

SHARING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE *for the benefit of the people*

Attaching great importance to united efforts in solving problems to the benefit of all peoples, the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences is extending its international relations year by year.

SOVIET SCIENTISTS ABROAD The Academy attaches great importance to such forms of scientific relations between nations as the active co-operation of Soviet scientists in permanent international organisations, and is a member of many of these bodies.

In 1954 delegations from the Academy attended the International Astrophysics Conference in Liege; the International Conference on meteor physics in Manchester, the International Orientalists' Congress in Cambridge, and many other Congresses and Conferences including the Fourth World Forestry Congress in India.

FOREIGN SCIENTISTS WELCOME The Soviet Union is glad to welcome both delegations and individual scientists from foreign countries. For instance, on the invitation of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences they were visited in 1954 by delegations from the Czechoslovak Academies of Sciences, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Arabian Academy of Sciences in Damascus, and the Albanian Institute of Science, by a group of Indian scientists, and by a delegation of Norwegian scientific workers and one of British historians. In May 1954 the USSR Academy of Sciences held a session in Leningrad to celebrate the opening of the restored Pulkovo Observatory, which was attended by representatives of astronomical sciences from 17 countries.

IN CONTACT WITH 84 COUNTRIES The U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences exchanges books and other publications with scientific institutions of 84 countries. These include foreign academies, universities, research institutes, scientific societies, libraries etc. In 1954 the Academy sent abroad, on an

exchange basis alone, more than 350,000 copies of books and magazines. One of the forms of strengthening and developing international scientific co-operation is the publication of articles by foreign scientists in Soviet periodicals. This year (i.e. 1955) the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences will issue 55 scientific magazines in all branches of knowledge and will also be glad to carry in them results of research work done abroad in the respective fields.

STALIN Memorial

As a result of a decision taken by the Soviet Government, Stalin Memorial Day will in future be observed on December 21st of each year.

Joseph Stalin, whose birth date this was, will always be remembered by the Soviet people and millions of people throughout the world for his great efforts in building the Soviet State. It was his strategic and military genius that led to the crushing of the Nazis in World War 2. He consistently upheld the conception of peaceful co-existence between the U.S.S.R. and all other countries.

It was felt to be more appropriate to honour his memory not on the day of his death, which puts the stamp of mourning and grief on it, but on the day of his birth, which is more in keeping with his positive contribution to mankind.

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Tajikistan

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One of the many nationalities in the Soviet Union which have become full-fledged members of that great family of nations are the Tajik people. Situated to the north of the river Amn Darya (the Oxus of ancient history) which forms the common border between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan, Tajikistan is a land of vast terraces, deep valleys, semi deserts, high plateaus and towering mountain ranges through which rapid mountain streams and rivers have cut deep gorges. The Pamir plateau which has often been described as the roof of the world, forms part of the Tajikistan Soviet Republic.

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

Editorial.

Bywysstok No. Gekry by

Deur. September, October, 1955

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FORWARD

The Geneva meeting between the foremost leaders of the Soviet Union, America, Britain and France was an event of profound historical importance. Everyone who seeks to understand the world we live in, and to influence it in the direction of peace and wellbeing, should be aware of the meaning of Geneva.

THORNY QUESTIONS

True, if we are asked what exact agreement was reached or problem solved there, we shall find it difficult to reply. The thorny questions concerning the future of Germany remain unresolved; the Adenauer administration continues to rearm under the aegis of N.A.T.O., and the achievement of German unity on a peaceful democratic basis seems as remote as ever. Again, no specific undertakings were made regarding disarmament or even on the prohibition of atomic and hydrogen weapons.

