

# for Peace and Friendship

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

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Editorial

November/December 1957

## NOVEMBER 7th

Thirty-six years ago, in November 1917, the Czarist Empire lay in ruins, and to many eyes it seemed that Russia herself had gone down to destruction with it. The mighty Russian army of 1914 was shattered. The people were starving. The country was over-run by hands of foreign troops and ramshackle armies under rival reactionary leaders. The central government was in the hands of a murderous crew called 'Bolsheviks', but that did not matter. Everybody knew that they had no experience of running a government, were hated by all nice Russians and would soon be overthrown. Nobody was sure what would happen after that, but it was clear that Russia would never be a great power again.

Five years later, the Bolsheviks were still there. Nobody quite knew how it had happened, and it was very deplorable. Still, what could such an outfit ever achieve? They had no money, no industries, no aeroplanes or tanks. There was no one left in Russia who knew how to run governments, industries and armies. There was only a collection of ignorant louts who thought they could do without their betters.

True, the Soviet Government had no money, no industries, few trained administrators, managers and officers. Any ordinary government, starting life under such circumstances, would have been a hopeless failure.

Yet the Soviet Union conquered all these difficulties and more. It overcame poverty and backwardness, lack of every kind of industrial development, lack of skilled personnel. It did all these things, not with the sympathy and assistance of other governments, but in the face of their violent antagonism. It faced not only its colossal internal tasks, but also economic boycotts, espionage, subversion, threats of war and finally an all-out attack by the strongest army in the world. It has faced all this and has given its people prosperity, security and prestige such as they had never enjoyed in their history before.

Incredible. Yet it has happened. This is something new in history. One may approve or disapprove of the ideas which have guided the Soviet Union in these achievements, but the achievements are there and they compel the admiration of the world.

On this thirty-sixth anniversary of the Soviet State, we warmly salute its past successes and we wish it yet greater triumphs in the tasks that lie ahead.

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### SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

#### Meeting

On Sunday, November 8th, a highly successful meeting was held in the Trades Hall to mark the thirty-sixth anniversary of the foundation of the Soviet State. The speakers were Alfred Hutchinson, L. Bernstein, A.M. Kathrada and Robert Restin.

The large audience unanimously adopted a resolution greeting the Soviet Union, paying tribute to the firm stand she has adopted in defence of peace and calling for closer relations between the peoples of South Africa and the U.S.S.R. in the diplomatic, trading and cultural fields.

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Dewysstuk No. ....  
Gekry by *Reviewed by post*  
Deur. *Spet van stapel af*  
Te. *The Group*  
Datum. *Deur Desember 1957*

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES (Ctd.)

Screening

A showing of the new Czech film 'Land of Smiles', was packed out on Sunday, December 13th. This interesting film depicts how the Czech peasantry in the present period are being convinced of the benefits accruing from co-operative farming and are banding themselves together on a purely voluntary basis.

Exhibition

An ambitious project to be carried out early next year by a group of talented artists will be the staging of a photographic exhibition. The Society has been very fortunate in acquiring many new photographs on diverse subjects taken in the Soviet Union this year. There will be sections on life of the Donbas coal miners, May Day 1953, Sports in the U.S.S.R. and many others. Full details will appear in the next bulletin of the Society.

eisenhower

VERSUS

soviet peace proposals

President Eisenhower made an important speech at U.N.O. recently, presenting new peace proposals to the world. Let us examine these proposals and initial Soviet reactions thereto.

In his speech, Mr. Eisenhower paints a dark picture indeed of the international tension today. He proposes to help the world move out of 'this dark chamber of horrors into the light' and he suggests 'the gravity of the time is such that every new avenue of peace, no matter how dimly discernible, should be explored'. True words indeed. But now let us look closer at the avenues of peace suggested.

After telling us, in what he terms the 'language of atomic warfare', of 'the United States' stockpile of atomic weapons, which, of course increases daily', and of the great quantitative advantage in atomic weapons which 'our early start has permitted us to accumulate', he deplores the possibility of the use of atomic weapons and suggests a way by which 'the minds of men, the hopes of men, souls of men everywhere, can move forward towards peace and happiness and well-being'.

To achieve such noble ends, does he suggest the unconditional banning of atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction; an international agreement ensuring the establishment of strict control over the observance of this ban? Certainly not. Such a proposal did come from the Soviet Government in 1946 at the end of the last war. Such a proposal has been brought forward again as late as September of this year, by Mr. Vyshinsky at U.N.O. and has been rejected once more on the initiative of the United States.

IN THE HANDS  
OF  
CIVILIANS .....

Did Mr. Eisenhower suggest anything more effective for the protection of mankind from the prospects of indescribable atomic horrors? Certainly not. What he proposes is to take the atomic weapon out of the hands of soldiers and put it into the hands of civilians, i.e. of an 'International atomic energy agency', the dominant (or rather domineering) member of which would, of course, be the United States headed by the civilian Eisenhower, who incidentally is also Commander-in-Chief of the United States forces. Here we have again the old American-sponsored Baruch plan, in a revised, more subtle form. He suggests atomic weapons should not be banned immediately. Such a step could only be taken after, to quote Messrs. Churchill, Laniel and

Eisenhower and Atomic Weapons

Eisenhower's joint statement, the Eastern-European countries have achieved 'freedom' in a free (i.e. American-dominated) Europe, or after, to quote the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Dulles's statement, the Chinese people have 'liberated' themselves and come back into the fold of the American-dominated corrupt Chiang Kai Shek clique.

