praskovia Malinina's life is no exception. The title of Hero of Socialist Labor has been conferred upon nearly two thousand women who attained bumper crops and high productivity in cattle breeding. Ulyana Barkova, well-known cattle breeder, was twice



Antonina Zhandarova (left) and Olga Agafonova have both won renown as outstanding lathe operators in a factory in Lublino, near Moscow.

awarded the gold medal of Hero of Socialist Labor. A bronze bust will be put at her birthplace to immortalize the labor deeds of this simple peasant woman who has won fame and honor.

Leading women Stakhanovites working at enterprises in different parts of the country—such as Korabelnikova, Olga Mushtukova, Maria Levchenko, Maria Rozhneva, Lydia Kononenko, Antonina Zhandarova, Olga Agafonova and many others—are popular people's heroines.

The great role played by women in the life of the Soviet Union is evident from the following: More than half the college-trained specialists in the USSR are women. Over a million women are attending higher educational institutions this year. The Leningrad University alone has more than six thousand women students—representatives of 65 nationalities, including Eskimos, Nentsi and other

Northern peoples who under tsarism did not even have their own written language. Some 400,000 women engineers and technicians occupy important positions engaged in various fields of science, almost one million women are teachers, and more than a million work in Soviet health services, 200,000 of them as physicians.

For outstanding work in the field of invention, science, literature and the arts 730 women were awarded the Stalin Prize. Two hundred and eighty women are deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR—far more than in any other parliament in the world. More than half a million women are deputies to local Soviets.

Particularly striking are the successes attained by the women in the Soviet national republics. The women of formerly oppressed peoples lacking any rights have advanced to a level of progress it would have taken cen-

turies to attain. The world's highest cotton harvest was achieved by the Azerbaidzhan women collective farmers Basti Bagirova and Shamama Gasanova. The world's highest sugar-beet crop was raised by the Kazakh collective farm women O. Gonazhenko, Darikha Zhantokova and Bitai Tatenova—Heroes of Socialist Labor. Highly esteemed throughout the country are Naili Bazanova, Member of the Kazakh Academy of Sciences; Zulfia Umidova, Doctor of Medical Sciences and Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, and Professor Sarajon Yusupova, a geologist and member of the Tadzhik Academy of Sciences.

Well known beyond the confines of the country are the names of the Uzbek women, People's Artists of the USSR Khalima Nasyrova and the talented dancer Tamara Khanum, founder of the school of Uzbek folk dance.

In the Soviet Republics women

Twice a Hero of Socialist Labor, Basti Bagirova is a team leader on an Azerbaidzhan collective farm.



have been appointed to cabinet posts. Thus, in Tadzhikistan, Munavar Kasymova, is Minister of Light Industry, and Mariam Bazarbayeva, Minister of Social Maintenance. In the Tatar Autonomous Republic, Alina Valliulina is Minister of Education.

Soviet women have every opportunity to combine the joys of family life and motherhood with their professional work. One of the very first decrees issued by the Soviet Government was that on the protection of mother and child, a decree expressing deep love for children and great concern for mothers. It laid the foundation for extensive state measures and legislation which developed into a harmonious, scientifically-grounded system of mother and child care.

Soviet law protects the health of mother and child. Pregnant women have the right to be transferred to lighter work retaining the average pay received during the previous six months. Pregnant women are under the care of qualified medical personnel and they are provided with maternity leave of 35 days before and 45 days after confinement.

A huge network of maternity homes, women's and children's consultation centers, milk kitchens, polyclinics and hospitals, sanatoria, forest schools, kindergartens and nurseries have been set up and are maintained by the state. Every summer more than five million children build up their health in Young Pioneer camps, in children's sanatoria situated in suburbs, in the forests, on the seashore, and on the banks of rivers and lakes. The magnificent result of this concern of the state for the children is the steady decline of sickness. Compared with 1940, child mortality in the Soviet land has dropped by more than half.

In the USSR all children without exception receive free seven-year schooling and very soon every Soviet youth and girl will graduate ten-year secondary school and receive a matriculation certificate—testifying to his all-round fundamental knowledge.

Soviet mothers need not worry about their children's future. They are brought up to be masters of their destiny, full-fledged citizens of the Soviet state. The door to any occupation or profession they desire is open to them.

The mother in the USSR is surrounded by general respect and esteem. Her noble and modest work of bringing up children has been placed on the same level as the exploits marked by the gold star of a Hero. The honorable title of "Mother Heroine" has been conferred upon more than 35,000 Soviet women. Over three million women have been awarded the "Motherland Glory" Order and Motherhood Medal.

Soviet women take an active part in carrying out the gigantic plans of peaceful construction work. They were among those who built the Volga-Don Canal. They are enthusiastically working on the great Construction Works of Communism, erecting the huge hydroelectric stations and irrigation systems on the Volga, Don, Dnieper and Amudarya.

Soviet women—from rank-and-file workers and collective farmers to leading figures in science and culture—are working to fulfill the fifth Five-Year-Plan, the great plan of peaceful construction and improvement in the material well-being of the people which is being carried out according to the decisions of the Nineteenth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Guided by Stalin's great new contribution on "Economic

Problems of Socialism in the USSR," the Congress outlined the magnificent prospects of the Soviet Union's development from socialism to communism, which means the creation of a life of abundance for all.

The thoughts of the Soviet women, as of all the Soviet people, are directed towards peace. They are taking an active part in the preparations for the International Women's Congress which will be held in Denmark in June, 1953. Soviet women wholeheartedly support the appeal of the Women's International Democratic Federation on the convocation of the Congress:

"Women of the world! Let us join hands across all the borders so as to bar the road to war, oppression and poverty."

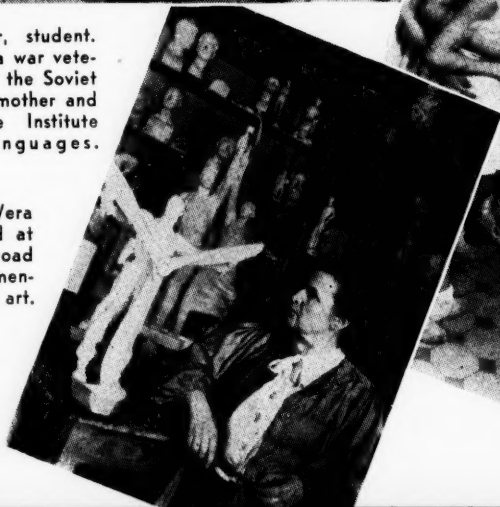
Khalima Nasyrova, an actress of the Uzbek Republic, has been awarded the title People's Artist of the USSR.





Heroine, mother, student. Natalia Meklin, a war veteran and Hero of the Soviet Union is now a mother and student of the Institute of Foreign Languages.

Sculpturess. Vera Mukhina, noted at home and abroad for her monumental works of art.



Cabinet minister. Sheker Ehmambetova, Vice-President of the Kazakh Republic is in her office during regular reception hours.



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# SOVIET WOMEN

Full participants in every aspect of their country's life, Soviet women live a rich, interesting and rewarding life. On these pages we offer a glimpse of some of the varieties of way in which they contribute to the creation of a happy, peaceful land.

Engineer. R. D. Petrova is senior engineer at Tsimlianskaya hydroelectric project on the Volga-Don Canal.



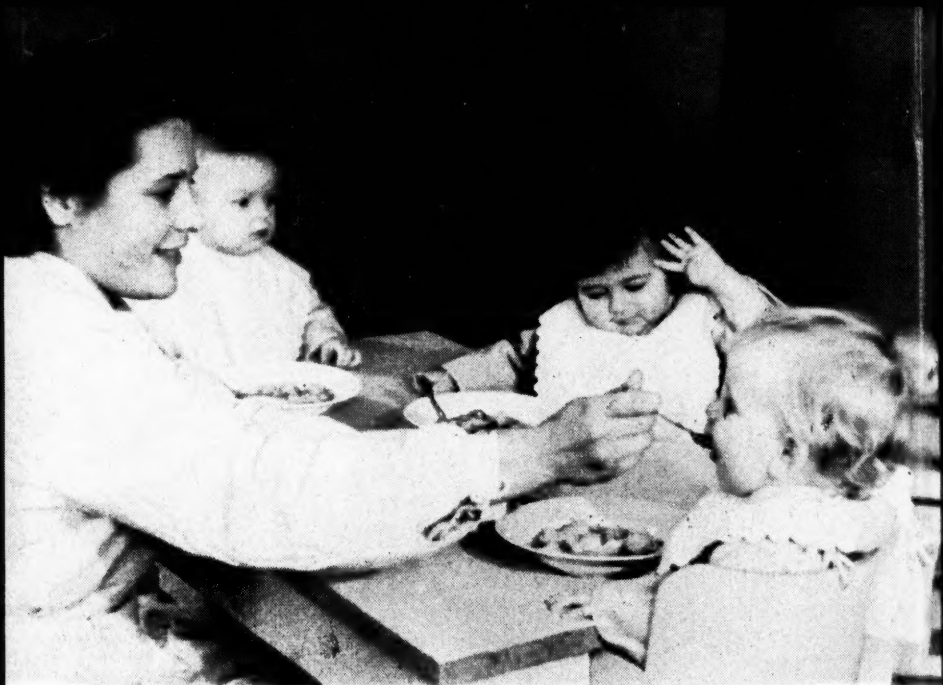
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Farmer-statesman. Zarbaf Jafarova, of Daghestan, is a collective farm chairman and Deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Bona-statesman. Olga Levinskaya, of the Bolshevik Theater, is also Deputy to the Supreme Soviet.





Nurseries like this one assure Soviet mothers excellent care of their children and leave them free to participate in the many activities of the country.

Youngsters are provided the best in schools, and teachers, like Natalia Priskalova (below) of Kiev, are awarded titles of honor for their devoted work.



