

T H I S S P A C E A G E

October 4th 1957 -- the day on which the Soviet Union launched the first artificial earth satellite, will go down as one of the most significant turning points in the history of mankind. The road to the stars is now open and mankind has entered the space-age.

Now as we go to press the second earth satellite, much bigger than the first and carrying the first space traveller - a dog - has been launched by the Soviet Union.

At the same time news is coming from the Soviet Union that plans for interplanetary flights to the Moon, Mars and Venus are now under active preparation.

This bulletin welcomes wholeheartedly the announcements from the Soviet Union that all these projects are for peaceful purposes and for the advancement of mankind.

We, of course, sympathise with those who have been shocked out of their senses by the sudden realisation that the Soviet Union today stands as the most advanced country in Science, technology and other spheres. Those of us who pointed out the tremendous progress that went on there received no audience in the past.

We are still convinced, however, that there is still plenty of time for the nations of the world to enter into an agreement for shedding all prejudices and giving mutual assistance and co-operation - THIS FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF MANKIND.

.....

MORE SOVIET SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Among several achievements which are likely to be announced in the Soviet Union on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary celebrations now taking place in the U.S.S.R. are the following:-

X The World's largest and fastest civil airliner, the Rossiya (Russia) which is capable of carrying 220 passengers on a non-stop distance such as Moscow to New York or Tokyo.

More significant is the fact that this passenger plane will be for the direct benefit of the common people. According to information it will bring the cost of air travel to that of rail travel.

X The first Atomic powered ice-breaker, the Lenin, is soon to be launched. The Lenin is capable of travelling for a year without refuelling.

X For some time now the Soviet Union has been having nuclear-powered electric generators and power plants.

.....

"FREEDOM IS THE RECOGNITION OF NECESSITY"

FOOD,
~~~~~

CLOTHING,  
~~~~~

AND
~~~~~

SHELTER  
~~~~~

- The living standards of the Soviet People -

Before 1917 Russia was a backward country - its working and peasant masses living in abject poverty and starvation. The October revolution propelled by the slogans "Bread, Freedom and Peace" swept away the old order and brought about a leap in social development. The revolution transformed Russia from an agrarian country into an advanced Soviet Power.

For instance, industrial output for the year 1957 is expected to be forty six times the figure for 1917. The output for the same period in a country like America for instance, is four point one times and in Britain and France one point eight times. These fantastic production achievements assume even more significance when one considers that Russia's industrial equipment was ten times worse than the United States.

The people eat better, dress better.

Today the Soviet people in both town and country are living better than they have ever done before, according to a survey carried out recently. One of the points that emerged from this survey was that more people are now earning for themselves. At the same time, old folk are now retiring more readily. The number of youngsters going to colleges on the basis of state grants have doubled.

People eat much better. The average worker's family now eats a fifth less bread than it used to do - but it eats twice as much meat, two-thirds more fish and two and a half times as much milk and dairy produce. Since the war the Soviet people now eat seven eggs for every four in the pre-war days, twice as much sugar and half as much cake and sweets again.

The people now dress better and the rags in which workers used to be clad are becoming a thing of the past. Today an average worker's family buys 75% more dress fabric per head, three and a half times as many woollen garments.... eighteen times as much silk and nearly twice as many pairs of leather shoes.

On "non-essentials" like books, radio sets, musical instruments, bicycle cars and so on they now spend nine times per head as they did before the war.

Housing.

Housing, which is one of the greatest problems in the Soviet Union as well as other parts of the world, is being tackled vigorously and it is estimated that in twelve years' time it will be completely solved. Building operations are now going on on a tremendous scale. Page 2/.... For instance

For instance in Moscow the pace of building attained since the special city-wide management was set up a few years ago has astonished both Muscovites and foreign visitors. Now as a result of the decision to double the building target for the current five year plan, it is estimated that a housing area equal to the whole of Moscow in 1917 will have gone up in Moscow in 1956 to 1960.

All these as well as other material benefits such as university and secondary education to the age of seventeen, higher pensions, shorter hours of work, improved medical services and a host of other things are a clear proof, contrary to the myth of the reactionaries, that the masses of the people are competent to govern themselves, and to raise their living standards to unlimited heights.

.....
.....

Africa wants to live in Peace and Friendship (contd. from Page 5)

Almost everyone still remembers the shameless expulsion of the Soviet Consulate in Pretoria after the Nationalists had made the fantastic accusations that the Consulate was behind the Liberation Movement in South Africa and that it contravened the Union's liquor laws by supplying liquor to Non-Whites!

In contradiction to this step, however, South Africa still trades with the Soviet Union in such items as wool, meat and citrus.

In the field of music, South Africa will go down as one of the first countries outside the U.S.S.R. to have heard the Shostakovitz violin concerto when Menuhin played it here early this year.

For the Consolidation of Afro-Soviet Friendship

During the last World War the people of South Africa compelled the Government to open diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union as a result of which a Consulate (which has now been closed) opened here.

Now we note with pleasure the decision of South Africa and the Soviet Union to co-operate with each other during the Geophysical Year.

The people of Africa must press the demand to build Peace and Friendship with the Soviet Union. They must point out that in the forty years of the existence of the Soviet Union there has never been a single act of aggression by the Soviet Union against any country in Africa - instead there have been gestures of friendship. What other proof is required when the Soviet Union goes to the extent of opening a university faculty for the study of such African languages as Swahili and Zulu?

To those who argue that the Soviet Union does this to facilitate its penetration into Africa, let us remind them that the British, French, Portuguese and Belgian conquerors of Africa did not have to wait until they knew the African languages before they imposed their domination on our continent.

