

for Peace and Friendship

BULLETIN OF THE S.A. SOCIETY FOR PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION

January/February 1955.

OUR SECRETARY BANNED!

The South African Society for Peace and Friendship with the Soviet Union expresses its greatest indignation at the action of the Minister of Justice, in ordering its Secretary, Mrs. Molly Fischer to resign, and banning her from attending "gatherings" for the next five years.


A statement by the Rev. D.C. Thompson, the Society's Chairman, declares that the banning notices are "a vindictive and outrageously harsh act of victimisation of Mrs. Fischer, whose sole 'crime' has been to advocate, as Secretary of the Society, its policy of better cultural, commercial and diplomatic relationships between South Africa and the Soviet Union.

"In terms of the 'gathering' ban, Mrs. Fischer may not even maintain ordinary social contacts with her fellow human beings. In recent court proceedings, individuals thus prohibited by the arbitrary act of the Minister, have been charged and convicted for being at purely social and informal occasions, such as a tea party, with the 'common purpose' of 'holding social intercourse'.

"It is time the public conscience was aroused against these inhuman acts of petty tyranny" says Rev. Thompson.

"The banning of our Secretary is a cruel blow against our Society, but we shall continue with our vitally important work, so much more necessary today, when the continuance of unhealthy international tensions holds the threat of atomic holocaust, involving the self-destruction of humanity.

"At the same time we call upon all democratic South Africans to join us in unqualified condemnation of these unwarranted bans against Mrs. Fischer, and an insistent demand for their withdrawal."

An Appeal for
PEACE 

In a New Year message to the American people, the Soviet Premier, Malenkov said:-

"What is required first and foremost for the maintenance of peace between the U.S.S.R. and the United States is the sincere desire of both sides for peace and their striving for it so that in their relations they proceed from the possibility and the necessity of peaceful co-existence with each other and from the consideration of legitimate mutual interests. As for the Soviet Union, it, proceeding from the above promises, is ready to continue to do everything in its power to ensure lasting and stable peaceful relations between the USSR and the USA, having in view that a similar readiness will be displayed on the part of the United States.."

A GOOD CUSTOMER

Today Soviet citizens are not only eating more, but a greater variety. They get herrings from Britain, Holland and Norway; dairy produce from Australia and New Zealand; meat from South America, South Africa and Canada; tea, coffee, dates, oranges and lemons from the Middle East, India and South East Asia. The U.S.S.R., in fact, is one of the leading food importing countries in the world.

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During September the office of the Society and the homes of the Chairman and three Executive members were raided by the police, again under the Suppression of Communism Act. Many books and pamphlets were confiscated. The acting Secretary was threatened with criminal prosecution for refusing to co-operate with the authorities.

PICTORIAL EXHIBITION A successful pictorial exhibition of Soviet Life and Culture was held at the Witwatersrand University during May. The scope of the exhibition was limited due to the lack of material. The exhibition was seen by thousands of students and others. The comments indicated the keen interest felt in the Soviet Union although a few visitors condemned the exhibition as "nothing but Communist propaganda."

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Nearly 400 people attended the meeting, which was addressed by

speakers of all sections of the South African people. The Chairman, Rev. D. C. Thompson, spoke of the good work of the Society in the past and its determination to continue work in spite of all difficulties.

The prestige which the Society enjoys amongst large sections of the people was shown by the large number of letters (over 600), which were posted to the Chairman from the main provinces in the Union, encouraging the Society in its work. This was organised by individuals, and is even more commendable, as it was not a Society effort.

A number of prominent individuals from the African National Congress and the Transvaal Indian Congress issued a leaflet calling on their members to support the meeting. Many messages were received from prominent individuals and organisations which were very enthusiastically received by the audience.