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# The Medal

## *A short story from Bulgaria*

by NEDYALCHO MESSECHKOV

NESTLING in the feathery white clouds, the sun was already beginning to go down. A warm breeze was blowing from the fields, rustling in the trees and playing with the silvery hair which had escaped from under old mother Nedelya's kerchief.

The old woman was sitting under the green apple tree whose branches were laden with rich foliage. Her eyes rested quietly on the garden around her. On the road, coming from the village square, she saw the figure of Mikhail, the janitor at the Village Council.

He stopped by the fence and called out cheerfully

"So there's joy in your house, mother Nedelya. Got the wine ready?"

"Joy? What joy? Speak out, man!"

Mikhail smiled, took his rumpled cap off, passed his sleeve over his forehead and said brusquely:

"That's all I'm going to say. . . . You'll have to treat me!"

"Won't you tell me?" old mother Nedelya got to her feet and hurried to the door. "Come on in, I'll treat you."

"Later! I'm in a hurry just now," said Mikhail, and turned to go.

"You're a sly lad!" The old woman

caught him by the arm. "I shan't let you go till you tell me. What's this joy you're talking about? Is it for our children?"

Mikhail chuckled.

"Joy, mother Nedelya, joy for your house!" Then bending down he whispered in her ear: "It's still a secret. . . . There's to be a medal."

"A medal? For whom?"

"That's all I can tell you now. A medal, a reward. . . . The message has just come to the Village Council. The president will tell you himself whom they are giving it to," and he went his way up the street.

"Chatterbox!" muttered old mother Nedelya as she stared after him in disappointment. "Just blurted out what popped into his head and went off. . . . If he'd only told me who's to be given the medal."

The old woman went back to her chair under the apple tree.

Who was to be given a medal? Ivan was first in the Cooperative Farm, nor did Marin yield him pride of place either. . . . Georgi, on his own part, was a great hand at sheep-breeding. . . . Dinko was president of the tailors' cooperative. . . . Moncho, the youngest, was a tractor driver. All five were good lads—people liked

them and held them up as examples. Perhaps it was one of her daughters? Bonka was a group leader. Mika outscored them all at the harvest. Who could it be? Perhaps one of her daughters-in-law? . . . Nevyanka? . . . Dimitra . . . or Nikolina?

No, Nikolina had a baby, she was too busy with it for anything else. Yes, probably it was Nevyana or Dimitra, they were so good at their work.

Old mother Nedelya had a hard time trying to guess who was going to be given a medal. To her mind, every one of them deserved it.

"It may well be the youngest, Moncho, he is so hard-working, the whole village loves him. . . ." If Nikola had not been shot by the police in the mountains, if Bogdan had not fallen at the front near the Drava, as fearless as both of them were, as industrious and outstanding in everything they did, old mother Nedelya would have well seen medals on their chests too.

The sun had already gone down. The warm breeze blew stronger and dusk was falling.

That evening, when one after another, sons, daughters, daughters-in-law and grandchildren had all come home, mother Nedelya told them the news. But it was Moncho, the youngest, who spoke up first when the whole family was gathered at the round table for supper.

"It'll certainly be me," he said perkily. "I've ploughed the fields ahead of time. . . ." "It may just as well be me," cried Georgi. "Just think how well I have done with the sheep."

"Why not Ivan or Marin? They are top-rankers on the Cooperative Farm. And what about me?" said Dinko. "It was thanks to my efforts that our tailors' cooperative took the first



*"The old woman was sitting under the green apple tree . . ."*

place not only in our village, but in the whole county."

"What if it were one of the women?" Nikolina spoke up. "Bonka and Mika are a good example to all. Nevyanka and Dimitra are no worse either. . . . I don't count myself because baby takes all my time."

"Say what you will, but it'll certainly be me," cried Moncho again as he proudly stood up. "I've worked so hard, I've done the fields of the whole village. . . ."

"As if you were the only one who worked hard," Bonka flashed back angrily.

An argument started.

"Quiet now, children! Since it will be one of you, the pride will be for all of us," mother Nedelya concluded. "If it's one this time, it'll be another next. All of you deserve medals."

Just then the dog barked and one of the grandchildren rushed to open the door. The next moment the president of the Village Council entered the room, smiling broadly.

"Good evening to you all!" he said.

"Welcome to our home, Assen,"

answered the old woman. "Here's the man who'll tell us which of you is to get the medal!"

"So you've heard about it already, have you?"

"Mikhail dropped a hint, but I didn't quite grasp it. Do tell me now who the lucky one is!"

"Can't you guess yourself?"

"I love all my children alike. And they are all so good that I don't know what to think."

The president smiled and glanced around the room. All eyes were upon him. With bated breath they waited to see upon whom his eyes would fall. No one dared say a word. When he had looked at each one with a sly smile, the president laughed and tapped old mother Nedelya on the shoulder.

"The medal is for you, mother Nedelya, yes, for you! Just look at these sons and daughters you've reared! Do you think that's a small job? Nine have you brought into the world . . . two of them fell, but not in vain. Long live the rest, a joy to you, new hope for us. Yours is no small feat. Tomorrow you'll set out for Sofia. There you will be awarded your medal and given a scroll."

"But how's that. . . I thought one of the children . . . and now you. . .!"

Her eyes grew moist. Happy faces

turned to her from all sides and one of the daughters-in-law cried out:

"Our mother is indeed our pride. How glad I am! . . . Please sit down, president, and have a glass of wine with us. You've brought us such good news!"

She ran out of the room joyfully to fetch what was necessary to give the important guest a proper welcome.

"Well then, and none of us thought of her," she said to herself reproachfully.

The next day old mother Nedelya took the train to Sofia. The wind came into the compartment through the open window and blew on the old woman's face. But she did not feel it, for she was deep in thought. . . . So many years had she labored and so hard to bring up her children. And after her husband died, there was no one to help her, not even to give her a word of encouragement. Yet in spite of it all she had managed. She had made good and useful men and women of them all. Now the whole village respected them, and that filled her heart with ease and contentment.

It had never occurred to her that any one could think of awarding her a medal. And yet. . . .

(From *Bulgaria Today*)



## Jews in Bulgaria

IN BULGARIA newspapers are published in the Jewish, Armenian, Turkish, Gipsy and Macedonian languages. Sofia has a Jewish kindergarten, and a Jewish Institute there, for research into Jewish culture, has been collecting historical treasures since its founding in 1947.

# The Prague Trial

## ***I. The Slansky Conspiracy***

## ***II. What the Evidence Revealed***

## ***III. Meaning of the "Liberation" Policy***

## ***IV. The Smokescreen of "Anti-Semitism"***

## **I. The Slansky Conspiracy**

by **GEORGE WHEELER**

**A** TREMENDOUS, evil drama has been brought to a close here in Prague—a drama bought and paid for by our American taxpayers. For the main actors it came to a very bad end. For the chief sponsors too, it was a very big setback. But the Mutual Security Agency has bushels of greenbacks and is undoubtedly figuring out how to spend them all. My own feeling is that if average American citizens could see what they are buying they would not touch it with a ten-foot pole.

The essential purpose of the Slansky conspirators was the same as that of the Dulles brothers, the destruction of the People's Democratic regime from within and the restoration of monopoly capitalism. Since

the overwhelming majority of the people here want socialism, there is no democratic method by which capitalism can be restored. But as General Grow's diary and the U.S. government's Mutual Security Act \$100,000,000 appropriation for subversion within the People's Democracies make clear, the protectors of capitalism believe in hitting below the belt.

This I had known for some time from such eminent sources as *Collier's*, but still I confess being sickened by the foulness of the methods used by the men in this case. Listening to Slansky, we noted only once that he seemed to feel the depth of depravity that he had reached. This was when he told how he had arranged to leave Jan Sverma, Czech

national hero and close friend of Clement Gottwald, to freeze to death in a blizzard in the Slovak mountains. Slansky had thus removed the man who by his devotion to socialism, stood in the way of his own ambition to become the Tito of Czechoslovakia.

Slansky seemed to be comparatively calm when he related how he had hired Dr. Haskovec to shorten the life of President Gottwald—but the courtroom and all of Czechoslovakia seethed with indignation. They rejoice that their President's health has already improved.

With Slansky, and under his direction, worked a crew so base that it is difficult to characterize them without seeming to exaggerate. Let us listen to what Bedrich Reicin confessed in regard to himself—of course after being confronted with witnesses and documentary evidence. Reicin, appointed through Slansky's influence to the post of Deputy Chief of National Defense, had among other duties the protection of the Czechoslovak army from subversion and espionage—and he confessed that subversion and espionage were his own main activities.

Reicin started his sordid career when he was arrested by the Nazi Gestapo during the war. On his very first arrest he turned in the names of all of his comrades who were working on the underground staff of the newspaper, *Rude Pravo*—the

main voice of protest against the fascist occupation. The father of one of our children's schoolmates, Kurt Konrad, was among those he betrayed and sent to his death. The list of names he gave sounded almost endless. He and his like entered fully into the Gestapo services hunting out comrades whom they betrayed until the death toll mounted to 30,000 of Czechoslovakia's finest patriots. Among those that Reicin said that he betrayed was the gifted writer Julius Fucik,\* one of the most loved of all Czech leaders. He did this after sharing the work, the food and shelter of the Fuciks' home. Then after the war he filed claim to compensation as a resistance fighter and gave his work with Fucik as the basis of his claim!

Reicin related how he tipped off the Yugoslav agent Ivanovich on the location of the secret archives of K. H. Frank, the Nazi war criminal, and that later the United States Counter Intelligence Corps made a raid into Czech territory, dug them up and carted them off to Western Germany. The CIC could then blackmail into its service those who had served the Gestapo. Reicin testified that Slansky knew all of the details of his past, helped him to cover it up, and in this way obtained one more servant who had to undertake any job assigned to him.