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

A GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP: While the Soviet geophysical research ship the "Ob" was in Cape Town recently, the Union Government presented it with a framed picture and silver plaque for the "excellent weather reports" which it had sent to South Africa during the 1956-7 season. -----

THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

"In the past the whole of man's mind, the whole of his genius were devoted to creation with the sole object of giving to some all the benefits of technique and culture, and of depriving others of the most necessary things -- education and development. But now all the wonders of technique, all the achievements of culture have become the common property of the Soviet people."

The Soviet people have brought about not only a social revolution but also a cultural one. What is this cultural revolution and what has it given to the Soviet people?

To answer the question let us take a glance at Russia's past. According to official statistical data, the number of literate people in Russia among the peasants who made up the overwhelming majority of the population amounted only to 13% in 1886, and the literacy among women barely reached 0.5%.

Vast areas of Russia were populated by completely illiterate people. In order to accommodate all the children of school age in Russia at least 245,000 schools would have been necessary, while in reality there were only 18,000.

In the same year (1886) the expenditure for public education amounted to only 5.5 million roubles out of a budget of a billion. With such attitude to education it is not surprising that by 1914 to every 1,000 people there were 326 literate men and 137 literate women in the European part of Russia. In the Caucasus there were 182 literate men and 60 women to every 1,000 people.

This was the level of education in Russia when the Great October Revolution began.

Today the Soviet Union has not only done away with its centuries old backwardness, but now occupies an honoured place among other countries in the world.

Workers and Peasants go in for Higher Education

To banish illiteracy among a population of millions of people was a difficult task; nevertheless it was accomplished a long time ago. Today about 50,000,000 people, that is a quarter of the population, are engaged in different types of study. Last year over 30,000,000 people attended schools of all types. Universal seven year education has been introduced throughout the country and transition to universal (ten year) education is now in progress. The number of teachers in 1955-56 was 6.2 times higher than in 1914-15.

Among the 127,000 students who attended the 105 higher schools in Russia an overwhelming majority were children of the nobility, capitalists and important czarist officials. Now there are 767 higher schools in the Soviet Union with an attendance of 2,001,000 students - children of workers, farmers and professional people.

According to a statement made by Mr. L. Strause, Chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, the number of engineers who graduated in the U.S.A. in 1955 was 60 per cent less than in the U.S.S.R. In Britain the number of people who receive diplomas

is 60 per cent less than in the Soviet Union. In the Soviet Union 718,000 workers, farmers and officeworkers study in extra-mural institutes receiving higher education at the same time continuing with their work.

LITERATURE

Book publication is an important indication of the rise of the cultural standards of a people. Speaking of Russian pre-revolutionary literature, Maxim Gorky remarked that in the main this literature was literature from the Moscow region. There were very few books in Russia about the life of the people in distant parts of the country, about the life and customs of the small nationalities.

In fact in almost 400 years since the appearance of the first book in Russia, about 550,000 books had been published. In the years of the Soviet Power about 1,500,000 books with a total circulation of 20,000,000,000 have been published. There are five new books annually to each Soviet Citizen.

Soviet literature has been supplemented by the work of authors belonging to nationalities which before the Revolution had not even published their own alphabet.

Besides the literal magazines and annuals published in Moscow and Leningrad, there are 17 magazines and some 40 literary annuals published in Russian and other languages in the autonomous republics, territories and regions in the Soviet Union.

THEATRE

Before the October Revolution there were 172 theatres in the entire Russian empire. Now there are over 500 theatres in the Soviet Union, including 32 opera and ballet theatres.

Before the Revolution the country had not a single theatre for children or young people. Now there are 101 such theatres.

In the U.S.S.R. there are in addition to professional art groups, about 250,000 amateur groups in which over 3,000,000 people take part.

SPORT

Because of the unlimited cultural, leisure and sporting opportunities the Soviet Union is today the leading country in the field of sport. At the Olympic games held in Melbourne recently Soviet athletes, gymnasts and football players swept the boards as they acquired the highest points, the largest number of Gold Medals, Silver Medals and Copper Medals.

Soviet athletes are continuously breaking several world records in all fields of sport.

ALL THESE CULTURAL BENEFITS ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE COMMON PEOPLE OF THE U.S.S.R.

THE NEW SEVEN YEAR PLAN.

The Soviet press has announced a decision by the Soviet Communist Party and the Soviet Government to supplement the current five year plan with a long term plan for further economic development of the economy of the Soviet Union.

This plan will cover the years 1959 to 1965.

Three factors are given for this decision:-

1. The success of the current five year plan(1956-60) on the basis of the figures available to date.

Gross industrial output this year was 11 per cent above the figure for 1955 and a further 10 per cent advance was recorded in the first 8 months of this year over the corresponding period in 1956.

Moreover the Plan will be over-fulfilled in respect of house building.

2. The new planning procedure made necessary by the re-organisation of management and establishment of area economic councils.

Planning in the separate republics and economic areas makes possible a fuller use of resources, better distribution of industry and quicker solution of the problems of developing new branches of industry.

3. The discovery of new deposits of raw materials and sources of electric power.

These will allow for the establishment of new industrial centres not provided for by existing Five-year plans, but the period needed to build them is longer than the three years of the plan still remaining. Between five to seven years will be needed.

Press reports then go on to explain that the aim of the new plan remains the same - to overtake the main capitalist countries in the output per head of the population in the shortest time possible.

Further use of the latest achievements of science and technology in all branches of industry will be a central feature of the new plan.

DO YOU KNOW?