MOSCOW  
RADIO  
REJECTS

President Eisenhower's speech may well be interpreted as a threat of atomic warfare, as a continuation of the well-known 'talking tough' diplomacy. It was therefore immediately rejected by Moscow Radio's commentator as well as by Mr. Vyshinsky. The American proposals are consistent with the steps taken to surround the Soviet Union with American air bases, with the continuous American efforts to strengthen the North Atlantic (so-called) Defence Organisation, and with the determined American moves to rearm an aggressive Germany under former Nazi generals.

Mr. Eisenhower's speech, however, indicates clearly that the peoples' desire for peace must be taken into consideration today, even by the most war-minded governments. The U.S.A. may yet be forced by the peoples of the world to reach a genuine peace agreement with the Soviet Union and the Peoples' Democracies.

On the question of --

1  
**LAYNE BRICKS**

Local bricklayers are no doubt very curious as to how their Soviet counterparts are able to lay up to 12,000 bricks per day per skilled man.

Since no South African bricklayer has visited the Soviet Union in recent years, we present here the report of some British and Irish bricklayers who were members of the British and Irish delegation to the U.S.S.R. in May 1953. The delegation has published its report in a pamphlet entitled "Russia Welcomed Us".

WOMEN, WOMEN  
EVERYWHERE ;

The bricklayers tell: "We went to one of the many apartment-house sites on the outskirts of Moscow. Going over the job, we were amazed to see women doing every type of work including plastering, plumbing and light labouring. Our chief interest, however, was to reach the top floor and see how the 'brickies' were shaping.

When we reached the ninth floor, we were introduced to a woman bricklayer. This young lady and her four assistants, all girls aged about 20 to 25 years, gathered around us and just wanted to talk. After firing many questions at us, they started to perform.

The job they were doing consisted of piers six feet long. The wall itself was two feet six inches wide, with ceramic pots for facing. The bricklayer laid a course of these pots along the face, very accurately, and the assistants, who did not use a trowel, filled in behind, laying two bricks at a time. One of the assistants used a small shovel to put the mortar on the wall, and the other assistant handed everything to the bricklayer. When the facing parts were laid, the bricklayer started on the back face of the wall and ran four courses on this, with the assistants filling in. On this type of work the team lays six and a half thousand bricks per day. Readers not employed in the building trade may be interested to know that in Britain and Ireland on similar work and with similar exertion, two

skilled/.....

## Bricklaying at its Fastest

skilled bricklayers and two helpers would lay from 1,200 to 1,500 bricks per day.

### THE DANGER OF UNEMPLOYMENT

We explained to these Soviet workers that it would be impossible to allow such methods in our countries because of the danger to our craft, and the danger of unemployment following from such methods. They politely pointed out that unemployment is not a problem in the Soviet Union.

The biggest surprise of our visit was yet to come. The foreman usually asked us if we would care to see the hospital unit and the canteen. This job hospital consisted of a pre-fabricated wooden building, where a doctor, who is also a qualified dental surgeon, is in attendance all the time. There was a dental room, complete with chair and the usual apparatus; a nurse was also in constant attendance.

### THE JOB CANTEEN

The job canteen was an even bigger surprise. Our visit coincided with the dinner-hour, so imagine our surprise to find a first-class restaurant.

The total staff of fifty-five included eight cooks, waitresses, cleaners and a manager. Hot meals of all kinds were provided. There was an hour for dinner, and the meals being served included mutton, steak, ham, eggs and chips. The equivalent of our three-course dinner (with of course a much bigger meat helping) costs the Soviet equivalent of about one shilling to one shilling and ninepence. This canteen catered for the building job only.

We were satisfied that working conditions on this typical Soviet building job surpass average conditions in the British or Irish building industry and compare more than favourably with the working conditions in the best organised engineering shops.

Soviet building workers are facing up to the problem of providing housing for a population increasing by three million yearly.

## Report by the British and Irish Delegation

### Livingstone IN MOSCOW

The Trade Unionist Robert Livingstone, who accompanied the delegation, gives a few examples of the activities of Soviet Trade Unions.

From the elected Shop Stewards various committees are formed to deal with the many problems which are the responsibility of the trade union organisation. Because of the different social structures in Britain and the Soviet Union, the tasks which Trade Unions have to carry out are also very different.

A committee from the Stewards administers the sick and disablement benefit fund and also the rest homes and sanatoria which belong to the unions. They are also responsible for the issuing of passes to the rest homes and holiday camps, which are State-owned, of which there are hundreds spread over the country.

Another part of Trade Union work is to encourage the educational and cultural needs of the workers, as well as raising the standard of skill and technical knowledge. To make this possible, large cultural centres or clubs have been built. I have visited several of these centres in which practically all types of recreation are catered for, such as music, drama, reading, chess, physical culture and also outdoor sport. At some of the larger cultural clubs, a modern theatre is included, holding up to four hundred people.