THE SAME DESIRES

Yet, to even the most superficial observer of world affairs, the far-reaching, even sweeping consequences of the Geneva meeting are obvious. It is no coincidence that the conference has been followed by friendly contacts, on an unprecedented scale, between statesmen, scientists, sportsmen, artists and ordinary tourists of "East and West". The seemingly interminable newspaper talks about the "iron curtain" and "the free world" seems to be drying up at last. The lessons which our Society has for so long been preaching are at last gaining popular acceptance -- that, though they live in a differently organised society, the Soviet people are much like ours, sharing the common human desires for peace, higher living standards and security; that the Soviet leaders, though their economic theories would no doubt be regarded

as unorthodox at Wits or Stellenbosch, are not warlike tyrants, but patriotic statesmen, seeking the good of their people and peace and goodwill among the nations. (Contd. next page).

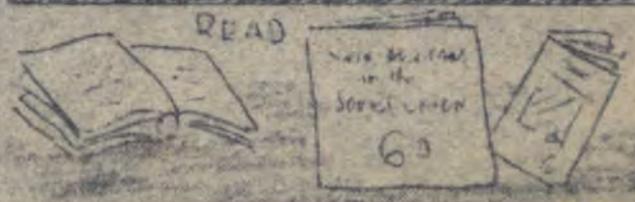
SOUTH AFRICANS in the SOVIET UNION

This pamphlet written by a group of South Africans who have recently visited the Soviet Union, is certainly one of the most informative of its kind that has been printed in this country.

The contributors, Paul Joseph, Walter Sisulu, Duma Nokwe, Brian Bunting, Sam Kahn and Ruth First, have each chosen a specific subject, and have handled it extremely well. No single article stands out above the others, and taken as a whole, the pamphlet has certainly achieved its aim of giving a true picture of life in the U.S.S.R.

In addition there is a very fine introduction by the Rev. D.C. Thompson, who himself visited the Soviet Union with his wife in 1951.

Pamphlets are obtainable (6d each, or 8d post free) from the publishers, P.O. Box 491, Johannesburg, and readers are urged to take a dozen copies to sell to their friends, thus assuring their widest possible sale.



Forward from Geneva (contd.)

It would not be correct to claim that all these beneficent changes have resulted from the Geneva meeting alone. Rather would it be correct to say that both the Geneva meeting itself and all the other hopeful signs of an era of fruitful and peaceful co-existence and co-operation, are the outcome of a fundamental change in the international situation. The cold war is thawing out; almost on the brink of an atomic holocaust, mankind is offered a chance to turn to the paths of peace.

NEGOTIATION -
NOT WAR.

The great significance of Geneva lies in this: not that it resulted in a specific agreement, but that it embodied the principle of negotiation, not war, as the means of resolving international disputes. It is to be followed by further meetings of representatives of the great powers: where there is a will to find agreement, they will find a way.

There is not space in this Bulletin, nor is this really the place, to analyse the reasons which have led to this dramatic last-minute reprieve for humanity. We shall content ourselves by pointing out that the newspapers have donea monstrous injustice to a great historical figure, who perhaps more than any other individual had laboured to avert war and establish peaceful co-existence (the phrase itself is his!) when they ascribe the changed international situation to a switch in Soviet policy following upon the death of Stalin. The basic factors underlying the change must rather be sought in the evident bankruptcy of the Dulles "cold war" policy, following on the disclosure of Soviet scientific and industrial advancement, apparent in such fields as nuclear physics and military science; the firm refusal of the Soviet, Chinese and other leaders of the socialist sector, to be blackmailed into surrender or provoked into war; the massive strength of the movement for peace in all countries.

U.S.S.R. REDUCES
ARMY

To those - we trust they include the readers of this Bulletin - who have consistently opposed in public and in private the disastrous policy of an "inevitable head-on clash", the new situation is one for rejoicing. No more convincing evidence of the reality of the change that has taken place could be found than the remarkable Soviet announcement that the U.S.S.R. will reduce its armed forces by the staggering total of over 600,000. Here, if it were needed, is an incontrovertible mark of Soviet goodwill, at a time when not a single American soldier has been withdrawn from the formidable ring of American bases from Formosa to West Germany, from Turkey to Iceland. More than that it is a mark of Soviet conviction that international relations have taken a new turn.