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The FIELD-MARSHALL'S THREATS

Writing in "Pravda", on December 4th, Marshal Vasilovsky quotes various frivolous threats by Montgomery against the Soviet Union, and makes the following points:-

"Among us Soviet people, and among all the other peace-loving nations for that matter, Montgomery's persistent calls for the launching of an atomic war arouse deep indignation. One could perhaps understand the utterances of irresponsible American Congressmen who brandish the atom bomb; They do not understand what they are saying. But when a call for an atomic war comes from the British Field-Marshal, who should be clearly aware of the horrors of that war, especially for countries like Britain, that is not merely madness; it is something worse. As a Marshal of the Soviet Union who met Field-Marshal Montgomery and who knows him as a general, I should like to say the following in this connection:

"As a military man, Field-Marshal, you and I know what war is, and we now have a fairly good idea of the destructive power of atomic and hydrogen weapons and of the horrible consequence of atomic warfare. Personally I am astonished at the levity with which you speak of atomic warfare, and at the inexplicable indifference to the destinies of the people which permits you to preach the need for an atomic war. I cannot but be astounded at the ardour with which you paint the inevitability of an atomic war and brandish the atom bomb.

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"New Statesman and Nation" correspondent Edward Hyams asks why the threat of retaliatory thermo-nuclear bombing is still called a deterrent to aggression, and goes on to give the answer himself.

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"In Britain we are 50 million people in 88,000 sq. miles. The USSR have only about 4 times the population in well over a hundred times the space. That is, THEY might disperse population and decentralise industry, we could not.

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"Had we not better stop mucking about and hasten to accept this condition before the Russians change their mind and cease to be willing to deprive themselves of a substantial advantage in thermo-nuclear warfare?"

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Last year the Soviet Union alone had more than one million visitors. In Moscow I met people from Britain, China, Germany, France, USA, Czechoslovakia, Korea, India, Pakistan, Bulgaria, Sweden, Poland and Belgium - people of many nationalities, from all walks of life, and many different political and religious views.

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Yes, there is an Iron Curtain - and it is right here on our own doorstep.

SIGNED: By one who crossed it.

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The film featured among others Tchaikowsky's "Swan Lake" superbly danced by Ulanova. The press and public acclaimed this outstanding film.

To be shown shortly at the same cinema is a film based on the life of Glinka, the famous Russian composer. The management of the theatre should be congratulated on its enterprise.

ON GUARD

February 23rd, Soviet Army Day, is observed by the people of the USSR as a great national holiday. It was on this day 37 years ago that the workers and peasants of the newly-born Soviet Union formed themselves into an army - the RED ARMY.

At the dawn of its life the Soviet army, ill-equipped and recovering from the effects of a revolution, defended and ousted from its country, the White Guards and interventionists of 14 countries, who wished to crush the new Soviet State and restore the old order.

The role of this Peoples' Army was to protect the peaceful reconstruction of the Sovietland, and to support the Soviet foreign policy, the core of which is that the Soviet Union stands for peace, defends the cause of peace, and consistently pursues a policy of peace and friendship of all the peoples.

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Another specific feature of the Soviet Army lies in its spirit of Internationalism. Ever since its birth the Soviet Army has been educated in the spirit of respect for other peoples, respect for their rights and independence. Furthermore, because of its planned economy, which is immune to economic crises and overproductions, the Soviet Union has no need for foreign expansion or colonial conquests. Thus the army is not called upon to seek economic solution in the conquest of foreign territories and markets.

The peaceful intentions of the

Soviet Army were clearly proved, when after it had crushed the German and Japanese warmongers in World War 2, they withdrew from the liberated countries after the liberation had been completed, and not a single Soviet soldier has taken part in any hostilities since.

The Soviet people will be SHOULD celebrating Red Army Day, THEY BE February 23rd 1955, in peace, ATTACKED a peace which can in no small way be attributed to the genuine efforts of peaceful negotiation and co-existence by the Soviet leaders, which led to the ending of the Korean and Indo-Chinese wars. The Soviet Union will exercise all its powers in the maintenance of peace, by opposing all military agreements which lead to war such as the re-arming of German revanchists etc. THE SOVIET UNION WANTS PEACE, BUT SHOULD THEY BE ATTACKED THEY ARE PREPARED TO ACT AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE IN DEFENCE OF THEIR COUNTRY. THE AGGRESSOR WILL MEET WITH THE SAME IGNOBLE END THAT BEFELL THE HITLERITES.

SOVIET NEWS

Towards the end of last year, the Government banned the publication "Soviet News". This publication, which is issued by the Press Department of the Soviet embassy in London, has been received by the Society for many years.