Representative of those who specialized in economic sabotage was Ludvik Frejka-Freund, former head of the National Economy Section of the Office of the President of Czechoslovakia. Frejka testified, without notes, for five hours as to the various ways in which he, together with Goldman of the Planning Office and others, had attempted to disrupt the

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**GEORGE WHEELER** was formerly in U.S. Government service in Washington and later worked in the military government in Berlin. In 1947, together with his wife, Eleanor Wheeler, and their four children they went to Czechoslovakia where they are now working. **ELEANOR WHEELER's** articles from Prague appear regularly in N.W.R.

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\* Fucik's book, *Notes From the Gallows*, smuggled out of jail, is a classic of liberation literature.

## THE PRAGUE TRIAL

development of the Czechoslovak economy. He told of causing the over-expansion of some types of capacity, the building of new plants when sufficient capacity existed, the failure to build other plants needed for the integrated development of the economy, the failure to develop ferrous and non-ferrous metal deposits.

Similarly Loebel and Margolius, formerly Deputy Ministers of Foreign Trade, testified at length as to how they had sabotaged foreign trade and attempted to disrupt Czechoslovak-Soviet relations. For example, the price they quoted to the Soviet Union for electric motors was four times the price quoted to capitalist buyers. They sabotaged deliveries to the USSR. In 1949, they started a "dollar drive" and during this campaign exported huge quantities of goods to the West—and only fifty per cent of these goods were paid for. Within the country the gang arranged for the payment of 5,000,000,000 kroner to parasite elements during 1950 alone. Later various economic experts confirmed the enormous amount of damage that these activities had inflicted upon the Czechoslovak economy.

All of the 14 defendants confessed in open court, and reaffirmed their confessions at the end of the trial—even after 11 had received the death sentence. Why did they confess? At first some, such as Artur London, held off confessing, but after Slansky was caught they knew that the game was up. Loebel, one of the first arrested, knew that Noel Field had been taken and so he probably shrewdly guessed that Field would spill the beans. At his first interrogation he confessed fully to the

whole foul mess. After that Svab, as Deputy Minister of National Security together with Slansky and Geminder, the latter then head of the International Department of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, were able to stall the investigation for a while. But full exposure was only a matter of time—and continued vigilance on the part of the people and the loyal members of the government.

What kind of evidence, in addition to the confessions, was introduced? Enough for any court. One of the first names mentioned was that of Allan Dulles—and a letter from Dulles to Field was placed in evidence to back up the testimony. And so it went for day after day. Many people will be reluctant to believe that Koni Zilliacus is a hardened spy, though his support for Tito is well known. But eight men, Clementis, Frejka, London, Slansky, Simone, Loebel, Margolius and Svab testified that they had dealt with Zilliacus as a spy. In addition documents from Zilliacus himself were put in evidence.

The capitalist press of the West tries to pass the whole trial off as an anti-Semitic provocation. The opposite is true. Espionage agents, as anyone familiar with their methods knows, work through any organization or agency that is at hand. In each of the major spy trials the agents were grouped around one or more cover organizations.

In this case the cry of anti-Semitism should be flung back at those who abused the generous Czech feeling toward Jewish victims of fascism to cloak their criminal activities against the Czech nation. Eleven of

the fourteen on trial professed to be Zionists and all of them testified that Zionist organizations willingly assisted in their espionage and that they used various pretexts to rob the Czech people of billions for the benefit of the wealthy Zionists. It is significant that these people who were so generous to the rich were extremely harsh with the poor Jews who wished to emigrate to Israel. We know personally of the case of one poor woman who was denied permission to take with her her seven-branched ceremonial candelabrum. At the same time the gang was assisting factory owners to dismantle and send to Israel whole factories.

The policy of the Government is resolutely against anti-Semitism, it has no roots in the economic life of the country and under the vigorous educational attacks upon it whatever vestige of it still remains will soon wither away. Anti-Semitism is alien to socialism and it can not be made to flourish here despite the provocations of Wall Street, as *Rude Pravo* pointed out in its editorial against anti-Semitism on November 23.

In an interview with Sam Russell after the trial the Chief Rabbi of Czechoslovakia, 72-year-old Dr. Gustav Sichl, pointed out that none of the men on trial had been practicing Jews. He declared: "I want to make it clear that there is no such thing as oppression of the Jewish religion in Czechoslovakia. There is not a single question in this connection about which I have the slightest complaint."

Why did this plot fail despite the fact that its members had gained key positions in the army, in the security police, in the planning of the economic life of the country, in

foreign trade, in foreign affairs and in the leading political party of the country? The main answer is that they had no mass base and had no positive political program on which to appeal for one. In both theory and in fact the final political power rests with the working people of this country. The Czechoslovak people are advanced in their political thinking and they have rejected monopoly capitalism in favor of socialism. Further, their much loved President Gottwald, and their Prime Minister Zapotocky, the leader of the powerful trade unions, stood incorruptibly for the peaceful development of Czechoslovakia toward socialism in firm alliance with the Soviet Union.

And so the Slansky criminals had to pretend to be for socialism. They had to appear to support the demand of the working people for friendship with the other People's Democracies, and they had to appear to be anti-imperialist.

Their activities cost the workers billions, but every block that the wreckers succeeded in placing in the path of the workes helped to awaken in the latter the realization that something was wrong. It is a virtue of a planned economy that it can be made to function smoothly, to develop at a planned rate without serious hitches. The workers know this and they know that if parts of the economy lag persistently, someone has either planned badly or is sabotaging. In either case the hunt goes on for the seat of the trouble until it is exposed and corrected.

In the case of Czechoslovakia the rate of progress, despite the enormous amount of sabotage by the Slansky group, was so great that it helped to cover the work of the

## THE PRAGUE TRIAL

wreckers. In 1952, industrial production was 21 per cent above 1951, and 1951 in turn was correspondingly above 1950. Any "free enterprise" or monopoly capitalist country would be in raptures over such a rate of progress.

But so much do the Czechoslovak workers expect, and correctly, from their planned economy that for months there has been murmuring and complaint that "Something is wrong." And when their specific complaints were sidetracked and not corrected they *knew* that some high officials were sabotaging.

Now they know who the main criminals were. There were many not on trial who were named as criminals—and such naming is not done without evidence here. So we can expect more trials until the whole cesspool is cleaned out. Unfortunately for the good name of the United States some of the criminals brought to book will undoubtedly

testify that they were in the service of the Mutual Security Agency.

Many liberal-minded people recoil from the monstrous facts revealed at such trials and only years later admit that the smashing of the spy rings was a blow at reactionary rottenness. The politically correct and useful time to reach such a decision is at the very time of the trial. Otherwise the poisonous Wall Street interpretation of the event spreads through and influences all political thinking. So let us recognize that the people of Czechoslovakia prepared a completely irrefutable case against the Slansky conspirators. They have won a magnificent victory over despicable criminals who were in the service of imperialism. We should join now in their rejoicing that a great jungle of deceit and sabotage has been cut away. Their road has been cleared for new victories on the march to Socialism.

Prague

## II. What the Evidence Revealed

In succeeding pages of this special section on the Prague Trial, NEW WORLD REVIEW presents background material and interpretation for a fuller understanding of recent events in Prague and in Moscow.

—THE EDITORS.

**T**HE FACT that eleven of the fourteen involved in the Czechoslovakian trial were Jews, as well as six of the nine doctors arrested in Moscow for the murder of Soviet leaders and plans to murder others, and that Zionist and Israeli organizations were involved, has been used to launch a new hate campaign of unprecedented violence against the

Soviet Union and the People's Democracies.

At the same time, the American people have been bombarded with voluminous fake stories about a supposed "purge" of Jews taking place throughout the socialist world, which the trial is supposed to have set in motion.

Under this smokescreen, the pro-

war press has completely obscured from the American people the actual facts of the trial and what was there revealed, although the broadcasts from Prague gave full details.

An examination of the summaries of the indictment and the actual trial proceedings, supplemented by the article from George Wheeler, show that none of the defendants were prosecuted for being Jews, but for criminal acts against the state.

### **Why Do They Confess?**

First, a word should be said about this recurrent question, that has been raised ever since the Moscow treason trials of 1936-37. Naturally it is completely impossible to understand why criminals confess if they are not guilty, when it is clear in advance what the sentence will be. The only explanation that makes any sense at all is that they were guilty, that they knew that full and complete evidence was in the hands of the State, so there would have been nothing whatever to be gained by maintaining their innocence.

There is no basis whatever for believing that through drugs, torture, subtle psychological methods or whatever, such large groups of people could be drilled to be letter perfect day after day in giving hours and hours of testimony, all fitting in not only with that of the other defendants, but linking up with revelations by many other people tried at various times in many other countries. Only wizards could accomplish anything so fantastic.

It should also be understood that in all European countries, West and East, whose legal system derived from the Napoleonic Code, trials are preceded by many months of investi-

gation, and the defendants are not brought to trial until sufficient evidence of guilt to warrant a trial has been established. The accused are confronted with numerous documents, with statements made by other accused. All the facts against them are put before them to explain. The "confessions" are really not confessions at all, but affidavits signed after this process has been completed, containing facts that they have admitted.

This does not mean that they admit everything either during the investigation or at the trial itself.

### **The Charge Against the Slansky Group**

In the Slansky trial, the material contained in the indictment was all confirmed and amplified in the course of the trial itself through further testimony of the defendants and witnesses and voluminous documentation.

The defendants were charged not with holding certain ideas, but with plotting a counter-revolutionary coup to overthrow the People's Government of Czechoslovakia, and the overt acts committed and planned to this end, including the physical removal of Premier Gottwald.

It was charged in the indictment that the accused, under the leadership of hostile Western intelligence services, "formed an anti-state conspiratorial center, undermined the people's democratic system, disrupted the construction of socialism, damaged the national economy, engaged in espionage, disrupted the unity of the Czechoslovak people and the defense capacity of the Republic, in order to tear it from its firm alliance and friendship with the Soviet

## THE PRAGUE TRIAL

Union, in order to liquidate the people's democratic system in Czechoslovakia, to restore capitalism, and take the Czechoslovakian Republic again into the camp of imperialism and deprive it of sovereignty and independence."