While we rejoice, however, we should not be unconscious of continuing dangers. Not all in America - and perhaps we should include the Foreign Secretary himself, - have divested themselves of the ideology of the cold war, or accepted the new perspectives with joy. Dangerous men like Sygran Rhoe, who have existed as by-products of the cold war itself, are frantically attempting to create new provocations and situations of tension. So long as disarmament has not been accomplished; as the H-bomb remains at large, as areas of peril left over from the cold war exist in Europe and Asia, so long we are not free from the shadow of destruction.

*JOHANNESBURG
CHEERS BULGANIN.

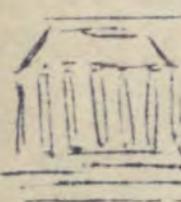
In South Africa, while the people warmly welcomed the new atmosphere resulting from Geneva (a Johannesburg newspaper reported cheers for Marshal Bulganin during the showing of a news-reel in a big bioscope) the official reaction has been decidedly on the cool side. No leading member of the Government has welcomed the relaxation of tension; the S.A.P.C. news (continued on next page)

Forward from Geneva (contd.)

continues the silly, sterile, dangerous talk about "iron curtain countries."

A great responsibility rests upon the members and supporters of our Society in the present situation. We must be awake to the vast potential for the spreading of friendship and understanding which has arisen in the new situation. Is it not high time that, in keeping with world developments, the status of the Soviet Consulate was raised to Ambassadorial level, and that the Union should reciprocate by establishing a legation in Moscow? Is it not appropriate that South African sportsmen, artists, musicians, scientists, agriculturalists, newspapermen, educators, industrialists, trade unionists and the like should exchange goodwill missions with their counterparts in the U.S.S.R., China, Czechoslovakia, Poland and other countries in the socialist sector of the world? Would not our country greatly benefit by commerce with so great and wealthy an area of the globe?

It is the aim of our Society to conduct a vigorous and widespread campaign for the achievement of these objectives, in the immediate future. We look with confidence to our members and supporters to provide the man-power and financial assistance which can make such a campaign possible. We urge them to come forward without delay.

 PARLIAMENTS for PEACE 

Since our last issue, wherein we made mention of the Soviet Union's Declaration proposing to the parliaments abroad an exchange of delegations, the parliaments of countries with more than half the world's population have replied in the affirmative to this appeal.

Firstly, the parliaments and the people of all the peoples' democracies of Europe wholly approved and welcomed the declaration. Parliamentary delegations from India, Sweden, Yugoslavia, Syria, Vietnam and Afghanistan have already visited the U.S.S.R., whilst Norway and Iceland have answered welcoming such a proposal, and the Bureau of the French National Assembly have unanimously decided to send a Parliamentary delegation to the U.S.S.R.

In England, a group of British Labour M.P.'s had tabled a motion in the House of Commons, welcoming the declaration, whilst discussions on a wide scale are taking place in many Latin-American countries.

World public opinion has been roused by the visits of Indian and Swedish parliamentary delegations. This is what some of them had to say about the Soviet Union: Mr. Algu Rai Shastri, member of the Indian

parliamentary delegation, said "All we have seen in the Soviet Union speaks of the peoples' will for peace." The members of the delegation, he said, had done a lot of travelling, had talked with many people freely and without restrictions.

*Travelled — and
TALKED FREELY*

Mr. Gustaf Nilsson, head of the Swedish delegation, made the following statement to the press:-

"There can be no doubt that our trip was a success. We have had to revise our former notions of the Soviet Union. We saw what we wanted to see, and on some occasions we were not even able to make use of the possibilities offered because of our overcrowded programme. The leading statesmen made a very favourable impression on us. All in all, our trip will help to remove misunderstandings, promote knowledge about one another, and help to establish new contacts, co-operation and mutual understanding between Sweden and the Soviet Union."