The publication, which is not sold to the general public, contains official statements by the Soviet Government (usually fully quoted) as well as articles by prominent Soviet citizens.

The Society has always attempted to give the official and ungarbled point of view in all matters, and "Soviet News" provided us with such. The action of the authorities in banning "Soviet News" can only be viewed as another irresponsible act, straining relations between S. Africa and the Soviet Union when peace and international co-operation are needed.

Beria - IMPOSTER!

At the time of the Beria trial the enemies of the Soviet people, as was to be expected, indulged in speculations and fabricated stories about the struggle for personal power within the Soviet leadership at the expense and to the detriment of the Soviet people.

Whatever uneasiness might have been felt among any friends of the Soviet people then has long been dispelled by the firm support and admiration which is given to their Leaders by the Soviet people.

An interesting revelation which is added proof of the correctness of the Soviet peoples' condemnation of Beria and his friends, and their support of their leaders, is contained in a number of articles on the United States Central Intelligence Agency which appeared in the "Saturday Evening Post".

In these articles, according to extracts from "NewAge", the writers claim among other things that "much Central Intelligence Agency information" on the Soviet Union "comes from Russians who served under liquidated Beria", thereby unwittingly exposing the so-called "leader" Beria as an imposter and spy.

PROBLEMS IN CO-EXISTENCE

The middle of the year that has just ended marked a peak in improving East-West relations since the war. Subsequent developments have tended to create the contrary impression.

In the field of trade, despite all the talk of the relaxation of restrictions, a movement in the other direction is already discernable.

True, during 1954 some relaxation took place and, according to the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe on November 1st, Soviet imports from Western Europe more than doubled in the preceding twelve months. But if we look at Soviet imports from Britain in the first eleven months of 1954 we find that while British exports increased considerably, re-exports fell by a corresponding amount so that total exports and re-exports to the USSR combined were actually only £10.5 millions in the first eleven months of 1954 as against £10.65 millions in the same period in 1953.

In the words of the "Statist" of November 27th:- "Britain and other European countries wanted freedom to trade in all but definite implements of war, atomic energy items and technological developments in the defence field. The U.S. opposed and, having the whip hand, won."

In the field of trade, after some relaxation of restrictions during 1954, the end of the year sees a situation in which the American enemies of East-West trade, "having the whip hand", have won - to use the words of the "Statist".

CALL FOR FREE ELECTIONS. In Europe, one year ago, one could look forward to the Berlin Conference with hope. Today the Western Governments are set on rearming Western Germany and ignore every new offer by the Soviet Government to try to reach an agreement on free elections which would be acceptable to both East and West.

In this situation there are - of course - also hopeful signs. Soviet relations with Finland, Iran and Yugoslavia have visibly improved in recent months.

The Soviet proposal for a European Security Pact - aimed at uniting instead of dividing the nations of Europe - is getting more and more support among the peoples of the West.

On German re-armament the opposition is growing throughout Europe, and is gaining strength even in West Germany the more its implications are realised by the German people.

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The Soviet people will be celebrating Red Army Day, February 23rd 1965, in peace, a peace which can in no small way be attributed to the genuine efforts of peaceful negotiation and co-existence by the Soviet leaders, which led to the ending of the Korean and Indo-Chinese wars. The Soviet Union will exercise all its powers in the maintenance of peace, by opposing all military agreements which lead to war such as the re-arming of German revanchists etc. THE SOVIET UNION WANTS PEACE, BUT SHOULD THEY BE ATTACKED THEY ARE PREPARED TO ACT AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE IN DEFENCE OF THEIR COUNTRY. THE AGGRESSOR WILL MEET WITH THE SAME IGNOBLE END THAT BEFELL THE HITLERITES.

SOVIET NEWS

Towards the end of last year, the Government banned the publication "Soviet News". This publication, which is issued by the Press Department of the Soviet embassy in London, has been received by the Society for many years.

The publication, which is not sold to the general public, contains official statements by the Soviet Government (usually fully quoted) as well as articles by prominent Soviet citizens.

The Society has always attempted to give the official and ungarbled point of view in all matters, and "Soviet News" provided us with such. The action of the authorities in banning "Soviet News" can only be viewed as another irresponsible act, straining relations between S. Africa and the Soviet Union when peace and international co-operation are needed.

