

Against the background of Hungary, New Age readers will find most thought-provoking this analysis by Polish workers' leader Gomulka of how

POLAND HAS TAKEN STOCK

IN a detailed statement to the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, Wladyslaw Gomulka recently gave his view of the situation in his country now and over the past six years.

Here is a summary of his main points:

Results of the First Six-Year Plan

"The party has cited the extensive expansion of the productive capacity of our industry, especially of heavy industry, as the most important result of the Six-Year Plan, outweighing all others.

"I am far from belittling any of the achievements of our country. There are, however, certain 'buts' which force me to make a re-appraisal of the evaluation of our economic achievements during the past Six-Year Plan."

Miners Worked Overtime

Gomulka pointed out that in coal production, although total output had been increased, this had been achieved largely by excessive overtime and not by an increase in the productivity of labour. In fact, output per person per working day had dropped.

"Economic policy in relation to the mining industry was marked by unpardonable thoughtlessness. The system of work on Sundays was introduced and this could not but ruin the health and strength of the miners and at the same time made it difficult to maintain colliery installations in proper working order.

"The practice of employing soldiers and prisoners in a part of the collieries was also introduced. The mining personnel has not been stabilised, and changes every year in a vast percentage.

"This policy could not but undermine the coal extraction plan, it could not but lead to the present state of the collieries."

Agriculture

After analysing the agricultural situation Gomulka said it was a sad picture. In spite of great outlays, the co-operatives had smaller results and greater costs of production than the individual farms. "I do not mention the political aspect of the problem."

A similar unsatisfactory situation existed in the sphere of housing, and the situation was not much better in the field of public services, health resorts or sanatoria.

Gomulka went on:

Working Class Holds Key to Solution

"The key to the solution of these great difficulties is in the hands of the working class. Everything, both the present-day and the future prospects, depends on its attitude. And the attitude of the working class depends on the policy of the Party, as mapped out by its leadership, it depends on the skill in governing the State on the part of the Government and all the supreme organs of the State.

"Recently, the working class gave a painful lesson to the Party leadership and the Government. When seizing the weapon of strike and going out into the streets to demonstrate on the black Thursday of last June, the Poznan workers shouted in a powerful voice: Enough! This cannot go on

any longer! Turn back from the false road!

The Poznan workers did not protest against People's Poland or against Socialism when they went out on to the streets of the city. They protested against the evil which was widespread in our social system and which was painfully felt by them, too; against the distortions of the fundamental principles of Socialism which is their idea.

The working class has connected all its hopes for a better life with the idea of Socialism. It has fought for Socialism from the first days of its conscious life. And when the course of history made it possible for its representatives to assume the reins of government in Poland, the working class de-



Mr. Gomulka.

voted all its enthusiasm and all its forces to the implementation of the idea of Socialism.

Politically Naive

"The clumsy attempt at the presentation of the painful Poznan tragedy as the work of imperialist agents and provocateurs was very naive politically. There can always and everywhere be active agents and provocateurs, but never and nowhere can they determine the attitude of the working class. If agents and provocateurs were able to inspire the working class to action, the enemies of People's Poland, the enemies of Socialism would have a much easier task and could easily attain their goals. But the point is that this is not so.

"The causes of the Poznan tragedy and of the profound dissatisfaction of the entire working class are to be found in ourselves, in the leadership of the Party, in the Government. The inflammable materials were accumulating for years.

"Advertised with great energy as a new stage in the high growth of living standards, the Six-Year Economic Plan disappointed the hopes of the broad working masses. The juggling with figures which showed a 27 per cent rise in real wages during the Six-Year Plan proved a failure. It only exasperated people even more and it was necessary to withdraw from the position taken by poor statisticians."

Straightened Backs

After the 20th Congress of the CPSU, said Mr. Gomulka, "the people began to straighten their backs. The silent enslaved minds began to shake off the poison of mendacity, falsehood and hypocrisy."

Faith in the working-class was

the essential feature of a working-class government. But the economic achievements of the workers were being limited by the lack of materials and commodities.

"In this situation we must tell the hard truth to the working class: we cannot afford any more serious wage increases now, for the cord has been strained to such a degree that it may break."

Further improvements in wage standards would only come with corresponding improvements in the economic position.

Mr. Gomulka then outlined proposals for changes in industrial management, workers' self-government, increased production and the correction of agricultural policies. He stressed the friendship of the people of Poland with "our great fraternal neighbour, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet State."

Need For Criticism

Dealing with the need to eliminate the cult of the individual, which had also had harmful consequences in Poland, Gomulka stressed the need for criticism, but at the same time for responsibility in criticism.

"We have the right to demand that such criticism should be creative and just, that is, should help to overcome the difficulties of the present period instead of

increasing them or sometimes even treating certain phenomena and problems demagogically.

"We have the right to demand from our youth, especially from university students, that they should keep their ardour in the search of roads leading to the improvement of our present reality, within the framework of the decisions which will be adopted by the present Plenum. One can always forgive young people many things. But life forgives no one, even youth, thoughtless acts.