NEHRU IN THE SOVIET UNION

Amongst the many visitors to the USSR in the month of June was Prime Minister Nehru from India. Do you ask what effect such a visit has? Well, it is like the plunging of a burning coal into the icy pool of the "cold war". It is on a par with the effect of extensive travelling by the Prime Ministers to Geneva in response to the popular demand for peace negotiations. A very good effect, indeed!

A highlight of the four-day stay in Moscow was the attendance of a performance of the ballet, Tchaikowsky's "Swan Lake", at the famous Bolshoi Theatre. The party, which included Mr. Nehru's daughter, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, was entertained by Mr. Bulganin. Before the ballet began, the choir sang the national anthems of India and the Soviet Union. The Indian anthem was sung in the Hindu language. At the end of the performance the party went on to the stage. Performers and audience cheered loudly. As a token of his admiration for the performance, Mr. Nehru presented a bouquet of flowers to the prima ballerina, M. Plietskaya.

The itinerary took the party from Moscow to Stalingrad and then on to the Crimea, Georgia, and Tashkent in Uzbekistan.

Returning to Moscow, Mr. Nehru joined Mr. Bulganin in addressing a meeting of 80,000 people at the Dynamo Stadium. Did you see the size of the crowd attending the rugby test-match at Ellis Park, Johannesburg? Well, almost as many were there at the Moscow stadium to listen to speeches without a football game laid on.

Speaking of the work to be done to strengthen peace Mr. Nehru said: "Our idea of peace is not simply refraining from war, but an active and positive approach to international relations leading above all to a relaxation of existing tension."

In his speech Mr. Bulganin declared that the joint struggle waged

by India and the Soviet Union for granting the Peoples' Republic of China its lawful place in the United Nations aroused the special appreciation of all peace-loving peoples.

Invited to India

Mr. Nehru gave a press conference the next day. A representative of the Indian newspaper "Statesman" wanted to know whether the Soviet Union's assistance to India was accompanied by any conditions. The reply was that no political commitments were stipulated in connection with the Soviet Union's assistance to India. As is well known, the Soviet Union is providing the technical assistance and equipment for the building of an iron and steel works in India.

It was at this press conference that Mr. Nehru announced Mr. Bulganin's acceptance of an invitation to visit India in the near future.

Signing of Joint Statement

The two Prime Ministers signed a joint statement in the Great Palace of the Kremlin. The statement welcomed the lessening of tensions in the Far East, the advent of Austrian independence, improved relations between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. It acclaimed the results of the Asian-African Conference held at Bandung last April, commending, in particular, the Declaration on the promotion of World Peace and Co-operation, which embodies and elaborates the concept of peaceful co-existence.

Joyous Faces

Moscovites turned out in their hundreds of thousands to bid the visitors farewell at the end of their stay. They lined the streets and came to the airport to see the visitors off. Mr. Nehru said of the Moscovites in his farewell speech: "Their smiles, their joyous faces and the love which I saw in their eyes will always be with me." And well may the Moscovites have behaved so, for Mr. Nehru's visit has certainly diminished the chilling threat of war, and promoted closer friendship between the Soviet and Indian people.

5
HELSENKI

PEACE CONFERENCE



Speaking at the World Peace Assembly in Helsinki on June 26th, the Soviet writer Ilya Ehrenburg said that influential people were trying to prolong and even intensify distrust, to fan the dying flames of enmity, and to put difficult ice in the way of the coming talks at Geneva.

"AGGRESSOR"

"I shall not bother to refer to the newspapers", Ehrenburg continued. "I shall merely remind you of the report of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. Two weeks ago this committee found no better way of contributing to the coming meeting than to propose that the United Nations proclaim the Soviet Union as an "aggressor".

"I find it alarming that certain political leaders should be trying to remove the spirit of negotiation from the coming meeting. They are putting forward to all kinds of demands, and are making speeches that are hardly calculated to facilitate the task of reaching agreement.

DOES OUR WORLD OUTLOOK THREATEN?