② Beria - IMPOSTER!

At the time of the Beria trial the enemies of the Soviet people, as was to be expected, indulged in speculations and fabricated stories about the struggle for personal power within the Soviet leadership at the expense and to the detriment of the Soviet people.

Whatever uneasiness might have been felt among any friends of the Soviet people then has long been dispelled by the firm support and admiration which is given to their leaders by the Soviet people.

An interesting revelation which is added proof of the correctness of the Soviet peoples' condemnation of Beria and his friends, and their support of their leaders, is contained in a number of articles on the United States Central Intelligence Agency which appeared in the "Saturday Evening Post".

In these articles, according to extracts from "Newidge", the writers claim among other things that "much Central Intelligence Agency information on the Soviet Union comes from Russians who served under liquidated Beria", thereby unwittingly exposing the so-called "leader" Beria as an imposter and spy.

PROBLEMS IN CO-EXISTENCE

The middle of the year that has just ended marked a peak in improving East-West relations since the war. Subsequent developments have tended to create the contrary impression.

In the field of trade, despite all the talk of the relaxation of restrictions, a movement in the other direction is already discernable.

True, during 1954 some relaxation took place and, according to the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe on November 1st, Soviet imports from Western Europe more than doubled in the preceding twelve months. But if we look at Soviet imports from Britain in the first eleven months of 1954 we find that while British exports increased considerably, re-exports fell by a corresponding amount so that total exports and re-exports to the USSR combined were actually only £10.5 millions in the first eleven months of 1954 as against £10.65 millions in the same period in 1953.

In the words of the "Statist" of November 27th:- "Britain and other European countries wanted freedom to trade in all but definite implements of war, atomic energy items and technological developments in the defence field. The U.S. opposed and, having the whip hand, won."

In the field of trade, after some relaxation of restrictions during 1954, the end of the year sees a situation in which the American enemies of East-West trade, "having the whip hand", have won - to use the words of the "Statist".

CALL FOR FREE ELECTIONS. In Europe, one year ago, one could look forward to the Berlin Conference with hope. Today the Western Governments are set on rearming Western Germany and ignore every new offer by the Soviet Government to try to reach an agreement on free elections which would be acceptable to both East and West.

In this situation there are - of course - also hopeful signs. Soviet relations with Finland, Iran and Yugoslavia have visibly improved in recent months.

The Soviet proposal for a European Security Pact - aimed at uniting instead of dividing the nations of Europe - is getting more and more support among the peoples of the West.

On German re-armament the opposition is growing throughout Europe, and is gaining strength even in West Germany the more its implications are realised by the German people.

ALC(58) USSR

for Peace and Friendship

BULLETIN OF THE S.A. SOCIETY FOR PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION

Bewysstuk No.
Gekry by Muriel H. Barabblatt
Deur M. V. Papenraaf
Te D. D. Keston, J.H.
Datum 27/9/55 March/April 1955.
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Editorial.

CABINET RE-SHUFFLE IN MOSCOW

In South Africa, as in the rest of the world, much comment has appeared in the newspapers regarding the recent session of the Supreme Soviet, in which Mr. Malenkov tendered his resignation as Prime Minister and Marshal Bulganin was appointed in his place. Little regard for consistency could be observed in most of these comments. The same "experts" who but recently had been writing about Mr. Malenkov as though he were a personal "dictator" suddenly began searching for all sorts of far-fetched "reasons" for the reshuffle. The actual reason announced by Mr. Malenkov himself - that he had lacked the necessary experience for so demanding a position and had made certain mistakes was dismissed as too improbable to be worth considering.

After all, reasoned these "experts" - who ever heard of a Prime Minister ever resigning for such a reason? Either they got dismissed by an adverse vote (as happens with monotonous regularity in France) or death or old age removes them from the scene. The conception of a man withdrawing to a lesser post because of self-acknowledged shortcomings just does not fit in with their experience. Still less does it fit in with the conventional picture of Russia which for so many years they have been presenting to their readers of a country all of whose leaders are engaged in a ruthless "struggle" for personal power.