As in Britain, housing is a big problem, but in the Soviet Union the Trade Unions play a big part in the housing plan. Each factory is allocated money for the building of houses and flats. At some factories as many as eighty per cent of the workers have been housed in this way.

Soviet Trade Unions teach workers new methods so as to raise production primarily by better-planned use of machinery. Raised production is to the benefit of the worker concerned. If, for example, by discovering a new method he cuts the time necessary to do a job, from one hour down to fifteen minutes, he is allowed to earn the excess bonus for a period of six months before the job is retimed.

# for Peace and Friendship

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

DCT 58 ①

Editorial

January/February, 1954.

## OUR PUBLIC MEETING

In the tens of years of our Society's existence, at no time have we seen fit to pass any comment on the activities of the South African Government in power. And that for a very good reason too.... Our organisation is in no way concerned with politics in our country.

We believe that friendly relations can exist between the Soviet Union and our country, no matter what political system pertains in this country. This is what we believe and this is what we strive for.

It is only natural therefore, that we have protested against the police action at our public meeting on February 9th as being unwarranted and downright rude. To even suggest that our Society promotes Communism is absurd. We are not concerned with the promotion of any political ideology and that includes the one of Communism.

Our sole concern is to promote peaceful and friendly relationships between our country and the U.S.S.R. Our aim is to do so on the diplomatic, cultural and commercial levels. To achieve our aim, it is vitally necessary that we have the opportunity to convey objective information to the public of South Africa on the conditions to be found in the Soviet Union.

It was precisely this that we were attempting to do at our meeting on February 9th.

## "SADKO"

A Johannesburg cinema deserves hearty congratulations for presenting a Soviet film to local audiences. It is to be noted with regret that Soviet films have not been screened locally for several years now.

"Sadko", winner of last year's Venice Award, presents a charming fairy-tale in full colour. The acclaim with which audiences have greeted "Sadko" rebuts the adverse criticism of Martin Squires in the "Sunday Times". Whilst he feels that the Venice Award could only have been won through some smart lobbying, critics in most of the daily papers have appreciated the merits of the film.

The general consensus of opinion is that the colour is natural and not over-brilliant. The spectacle of the crowd scenes in the city of Novgorod was artistically most effective.

The background music, taken from the works of Rimsky-Korsakov, was very appropriate, promoting a delightful atmosphere for the fairy story.

Among the best scenes was the scene in which Sadko plays a game of chess with an Indian prince who parleys with his advisors before making any move and attempts to distract Sadko with dancing girls.

It is hoped that this film will be widely shown throughout the country and readers are urged to make representations to their local cinemas to have the film shown there.

## BERLIN CONFERENCE A FAILURE?

The Berlin Conference of the British, Soviet, French and American Foreign Ministers, it is true, did not succeed in resolving and deciding any of the great international disputes which exist today. Germany remains divided and remilitarisation proceeds apace in the Western Sector of that unhappy country. No agreement has been reached on the conclusion of peace treaties with Germany and Austria. Yet, it would be very wrong to conclude from these negative features that the Berlin conference did not serve any useful purpose.

### PRIMARILY THE AFFAIR OF THE GERMANS ...

Quite the reverse. It is of inestimable value that the Foreign Ministers have been able to come together round a conference table and to gain a more accurate understanding of one another's positions. Mr. Molotov made it very clear that the Soviet Union cannot and will not tolerate the revival of German militarism, as part of an aggressive anti-Soviet alliance. He is willing and anxious to see Germany re-united, to secure free elections throughout the country, the withdrawal of foreign troops, and the conclusion of a peace treaty with a truly representative all-German government. "The German problem", he said, "is primarily the affair of the Germans themselves", and he proposed that representatives of Eastern and Western Germany should be given a hearing at the conference.

### MR. DULLES AND HIS "E.D.C."

Mr. Dulles, with the backing - at times, one felt, rather unwilling - of the British and French delegates, insisted that German unity should be on the basis of the inclusion of a German army in the so-called "European Defence Community". Since "E.D.C." is quite nakedly and exclusively directed against the Soviet Union, he could hardly have expected Mr. Molotov to assent to such a proposition. On the other hand, Mr. Molotov did not merely take a negative stand against this obviously unacceptable suggestion, but seriously advanced an alternative "General European Treaty on Collective Security in Europe" to which a united Germany would be admitted, and which would not suffer

from the patent one-sidedness and defects of the "E.D.C."

### A FIRST STEP HAS BEEN TAKEN

Given a similar readiness to compromise and make concessions on the other side, there is no doubt that all these thorny problems can be solved. It is unfortunate that they were not solved in Berlin, but the great merit of the Berlin conference was that it was a first step towards their solution; that it ended the sullen deadlock of the past years in which, in place of discussion, the people of the world saw to their mounting alarm and despondency the steady piling-up of armaments and other war preparations.

To this, on the credit side, must be added two further great achievements of the Berlin conference.