None of the conspirators were charged with the ideology of Zionism as such, although the effect of this ideology on their behavior, and the role of Zionist organizations did figure largely in the trial, for reasons that will be shown later. This was merely one of the elements, along with Trotskyism, Titoism, and bourgeois nationalism which was shown to have contributed to their readiness to act as agents of Western intelligence systems.

Our correspondent, Eleanor Wheeler, wrote us from Prague, "No one here has any doubt about the guilt of the accused. Even reactionary people I have spoken to are convinced by the overwhelming evidence."

That the plot against the people began even during the war is evidenced by the events in Yugoslavia where a similar plot succeeded because Tito himself was a part of it. Today no vestige of socialism remains in Yugoslavia, which has become a willing tool of the anti-Soviet war plans of the West. At the trial of Rajk, the former police spy who became Foreign Minister of Hungary, and his co-conspirators, the whole design was unfolded of the Western plans to set up under Tito's leadership an anti-Soviet Balkan Federation which would eventually bring in all the Eastern European countries, including Czechoslovakia. The revelations of the Slansky trial all fit into this.

Up until the failure of the at-

tempted reactionary coup in Czechoslovakia in February, 1948, the Western powers, with the cooperation of Slansky, had been able to work through the anti-democratic members of the Government. After this defeat, the only method left open to the West was infiltration of the Communist Party itself, in which its agents were already operating.

To understand how so many of the people involved could reach such high posts, it must be remembered that during the war the underground liberation forces in Czechoslovakia fighting on the Allied side, were cut off from one another in different parts of the country, and that after the war many of the Czechoslovakian exiles in other lands with whom the leaders who remained had been out of touch for years, came back to participate in the government and Communist Party. As in other countries, the Nazi records of those who had collaborated with them, fell into the hands of the United States, by illegal methods which will be described later. Thus the Czechoslovakian leaders were deprived of this information so vital for their future security and traitors were able to conceal and falsify their backgrounds.

The indictment stated that long before the open sponsorship of espionage and undermining activities through the passage of the \$100,000,000 appropriation to finance them in the U.S. Mutual Security Act of 1951, the American and British intelligence services were operating through ambassadors, military attaches, journalists, cultural and trade representatives and others, with whom the conspirators maintained close contact. Utilization of subsidiary Israel and Yugoslav intelligence

services was likewise referred to.

It was charged that with the aim of criminal interference in all sectors of Czechoslovakia's economy, the conspirators had formed a special "Political Economic Commission" within the Central Committee of the Communist Party, composed of known hostile elements. They had done everything possible to prevent the development under the two- and five-year plans of the building of heavy industry, so essential as a base for building socialism and insuring uninterrupted growth of the welfare of the people.

To carry out their plans of disrupting socialist economic growth and restoring capitalism, the conspirators tried to weaken and destroy the friendly relations between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, and undermine the governments and weaken the ties among the People's Democracies themselves, sending in agents who engaged in wrecking and subversion. To these ends, they defaulted on deliveries of Czechoslovakian goods to the USSR and other friendly countries, upset time schedules or failed to meet deliveries altogether so that Czechoslovakia's own import plans were unfulfilled, and its economic plans disrupted.

The indictment and testimony at the trial itself brought out how the Israeli government and Zionist organizations, with which several of the defendants had direct connections, were involved in the plot.

Simon Orenstein, former head of the trade department of the Israeli delegation in Prague, testified that in 1947 an agreement was made at a secret meeting in Washington between Truman, Acheson, Ben Gurion, Morgenthau and Moshe Sharett, who

later became the Israeli foreign minister. Under this agreement, called the "Morgenthau Plan," the conditions were laid down under which the United States would support the state of Israel. (See pp. 57 and 58.)

It was agreed, Orenstein testified, that the United States and those whose votes it controlled would support the plan for the creation of the State of Israel in the United Nations, and would grant Israel a \$100,000,000 loan. A condition of this support was that in the period preceding open conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union, Israel would appear as a so-called neutral in order to enable Zionist representatives to direct espionage and diversionist activities from Israel in the countries of the people's democracy and the Soviet Union on behalf of the United States.

The realization of these aims in Czechoslovakia was entrusted to the former Israeli minister to Czechoslovakia, Ehud Avriel-Weberall, who, it was revealed, made contact with the Slansky group on his arrival.

It was further charged that the American organization, the Joint Distribution Committee, "engaged in espionage, sabotage, black market currency operations, profiteering and smuggling and large scale subversive activity."

Also named were other Zionist organizations such as the terrorist "Betar" group, charged with engaging in subversive acts, issuing anti-government leaflets, training terrorists and organizing illegal flights abroad of big capitalists and hostile elements.

Further testimony on the involvement of Israel was given by the witness Mordecai Oren, one of the lead-

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ers of the Mapam party of Israel. (Mapam has taken the stand that while those on trial were guilty, Oren was innocent of the participation to which he testified!)

Oren testified on his role of contact man and transmitter of espionage information. He said that he had been an agent of British intelligence since 1934, and later of Israel intelligence. He told of serving in recent years as liaison between Slansky and Konni Zilliacus, whose support of Tito is well known.

Oren declared that he also maintained contact with Pijade. He confirmed Orenstein's testimony with regard to the role of Israeli minister Ehud Avriel, declaring that Avriel had also been the contact man between Slansky and Tito's foreign minister Alas Bebler, and that the latter in turn maintained contact between Slansky and Moshe Sharett, Israeli Foreign Minister.

Following the trial, Israeli Ambassador to Prague, Dr. A. L. Kubovy, was declared persona non grata by the government of Czechoslovakia for having engaged in espionage activities and intervention in Czechoslovakia's internal affairs, and was recalled.

### Who Was Rudolf Slansky?

Rudolf Slansky, who headed the group, came from a family of rich merchants. Documents presented by the Prosecutor containing records of questioning by pre-Munich police show that back in the twenties Slansky fell into the hands of the police, betrayed his student comrades to them and renounced his Communist ideas. In 1927, he became a Trotskyist, and continued his Trotskyist activities during the World

War. Early in the 30's he became an agent of U.S. Intelligence working with an agent who was also a representative of international Zionism. During the war, Slansky established contact for espionage purposes with General Pika, a pre-war military chief who was an agent of the Western countries, and who was later executed for military espionage. Slansky arrived in Slovakia in 1944, towards the beginning of the uprising there, and betrayed the interests of the partisans by cutting off their supplies and slowing up military operations. His complicity in the death of Jan Sverma paved the way for his own rise to leadership as General Secretary of the Communist Party after the liberation.

At the trial he described how he had gathered recruits from people of bourgeois origin living in capitalist countries, mainly England, and who had become agents of French, British, Yugoslavian and U.S. intelligence. Some of these were connected with imperialist circles through various international organizations such as the Zionists and Freemasons.

With the help of these people, placed by him in leading posts, he worked to disrupt the Communist Party from within.

Slansky was slated to be the Tito of Czechoslovakia. Slansky testified at the trial that members of his group maintained contact with the fairly wide network of Tito agents in Czechoslovakia in order to utilize their experience.

Tito visited Czechoslovakia in 1946 and was constantly accompanied by Clementis, another defendant. Slansky testified that he established contact with Zilliacus in 1947. In May, 1948, Tito sent M. Pijade to Czecho-

slovakia to transmit his experience, counsel and instructions to Slansky.

Slansky summed up the purposes of his group as follows:

The hostile activity of our anti-state conspiratorial center was to lead to the overthrow of the people's democratic system, to the restoration of capitalism in Czechoslovakia and to the wresting of the Republic from the Soviet Union and the entire camp of peace in the interests of the American and British imperialists, in the same way as in Yugoslavia Tito and and his counter-revolutionary associates brought about the restoration of capitalism and subordinated Yugoslavia to the Anglo-American imperialists.

Asked by the Prosecutor how he hoped to bring about the restoration of capitalism, Slansky replied:

When we would have come to full power with the anti-state center, in all probability we would have brought about the restoration of capitalism gradually, because in this way we would have been better able to delude the working people and hide our real interests. Just as Tito did, we would thus have been able to pretend that we were not giving up the building of socialism. Today, of course, I realize that I built these plans on sand, that the working people would never have permitted their realization. They would have prevented us then as they have prevented our plans now.

Slansky, as chairman of the Defense Committee of the National Assembly, sabotaged the development of the army, with the view of rendering it incapable of defending the interests of the country.

To Slansky also was entrusted the job of removing Premier Klement Gottwald as one of the main obstacles

to their plans. For this purpose a physician was chosen from among hostile elements, Dr. Haskovec. He treated Gottwald between 1945-51, and systematically reported the state of his health to Slansky and received instructions from him.

Extracts from Eleanor Wheeler's letter throw further light on Slansky and his testimony:

Slansky was confronted with such evidence in writing that he was faced with the alternatives of appearing as a fool or a knave. We heard Slansky last night over the radio as he admitted guilt, almost spitting in his irritation. Since his arrest last winter he has had ample opportunity for reviewing his past and realizing what was right conduct and what was wrong, but one had the strange and repulsive feeling on hearing him that he was mainly irritated that he had failed.

Slansky pleaded guilty to all four crimes charged against him—espionage, sabotage, military treason and high treason.

### **Slansky's Co-Conspirators**

George Wheeler has brought out the background and activities of most of Slansky's co-conspirators, and their connections with foreign intelligence services which had a hold over them because of their past records.

It should be emphasized again that J. Frank and K. Svab were both plain war criminals who collaborated with the Nazis in betraying and torturing prisoners-of-war in German concentration camps. Otto Fischl collaborated with the Nazi occupationists. B. Reicin was an old-time Gestapo agent who betrayed the leaders of the underground liberation movement to the Nazis during the war.