Yet, to those with any real knowledge of the outlook of the people and leaders of the Soviet Union, no far-fetched "explanations" are needed. One of the cardinal features of statesmanship, as of practically every other aspect of Soviet life, is the very strong emphasis placed on criticism and self-criticism. Daily the newspapers are filled with outspoken analysis of short-comings

in this or that aspect of the country's affairs. The very highest standard of efficiency and integrity is demanded of every person in responsible office, factory manager, local official or cabinet minister. Thus, to the ordinary Soviet citizen there would seem nothing surprising whatsoever in the demotion of Mr. Malenkov, nor in his manner of announcing it. It is what he has come to expect of responsible persons.

"WHAT MIS-TAKES?" to which Mr. Malenkov referred? They were particularly in the field of agricultural policy, for which he, as Prime Minister, bore central responsibility. Does this mean that Soviet agriculture is in a "critical" condition, requiring drastic new measures? This is by no means the case. Agriculture in the USSR has recovered with remarkable speed from the terrible destruction of farms, implements and stock wrought by the Nazis in the war. Grain output was back to pre-war level by 1948, and by 1951 the cotton crop was up by nearly 50 per cent, and the sugar beet yield by 25 per cent over pre-war figures. Continued progress has been made in the past few years: despite bad droughts last year the grain crop was up by 5 million tons over that of 1953. Where then are the shortcomings?

A QUESTION OF TEMPO The answer must be sought not in a "crisis" but in the very ambitious goals the Soviet planners have set as a part of the drive to raise living standards. Vast expanses of new lands are to come under cultivation: last year 43½ million acres of virgin soil, mainly in Kazakhstan, Siberia, the Urals and the Volga region, were opened up as new State grain farms. A further fifty million acres,

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Cat net Reshuffle in Moscow (contd)

with all the vast expenditure and organisation needed for housing, cultural facilities and development that this involves, and planned this year. The "shortcomings" therefore must be seen, not in any absolute sense, but in relation to the tempo of the gigantic developments that are in fact being carried out.

NORMAL PART OF DEMOCRACY The changes in the Soviet Cabinet, therefore, must be seen not as involving any major modifications in

State policy, in either home or domestic policy, but as a normal part of the functioning of Soviet democracy. That democracy may differ from our own in form and content: it is nevertheless our duty to assess its workings fairly and objectively if we wish to further the cause of international understanding and good relations, upon which the history of our times so profoundly depends. That cause will not be helped by the irresponsible speculations of ill-informed and often ill-disposed newspaper writers, whose main Soviet Union often appears to be complete ignorance and obvious malice

COACHMAN'S MUSIC

Many men of genius contributed to Russian music of the 19th Century. Starting with Michael Glinka (1804-1875) and Dargomijsky, who devoted themselves largely to opera, it flowered later in the work of the "Five" - Moussorgsky, Balakirev, Borodin, Cesar Cui and Rimsky-Korsakov. Another great figure of the time was Chaikovsky.

BATTLE AGAINST COSMOPOLITANISM Russian national music rose in a constant battle against cosmopolitanism, which showed itself in the importation of the lightest Italian opera and the admiration for everything "French" in the courts and salons. When Glinka's opera, "Ivan Susanin", was first performed, with its peasant hero and use of Russian folk idiom, titled listeners complained that it was "coachmen's music".

"MAN OF MUSIC" This film of Glinka and his music was recently screened in Johannesburg. It graphically portrayed how Glinka borrowed from melodies he heard being played by workers in the towns and peasants in the village. He, himself, acknowledges this fact when he says: "It is the people who create music. Composers merely arrange it."

TABLE

	1940	'51	'54
Retail prices, Rents, & other services	100	122	-
Wages	100	200	-
Real Incomes	100	165	174

A Russian's Money

Soviet citizens are unable to complain about a rising cost of living, for prices have been reduced seven times since the end of the war.

Goods costing 1,000 roubles in 1947 now cost 433. In the USSR your money is now worth two and a third times as much as in 1947.

In the USSR today you can buy three loaves for the money you paid for one at the end of 1947. You can buy three pounds of butter for the 1947 price of one, nearly three pounds of meat, some two and a third pounds of sugar, etc.

WAGES And incidentally, over the same period, money wages have risen. (See table in adjoining column.)