### OBLIGED TO REDUCE ARMAMENTS

The first was the agreement that the four governments represented would "take steps to facilitate the successful solution of the problem of disarmament, or at all events, a considerable reduction in armaments." This implies definite obligations on the part of all four governments: it is for them to fulfill these obligations and to help release their peoples from the crushing burden of armaments, and from the dread shadow of world war.

The second was the important decision to convene a further conference in Geneva together with the representatives of the People's Republic of China and other interested countries, which will consider the problems of Korea, Indo-China and other matters. This decision constitutes an important victory for the principle of negotiation between different countries, irrespective of differences in their social systems and the prejudices arising out of these differences.

### EAST-WEST TRAJE BUCKS UP

Whatever its limitations, therefore, the meeting at Berlin has had important practical results. Even more significant, taking a long-term view, have been the incalculable "invisible" results that have flowed from the mere fact of such a conference being held. International tension has perceptibly relaxed/.....

(2)

## 48 NEW WRITTEN LANGUAGES

relaxed. There has been a very substantial increase of "East-West trade: particularly between the Soviet Union and Britain. Sir Winston Churchill has acknowledged that "the more trade there is between Britain and Soviet Russia the better will be the chance of our living together in increasing comfort". These facts presage the breakdown of the virtual trade boycott which the U.S.A. has organised over the past few years, against the Soviet Union and its Chinese and East European allies.

TO GENEVA WITH HOPE Berlin produced no miracles; it was not to have been expected that it would. But it was a step towards ending the cold war and restoring peaceful and normal international relations.

We may look forward to the Geneva Conference on April 26th also with confidence that it will bring the world another step toward an enduring peace. Every day that is spent at the conference table is worthwhile; for though hard words may be spoken and serious differences may arise, no bones are broken, no bodies maimed, no homes set ablaze.

As Mr. Molotov said, at the closing session at Berlin on February 10th:

The governments of the United States, Britain, France and the U.S.S.R. were able to reach agreement in the war years. All the more should they be able to find ways of concerted action under conditions of peace, especially for the purpose of averting the threat of a new war.

### CHINESE RESTAURANT

Very popular with Muscovites is the Peking Restaurant in their Central Park of Culture and Rest.

Staffed by Chinese chefs, the Restaurant serves a wide variety of dishes, the ingredients being supplied direct from China.

Of all the achievements of the Soviet Union, few are more impressive than the achievement in the sphere of education. The number of universities, and the number of students attending them, has increased more than ten times since 1917. Practically one person in three in the U.S.S.R. is studying. No less than 1½ million are studying in the colleges and institutions of higher learning.

GOODBYE TO ILLITERACY Illiteracy has been wiped out in the areas of Central Asia where 99% of the population were illiterate in 1917. In fact the 200 million people in the country are all literate today.

Forty-eight languages which had never been written before 1917 have been reduced to writing and have become the media of books, newspapers, secondary and even university education.

UNIVERSAL TEN-YEAR SCHOOL COURSE Universal free education between the ages of seven and fourteen has been the rule for some time, and the transition is now being made to a school-course for every child. This change is already being introduced in the cities, and will be completed for all parts of the country by 1961. No other country has yet attempted to introduce a universal ten-year school course.

### SCHOOL OF MUSIC ON A FARM

Teachers of the Kiev children's music school recently decided to run, in their spare time, a school of music on a collective farm near the city.

A building and some instruments were provided by the farm management; more instruments and books donated by the Kiev school.

About seventy farmers' children are studying at the new school.

(4)

## 30 YEARS AGO

The thirtieth anniversary of the death of V. I. Lenin, founder of the Soviet State, was marked on January 21st this year.

### Lenin's Economic Plan

Lenin was the author of the plan, scientifically based, for the transformation of economically backward Russia into an advanced and mighty power. Lenin's plan called for the thorough development of its heavy industry, and for the electrification of the whole national economy.

This plan anticipated the radical re-organisation of agriculture, the transition from small individual peasant households to big co-operative farms on which production is based on the fullest use of science and machinery.

The national policy formulated by Lenin and Stalin has converted the Soviet State into an unbreakable union of the country's many peoples. There is every indication that, guided by J.V. Stalin, faithful continuer of Lenin's work, the whole Soviet people worked with might and main to carry out Lenin's plan.

Industrial output in the Soviet Union is already half as much again as in 1940. Last year the Soviet Union produced more than 38 million tons of steel, over 320 million tons of coal, over 52 million tons of oil and 133,000 million k.w.h. of electric power.

### Winston Churchill Appreciates

In foreign policy the Soviet Government is also guided by Lenin's ideas. Immediately after the birth of the Soviet State, Lenin called for a struggle to preserve and strengthen peace, as the unchanging basis of Soviet foreign policy. Lenin was the first to put forward the idea that the peaceful co-existence of states with different social systems is possible. He advocated the widest economic relations with the capitalist states. As long ago as 1922, he wrote that the interests of all capitalist states "call for the development, regulation and expansion of trade with Russia". Winston Churchill appears to appreciate the wisdom of these words today!

Lenin displayed supreme faith in the creative force of people. He is remembered by Soviet and other peoples with deep affection and respect.

### PRICELESS ART COLLECTION

One of the greatest collections of art treasures in the world is now on exhibition at the Pushkin State Museum.