That a quarter of the members of the Supreme Soviet (Soviet Parliament) are women, numbering 348 out of a total of 1,347 deputies. 318 deputies are workers, 220 peasants and 809 intellectuals.

xxxxxxxxxx

That 14,300 students and teachers from 20 foreign countries are at present studying or teaching at the Soviet colleges and universities.

xxxxxxxxxx

That in the Soviet Union there is a 6 hour maximum working day for adolescents from 16 to 18 years of age and a four hour day for any (very few indeed, mostly apprentices) under 16.

xxxxxxxxxx

That the Soviet Union has more than 22,000 permanent day nurseries attended by about a million children and additional seasonal nurseries for nearly 3,000,000 children in the rural areas.

xxxxxxxxxx

That the report on world social conditions submitted to the U.N. Economic & Social Council noted that the Soviet Union holds first place for the number of doctors. There is one doctor for every 600 inhabitants, and about 3,800 children's doctors. In Western European countries there is one doctor to every 900 people.

F. ✓

FOR PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

SPECIAL
INFORMATION BULLETIN
-MARCH 1956-

ON THE
20th CONGRESS
OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY
OF THE SOVIET UNION

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

REPORT OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE
OF THE CPSU -
DELIVERED BY
N.S. KHRUSHCHOV

TEXT OF THE SPEECH
DELIVERED BY
ANA STAS MIKOYAN -
VICE CHAIRMAN OF
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
OF THE U.S.S.R.

TRIUMPH OF
LENINIST POLICY.

PRICE 6^p

POST FREE 6^p

issued by the society for peace
and friendship with the soviet
union - p.o box 2920
johannesburg

A LANDMARK
IN
SOVIET HISTORY.

The recently concluded 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party was a landmark in the history of the USSR, and no serious student of contemporary affairs can afford to neglect its importance. Significantly, even Sir Anthony Eden told the House of Commons that he was giving careful study to the speeches and resolutions of the Congress. Unfortunately the newspaper press of South Africa has made no serious effort whatsoever to present a true and fair account of this landmark in contemporary history to its readers. Instead it has surpassed itself in distortion, jumbling up extracts from speeches with the speculations of commentators and so-called "exports" so that it is impossible for the ordinary reader to know where one ends and the other begins.

It is the function of the S.A. Society for Peace and Friendship with the Soviet Union to present the truth about the USSR. We feel that this bulletin will answer many of the questions that have been put to us by our members and the public.

It is obvious to the serious student that by far the major part of the attention and discussions were devoted to discussion of the central themes of the Central Committee's report presented by Mr. N.S. Khrushchov, devoted to the achievements, the policy and the plans of his Party. This section of the report and discussions was almost entirely ignored by the newspapers. Instead they devoted almost all their attention to those sections of the report which stigmatised "the cult of the individual leader" and which stressed the return of the Party to collective leadership.

In order to allow members to gain a clearer idea of the perspective of the Congress, we reproduce below some documents which have come to hand: a summary of N.S. Khrushchov's Report, a section of the much debated speech by A.I. Mikoyan, and a summary of the Congress proceedings contained in an Editorial from the newspaper "Moscow News".

We trust that readers will find that these documents repay study. As further material becomes available we hope to make it available in the same way.

OPENING OF CONGRESS.

At the opening Mr Krushchov called on those present to rise in memory of J. V. Stalin, C. Gottwald and J. Okuda, all of whom had died since the previous Congress was held.

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
OF THE C.P.S.U.

Delivered by N.S. KHRUSHCHOV

14th FEBRUARY, 1956.

The first part of the report of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, made by N.S. Khrushchov, dealt with the international position of the Soviet Union.

Khrushchov cited facts showing the mighty advance of the national economy of the USSR., and also of the People's Republic of China and other people's democracies of Europe and Asia. In spite of the great devastation inflicted by the war, the Soviet Union's industrial output had increased to more than 20 times the 1929 level. At the same time the United States, in especially favourable conditions, had managed to attain only a little over a 100 per cent increase.

The distinguishing feature of the economy of the USSR, and all other socialist countries, said Khrushchov, was its all-round development and general peaceful trend.

The Soviet Union has assisted the people's democracies in building 391 enterprises and over 90 separate factory shops and installations. These countries had been given long-term credits totalling 21,000 million roubles on most favourable terms. The Soviet Union was also helping the friendly states in organising the production and peaceful utilisation of atomic energy.

CAPITALISM IN TROUBLE

The next part of the report contained a thorough analysis of the economic situation in the capitalist countries. One could not say, Khrushchov noted, that the development of production in capitalist countries was taking place on a healthy economic basis. This was to be explained by the operation of such factors as the militarisation of the economy and the arms drive, and the intensification of the international economic expansion of the main capitalist states. An important role had been played by the process of renovating the production facilities that had grown apace between 1951 and 1954, the sharp intensification of the exploitation of the working class and the deterioration of the living standards of the population.

At the present time, Khrushchov said, the capitalist world was approaching the limit where the stimulating action of a number of temporary factors was exhausting itself.

Ending this part of the report, he said that the situation in the capitalist world was characterised by the aggravation of profound contradictions. Capitalism was inevitably heading for new economic and social troubles.

He went on to denounce the imperialist policy of knocking together military blocs and intensifying the cold war pursued by certain quarters among the western powers. This course, which had been termed a "policy of

strength", reflected the striving of the most aggressive circles of present-day imperialism to foist their will on other countries by means of economic and political pressure, threats and military provocations. All this could not fail to worsen the international situation.

But other processes, too, Khrushchov stressed, had been taking place in the international arena, which has shown that far from everything was within the power of the monopolist circles. Of decisive significance was the steady strengthening of the forces of socialism, democracy and peace, and the forces of the national liberation movement. The international camp of socialism had exercised ever-growing influence on the course of world events. The forces of peace had multiplied in connection with the emergence of a group of peace-loving states in Europe and Asia, which has proclaimed non-participation in blocs as a principle of their foreign policy.

ZONE OF PEACE.

As a result, he said, an extensive "zone of peace" had appeared in the world arena, incorporating both socialist and non-socialist peace-loving states of Europe and Asia. This zone included vast territories inhabited by almost 1,500 million people, or the majority of the population of the world.