"Some political leaders claim that the military alliance of the west is inevitable because the communists are convinced of the final victory of communism", said Ehrenburg. "This argument is put forward so often that it is worth answering it. Yes, we Soviet people do believe that the future belongs to a society where there will be no private ownership of the means of production. This belief is based on our understanding of the laws of the development of society. Does this mean that our world outlook threatens any country? No communist has ever said that for a country to advance to a higher level of social development of war should be unleashed. On the contrary, communists have always affirmed that war, with its destruction of material and cultural wealth, is harmful to social progress."

Ilya Ehrenburg went on to point out that, as distinct from the North Atlantic bloc, the association of countries set up in Warsaw is open to all, and if Britain or France should want to join it, there would be no objection.

SECURITY IN EUROPE.

"The Atlantic Pact", he continued, "is a permanent organisation, while the Warsaw Treaty will be annulled as soon as a system of collective security is established in Europe. I have had to point out these differences between the two organisations, because we have been, and are opposed to the division of the world into two military coalitions. We have always supported the organisation of collective security in Europe".

KINDLY FEELINGS

Speaking of the kindly feelings of the Soviet people for the American people, Ehrenburg said: "We Soviet men and women want to co-operate with them in various spheres; we want to co-operate with them in organising collective security in Europe".

He declared that it was time to put an end to the "cold war", to work together, to meet and become friends. "I want to believe that our sentiments are shared by all clear-minded, honest Americans.

LATVIAN PREMIER ON INDEPENDENT PEACE

LACIS at HELSINKI:

"Suppression of Independence is a source of war"

The Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, Vilis Lacis, addressed the afternoon meeting of the World Peace Assembly on June 26. He said he was speaking as a guest and was grateful from the bottom of his heart to the World Peace Council for their kind invitation.

"Previous speakers have said many fine and expressive things about peace (continued on next page)"

"Independence and Peace" (contd.)

and friendship among the nations. This gives me the right to dwell only briefly on one of the obligatory, inalienable, indestructible and inviolable prerequisites for peace - the problem of the national independence of all the peoples of our planet, whether large or small, ancient or young, whether progressive or those who have not yet overcome age-old cultural and economic backwardness."

Vilis Laeis pointed out that it was precisely this independence that was proclaimed as long ago as 1917, as a key principle of its foreign and domestic policy, by the Soviet government headed by Lenin.

"INDEPENDENCE IS PEACE"

"This independence", he said, is shared alike, together with all the other Soviet republics, by the Soviet Baltic republics of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia which voluntarily joined the Soviet Union in 1940.

"INDEPENDENCE IS A SYNONYM FOR PEACE", he declared. "The suppression of independence, its infringement and the abandonment of national sovereignty are a source of war."

"The U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet has declared that the parliaments bear a great responsibility for preserving and strengthening peace," Laeis continued. "It is precisely the parliaments that adopt legislation on the issues of war and peace. The experience we have already acquired in the interchange of parliamentary delegations shows the exceptionally important, positive significance of such undertakings. Direct contact between the parliaments of different countries and a reciprocal personal acquaintance with the life and affairs of other peoples lead to better mutual understanding, mutual respect, trust and friendship between the representatives of peoples of different countries."

"The Parliamentarians from other countries who have been in our country have seen with their own eyes that we do not have that notorious "iron curtain", and that this "curtain" exists only in the imagination of certain persons. They have been convinced of the sincere aspirations of the Soviet people to live in friendship and neighbourly harmony with all nations, large and small."

"Let parliamentary delegations from any country of the globe visit us in the U.S.S.R. - representatives of any party and any world outlook. Let them see our life with their own eyes and let them say afterwards whether there is any "iron curtain" between them and us."

CANNES ★

Film

★ FESTIVAL

Several prizes were awarded to Soviet films entered at this festival, in which about 40 countries took part.

"Romeo and Juliet" received a prize for the best film interpretation of the ballet and for Ulanova's dancing in the role of Juliet.

The animated cartoon, "Golden Antelope", merited a diploma.

Both these films will feature at the forthcoming Durban Film Festival.

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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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