Housed in 29 halls the collection includes 5,500 works of painting, drawing, sculpture and applied art.

A vivid picture is created by the exhibition of the history of art from the remotest periods of antiquity to the present day.

The art of the Ancient East is well represented, along with

A feature of the new exhibition is the display of culture of Urartu, the ancient state on the territory of the Soviet Union.

Expeditions sent by the Hermitage Museum and the Pushkin Museum to the Urart Fortress near Yerevan, have brought back fine examples of the art of the 8th and 7th centuries B.C. The picture gallery contains masterpieces of West European art, from early mediæval times onwards. Works by the progressive artists of capitalist countries and the people's democracies - Taslitsky, Picasso, Strobel and others, are also on show.



Two separate British parties visited Moscow towards the end of 1953. It is interesting to compare their reports, particularly in respect of their descriptions of the Moscow University.

## ROTHSTEIN IN RUSSIA

Andrew Rothstein, the eminent historian, headed a delegation of the British-Soviet Friendship Society to the Soviet Union in December of last year.

He tells of their stay in Moscow, where the highlights were -

(i) four hours at the new University buildings, a magnificent combination of rich internal decoration and spaciousness such as no university in the world has ever had, with the greatest comfort and convenience for students to live and work - a lecture-subject in itself.

(ii) realising, from close-ups at two other of the giant "tall buildings" (26 to 32 storeys) as well as from seeing five or six of their mighty outlines on the misty Moscow horizon, spaced out in the far distance, that to compare them with the crowded, chopped-up effect of the New York skyscrapers is quite misleading.

The Moscow buildings do not crush or dominate, they soar into the sky, taking the line of the surrounding districts with them. They are not a total break from earlier history; they continue the architectural tradition of the wooden village fire tower on the boundless Russian plain, taken up in 16th-Century red brick in the Kremlin and other Moscow watchtowers.

(iii) similarly, the stupendous gorgeousness of Russian medieval colour which took our breath away in the second (coronation) scene of "Boris Godunov" at the Bolshoi Theatre finds its echo both in the riot of colour at the University, just mentioned, and below ground in the glorious Metro stations, all dazzling and all different, reminding me of "William Morris' belief that the factory of the future, "a true palace of industry", would be adorned by "the highest and most intellectual art, pictures, sculpture and the like".

(iv) the care for the human being shown in the medical aid points on the underground platforms (and what a job we had to persuade our Soviet friends that such "every-day things" which they take as a matter of course, present any interest to British people!) - two beautifully-kept and ventilated rooms with white walls, glass cases of medical and surgical supplies, a medical couch and a white-robed, skilled medical attendant in charge, waiting "in case something happens" to any of the staff or to any passenger (from scratched fingers to premature confinements) and carrying out sanitary inspections of the station every three hours;

(v) the middle-aged working woman at the kiosk on Kurskaya Metro station, dispensing ice-cream at 1 rouble 57 kopeks for 30 grammes, whom we found reading Bubonov's Stalin-prize novel "White Birch" between customers, and who, when we ventured the opinion that ice-cream sellers in most countries rarely read 600-page literary masterpieces at their work, replied: "I want to know everything."

This delegation also visited the city of Minsk, capital of Soviet Byelorussia. Here Rothstein noted ----

(i) the roars of laughter from a great crowd of students when they tried Herbert Morrison's old crack about them having practically no time for leisure activities - and the dry remark of their shrewd-eyed director which produced another roar: "Some of them have no time to prepare for their exams."

(ii) the widespread study of English and English literature in school and college - more than 50% have chosen it as their compulsory foreign language - and still more the brilliant performance of "King Lear" at the Belorussian State Theatre where the producer, Honoured Art Worker Fyodorov, roused the audience to enthusiasm during an interval by his speech of welcome to them and good wishes to the British people.

John Berger/.....

# for Peace and Friendship

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

① DET 59

10/6/54

Editorial.

Paul P.  
5/14/54

## "Gala Festival"

May/June 1954

The highlights of this talent-packed film, showing at a local cinema, were the opera "Prince Igor" and the ballet "Romeo and Juliet".

Those privileged to see the film went mainly to see the dancing of Ulanova, the world's leading ballerina. Forty-four years old, she has danced leading roles for the past twenty-six years. Ulanova holds the title of Peoples' Artist of the U.S.S.R. and was awarded the Order of Lenin last year.

The criticism of "Romeo and Juliet" by Moiseyev, founder of the Moiseyev State Folk Song and Dance Ensemble, is of interest. He says: "The choreographer, Lavronsky, gives undue weight to the element of mime, as if mistrustful of the language of the dance....we cannot permit now ballets to have healthy thought uncombined with the dance."

For local press critics to say that the film is badly edited is hardly warranted, since extensive cutting was obvious. People who saw "Gala Festival" overseas and have seen it here, have confirmed this.

### " SOVIET LIFE AND CULTURE "

Our exhibition at the University in the month of May proved an outstanding success - surpassing all expectations. A total of over one thousand spectators in that one week attended the exhibition.

In addition to the students, many members of the public who were attending University functions such as lectures and dances took the opportunity to see the exhibition.