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It was Reicin who was responsible for the seizure by the Americans of the Nazi records mentioned previously. He testified that in 1946, upon receipt of information about the so-called Stechowice archives, the hidden archives of the Nazi war criminal Karl Hermann Frank, he reported their whereabouts to Ivanovic, Yugoslav military attache in Prague. As a result the archives were seized by the Americans. Said Reicin:

This fact as well as a number of others, convinced me that the Yugoslav intelligence service collaborates closely with the U.S. intelligence service with one and the same aim against the Czechoslovak Republic.

This incident was reported in the U.S. press at the time, and subsequently the Czechoslovakian Government lodged an official protest with the U.S. Government. In the *New York Herald Tribune* of April 29, 1946, Marguerite Higgins reported from Prague:

The Americans . . . stirred up the wrath of the Czech security police last February 11 and 12 when a task force from the American occupation zone in Germany sped into Czechoslovakia, unearthed in Stechowice some buried documents and whisked them back to Germany. . . . The documents turned out to be the Foreign Ministry's files of Eduard Benes, President of Czechoslovakia, and the occupation records of Karl Hermann Frank, Nazi "protector" of Bohemia and Moravia.

Miss Higgins declared that although the documents were returned, "The Czech Security Police . . . now look with the highest degree of suspicion on all Americans entering

their country." Whatever other records might have been returned, they did not return Frank's list of collaborators and spies.

While some of the defendants were described as Jewish bourgeois nationalists, Vladimir Clementis, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, was described in the indictment as an "inveterate Slovak bourgeois nationalist," as well as a Western intelligence agent.

Clementis testified that in 1938 he was arrested by the French police, and as a result entered into the service of French intelligence, the *Surêté National*. (This testimony was confirmed at the trial by witness Jaroslav Jircik, a former employee of the French police.) He continued:

In the year 1946, Maurice Dejean arrived in Prague as French ambassador, and immediately during our first meeting recalled my pledge to the French intelligence service. From that time on I gave Dejean information about foreign policy questions and informed him concretely about our preparatory work for the peace conference, about our territorial demands . . . on the Czechoslovak position on the German problem . . . and on the position of leading members of the party and government on these problems at a time when these positions were secret. . . .

Clementis also testified to having had espionage connections with former British Ambassador Nichols and former U.S. Ambassador Steinhardt.

On November 27, the State Court in Prague found all the accused guilty of high treason. London, Hadju and Loebel were sentenced to life imprisonment, and the remainder were sentenced to death.

### III. The Meaning Of the "Liberation" Policy

**T**HE WILD distortions in the press and the ordinary decent American's natural unreadiness to believe that our government could participate in the sort of terrorist plots and activities described at the Prague trial, have together made it possible to transform the reality into some sort of an incredible phantasmagoria, while the myth of the supposed motive of "anti-Semitism" has gained wide credence.

First of all, it is necessary to turn to the record of history. There are written indelibly all the fantastic-sounding but grimly real details of the international conspiracy to destroy the Soviet Union that has never ceased from the first day of its existence. That same conspiracy extends today to all the countries that have entered upon the path of socialism. These details are to be found in many books on foreign policy, memoirs of the intelligence agents, and especially in Albert E. Kahn's *The Great Conspiracy*.

Since the strength of the Soviet Union and the world peace camp have averted all plans to destroy socialism in open warfare, efforts are now being concentrated on attempts to so weaken the lands of socialism and people's democracy from within that they can be torn away from the friendly alliance that binds them together, as happened in the case of Yugoslavia, and thus prepare the way for an anti-Soviet war.

While many of the details of such activity must of course be kept secret from the American people, the methods of terrorism and subversion from within have officially been adopted as United States policy, and are frequently referred to in the press and by governmental officials.

Long before the passage of the Mutual Security Act in September, 1951, there were repeated reports of the hush-hush Congressional appropriations and the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency in the fields of espionage and subversion in the People's Democracies and the Soviet Union under "Project X."

The Mutual Security Act passed by Congress set aside \$100,000,000 to finance, as it stated:

... any selected persons who are *residing in* or escapees from the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia or the Communist dominated or Communist occupied areas of Germany and Austria, and any other countries absorbed by the Soviet Union either to form such persons into elements of the military forces supporting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, *or for other purposes*. . . (Emphasis added.)

Representative Charles J. Kersten (R., Wis.) who sponsored the clause made clear, in an extension of his remarks published in the Congressional Record, that its intent was to

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"aid the underground liberation movement in the Communist countries." In correspondence with Warren B. Austin, then American UN delegate, Kersten protested against a clause in the draft code of Offenses Against the Peace and Security of Mankind, under UN consideration, which would outlaw terrorist activities by one country in the territory of another, on the ground that this *would nullify the purpose of the Mutual Security Act clause* quoted above. Kersten wrote:

To say that terror would play no part in a liberation movement in Eastern Europe is to be utterly un-conversant with what constitutes a liberation movement.

The \$100,000,000 is of course only a small part of the amount that was used before and since the passage of the Act for these purposes by the far flung network operating under the Central Intelligence Agency. The important thing here is the open acknowledgment of the use of terrorist methods as an instrument of government policy. This alone makes it impossible to reject as unbelievable the revelations at the Czechoslovakian and other trials of the role of the United States.

The "containment" policy inaugurated under Truman as embodied in the Truman Doctrine, NATO and the Korean War was already in less open form the "liberation" policy of the present administration, to which all its main spokesmen have openly given their support.

Last November Governor Theodore McKeldin of Maryland, the man who nominated Eisenhower at the Republican National Convention, predicted to an audience in Town Hall

that the Eisenhower Administration would abandon the policy of trying to "contain Communism" in favor of "incitement of rebellious acts." Governor McKeldin declared:

Such rebellious activities must be of a surreptitious nature for the present and perhaps, for a long time to come—a well-timed explosion in the path of a Communist supply train, a well-placed monkey wrench in a piece of Soviet war-production machinery, a well-managed work of delay, a well-directed bomb at the right time in the right place, a bit of significant information passed on to officials of the free nations. There are many ways to torment and try the tyrants and such torments can grow, when the time is ripe, into a rebellion.

*New York Times*, Nov. 27, 1952

The *Wall Street Journal* of December 17, 1952, carried a dispatch from its Washington correspondent, Ray Cromley, declaring that one of Dulles' first jobs as Secretary of State would be to make use of the current "purges" in Eastern Europe "to stir up trouble." He quoted experts as saying that Dulles could be expected to do in a big way what was already being done in a limited way. For example:

Ship in light printing presses and paper for underground anti-Red newspapers. Ship in false passes and identification cards for anti-Reds.... Encourage go-slow movements in Red arms factories and strategic mines. There's even some tinkering with the idea of shipping in extra ration coupons and imitation money for spreading further confusion in Iron Curtain countries. . . . There's a growing belief in the State Department that if the Czechs or Poles or Hungarians

or Bulgarians do revolt—if the revolution has any real strength—then the U.S., as in Korea, should step in with arms (and maybe troops) to back up the revolutionists.

On January 15, John Foster Dulles, testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in relation to his confirmation as Secretary of State, was asked by Senator Wiley (R-Wis.) to explain his position on "liberation" versus "containment." Dulles answered, and no wonder, that "some matters he would prefer to discuss in executive session," but that he had no objection to stating in open session:

We shall never have a secure or a happy world so long as Soviet Communism dominates one-third of all the peoples there are. . . . Therefore we must always have in mind the liberation of these captive peoples. . . . Liberation can be accomplished by processes short of war. We have, as one example . . . the defection of Yugoslavia, under Tito, from the domination of Soviet Communism. . . .

Thus Dulles himself confirmed the testimony of the Czechoslovakian plotters who confessed to having the same aims as Tito, and utilizing his experience under the tutelage of U.S. Intelligence.

The main complaint of the Republicans now in office against the previous Administration is that they failed to carry out successfully the policies the Republicans themselves helped to formulate. Thus, writing from Washington in the Republican *New York Herald Tribune* for November 28 on the bases of "confidential reports from Prague to top officials in Western capitals" on the

### CIA IN ACTION

We are training men to be spies, saboteurs, specialists in the tougher forms of psychological warfare. They are being taught to slip into the Russian fabric on their own and do some unraveling. They learn to blow up bridges, railroad trains and war plants, are taught to use all types of weapons, both United States and foreign. . . . One of our men can walk up to a key building in a hostile country and stick some gooey plastic material on the wall. . . . In a few hours, or, if he wishes, in a few days, the building will blow up.

—Anthony Leviero, N. Y. Times writer and intelligence specialist, in the Chamber of Commerce publication, "Nation's Business," April, 1952, describing how the CIA does what he calls its "cloak and dagger business."

Slansky trial, Ned Russell made the revealing comment:

Even anti-Communists apparently believe the charges "confessed" by the defendants. These foes of the Gottwald regime feel that Slansky and the others bungled in their attempt to overthrow Gottwald and were caught. These people feel the job of ridding Czechoslovakia of Communist rule will have to be undertaken by shrewder people. . . .

Eisenhower's appointments show the way in which what is euphemistically called "psychological warfare" has become a main instrument of U.S. foreign policy. General Walter Bedell Smith, former Chief of the Central Intelligence Administration, has been taken into the Depart-

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ment of State as Under Secretary, while Allen Dulles, brother of the new Secretary of State, has moved up from his post as assistant to General Smith to become the new CIA chief. Allen Dulles, former deputy CIA chief, was head of the O.S.S. in Europe during the war.

On January 27, General Eisenhower appointed an eight-man committee the purpose of which was announced in the press as the plotting of a "unified and dynamic" psychological warfare strategy in the cold war with the Soviet Union. Officially called the "President's Committee on International Information Activities," it is headed by New York investment banker William H. Jackson. Mr. Jackson was deputy director of CIA in 1950-51. He held various intelligence posts during the war, finally becoming deputy chief of intelligence on General Omar Bradley's staff in Europe.

Direct representative of John Foster Dulles on the Committee is C. D. Jackson, publisher of *Fortune* magazine, former president of the National Committee for a Free Europe

which operates Radio Free Europe, and deputy chief of psychological warfare in Europe during the war. He has advocated "preventive war." Other members have had similar connections. Well financed private groups like the Committee for a Free Europe have played an active part in carrying out the government's plans in the past.