Of course, prices in the Soviet Union went up substantially during the war, as they did everywhere else. But today many commodities are being sold at pre-war or lower than pre-war prices.

When considering the purchasing power of the people, rents and fares, gas and electricity charges, radio and telephone charges are all important factors, as well as medical and social services.

Medical services are free, and rents cost 4% maximum of the householder's wages in the USSR.

The real income of the workers last year was already two-thirds above the pre-war level.

BUDGET FOR 1955

THE ALLOCATIONS FOR CULTURE, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES

Taxation plays only a small part in the budget of the Soviet Union. Of a total expenditure of 570,000 million roubles, only 8 1/2% is to be raised by direct taxes - the great bulk being provided for by allocations from the income of State enterprises.

The Soviet budget for 1955, the final year of the 5 year plan, which has just been debated by the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, will lead to a further rise in the wellbeing and culture of the people.

MONEY FOR CULTURE Serving this end are, firstly, the big allocations for general economic development, for increasing

agricultural output, and the provision of manufactures for retail sale. Huge allocations for social and cultural services also serve this purpose. At nearly 147,000 million roubles, they are 5,000 million roubles more than last year's figure. Almost half the amount has been earmarked for education, and the other half for the public services and state social insurance and maintenance. As in previous years, these funds will be used to provide the people with a comprehensive free health service, with more medical institutions and improved equipment.

HIGHER EDUCATION FOR WORKERS The funds will also be used to provide more facilities for secondary education - the appropriation for which is now nearly three times that of before

the war. Nearly 7,000 million roubles are going for vocational training, which is provided free in the U.S.S.R. More money will also be spent on higher and specialised secondary education. In particular, there will be a further development in evening school and correspondence courses, so that people can acquire secondary and college education outside working hours. Allotments for pensions and social insurance and maintenance benefits will reach nearly 40,000 millions, over a thousand million more than last year.

MORE HOUSES AGAIN The budget reflects the government's provisions for improving housing. Over the last four years, 80,000 millions have been spent on new housing - an average of 20,000 million a year. This year almost 25,000 million will be spent on the housing programme.

Allocations for social and cultural requirements and housing alone are very much larger than the appropriation for defence, which is 112,000 million roubles. This again shows strikingly the peaceful and constructive character of the Soviet budget.

RECORD BREAKERS!

Eight Soviet world records in track and field events have been ratified recently by the International Amateur Athletic Federation. And one of them has already been broken by another Soviet athlete.

TWO RECORDS IN ONE RACE Vladimir Kuts, who has been invited to take part in the Benoni Athletic Club's jubilee meeting next year, takes two of the eight records, set up in the same race at a Prague meeting on October 23rd last year. They are 3 miles (13 min. 26.4 sec.) and the 5,000 metres (13-51.2). The record that had already been broken when ratified was Mikhail Krivonosov's hammer throw of 207 ft. 1 1/2 in. His record is still to be ratified.

4 WOMEN RECORD BREAKERS Nina Otkalenko's half mile (2-8.4) and her 800 metres (2-6.6) are now official. Galina Zybina's shot (53 ft. 4 1/2 in.) and Alexandra Chudina's Bucharest pentathlon figure (4,704) pts. complete the list. Yury Lituyev's 440 yds. hurdles (51.3 sec.) was established in London.

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We publish a letter received from an active peace worker, a 65 year old woman living in Amsterdam, who recently visited the Soviet Union.

This trip was awarded to her and a group of other women for the extremely hard work they had put in for the peace movement.

A Letter from HOLLAND

Amsterdam,
31st December 1954

Dear Friends,

To tell you people all about our wonderful and unforgettable tour through the Soviet Union I would require at least ten airmail letters. So as a beginning I will just give you a resume of all that we have seen there, and in the following letters I shall elaborate more fully. We have seen the following: a tobacco factory, a silk factory, cigarette factory, a school, a children's creche, pioneers' palace, the winter palace, containing 1000 apartments, the Smolny Institute, from where Lenin and Stalin led the revolution, children's libraries, the Mausoleum where Stalin and Lenin's embalmed bodies lie in state, the Kremlin, the new university, the agricultural show, a kolkhos (collective farm), a sovchos (state farm), the shipping industry, and a Catholic church.