All recent international developments, Khrushchov went on to say, were evidence of the fact that great masses of people had risen in defence of peace. The ruling imperialist circles could not but reckon with this. The more far-sighted representatives of these circles were beginning to admit that the "policy of strength" had failed to exert pressure on the countries for which it was intended, that it had gone bankrupt.

Khrushchov dealt with the disintegration of the colonial system of imperialism. This disintegration, he said, was a world-wide historic process of the postwar period. People's China and the independent Indian Republic had moved up into the ranks of the great powers, and a political and economic upsurge was to be seen in the countries of South-East Asia and the Arab East. The process of awakening of the peoples of Africa had begun. There was an advance in the national liberation movement in Latin America. The question of the complete liquidation of the shameful system of colonialism had been put on the order of the day.

The emancipated countries of Asia, Khrushchov went on to say, had embarked on the road of creating their own industry. Although these countries were not included in the world socialist system, they could avail themselves of its achievements, without paying for this with any commitments of a political or military nature. The very fact of the existence of the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist camp, their willingness to assist the underdeveloped countries in their industrial development on the principles of equality and mutual benefit, was a serious obstacle in the way of the colonial policy.

Loyal to the Leninist principles of a peace-loving foreign policy, the Soviet Union had been working actively for the relaxation of international tension and the strengthening of peace and had registered major successes on this road. The peaceful initiative of the USSR., he said, had

become one of the most important factors greatly affecting the course of international developments.

The efforts of the peace-loving states and peoples had not been wasted, he said. The Geneva Conference of the heads of governments had shown the viability and correctness of the method of negotiations between countries. At present some persons in the West were endeavouring to bury the spirit of Geneva. But the Soviet Union would strive with still greater persistence for the establishment of mutual confidence and co-operation among all countries, and among the great powers, first and foremost. In this, equal efforts and reciprocal concessions, Khrushchov emphasised, were indispensable in relations between the great powers. The method of negotiations should become the only method of settling international disputes.

DISARMAMENT.

Khrushchov then spoke of the tasks of ensuring collective security in Europe and Asia and on the disarmament problem. The settlement of these most important issues, he said, could create a foundation for a firm and lasting peace.

"We shall continue to work to put an end to the arms drive and prohibit atomic and hydrogen weapons," he said. "We are prepared to undertake certain partial steps in this direction, such as, for instance, the ending of experimentation with thermonuclear weapons, the withdrawal of atomic weapons from the armaments of troops stationed on German territory, the reduction of military budgets."

Khrushchov stressed that the establishment of firm, friendly relations between the world's biggest powers - the Soviet Union and the United States of America - would be of immense importance for strengthening universal peace. "We believe," he said, "that making the well-known Five Principles of peaceful co-existence the basis of Soviet-American relations would have truly immense significance for all mankind."

Speaking further on the Soviet Union's intention to strive to improve its relations with Britain and France, Khrushchov said that at present, when military groupings existed, the possibilities for improving relations among states were far from being exhausted. The importance of concluding treaties or non-aggression of friendship, which would facilitate the elimination of the existing suspicion and mistrust and contribute to the normalisation of the international situation, should be especially stressed. Also of great importance for improving mutual understanding among states was the extension of business and cultural contacts. He said that to counterbalance the watchword of the North Atlantic bloc: "Let us arm ourselves!", the Soviet Union put forward the watchword: "Let us trade!"

In the next part of his report, N.S. Khrushchov dealt with the key issues in present international developments: the problems of the peaceful co-existence of the two systems, the possibility of averting wars in the present epoch, and the forms of transition of different countries to socialism.

"When we say that in the competition of the two systems - the capitalist and socialist systems - the socialist system will win," he said, "this does not in the least mean that victory will be achieved through armed intervention by socialist countries in the internal affairs of capitalist countries. We have always asserted, and we assert now that the establishment of a new social order in this or that country is the domestic affair of the peoples of that country."

On the possibility of averting a new war, Khrushchov emphasised that there was no fatal inevitability about wars. There were now powerful social and political forces possessing formidable means to prevent the imperialists from unleashing wars. The Soviet Union would fight actively for the cause of peace and security of nations, for the establishment of confidence among states, for turning into lasting peace the relaxation of world tension that had been achieved.

INTERNAL SITUATION OF U.S.S.R.

In the second part of his report, "The Internal Situation of the USSR," Khrushchov noted that in the period under review the Communist Party, having critically appraised the situation in agriculture and industry, had launched a number of important undertakings so as to be able to use the successes achieved for another great stride forward in the country's socialist development. Along with that, he said, the Party had been boldly disclosing the shortcomings in different fields of economic, government and Party activities, breaking down antiquated conceptions and resolutely brushing aside all that was obsolete, all that impeded progress.

Under the Fifth Five-Year Plan, said Khrushchov, the USSR. had achieved much greater progress in all branches of industry; it had substantially advanced the production of grain and technical crops and had made great headway in the development of livestock farming. Industrial output had grown by 85 per cent in 1951-55, production of the means of production having increased by almost 100 per cent and production of consumer goods by 76 per cent. The average annual rate of growth of production in the period under review was over 13 per cent, which was more than three times the corresponding rate in the U.S.A. and 3.8 times the corresponding rate in Britain.

NEW FIVE YEAR PLAN.

Speaking of the problems facing industry under the Sixth Five-Year Plan, he emphasised that fulfilment of the plan would mean an increase in industrial production to more than five times the prewar (1940) volume, and production of consumer goods would increase almost three times over in the same period.