(For a description of how both government and private sources finance and encourage the activities of over a score of groups in this country which openly agitate for the destruction of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, see Sender Garlin's "*Liberators*" in *Striped Pants*, New World Review, April, 1952.)

Hailing the new board as answering the need of "bold, resourceful tactics to weaken Russia," the *New York Herald Tribune* said editorially on January 29:

By its nature, a major portion of psychological warfare is secret, underground and carried out in a form which permits its disavowal by the government.

## IV. The Smokescreen Of "Anti-Semitism"

FROM WEST GERMANY came wild stories of "raids" on Jewish homes in East Berlin, headlined throughout the press, while subsequent denials from West German sources that any such raids took place were buried, and merited no headlines. Daily accounts of refugees pouring into Western Germany to escape the supposed "terror" added up

to many thousands more than the entire Jewish population of East Berlin, which is only 2,800.

The *New York Post's* Max Lerner, in a series of articles from Vienna, passed on these stories, as well as fables of beatings of Jews and pogroms in Bratislava from Vienna's *Die Presse*. This newspaper, owned partly by a leading member of the

Nazi old guard in Austria and partly by American stockholders, had declared that evidence of the "pogrom" could not be concealed.

Dr. Leo Katz of Vienna, wrote to *Jewish Life* (February, 1953) that when the story appeared he immediately requested and received a visa to Czechoslovakia, and went to Bratislava, thirty-seven and a half miles from Vienna, where he found everything peaceful. He wrote:

"Jews in Bratislava with whom I spoke about the matter laughed at me when I asked them about 'anti-Semitism' and 'pogroms.' One Jew said to me: 'Such an idea could only exist in a diseased mind.'"

The same issue of *Jewish Life* carries a letter by Rabbi Abraham Bick, who stopped over in Prague on his way from the Vienna Peace Congress in December to Berlin. He wrote that he had visited the historical "old-new" Synagogue in Prague, attended morning and evening prayers, and spoke to the Cantor and both secretaries of the Jewish Community in Prague.

He also talked with Dr. Fisher, a secretary, and Bauminger, the director of the Jewish Historical Museum, which is maintained by the government, both aides to the chief Rabbi of Prague, Dr. Sichl. Rabbi Bick wrote:

Both of these men hurled back with infinite scorn the insane charges made by the foreign capitalist and warmongering press concerning a supposed wave of anti-Semitism in Czechoslovakia or that the Slansky trial was in any way anti-Semitic.

"In the Czechoslovak People's Republic," these leading representatives of the Prague Jewish Community stated, "anti-Semitism and racism are

sternly punished. Everyone who gets acquainted with the life of the country will be convinced that Jews participate in heavy and light industry, in the intellectual professions, in government institutions, frequently in a higher proportion than the Jews are to the non-Jewish population. . . ."

Since even the masters of the Big Lie know that they cannot get away with charges of Nazi-like racism against the countries where anti-Semitism and all forms of racial discrimination are crimes under the Constitution, and where many Jews hold high positions in government and public life, the motivation ascribed to the supposed "anti-Semitism" is that Jews are being made scapegoats for internal economic difficulties.

This of course is nonsense, because no scapegoat is needed. Certainly not in the Soviet Union, whose surging economic progress was recorded in many articles in our November issue. In Czechoslovakia, wrecking activities did succeed in slowing down the rate of progress as compared with that in other People's Democracies. But as the UN Economic Bulletin for Europe of August 1952 showed, Czechoslovakia has increased industrial production since 1948 at a higher rate than any of the West European countries. The latest UN Bulletin, issued in November, 1952, showed that in the first half of 1952, when most of the wreckers had already been caught, the rate of increase was higher than in the other People's Democracies.

Nevertheless, the involvement of Jews and Zionist organizations, and the way in which the press has utilized it, has been confusing to many honest people.

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In this connection, our correspondent in Prague, Eleanor Wheeler, wrote:

The references to "Jewish origin" were mainly brought out by the defendants—and it may be deliberately. What references were made by the government side did not seem to Americans here (and some are Jewish) to have anti-Semitic implications.

She pointed out with regard to the role of Zionism in the trial:

As a matter of fact, the closing remarks of the prosecutor did not emphasize this point. He put first in the order of gravity the unifying bond of Trotskyism, then bourgeois nationalism (which always ends up paradoxically by selling out the interests of the country these guys are being nationalistic about) and finally Zionism.

The struggle against bourgeois nationalism has gone on in the Soviet Union since the first days of its existence, when the former capitalist elements of various nationalities permitted themselves to be used in the imperialists' attempts to dismember the Soviet Union. The Soviet nationality policy provides for the free and equal development of all national groups within the Soviet family of nations, under the slogan "national in form, socialist in content." But when people of bourgeois ideology within any national group, and remnants of this ideology still exist, are ready to sacrifice the common interests of the working people as a whole to those of a narrow group, and to join with hostile foreign elements to help destroy the socialist state and bring themselves to power, they place themselves in the category of ene-

mies of the people. It is such elements that the advocates of "liberation" seek out to accomplish their ends.

Similarly, in the struggle to maintain national independence and their own form of society against attempts to destroy it, the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies have not singled out International Zionism any more than any other international organization that has been used for subversive purposes. It happened that Zionist organizations were the ones chiefly involved in this particular trial. Others, like the trial of Cardinal Mindszenty in Hungary, have involved Catholics. Mindszenty was tried not because he was a Catholic, but because of participation in a plot against the state. International oil concerns figured in a recent trial in Rumania.

A sharp distinction must be made between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. The ideology of Zionism has always been opposed by Communists. But the members of the Slansky group were punished for anti-state activities conducted through Zionist organizations, not for Zionist beliefs.

In his excellent pamphlet *The Truth About the Prague Trial* (published by *Jewish Life*) Louis Harap explained the distinction

... Zionism is an ideology held by some Jews—and, it must be emphasized, opposed for a variety of reasons by many others, including certain Jewish religious groups, thousands of Israeli citizens and even by bourgeois assimilationists among wealthy Jews all over the world (for instance, the American Jewish Committee) and also by Communists. Hence, it is simply untrue to equate anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism, for what anti-

Zionism opposes is an ideology and not Jews as such.

*Rude Pravo*, official Czechoslovak Communist organ, sharply condemned anti-Semitism in an editorial on November 25, 1952: -

It (the Party) must fight against Zionism. Lenin already pointed out that anti-Semitism and Zionism, or any form of fostering Jewish exceptionalism, are only head and tail of the same coin. Our Party has always emphasized that anti-Semitism is hostile to the working class, that it is base and beneath human dignity.

The history of the Zionist movement affords sufficient proof of why Marxists oppose it.

Zionist leaders have never been averse to collaborating with the bitterest enemies of the Jewish people. In 1903, Theodore Herzl, founder of political Zionism, recorded in his diary his offer of the services of the Zionist movement in combating the growth of revolutionary ideas among the Jewish youth to the violently anti-Semitic Tsarist Minister of the Interior von Plehve. Herzl also tried to reach agreement with the Sultan of Turkey and Kaiser Wilhelm in exchange for sponsorship of a Jewish Homeland.

Leaders of the Zionist movement played an active counter-revolutionary role in the years of civil war in Russia, trying to make deals with White Guard pogromist leaders.

Following the Balfour declaration in 1917, Zionists gave their support to British imperialism in return for His Majesty's Government's favorable view of the establishment of a national home in Palestine for the Jewish people.

Britain received the mandate for the administration of Palestine in 1920. That was at the height of the armed intervention of fourteen nations in Russia under Churchill's leadership. Britain utilized Zionist elements among Russian White guard emigres in its foreign office and intelligence services.

Against this background of service to the British Empire and participation in its Intelligence Service, it becomes easier to understand the role of Zionist organizations as a tool of U.S. imperialism today.

This may be difficult for many sincere Zionists to accept. But a consideration of the record of what has happened to the State of Israel under the leadership of Ben Gurion must arouse grave questions.

The independence of Israel, as is well known, was won through the support of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. Czechoslovakia furnished arms to Israel while the United States embargoed arms shipments, imprisoning those who attempted to send them.

Yet it was not long before Israel became entirely subservient to American imperialism, whose capitalists ousted British capitalists from the dominant position they had formerly held. The abandonment of Israel's original neutral position and the adoption of a hostile attitude to the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies were a condition of America's aid to the new state.

Evidence given at the trial, of Ben Gurion's 1947 meeting with Washington officials, where this deal was made, met with an extraordinary denial from the Israeli foreign office, which declared that Ben Gurion had not visited this country in 1947. Yet

## THE PRAGUE TRIAL

it is a matter of record that Ben Gurion was here in 1947, attending the Palestinian discussions on the United Nations, and on May 10, 1947 the *New York Times* carried a story, headlined "Ben Gurion Here to Lead Zionists."

And the fact remains that things have worked out just as outlined in the testimony. Israel today is in the position of an American colony. For the detailed story of the way Ben Gurion's concessions to American capital have depressed living standards in Israel and placed control of its economy in the hands of U.S. monopolists, see the series by Victor Perlo in *Jewish Life*. And for the record of Israel's subservience to U.S. war aims in return for U.S. loans, again see the pamphlet by Louis Harap, as well as the reports of United Nations proceedings, and the daily press, in case the evidence in the Czechoslovakian trial is not sufficiently convincing.

These sources show that the Israeli Government has supported the war against Korea. They show that under Washington's pressure the Ben Gurion Government was willing to make a deal with the renazified Bonn regime on "reparations" for the crimes of Hitler against the Jews, in the attempt to make a revived Wehrmacht acceptable to the people of Europe. They show that Israel-United States military collaboration is already well advanced, with large-scale training of Israeli officers in the United States. They show that Israel in addition to the U.S. loan, is petitioning for a Mutual Security Act grant to obtain arms and munitions in the United States and wants to be included in the Middle East Defense Pact for which the United States is

pressing in its military plans against the USSR.