We also visited Leningrad where we were shown various palaces and museums, as well as a hospital where we were received by 3 women doctors and 1 man doctor. They told us all about the painless births and we were given the opportunity of speaking to a woman who had given birth to a child the day before - completely painlessly.

On the 8th November we stood for five hours on the Red Square watching the workers from various factories march past, seven rows deep, and waving to us with flowers. Oh, it was such a beautiful and wonderful sight to realise just how much the Soviet people love their land and government. More of this later: I still have to sort out all my experiences which have made a very deep impression on me. How great is the Soviet peoples' love for their country and with what pride they let us see everything. What a happy fortunate people and youth they are. Such a people are invincible, of that we are convinced.

In the evenings we saw ballets, not to mention the wonderful operas in the Bolshoi Theatre, amateur productions, films, dance displays, etc.

ABUNDANT FOOD

We stayed in lovely hotels, and two of us shared a lovely big apartment, complete with bathroom, and if by any chance we happened to leave any dirty clothes in the bathroom in the morning, by the evening they would have been returned beautifully washed and ironed. And did we eat - I had chicken every day. The table was always beautifully laid and decorated with flowers.

We also spent four days at a seaside resort on the Black Sea, Sochi, and enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. Holiday houses are provided for the workers, where they spend one month, and these places are fully equipped with numerous recreational facilities: tennis courts, billiard saloons, table tennis, volley ball, etc. etc.

During this trip I travelled in seven different aeroplanes, and loved it, and wasn't a bit anxious. Altogether we spent 3½ weeks

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(5)

in the Soviet Union, but to really see everything properly one requires at least six months.

We also saw the Metro, Moscow's underground railway, which is indescribably beautiful. Ceilings and walls with designs in mosaic, beautiful marble pillars, and laid in floors, and so clean - not a speck of dirt to be found anywhere.

COULDN'T
HELP
CRYING

We were also given an opportunity of speaking over the radio on various topics which were broadcast to the Netherlands. And when my time was up and my return to Holland due, and the leavetaking of the Soviet people had come, I couldn't help crying as I had come to love the Soviet people so.

Here in Amsterdam there have already been several lectures and talks on our visit, and many of my personal friends have become intensely interested. Are the facts about Soviet life also becoming well known in your country?

Fraternal greetings,
E. des Bouvrie-Kooring.

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CHINESE-SOVIET Friendship

A new page in the history of the Soviet and Chinese peoples was turned on February 14, 1950, just five years ago. On that day the two great powers concluded a treaty of friendship, alliance and mutual assistance. Underlying the treaty was the sincere desire of their peoples to help each other, to help forward economic and cultural progress in both countries, to strengthen their friendly ties, and so to promote peace and security in the Far East and throughout the world.

A FARM
FULLY
EQUIPPED

The Soviet Union is helping the Chinese people to industrialise their young republic. At the moment, for instance, the U.S.S.R. is assisting China to reconstruct or build 156 industrial enterprises. On the fifth anniversary of the People's Republic of China last autumn, the Soviet people made the Chinese people a gift of all the necessary equipment and other technical requirements for the establishment of a 50,000 acre state grain farm.

EXHI-
BITIONS
IN MOSCOW
AND
PEKING

In their turn the Soviet people are enriching their own culture, drawing on the achievements of the Chinese people. Many delegations have travelled between the two countries in the past five years. A Chinese industrial and agricultural exhibition enjoyed tremendous success in Moscow in 1953,

while an exhibition of the economic and cultural achievements of the U.S.S.R. was equally successful in Peking last year.

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SURGEONS' CONFERENCE

More than 2,500 Soviet surgeons and guests from many countries took part in the recent eight-day congress of Soviet surgeons held in the Hall of Columns of the Moscow House of Trade Unions. Among them were many of the most prominent Soviet surgeons, world renowned scientists and ordinary doctors from local hospitals. The delegates heard more than 50 papers by Soviet and foreign surgeons.



CHARLIE CHAPLIN

The State Publishing House of Foreign Literature is bringing out shortly a Russian translation of "Charlie's Life", a biography of Charlie Chaplin by the French film critic Georges Sadou.

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

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