"SUNDAY EXPRESS" We must protest against the report in the "Sunday Express" announcing the exhibition. Col. Sampie Prinsloo of the Special Department, was reported to have warned officials of our Society against contravening the Suppression of Communism Act. As it is not our intention to propagate communism, we are not in need of any such warning. Besides, at no time did the said Colonel communicate with any official of the Society concerning the exhibition. Any intimidation attempted by the report apparently

failed, judging by the large number of viewers.

The attractive manner in which the photographs were presented on screens of contrasting colours was widely commented upon. The captions made of typewriter type enlarged photographically also made a good impression.

Whilst it must be conceded that the material presented was not as comprehensive as one would have wished it to be, it must be realised that the material available was strictly limited. The captions could well have been fuller, giving a more detailed account of what the photographs signified.

The book provided for comments recorded remarks of all types, most of them favourable. They ranged from "Just louay Commie-propaganda" to "Too much attempted at once. One subject should be dealt with comprehensively at a time".

The Executive/.....

The Executive Committee wishes to take this opportunity of thanking all those who by their financial contributions, made the exhibition possible, and also those who did the designing and other technical work to make the exhibition the appealing one it was.

It is with much pleasure that we announce the forthcoming publication of a pamphlet written by Brian Bunting on his recent trip to the U.S.S.R. The pamphlet will be illustrated with photographs and will be ready for distribution in approximately six weeks' time.

It is greatly to be regretted that the newspaper report of the Soviet elections - the first since 1950 - failed to give a more balanced and factual review of this most important event. The crucial questions of war and peace which dominate our era depend in the last analysis upon the thoughts and actions of serious-minded men and women in every community. In the absence of objective information it becomes more and more difficult for such people to obtain data upon which to base their judgments. This brief survey, within our narrow space-limitations, attempts to some extent to provide such data.

## Elections - SOVIET STYLE

March 14 was election day in the Soviet Union. In the atmosphere of a great national holiday, over 120-million people (99.98 per cent of the total electorate) went to the polls to record their votes for the election of Deputies to the Soviet Parliament - the Supreme Soviet.

The results of the elections were a remarkable demonstration of the solid support of the people for their Government. Throughout the 1,347 constituencies, the overwhelming majority of the votes, over 90 percent, cast their votes in favour of the candidates nominated by the "bloc of communists and non-party people", led by G.M. Malenkov, V.M. Molotov, K.E. Voroshilov and other well-known Soviet leaders.

The Soviet Parliament consists of two Houses: The Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities. Unlike other bicameral legislatures, each has an equal status. That is, there is no "Upper" or "Lower" House. The Soviet of the Union is elected on the basis of numerically equal constituencies throughout the U.S.S.R. The Soviet of Nationalities provides equal representation for each of the constituent Republics which comprise the U.S.S.R. In this way, the constitution combines features both of federal and of unitary constitutions.

ONE  
CANDIDATE  
ONLY

Much criticism has been voiced in newspapers here and elsewhere, on the grounds that only one

candidate presents himself for election in each constituency; the voter can vote for or against him, but cannot choose another candidate. In assessing the merit of these criticisms, two important factors should be borne in mind.

In the first place, an economic system which eliminates mutually hostile classes of society at the same time eliminates those profound differences of policy which, formulated by contending parties, have come to characterise elections in many modern countries. Two examples, from widely differing circumstances, may serve to illustrate this point. In the Transvaal and Orange Free State Republics, where the enfranchised burgers were overwhelmingly of a single homogenous social class of farmers, election contests did not take the form of clashes between rival political parties. Again, in a constituency such as Yeoville, Johannesburg, the enfranchised population is very predominantly of the anti-nationalist middle class section which supports the United Party, with the result that municipal and parliamentary elections have been uncontested for a number of years.

CHOOSING  
THE  
CANDIDATE

Secondly, the criticism overlooks the very lively and vigorous pre-election pre-election proceedings which go on in each constituency in the Soviet Union in selecting the candidates who are finally to go forward on election day. In this respect, it is instructive to quote from the book "Soviet Democracy" by Pat Sloan, an

Englishman who/....

# for Peace and Friendship

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

Editorial.

March/April 1954.

## EXHIBITION

Our Society has much pleasure in announcing the staging of a Soviet Pictorial Exhibition at the Witwatersrand University during the month of May. All aspects of Soviet Culture will be represented. There will be no less than twelve sections. They include Administration, Architecture, Communications, the Republic of Kazakhstan, Agriculture, Industry, the Arts, Education, Sport and the Donbas Miners.

The Society has been fortunate in procuring a wealth of pictorial material prepared in the Soviet Union over the past year. This will make the exhibition right up to date.

A team of artists have prepared the exhibition, and the results are of a very high standard. Come along and judge for yourself. An artistic brochure will be distributed at the Exhibition. It contains a catalogue describing all the sections and messages from the Society's Chairman, Rev. Thompson, and from the University's Principal, Mr. Sutton.

Readers are invited to avail themselves of this rare opportunity to see pictures of life in the Soviet Union. And do bring your friends along.

### SOVIET PICTORIAL EXHIBITION

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

CENTRAL BLOCK

FIRST FLOOR LANDING

Five days ---

Monday, May 10th, to  
Friday, May 14th ---

9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

# Paul Joseph Interviewed . . . .

## ON HIS VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION.

Question: When were you in the Soviet Union?