In the light of this willingness to serve American war aims, it should not be too difficult to understand that the use of intelligence services would naturally be included, since they are integral to the diplomatic and military set-up of every country in the world.

Hanson Baldwin, *New York Times* military expert, on January 29 quoted General Walter Bedell Smith as saying "that the United States Intelligence Service was as good as, or better than any in the world, except possibly that of the Soviet Union." Baldwin said that in sheer size, the U.S. Intelligence service probably exceeds that of any nation in the world, and continued:

But some observers believe that the British Intelligence Services with perhaps 3,000 and Israel's, with perhaps 300, produce end results—in the form of facts and analyses that are fully as useful in guiding national policy, and perhaps more accurate—than those produced by our much larger agencies.

To bring out these facts about the present Israeli Government does not mean hostility to Israel. The masses of the people of that country, impoverished by these policies and threatened by them with involvement in a war of which they want no part, are themselves deeply concerned over the course their country has taken.

They made their attitude known when 400,000 of the people of Israel signed the petition opposing the re-arming of Germany and calling for a Five-Power Peace Pact. This constituted more than 43 per cent of the entire adult population, one of the

highest proportions of the people of any capitalist nation to sign.

It is the height of cynicism that these cries of anti-Semitism should be raised in our country by the very people who have permitted its revival in Western Germany, where many

former high Nazi officials have returned to power, who are engaged in the revival of the Wehrmacht under officers responsible for the murder of millions of Jews, and who are emptying West German jails of war criminals guilty of the crime of genocide.

ON FEBRUARY 9, a terrorist group in Israel planted a bomb in the Soviet Legation. Its explosion injured Mme. Pavlov Yershov, the wife of the Soviet Minister who was also in the building at the time, and two members of the Legation. Part of the building was destroyed.

This attempt on the lives of the Soviet representatives had been preceded by the burning of a Russian book shop in Jerusalem, into which a gasoline container had been thrown, and a bomb attack on the Czechoslovak Legation.

Two days following the bombing of the Soviet Legation, a group of 500 Israeli citizens marched up Tel Aviv's main street to protest and present a resolution of sympathy to the Soviet representatives.

The peaceful demonstrators were subjected to a violent attack. Stones hurled at them caused injuries to nineteen persons, while the Israeli police looked the other way. The *New York Times* UP report of the incident, Feb. 12, said: "The police made no effort to maintain order along the route of the march."

The Israeli Government denounced the attack and arrested a number of persons. The Soviet Government, however, charging that representatives of the Israeli Government themselves had participated in "a systematic fanning of hatred and enmity toward the Soviet Union and an incitement to hostile actions against the Soviet Union," took the position that the Israeli Government could not evade responsibility for

the crime, and therefore broke diplomatic relations.

The Soviet note of February 12 to Israel declared:

"Not only were articles of a provocative nature published in the press of the ruling parties of Israel but also speeches were made in Parliament by representatives of those parties and members of the Israeli Government. Specifically a speech was made January 19 of this year by Moshe Sharrett, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who openly incited hostile actions against the Soviet Union. The terroristic act which occurred on February 9 proves the lack of elementary conditions in Israel for the normal diplomatic activities of representatives of the Soviet Union."

The speech referred to in the Soviet note was reported in part in the American press. The *New York Times* of January 20 quoted Moshe Sharrett as having warned in a debate in the Knesset (Parliament) of "the danger which threatens millions of Jews" in the countries "under Communist rule," and declaring that any attempt to defend the Czechoslovakia trial and the arrest of the doctors in Moscow, which he referred to as "campaigns of anti-Jewish instigation," would be regarded by his government "as a hostile act against the State of Israel, from which all necessary consequences will be drawn." Some of those who protested against the violence of Sharrett's statements at the time were threatened with ejection from the Knesset.

## **An Urgent Message From Jessica Smith**

Dear Reader:

We come to you again with a problem of the greatest urgency. Recently we have asked your help in our current circulation campaign, and from the responses we have already received, we can report the good news that circulation is beginning to pick up. But there is something else we must have if we are to continue to exist.

We are sure you share our concern over the indications that the new Administration, made up of the monopolists who profit from war orders—far from keeping Eisenhower's pledge to make peace in Korea—is making plans that can only lead to the spread of the war.

In such circumstances it is more important than ever that every voice for peace is heard. Such a voice is NEW WORLD REVIEW, dedicated to a policy of peace and understanding among nations.

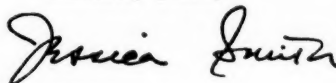
We are convinced that if the American people knew the facts about the countries described by the pro-war press as "aggressors," they would be emphatic in their demands for a settlement of existing differences around the conference table and not through war and threats of war. That is why this source of facts about the Soviet Union, the new China and the People's Democracies of Eastern Europe must be kept alive.

We cannot count on any substantial advertising revenue to keep us going. Many of those who would like to support us are faced with serious budget problems; others are intimidated by the increasing atmosphere of war hysteria.

In this emergency situation we must ask help, in whatever measure possible, from all who are concerned with our continued existence. We are faced with grave immediate financial problems. Despite the most economical methods of operation, we cannot carry on our work for peace without your help.

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Editor

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# A People's Hero of Our Times

A Review by JESSICA SMITH

THE SCALPEL, THE SWORD, The Story of Dr. Norman Bethune, by Ted Allan and Sydney Gordon. Little Brown and Company, Boston, 1952. 336, pp. \$5.00. A Liberty Book Club selection.

**T**HIS is the glorious story of a great people's hero of our times. It is a story to revive spirits that falter, to give courage to the fearful, to add new strength and confidence to all who love life and people and peace.

A Canadian by birth, Dr. Norman Bethune's own country and ours were the beneficiaries of his great gifts, and his mighty contribution to the freedom struggles in Spain and China have placed the whole world forever in his debt.

Born again, after nearly dying of tuberculosis, through his own insistence on undergoing an operation little used at the time, Dr. Bethune won international fame as a thoracic surgeon. His skill brought him rich patients, wealth. His exuberant personality, gregariousness and many-sided talents made him the center of an exciting social life. But he could find no satisfaction in earning money by treating the wealthy when others needed him more.

A genius and innovator in surgery and medical work, Dr. Bethune early in his career came to see health as the birthright of the people, as a public service which should be freely and fully provided for all. Not content with healing alone, he searched for the roots of disease and found them in economic conditions. Ready to serve all the people, whether or not they could pay him, he dreamed of an order of doctors who

would go directly to the people whenever they were needed.

A brutal police attack he witnessed on the unemployed led him to offer his services for free medical treatment for workers and their families to the Montreal Unemployed Association. He wrote proudly in his diary that added to the degrees of "Doctor of Medicine," "Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons," he now had the new honorable title of "Comrade Beth."

The new road on which he had set his feet led him to the Soviet Union in the summer of 1935 to attend an International Physiological Congress. There he eagerly sought out Pavlov, visited hospitals and sanitariums. He was thrilled to find that the Soviet Union had decreased the incidence of tuberculosis by more than 50 per cent and instituted a rehabilitation system for tubercular patients which he immediately declared to be the finest in the world. He was elated to find preventive measures he had long advocated everywhere in effect. Convinced that what he had seen in Russia "would profoundly affect the pattern of men's lives throughout the world," he came back to speak widely throughout Canada, and shatter people's smugness and preconceived ideas by the facts he brought them. Comparing the great creative efforts he had seen in the USSR with the agony and glory of birth itself, he declared:

Creation is not and never has been a genteel gesture. It is rude, violent and revolutionary. But to those courageous hearts who believe in the unlimited future of man, in the divine destiny which lies in his own hand to make of what he will—to these Russia presents today the most ex-

citing spectacle of the evolutionary, emergent and heroic spirit of man which has appeared on this earth since the Reformation. To deny this is to deny our faith in men—and that is the unforgivable sin, the final apostasy.

His view of socialized medicine in action in the Soviet Union led him to a study of public health systems throughout the world, combined with research into the economic and political background, as the basis for drafting a practical public health program for Canada. He organized a People's Health group proposing a program which was not yet socialized medicine but which looked toward that as the ultimate aim.

"The best form of providing health protection," he said at a panel discussion in Montreal, "would be to change the economic system which produces ill health, to liquidate ignorance, poverty and unemployment."

While pioneering in the field of socialized medicine, he never lost his sense of complete identification with each patient he treated. Their suffering was his suffering; each child he treated was his own child; and in the fate of each child he saw the fate of all children. He wanted beautiful cities for them to grow up in, homes full of air and sunshine, as the best guarantee for a healthy life. But now the headlines were telling of bombs falling on Spain, and he saw the threat that fascism held for all the world's cities, for all the world's children. Fascism would have to be defeated if children were to be safe anywhere.

So, when the call came from the Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, he went to Spain. He organized the first mobile blood transfusion unit, saving the lives of thousands there, and millions later, and then coming back after the work was organized to carry on without him, to raise desperately needed funds for the people's struggle in Spain in Canada and the United States. When Japan attacked China, he volunteered to take a medical unit to Northern

China. Explaining his decision, he wrote to his former wife:

I refuse to live in a world that spawns murder and corruption without raising my hand against them. I refuse to condone, by passivity, or by default the wars that greedy men make against others. . . . Spain and China are part of that same battle. I am going to China because that is where I feel the need is greatest.

So in 1938 he went to China and for almost two years worked with the people's armies fighting the Japanese and their own traitors. He organized a guerilla medical service working right at the front under fire, in districts where there were no doctors, no medical workers, the most primitive equipment, training unskilled peasants to work by his side, never resting as long as there were operations to be performed, wounded to be tended. And teaching, always teaching and organizing so that others could carry on his work.

An artist, a writer, a bon vivant, loving all the beauty of life with all his being, he gave up all this for the blood and terror of the battlefield, found his greatest happiness in complete dedication to the cause of the Chinese people which he saw as the cause of all humanity.