Referring to the development of agriculture under the Sixth Five-Year Plan, Khrushchov defined the principal task before agriculture as an increase in the annual gross grain harvest to 11,000 million poods *
* 62 poods equals 1 ton

at the end of the five-year period, by boosting crop yields and promoting the reclamation of new areas; a considerable increase in the yields of technical crops; a rapid increase in potato and vegetable production, and the doubling of meat production.

Khrushchov gave considerable time in his report to the question of improving the living and cultural standards of the Soviet people. A 68 per cent increase in the national income of the USSR, had been recorded under the Fifth Five-Year Plan, he said. Seventy-five per cent of this income was allocated in the USSR, for satisfying the personal requirements of the population. As a result of that, real wages had grown in the period of the Fifth Five-Year Plan by 39 per cent and the real incomes of the collective farmers by 50 per cent. During the five years the state had spent 689,000 million roubles on social insurance benefits, paid annual holidays, free medical assistance, etc. The amount of goods consumed by the public had been growing steadily. Retail sales in the state and co-operative shops had grown by almost 100 per cent in the last five-year period. The fact that the population of the USSR had grown by 16,300,000 in the period of the Fifth Five-Year Plan was also to be explained by the advancement of the wellbeing of the working people.

HIGHER WAGES - SHORTER HOURS.

Khrushchov outlined in his report an extensive programme for raising the living standards of the population under the Sixth Five-Year Plan. A substantial increase would be effected in the production of food and general consumer goods. Real wages would go up by approximately 30 per cent and collective farmers' incomes by at least 40 per cent. It was planned to raise the earnings of the lower paid categories of workers.

Khrushchov announced that the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. had resolved, during the Sixth Five-Year Plan, to reduce the working day for all industrial workers and other employees to seven hours. Moreover, it was planned to transfer the workers in the leading trades in the coal and ore-mining industries employed in the pits to a six-hour day, and to decree again a six-hour day for young workers between the ages of 16 and 18. It had also been resolved to limit in the immediate future the working day in the factories and institutions to six hours on Saturdays and on the eve of holidays. Reduction of the working day would not result in any reduction in wages.

A draft law on a uniform scale of pensions for the whole of the Soviet Union, to be submitted for the approval of the USSR. Supreme Soviet in the immediate future, would radically improve matters with regard to pensions.

Dwelling on questions relating to cultural development in the USSR. Khrushchov noted that no capitalist country could boast of as many schools, specialised secondary schools, higher schools, research institutes, experimental stations and laboratories, theatres, clubs, libraries and other cultural and educational institutions as the Soviet Union had. It was planned to complete in the main the transition to universal ten-year schooling in the towns and villages during the period of the Sixth Five-Year Plan.

One of the most important results achieved by the C.P.S.U. in the period between the 19th and 20th Party Congresses, he said, was the still greater moral and political unity of the Soviet people. Speaking of the greater strength and advancement of the Soviet social and state system, Khrushchov pointed as an example to the stronger fraternal bonds of friendship between all the peoples of the USSR., to the development of socialist democracy, the improvement of the state apparatus, and the greater consolidation of Soviet law and order.

THE PARTY.

In the third section of his report, N.S. Khrushchov dwelt in detail on the activities of the Party since the 19th Congress. The membership of the C.P.S.U. on February 1, this year, was 7,215,505 - almost three times as big as the membership at the time of the 18th Congress and 333,000 more than at the time of the 19th Congress.

He declared that the unity of the Party had taken shape in the course of years and tens of years, that it had become strengthened and hardened in the struggle against numerous enemies, the Trotskyites and Bukharinites, bourgeois nationalists, advocates of the restoration of capitalism and other vicious enemies of the people. And the great successes gained in the period under review were the best indications of the efforts of the Party and its Central Committee to safeguard and strengthen the unity of the Party ranks.

Emphasising as a factor of paramount importance the restoration and thorough consolidation of the Leninist principle of collective leadership, Khrushchov said the Central Committee had taken a most emphatic stand against the cult of the individual, which was alien to the spirit of Marxism-Leninism and which converted this or that leader into a miracle-working hero while belittling the role of the Party and of the masses of the people, and weakened their creative endeavours.

Speaking of the organisational work of the Party, Khrushchov stressed that Lenin had always linked the work of the Party with economic activities. The main factor in the organisational work of the Party was work among the masses, influence among the masses, organisation of the masses for the achievement of the economic and political tasks set by the Party.

The Young Communist League, he said, which united in its ranks more than 18 million young men and women, was energetically co-operating in economic and cultural undertakings; it was assisting the Party in educating the youth in the spirit of communism.

After describing the work and tasks of the Party in the ideological sphere, N.S. Khrushchov said in conclusion:

BROAD HORIZONS.

"The land of Soviets is making a sweeping advance. We have climbed a lofty summit which gives us a view of broad horizons on the road to the ultimate goal - communist society. It was a hard, incredibly difficult trail

that the Soviet country blazed as it climbed this summit. But the Soviet people have not been deterred by any difficulties. Soviet citizens have been consciously limiting their requirements. And when we are criticised because we do not always keep up with the new Parisian fashions, because some Soviet people still wear cotton-padded jackets which spoil their figures, we ourselves can see that and admit it. Under the Sixth Five-Year Plan, the land of Soviets will take another great stride forward. While furthering the development of heavy industry, we are broadening our possibilities for the production of consumer goods.

"The C.P.S.U. has many an enemy and ill-wisher, but it has a far greater number of tried and tested friends and faithful allies. The Party's cause is invincible. It is invincible because it is being advanced by the Soviet people, together with hundreds and hundreds of millions of people in fraternal People's China and in all the people's democracies. It is invincible because it has the ardent support and sympathy of the peoples who have thrown off the yoke of national and colonial oppression. It is invincible because it has the support of the working people of the whole world."

-----oOo-----

20th CONGRESS OF THE C.P.S.U.