Answer: I was there in November of last year, at the time of the 36th Anniversary of the founding of the U.S.S.R.

Q: How did you come to be in the Soviet Union?

A: There was nothing mysterious about that. The Soviet Government does not know me from a bar of soap. This is how it happened. I was at the Third World Trade Union Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions meeting in Vienna in October last year, when a representative of the Soviet Trade Unions asked me: "Would you accept an invitation to visit the Soviet Union?" Similar invitations were extended to about 200 other delegates from many parts of the world. Had Mr. George McCormick been at the Congress, he too would probably have been approached. Having agreed (actually grabbing the opportunity) I handed in my travel documents to the Soviet Embassy in Vienna and was granted a visa.

Q: Which centres did you visit?

A: I visited Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad and the Caucasus. I also stopped at Kiev when travelling through the Ukraine.

Q: Was your tour planned? Could you move around freely, speak to people, and see things for yourself? What are the people like?

A: Our tour was planned subject to our approval where it was practicable.

I say practicable because we had to consider our hosts who had to cater not only for the 200 trade unionists who had come from Vienna but also for 100 more trade unionists from European countries, a 200-strong delegation of students from many parts of the world plus a Japanese Red Cross delegation. We could make requests, alterations or refusals. Examples of such are: I made a request to visit one of the Asiatic Republics of the U.S.S.R. which was not met, but Mr. Bhoola and Mr. Duma of South Africa who were in the students' delegation were able to go to Azerbaijan.

I wanted to visit a church which was not included in our programme, so instead of going to the art gallery, I left my group to join the English delegation to a church service. On another occasion I turned down an invitation to a circus. Instead I spent the evening discussing co-education, literature and the Beria case.

I could move around freely, do shopping, sing and dance with workers at recreational centres and health resorts, talk to students who knew English (and there are many who can speak

English in/...

**JULIA WOLFSON**  
Mrs. Julia Wolfson, a former Secretary of the "Friends of the Soviet Union", died on April 12th in Johannesburg. She will ever be remembered for her contribution towards the lofty ideal of promoting friendship between our country and the Soviet Union. The Committee of the Society for Peace and Friendship with the Soviet Union extends deepest sympathy to her husband, Mr. Issie Wolfson, and daughter Rona.

PAUL JOSEPH INTERVIEWED (ctd)

English in the cities). The people are absolutely wonderful. Wherever we went, factories, schools, cultural centres, we were warmly received and presented with flowers and a real big hug and kiss with the words "Za Miri Drushba", the words for Peace and Friendship. They would ask for autographs, and want you to hug their babies. They got very excited when I spoke a bit of Russian.

Q: What are your most interesting recollections of your visit to Moscow and other centres?

A: THE CELEBRATION OF THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE USSR WILL REMAIN AS AN UNFORGETTABLE OCCASION. MOSCOW WAS ILLUMINATED IN COLOURFUL LIGHTS. TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE THROGGED THE SQUARES, STREETS AND CAFES JOYFULLY SINGING. THEATRES, CONCERT HALLS AND CINEMAS WERE CROWDED.

ON THE DAY OF THE CELEBRATION WE STOOD FOUR HOURS AT THE VISITORS TRIBUNAL AT THE RED SQUARE, TO WATCH THE THOUSANDS MARCH PAST, CHEERING, CARRYING PORTRAITS OF LEADERS AND BANNERS READING "FOR PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP", "LONG LIVE THE USSR" AND "LONG LIVE THE UNITY OF THE NATIONALITIES". AND AS THEY PASSED THE VISITORS TRIBUNAL THEY WOULD THROW FLOWERS AT US, SOME WOULD BREAK THROUGH TO SHAKE OUR HANDS. THE MOST STRIKING THING IN MOSCOW AND ELSEWHERE IS THE CLEAR EVIDENCE OF HOW PEOPLE THINK PEACE, TALK PEACE AND WORK FOR PEACE.

My visit to Moscow University dazed me. This immense structure has 112 lifts, 30,000 rooms of various kinds, including 200 laboratories, a library of five million books, 44 hectares of botanical gardens. Six thousand students each have a room with a bath and a stipend of 250 Roubles a month. The University has 1,500 lecturers and professors.

I visited a Greek Orthodox Church in Moscow. The church was very crowded with people standing in the corridors. The service was devoted to the anniversary of the death of Tchaikovsky and the religious hymns of Tchaikovsky were sung by a choir of 30 men and women.

The Lenin Library has 17 million books, and every day 1,000 new books come in. About 8,000 people call in daily. The works of Shaw, Shakespeare, Dickens, Hugo, Tagore and many others are always in big demand.

I saw Tchaikovsky's masterpiece, "The Swan Lake", at the Bolshoi Theatre. I was a bit disappointed because I did not see the famous ballerina Ulanova. However, I saw the third greatest ballerina, Fleitshinshaya. I will never forget the joy this ballet brought to the packed house of garbage collectors, students, housewives and government officials (I found out their occupations during the intervals).