"We can rejoice at the ardour of our young comrades for it is they who are to take over from us the posts in the Party and in the State. But we are fully justified in demanding from them that they should join their enthusiasms and ardour to the wisdom of the Party."

Democratisation

Gomulka admitted that certain elements had tended to get out of hand in the recent disturbances. There had been outbreaks of hooliganism.

While the main current among the people had been the demand for greater democratisation, there had also been "greater activity shown by the elements which have nothing in common with the aspirations of the working class and the nation." This had also

caused "certain waverings among some comrades in the party leadership and in the provinces as to the methods of democratisation and its essence. That is why it is necessary firmly to tell ourselves, the Party and the entire nation:

"The road of democratisation is the only road leading to the construction of the best model of socialism in our conditions. We shall not deviate from this road and we shall defend ourselves with all our might not to be pushed off this road.

"We shall not allow anyone to use the process of democratisation to undermine socialism. Our Party is taking its place at the head of the process of democratisation and only the Party, acting in conjunction with the other parties of the National Front, can guide this process in such a way that it will truly lead to the democratisation of relations in all spheres of our life, to the strengthening of the foundations of our system, and not to their weakening."

FOOTNOTE:

Certain aspects of Mr. Gomulka's speech were severely criticised by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of France in a statement issued recently. New Age hopes to be able to publish details of the French criticism next week.

U.S. COMMUNISTS FREED

Story of "Poisoned Reservoirs" shown to be false

NEW YORK.

THE United States Supreme Court has quashed the conviction of Steve Nelson and four other leading Communists after it was admitted that the government informers who had given evidence against them had told deliberate lies.

WHAT MAKES THE CASE STARTLINGLY TOPICAL FOR SOUTH AFRICA IS THE FACT THAT THE STORY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WAS FORCED TO ADMIT TO BE FALSE IS ALMOST IDENTICAL WITH THE ALLEGATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BY MINISTER SWART AGAINST "COMMUNISTS IN SOUTH AFRICA."

The conviction of the U.S. Communists had been based largely on the evidence of a paid informer called Joseph Mazzei. Here is a U.S. press report of what Mazzei had said:

Poison Reservoirs

"Last July Mazzei swore that after taking C.P. courses in 'sabotage, espionage and handling arms and ammunition' he had been sent to Miami because it was a seaport. He had been taught by C.P. officials in Pittsburgh how to "blow up bridges, poison water in reservoirs and eliminate people." These are almost the identical words used by Swart in his allegations about South African Communists—and like them they are figments of a fevered imagination.

The decision of the U.S. Appeal Court marked perhaps the greatest legal victory yet in the fight against the Suppression of Communism law and the whole witch-hunt in the U.S.

Six Years Battle

The appeal court's decision was the climax of six years of hard battle in the courts, during much of which the Communist leaders were

fighting from inside jail.

The ruling followed swiftly on the concession by the government—after denying it for six years—that Joseph Mazzei, a professional, paid informer, who had given evidence of "sedition" by the Communist leaders, was a perjurer with a long criminal record.

Mazzei is now only one of a long list of government informers whose blatant lies in court have led to the imprisonment of some of America's most active progressives. Ironically, only a week before, another informer, Harvey Matusow, was sentenced to five years imprisonment for perjury, after he had admitted that he too had lied in order to get Communists imprisoned.

But Matusow was not convicted of having committed this perjury—he was sent to jail because, the court held, he was lying when he said that he had told lies against the Communist accused!

The government admitted that Mazzei had been planted by the police as a member of the Communist Party in 1942 and had betrayed members of the party to the police from 1942 right up to 1953.

Annie Silinga's Case For Appeal

CAPE TOWN. — "This is very definitely a case which should be taken on Appeal to the Appellate Division," said Justice Herbstein in the Supreme Court last week when he dismissed the appeal of ANC women's leader Mrs. Annie Silinga against her conviction under the pass laws and the order for her removal from Cape Town.

Commenting on the crown argument opposing the granting of leave to appeal because there was "almost no chance of success," Justice Herbstein said that the case was by no means clear-cut. "I have had immense difficulty and have rewritten the judgment 6 times," he said. "It is by no means impossible that the appeal court will take a different view."

Justice Herbstein held that in order to be able to remain in an urban area without a permit under the "15-year exemption" the person concerned had to be physically present during the whole 15 years. If at any time he left the area—even for a picnic—he lost the exemption.

This meant that hardly anyone would benefit from the exemption because "it would be remarkable indeed if most, if not all, persons had not at some stage or another been outside the area," said the judge. However that was the clear meaning of the words in the Act.



SPOTLIGHT on SPORT by Robert Resha

MAY CREATES A NEW RECORD

PETER MAY, the 26-year-old M.C.C. captain, achieved the feat of becoming the first batsman in South Africa to score five centuries in four successive innings, when he knocked 206 runs out of the Rhodesian bowlers in Salisbury last week-end. His previous scores in the last three innings were 162, 158, and 124 not out.

Peter May played a leading role to ensure victory for his team. He went in when the score was only 66 for 3, Cowdrey, Oakman and Insole having already returned to the pavilion. He and Bailey in a great fourth wicket partnership, made 301 runs.