The following is the text of the speech made on Feb. 16 by ANASTAS I. MIKOYAN, member of the Presidium of the C.C. of the C.P.S.U. and First Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR., at the 20th Congress of the C.P.S.U.

Comrades, I fully agree with the report of the C.C. of the party and would like to discuss only some aspects of the Committee's activities.

The C.C.'s report examines the new facts and events of mankind's history in the present period. Illuminating them with the light of Marxism-Leninism, the C.C. draws a number of important, theoretically bold and deep-going fundamental conclusions connected with the laws of social development and their application in present-day conditions. Basic questions of Marxist theory have been raised as applied to the present situation. The conclusions drawn from them are not only of theoretical value; they acquire a programmatic character and great practical significance for the correct policy of communism in subsequent stages of development. This greatly enriches Marxism-Leninism and makes a valuable contribution to the Marxist-Leninist science on the development of society. (applause).

The conclusions and theoretical propositions contained in Comrade Khrushchev's report show that our C.C., as is incumbent upon it as the body that is most well grounded, enriched with the experience of the C.P., does not simply reiterate the well-known theoretical principles of Marxism-Leninism. Guided by the powerful Marxist method of knowing the laws of social development, the C.C. provides an understanding of present-day social developments, explains them in a Marxist way and arms the working class with conclusions which now generalise and explain not only facts and events during

the periods in which Marx and Lenin lived and worked, but also subsequent developments both in the capitalist countries and in the socialist countries. I should like to discuss now some of these questions in view of their exceedingly great importance and urgency.

COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP.

The main feature characterising the work of the C.C. and its Presidium in the past three years is that after a long interruption collective leadership has been created in our party. (applause.)

Our party now has a firmly-knit leading collective, whose strength lies not only in that it consists of comrades who have worked together for many years in revolutionary struggle, which is of course very important, but chiefly in that this collective, guided by the Leninist ideas, the Leninist principles of party organisation and party leadership, has restored in a short time the Leninist standards of party life, from top to bottom. (applause.)

The principle of collective leadership is elementary for a proletarian party, for a party of the Leninist type. But we have to stress this old truth because for some 20 years we actually had no collective leadership, and the cult of the individual, condemned first by Marx and then by Lenin, prevailed. And this naturally could not fail to have an extremely adverse effect on the situation in the party and on its activities. And now that for the past three years collective leadership of the C.P. has been restored on the basis of Leninist adherence to principle and Leninist unity, we feel the increasingly beneficial influence of the Leninist methods of leadership. That is the prime source which has imparted fresh strength to our party in recent years. That was the important prerequisite for the achievements mentioned in Comrade Khrushchev's report and is a pledge that our party will continue to advance still more confidently, still more successfully in building communism. (applause.)

In recent years the C.C. - and this was reflected in the report - has devoted much attention, among other urgent and pressing questions, to promoting the rapid growth of industry, and in the first place heavy industry, to launching the struggle for technical progress in industry, transport, agriculture and trade, for high labour productivity, for high quality of manufactured goods.

AGRICULTURE.

The main task has been to eliminate the lag in agriculture, to remove the result - and disproportion between the development of industry and agriculture - a disproportion which was most dangerous for our country and which in the future could be a very big hindrance to our progress. To accomplish this task a number of measures were taken, such as providing greater material incentives to the collective farmers and developing virgin and long-fallow land. Thirty-three million hectares of new land have been cultivated in the past two years. Could we ever have dreamed of anything like that in the past?

And what is happening at the same time in American agriculture?

The United States government, in the President's message in January, submitted to Congress a programme for reducing the sown areas by ten million hectares. But that is outright destruction of the productive forces in agriculture - one of the latest very striking manifestations of the decay of capitalism. It turns out that in the United States, too, the problem of virgin and long-fallow land is raised, only it is raised in a topsy-turvy way, the American way. Instead of cultivating new lands they are turning ploughland into idle, virgin soil (animation). And this is happening in a country which lays claim to "world leadership" and, moreover, at a time when, according to official statistics of the United Nations, an ever-increasing number of people in the capitalist world are undernourished and their number now reaches 59 per cent of the world's total population, whereas in 1939 it was 31 per cent. And at the same time in the United States it is planned to stop the cultivation of crops on ten million hectares!

ATTITUDE TO WAR.

The essence of our attitude to war lies not only in the humanism of the Soviet people, in their friendly feelings for all nations. The interests of successful communist construction, the struggle to raise the standard of living are in direct contradiction with the policy of the arms drive and of expending human and material forces for war purposes.

The first decree of the newly-born Soviet power was the Decree on Peace. Lenin, as leader of the Soviet government, ceaselessly proposed peace and the establishment of diplomatic and trade relations with all countries.

Lenin said: "There is nothing more precious for us than peace..." (Works/Russian Edition/, Vol 32, p. 94). "The workers and peasants of Russia treasure the blessings of peace above all..." (Works/Russian Edition/Vol. 33, p. 125). "We stand for an alliance with all countries without exception." (Works/Russian Edition/Vol. 30, p. 341).

In February 1920, Lenin said: "Let the American capitalists leave us alone. We will leave them alone." (Works/Russian Edition/, Vol. 30, p. 340).

Lenin's words and his behests about peace are sacred to us. We are ready to repeat them again and again (applause), they are well known to our friends. Let them be heard, evaluated and correctly understood by our foes as well, by those who interfere with the desire of the peoples for warm friendship with the Soviet people.

Peace will enable us to build communism in our country and in the countries in which socialism has triumphed within a brief space of time. War can only retard our economic development, as was the case during the Patriotic War.

Sooner or later the ideas of communism will make their way to the hearts of all peoples and establish themselves throughout the world.