Not only the Japanese blockade, but the reactionary government of Chiang Kai-shek prevented essential supplies from reaching him. Already a human skeleton from his superhuman efforts, he fell victim himself to the conditions from which he tried to save others, and died of septicemia because he had no rubber gloves left for operating, no drugs to save himself. He died loved and mourned by hundreds of millions of Chinese people whose freedom he helped to win, and among whom his name is a shining legend today and forever.

Between Spain and China, Dr. Bethune had become a member of the Communist Party, proclaiming it openly and proudly.

There is a great lesson for today in Dr. Bethune's angry denunciation of

those who in those days sought to paint the invasion of Spain as a crusade to save the country from the "communist menace." He cried:

Let us have done, then, with the miserable deception of anti-communism. It has served Hitler and Mussolini well, but not the enslaved German and Italian peoples. . . . It is the great lie of our decade. It is the last refuge of the reactionary whose political arsenal is empty, whose world is bankrupt, and whose patrons' thirst for power is desperate and undiminished. That is one of the lessons of Spain. I hope we will never forget it.

Too many have forgotten. But this record of Dr. Bethune's life is a shining weapon to help us fight the revival of this miserable deception of anti-communism which again threatens to plunge the whole world into war. The very fact that this great and good

man was a Communist is a ringing answer to those who try to equate communism with everything evil.

The authors of this book, in recreating for us this magnificent story, in giving us so many of Dr. Bethune's own thoughts and words as recorded in his diaries, his letters, and cherished in the hearts of his friends, have performed a noble service. It is an enthralling story, written with fervor and beauty, communicating vividly the passion and pain and joy, the exuberance and the genius, the boundless love and faith in people of this wonderful life given so fully in the service of his fellow men. A powerful indictment of war and fascism, a ringing challenge to all who are engaged in the struggle for human betterment in whatever field to put forth greater efforts, this book should be read up and down this land. It carries on Dr. Bethune's great functions of healing and life-giving.

## **Land of the Future**

**A Review by VICTOR PERLO**

SOVIETS IN CENTRAL ASIA by  
W. P. and Zelda K. Coates. *Philosophical Library*, New York, 1951.  
288 pp., 27 plates, map. \$4.75

**W**. P. AND ZELDA COATES, the noted British authorities on the USSR, traveled through Soviet Central Asia. Here, on a territory half the size of the United States, they saw the amazing accomplishments of less than a generation of building socialism. Almost two thousand years ago this area was one of the main centers of world civilization. Changing climate converted lakes and rivers to deserts; invaders took their toll, and finally tsarist Russia established its grip. The colonial misery one sees today in Iran, India, and other neighboring countries was

the lot of Central Asia. Then came the Soviet power, with its policies of equality of all nationalities, and aid to the former colonies. The Coates's devote the first third of their book to this history, which is of especial interest to most of us who unfortunately have been taught little beyond the Arabian Nights tales.

Scheherezade could never have dreamed up the miracles the Coates's saw—the flourishing modern industry and agriculture, the prosperous, cultured people. This nearby reality is what the peoples of the still oppressed areas of Asia are fighting for today. The authors' description of the Kirghiz, Tadzhik, Turkmenian, Kazakh, and Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republics is not an episodic travelogue. Wherever they

went they collected the detailed documentation of what had been and was being accomplished, and what is planned for the future. One is impressed not only by the physical description of Karaganda, but also by the billion rubles allotted during the postwar

Five-Year Plan for increasing the city's amenities—which on a per capita basis, amounts to approximately 15 times New York City's capital budget.

An absorbing and rewarding book for everyone who wants real facts about the Soviet Union.

## **Valuable Pamphlet on the Prague Trial**

**THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PRAGUE TRIAL**, by Louis Harap. *Jewish Life*, 22 East 17th Street, New York City. 10 cents.

**M**R. HARAP has performed a most valuable service in clarifying the issues involved in the Prague trial.

"Are we dealing with a conspiracy to make Czechoslovakia a base for a war against the socialist world? Would this bring World War III closer? If so, the people should know it."

To these questions Mr. Harap provides the answers in his pamphlet. He deals first with the baseless charge of

"anti-Semitism," demonstrating that the accused were tried not for being Jews, but for criminal acts against the state. He examines the plausibility of the charges made in the trial against certain Zionist leaders and organizations. He reviews the foreign policy of the Ben Gurion government which explains the Israeli involvement in the plot. He shows the role of U.S. Intelligence in the preparations for an anti-Soviet war. And finally, he gives the main facts that came to light in the trial itself.

This pamphlet is must reading for everyone concerned with peace.

## **No Light on Afghanistan**

**AFGHANISTAN**, by Sir Kerr Fraser-Tytler, Oxford University Press, 1950. 330 pp. \$5.00.

**T**HERE are few books in English on Afghanistan; and that is a pity, because the little-known Moslem nation occupies a pivotal position in the Middle East, wedged in as it is between Iran, the Soviet Union, and the sub-continent of India.

Unfortunately, the present volume by a retired British Army officer does not fill the gap. Written in a Kipling-esque spirit of nineteenth century imperialism and "the white man's burden," it views Afghanistan as a strategic pawn in the game of checking Soviet "expansionism." It sheds no light on the aspirations of the Afghan people for social progress, economic development, and genuine national independence and well-being.

One wonders how much longer we are to have such absurd generalizations in-

flicted upon us, especially in view of the rising tide of social and national liberation throughout Asia. It is therefore not accidental that the author proposes a fusion of the two nations of Afghanistan and Pakistan into one state, backed of course by the power of Anglo-American imperialism, as a deterrent against the "danger of Communist infiltration." But the peoples of Asia are daily giving their answer to this gospel of Western imperialism.

## **Reminiscences Of Chekhov**

**CHEKHOV IN MY LIFE** by Lydia Aivilov, Harcourt Brace & Co. New York, 1950. 159 pp. \$2.75.

**A**N unhappy love affair of Chekhov's, hitherto unknown, is uncovered in these melancholy reminiscences. The author was a writer her-

self whose literary gifts had been submerged in domesticity. At the time of her first meeting with Chekhov she was already a mother; and, at the time when the mutual attraction was at its height, she had three children. She offered to leave them and her husband for Chekhov who proved to be more prudent than she—at least as Mme. Avilov tells the story.

The experience, tremendous as it obviously was for her, did not inspire her to an important book. These reminiscences will be of some value for a future definitive biography of the great writer but have little literary value. Another interesting aspect of the book is the sidelight it sheds on Chekhov's social-mindedness, a characteristic common to the masters of the great age of Russian literature.

### **A Soviet Study On Folklore**

**RUSSIAN FOLKLORE** by Y. M. Sokolov, Macmillan, New York, 1950. 760 pp. \$10.00.

THIS is one of the volumes in the series of translations of recent Russian works of scholarship that is being sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies. It reinforces the impression produced by the previously issued volumes, of the high quality of Soviet scholarship. Like a companion volume that preceded it, Gudzy's *History of Early Russian Literature*, it is receiving uniform, if sometimes grudging praise, wherever

it is reviewed in our now violently partisan press.

Sokolov's notable study is mainly devoted to Russian folklore and its extension and adaptations to new social forms and expressions in the new and stimulating post-revolutionary environment. It is preceded by a very penetrating general analysis of folklore in all countries and a historical review of *folkloristics*, the study of folklore. This historical account, which takes up the course of folklore study from its nationalistic and romantic beginnings in Europe to its recent Soviet developments in the light of historical materialism, is remarkable for its critical acumen. Each stage is reviewed both for its lasting contributions and its shortcomings.

Professor Sokolov makes no pretensions to literary graces but he commands a logical, clear and vigorous style. This, combined with the intrinsic interest of the material, makes the book one of the most attractive and readable scholarly works in this field.

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(Continued from page 2)

politics for 35-40 years and I know this little magazine is telling the truth about our political troubles here and overseas. I am yours for a better political hook-up.—Your friend.

### Appeals to Readers

**Jacksonville, Mo., R.F.D. No. 3**—I urge each NWR reader to renew his own sub now and to give a gift sub to a friend or local library. If each reader who likes NWR sends in two more subs, it will be a big support for the peace movement. Here are my three subs. I would like NWR readers in Missouri and the midwest to contact me for free sample issues of my peace bulletin. "The Peace Approval," and to have their suggestions on how we can help build a stronger peace movement.—**John L. Widner.**

### The Napalm Crime

**Doylestown Pa.**—Having just finished reading the article on "Napalm" in NWR, my thoughts are tumultuous and angry. How else can one feel? A Marine Corps officer recently returned from Korea told me recently that he agreed that the use of napalm was horrible, but was able to satisfy himself with the thought that we at least gave three days warning before our attacks. Whether this is true or not, does not matter. Where are these people to go? He said something else: regardless of what one may think of Chiang Kai-shek, so long as we keep his men in food and clothing, we will have a large force to fall back on. Once we stop that, he said, Chiang's soldiers will immediately go to the "Reds." Why one might ask, would they be willing to go to the "Reds" who are supposedly so terrible, he didn't say.—**A Reader.**

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Matching or Contrasting Napkins.

|       |        |        |         |
|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| 52x52 | \$4.50 | 60x90  | \$ 9.75 |
| 52x70 | 5.00   | 60x100 | 11.75   |
| 60x80 | 8.75   | 60x106 | 12.75   |

Matching or Contrasting Napkins ..... 50c each

### QUILT COVERS

Multi-color Floral Design . . . 80 Percale

|       |        |       |        |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| 72x81 | \$5.50 | 72x90 | \$6.00 |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|

Matching Pillow Case ..... 75c each

### MATTRESS COVER

Unbleached Muslin, Zippered, Bond Seams

|           |        |             |        |
|-----------|--------|-------------|--------|
| Twin size | \$4.50 | Double size | \$5.00 |
|-----------|--------|-------------|--------|

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I am enclosing \$..... for which please send me the following .....

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