There can be no doubt on this showing that Peter May is the best batsman in the world today—a new Don Bradman. He

is one captain like the Don whose responsibility as leader of the side seems to be an inspiration rather than a burden.

This Friday the M.C.C. will play against Transvaal at the new Wanderers ground. It is here against the Transvaal that the strength of the M.C.C. will be really tested.

Kenya in the Mood

The Kenya Cricket team now touring the country is improving every day. They did not do very well against the Transvaal in their first match of the tour. Their greatest handicap was the hard ground they were playing on for the first time.

Since then they have been playing on turf ground and this has made a world of difference to them. They showed Northern Natal, Natal Midlands as well as Natal proper that they were not their equals, beating Natal by an innings and 3 runs.

The Kenya all-rounders, Blaze D'Cunha and G. Jhalla are responsible for the attack that has met with very little defence, while the Patel brothers, particularly Gafoor Patel, do not seem to have sufficient respect for our bowling.

Last week-end they gave Eastern Province trouble. Kenya scored 244 for 9 declared. Gafoor and Avrind Patal scored 50 and 51 respectively. Eastern Province replied with a paltry 76.

But it is against Western Province that one will be able to assess the standard of the tourists.

Olympic Games

South Africa's start at the Olympic Games in Melbourne is not a pleasing one at all. As we go to press two athletes and two boxers have failed to get medals.

Neville Price, South Africa's long jump specialist, who was strongly favoured to bring a medal from the Olympic Games, has failed. With a leap of 23ft. 10ins. he failed by a quarter of an inch to qualify for the last six. He finished seventh.

From the outset there was no common ground between Price and the American gold medal winner, Greg Bell, with 25ft. 84 ins.

In the 400 metre hurdles, friend Gert Potgieter occupied the sixth and last place. This, of course is not a true reflection of this 19-year-old Pretoria policeman's performance. With more luck Potgieter could have collected a bronze medal. He was occupying third place when he met with an accident. Gert knocked over the final hurdle and went crashing to measure his full length on the track.

Be that as it may, Potgieter is in the world class as a hurdler. True enough he still has to polish his style and age being on his side Gert has golden chances to become a world beater, more so because he is a determined, courageous battler.

(continued at foot of next col.)

LONG LIVE ITIRELENG CULTURAL CLUB



Itireleng (self-help) cultural club children and leaders whose club premises were demolished last week at the instance of the Germiston location superintendent. The action of the superintendent has only strengthened the spirit of the club.

NATAL CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1)

note the new spirit of active co-operation that has developed between a large number of organisations and their members over the last few years.

The only effective answer to the Nationalist Party policy of apartheid was the establishment of a broad united front of all anti-Nationalist forces, which could effectively organise the people and eventually defeat the Nationalists, he said.

The Riverside meeting will be followed by a meeting at Overport on December 3. Other meetings organised are at Sydenham on the 9th, and at Mayville on 16th December. Plans for meetings at Clairwood, Merebank, the North and South Coasts are also being considered.

Defied Banishment

JOHANNESBURG.

The four Nataalspruit leaders Messrs. Timothy Rampai, C. Mkwana, ANC branch chairman; Onions Ngwenya and Philip Mofokeng were arrested last week after they defied the banishment orders giving them seven days notice to leave Nataalspruit.

The arrests took place at 2 a.m. but all four were later granted £5 bail each. The conditions attached to their bail are that they may attend church but may not preach in church. They are forbidden to attend or convene public and political meetings. They must avoid having more than ten people in their homes.

They have been banned from advisory board meetings of which they are members.

The case has been adjourned to December 5.

DON'T FORGET THIS XMAS
EVE . . .

another NEW AGE
XMAS DANCE
in Cape Town

In the ring Eddie Ludick, fly-weight, and the light heavy-weight Piet Van Vuuren, were beaten. It seems that the most devastating opponents to these boxers were the new international rules.

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ARNOLD'S XMAS HAMPERS

Parcels will be delivered in the following areas on the following days:

Monday, December 3:
Benoni Location.

Wednesday, December 12:
Brakpan and State Mines.

Tuesday, December 4:
Watville, Benoni.

Thursday, December 13:
Alexandra Township.

Wednesday, December 5:
Vrededorp; Fordsburg; Ferreirastown; Newclare.

Friday, December 14:
Springs and Nigel.

Thursday, December 6:
Kliptown; Protea.

Saturday, December 15:
Ophirton; Evaton; Eikenhof; Grasmere; Vereeniging.

Friday, December 7:
Moroka.

Tuesday, December 18:
Roodepoort; Krugersdorp; Randfontein.

Saturday, December 8:
Doornfontein; City Deep; Jeppe; Eastern Native Township.

Wednesday, December 19:
Pretoria.

Monday, December 10:
White City; Jabavu; Pimville; Meadowlands.

Thursday, December 20:
Daveyton; Benoni; Modder B; Brakpan; Elandsfontein; Edenvale.

Tuesday, December 11:
Noordgesig.

Customers! Get your certificates from your Agents.

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