The correct Marxist-Leninist posing of the questions of war and peace in the report of the C.C. will play a historic role in the future organisation of the world struggle of the forces of society against war, for peace, and will

contribute in an ever-increasing measure to mankind's noble cause (applause).

FOR IDEOLOGICAL WORK ON A NEW LEVEL.

I would like to make a few remarks concerning the work of communists in the sphere of ideology.

Objectively speaking, part of the blame for the unsatisfactory state of affairs in ideological work can be explained by the conditions created for scientific and ideological work over a number of years. But it is indisputable that a certain part of the blame for our serious lag on the ideological front rests with the workers on this particular front.

It is a matter for regret that during the past 15 or 20 years we have given little, very little attention to the treasure-house of Leninist ideas for the purpose of understanding and explaining phenomena both in the internal life of our country and in the international situation. This took place, not of course because Lenin's ideas have become outmoded or are inadequate for an understanding of the present situation.

Leninism, the creative development of Marxism in the epoch of imperialism and proletarian revolutions, retains and will continue to retain its theoretical and political force and practical significance.

Lenin's brilliant theses concerning the laws governing social development are an invaluable source for a correct understanding of many present-day phenomena. No, without Lenin these cannot be understood; without Lenin it is impossible to understand the present world situation, the laws underlying the decline of capitalism in the epoch of imperialism, the destiny of the proletarian revolution and its victory, the ways of building socialism and communism.

Relying on the eternally living teaching of Leninism, our party, its C.C., and the communist and workers' parties abroad creatively apply this teaching in analysing the events and phenomena of the present period in the development of society and, by so doing, enrich Marxism-Leninism.

SITUATION OF CAPITALISM.

The report of the C.C. of the C.P.S.U. gives a clear analysis of the present situation of capitalism. A certain growth of industrial output has taken place in the capitalist countries in the past period. But it has taken place in conditions of a further sharpening of the contradictions of capitalist production, of growing instability of its economy. Capitalist economy is in a state of over-strain; it is fraught with economic crisis. The further weakening of the capitalist system is taking place. There is also taking place the historical process of the contraction of the share of capitalism and the expansion of the share of socialism in world economy.

None of us can fail to be interested in the question of the present position of capitalism. Is it possible for capitalism in its period of decay and general crisis to develop at all? Is technical progress and the growth

of production in capitalist countries possible today and tomorrow?

The theory of absolute stagnation of capitalism is alien to Marxism-Leninism. It would be wrong to say that the general crisis of capitalism means the end of rising output and technical progress in the capitalist countries.

In analysing the economic situation of present-day capitalism it is doubtful whether we get any help from Stalin's thesis in the Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR, or whether it is correct - in relation to the United States, Britain, and France - that, with the break-up of the world market the "volume of production in these countries will shrink." This assertion does not explain the complex and contradictory phenomena of present-day capitalism and the fact of the growth of capitalist production in many countries since the war.

As has been stated in the report of the C.C., Lenin in 1916 in his work on imperialism, having brilliantly illuminated the laws of imperialism, pointed out that the decline of capitalism does not preclude a rapid growth of production, that in the epoch of imperialism individual branches of industry and individual countries display, to a greater or lesser degree, now one and now another of these tendencies.

All the facts show that these Leninist theses are in no way outdated.

Incidentally, one cannot but note that other theses of the Economic Problems as well, if strictly examined, demand from our economists profound study and critical re-examination from the standpoint of Marxism-Leninism.

The course of history shows that invariably all the fundamental propositions of Marxism-Leninism find confirmation in the present phase of imperialist development as well. But general confirmation is not enough. We are obliged to study concretely when, where, to what degree, and how this takes place.

NEED FOR STUDY.

We are lagging seriously in our study of the present phase of capitalism, do not make a profound study of facts and figures, and frequently, for purposes of agitation, confine ourselves to individual facts relating to the impending crisis, to the impoverishment of the working people, but we fail to give an all-round and profound evaluation of the phenomena observed in the life of foreign countries. Our economists, in studying the economy of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, frequently skim the surface, do not get to the heart of the matter, fail to make a serious analysis and generalisation, and avoid shedding light on the peculiarities of development in the individual countries.

And in fact who can engage in a serious study of these questions? Before the war we had the Institute of World Economy and World Politics, but it was closed, and the single Economic Institute attached to the Academy of Sciences fails, and cannot but fail, to undertake a profound study of the

economy in the socialist countries and in the capitalist countries. In the system of the Academy of Sciences there is an institute for studying questions relating to the East, but one can say of it that whereas the whole of the East has awakened, this institute is still slumbering (animation, laughter).

Is it not time that it rose to the level of the tasks of the day?

It is difficult to understand why the Oriental Institute, which existed in Moscow for 139 years, was closed, especially in a period when our contacts with the East are growing and becoming stronger, and when, as a consequence of the extension of our economic, political, and cultural ties with the countries of the East, the interest displayed in them by Soviet people has grown immeasurably, and in a like manner the demands for people who know the languages, economy and culture of these countries.

One cannot but pay attention to the fact that, as they say, in the United States about a score of scientific establishments are studying the Soviet economy. I say nothing as to how this study is carried out, but the fact is that they have there a large number of economists engaged in selecting material and studying economic developments in the Soviet Union.

STATISTICAL MATERIAL.

Note should be taken of the big success of the group of economists who issued the textbook on political economy and who afterwards supplemented and reprinted this textbook. But it would be wrong to keep silent about the fact that the part dealing with modern capitalist development - particularly the character and the periodicity of the cyclical crises - and also questions relating to the political economy of socialism, require further profound study and elaboration.

Recall the mountains of statistical material which Marx gathered on the economy of all countries, including Russia, in order to draw his brilliant conclusions. Remember the enormous labours carried out by Lenin in searching for the then rare but extremely valuable statistical data on economic development in order to write his book about the development of capitalism in Russia, and also in preparing his work on imperialism.

Without a most careful examination of all the statistical data, which we possess in far larger measure than at any other time and than in any other country, without systematising these data, without analysing and drawing general conclusions from them, no scientific economic work is possible.

It is a matter for regret that statistical data are still on the secret list in the Central Statistical Administration in Comrade Starovsky's safes. The economists are deprived of the possibility of examining them and are doomed to the role of talmudists, repeating the old formulas and old data. This is one of the reasons why we do not see any creative work by our economists. (applause).

One should not forget the remark made by Lenin concerning the importance of statistics. In 1918 Lenin wrote: "In capitalist society statistics

were a subject exclusively for 'civil servants', or for narrow specialists - we must bring them to the masses, popularise them ..."

The impression is created, I regret to say, that even now Lenin's remark about "civil servants" is justified in relation to our statisticians who still cling to some of the hangovers of the old society (animation).

The C.C.'s report speaks of the unsatisfactory nature of our propaganda work. One of the reasons for this is that, as a rule, we teach Marxism-Leninism on the basis of the Short History of the Party. That of course is incorrect. The wealth of ideas of Marxism-Leninism cannot be contained within the limits of the subject of the history of our party, all the more so since it is a brief history. For this we need special theoretical textbooks for comrades at different educational levels. That is the first thing. Secondly, the present Short History of the Party is unsatisfactory because it does not deal with the events of nearly 20 years of our party. And how can we justify the absence of a history of our party for the past 20 years?

This, of course, is wrong. The wealth of the ideas of Marxism-Leninism cannot be cramped into the limitations of the theme of the history of our Party and the more so in its short course.

To this end the compilation of special theoretical textbooks for comrades at different levels is called for.

The second thing is that the short course of the history of the Party we have cannot satisfy us if only for the reason that it does not illuminate the development for almost the last 20 years in the life of our Party. (It was written in 1938)

Scientific work in the sphere of the history of our Party and Soviet society is perhaps the most backward sector of our ideological work.

Books on the history of such big Party organisations as those in the Caucasus and Baku, in which the facts were juggled, some people were arbitrarily extolled, and others were not mentioned at all, where secondary events were raised to undeserved heights and others more important were minimised, and where the leading and directing role of the revolutionary Leninist Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party was belittled, until recently enjoyed currency with us, and even served as indisputable standards

UNDESERVED.

(The history of the Caucasian organisation referred to was presumably the one written by Beria in 1939.)

To this day we have no real Marxist works also about the Civil War period. A number of published works suffer great shortcomings, and are of no scientific value, while some of them can even play a negative role.

Some complex and contradictory events of the Civil War of 1918-20 are explained by certain historians not by changes in the co-relation of class forces at separate periods, but by allegedly subversive activity of some of the Party leaders who many years after the described events were wrongly declared enemies of the people.

-----oo-----

TRIUMPH

OF

LENINIST POLICY.

(Editorial from "Moscow News", 29th February, 1956).

The 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union which met in Moscow completed its work on February 25. For eleven days the world followed the work of this epoch-making Congress with great interest.

The 20th Congress of the C.P.S.U. is of tremendous international significance. It will go down in world history and in the history of the international labour movement as a most important stage in the implementation of Lenin's brilliant plan for the construction of Communist society in the Soviet Union, in strengthening world peace, as a Congress of the consistent realisation of the immortal ideals of Marxism-Leninism.

For many centuries the best minds of the world have been dreaming of a social and state system that would abolish the exploitation of man by man, that would do away with discord and discrimination among nations, that would put an end to sanguinary wars and establish peace and co-operation among peoples.

And now we ourselves can see the construction of a new society like this in the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and the People's Democracies.

THE ROAD TO SOCIALISM.

The road to Socialism, which includes many varied forms of transition, has been taken by many nations and states; and many more are embarking on this road.

Today Communism is no longer a spectre, it is not a dream but reality, a path which is firmly followed by more than one-third of mankind.

The entire course of events in social development during the past ten years shows undeniably that we are living at a time when unprecedented developments are taking place in the world, when new progressive social and political systems are being formed.

Before the Second World War the socialist system accounted for only 17 per cent of the earth's surface, for some 9 per cent of its population and for only 7 per cent of the industrial output.

Today the countries of the Socialist camp occupy more than one quarter of the earth's surface with a population exceeding 900,000,000, producing almost 30 per cent of world industrial output.

No matter how disagreeable these facts may be to the enemies of Communism, no matter how many anti-Communist speeches they make, the hard facts remain. As the Congress resolution on the Central Committee Report points out: "The main feature of our epoch is the emergence of Socialism from the boundaries of one country and its transformation into a world system." Capitalism has proved powerless to interfere with this process of universal historic significance. The laws of history are stronger than all the organisers of the anti-Communist crusade.

At the 20th Congress of the C.P.S.U. N.S. Khrushchov's report and the speeches of delegates and guests offered irrefutable proof of the tremendous advantages of the socialist system of economy. In the last 25 years, despite the immeasurable losses caused by the war, the Soviet Union has increased its industrial production by more than 20 times.

In 1955 People's Poland surpassed the pre-war level of industrial output more than four-fold, Czechoslovakia more than two-fold, Hungary three-fold, Bulgaria more than five-fold, Albania more than eleven-fold, the German Democratic Republic more than two-fold.

In the People's Republic of China, which is successfully carrying out a policy of socialist industrialisation, industrial output increased more than four-fold as against 1949.

Yugoslavia is also winning successes in socialist construction. It has surpassed the pre-war level of industrial output by 180 per cent.

On the basis of these figures and facts it needs nothing more than good common sense to see that those who try to prevent the triumphant develop-

Collection Number: AD1812

RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

©2012

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.