In Leningrad I visited the winter palace and the hermitage with its collection of 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> million pieces of fabulous art, jewellery, furniture and costumes. I saw 25 original paintings of Rembrandt, 45 Rubens and many other famous English, Italian and ancient Chinese paintings. We spent five hours going through a few thousand objects.

I found Stalingrad humming with building activity. A great deal has been restored but living quarters are still a big congested. Here I saw the Volga-Don Canal with its 13 locks, each lock a masterpiece of Soviet architecture and symbolic of Soviet achievement. I also saw the breath-taking Volga river. I visited the Stalin tractor plant with its 15,000 workers, where every third worker is a student at the same time. The library has 165,000 books.

Away from/.....

PAUL JOSEPH INTERVIEWED (ctd)

Away from freezing Moscow, down to the Caucasus, I spent several warm days visiting the many sanatoria where workers come for climatic changes, mineral waters and mud treatment. The treatment and attention the workers get I can only describe as magnificent and the best. The most striking feature when one visits the Soviet Union, is the care given to women and children. The women enjoy complete equality with men. Without their contribution the Soviet Union would not be where it is today. The children are the luckiest people there. No town is complete without nursery schools, kindergartens and schools. They are lively, intelligent and lovable, and can be described as bundles of life.

Q: Have you any criticisms to make about the Soviet Union?

A: Yes, I have. Though the Soviet railways are comfortable and a pleasure to travel on, I think they travel very slowly. In this respect the British railways are much faster.

Though the Russians are well clad and have good clothes, they do not dress decoratively. By decoratively I mean from the aesthetic point of view - a well-cut suit, an attractive hat or well-styled costume. In this respect the Czechs dress attractively according to the weather. I cannot see why the Russians do not dress attractively, especially when they have the apparatus and the money to produce attractive clothes.

I disagree with the present system of separate education now conducted in the Soviet schools. I strongly believe in co-education. According to the principal of one school we visited in Leningrad, the method is being employed because of the different physiological and physical development of the children of the two sexes at the time of adolescence, and because the boy is more mechanically-minded than the girl. At the very same school I found girls building a model of the Volga-Don canal. I pointed this out to the principal and the fact that Soviet women are playing a major role in industrial activity, where they are engineers, technicians, bricklayers, etc. From the discussion I learned that there is a heated controversy in the Soviet Union on this subject.

(Whilst there are single-sex schools in every town, the overwhelming majority (95%) of Soviet schools are co-educational. - Ed.)

STALIN

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the death of Joseph Stalin, we feel it appropriate to quote the tribute paid to him by the Dean of Canterbury at a memorial meeting, when he said:-

"Stalin did more to change the world for peace in the first half of this century than any other man who lived in it."

The voice of Stalin has never ceased to call for peace, for the cessation of the present wars in progress, for the reduction of armaments, for the negotiation of the leading Powers on whom rests the final responsibility of war or peace, for international co-operation. His passion was not war, but peaceful construction, the building of a new world, which he helped by inaugurating the Five-Year plans to convert the Soviet Union into an industrialized state, capable of meeting the/.....

SPORT

An international ice hockey tournament in Helsinki between Finland, Sweden and the USSR has ended in a resounding success for the Soviet Union. Showing world class, the Soviet team beat Finland 2-1 and Sweden 8-2. The Swedes beat Finland 7-2. The Helsingin Sanomat called the Soviet players virtuosos and said their victory might have been an even greater score. The paper commented that the Russians had created a new style of play.

STALIN ANNIVERSARY (ctd)

meeting the needs of all its people.

"All those who know him personally, as I was privileged to know him", said the Dean, "were impressed by his simplicity and directness, by his clearness in handling problems, by his outstanding commonsense and most particularly by his genius in listening to others, in drawing out their ideas and using them in his planning for the people."

The death of Stalin was indeed a grave loss to the forces of peace and progress, but the legacy he left behind will live forever. His legacy is a people steeled for the struggle for peace and progress, for the future happiness of all mankind.

WHAT IS THE ROUBLE WORTH?

**TODAY'S PROBLEM** The problem in the Soviet Union has never been one of trying to find markets for surplus goods.

The very idea that a society could produce surplus goods is incomprehensible to the average Soviet citizen. The problem in the Soviet Union today is one of satisfying to the highest degree the constantly growing demand for consumer goods of all descriptions.

**WHAT DOES THE SOVIET WORKER EARN?** The average monthly wages of a Soviet miner are as high as 4500 to 6000 roubles, while those

of an auxiliary worker on the mine average 1200. An engine driver on the railways earns approximately 600 roubles, while the average machinist earns between 1100 and 1300 roubles a month.

Doctors, engineers, teachers, artists, scientists and other professionals may have earnings far in excess of 6000 roubles a month. It is important to realise that any Soviet worker can exceed the above-mentioned average wages and Stachanovites, i.e. workers who increase the productivity of their labour considerably may earn up to or more than three times the average.

**HOW MUCH CAN A ROUBLE BUY?** Below is given a price list of some items which figure in an ordinary family budget. As this list was compiled, however, before the latest reduction in prices which was announced in March, the true position is even more

favourable than that which is reflected in the list.

<u>Average prices of food items:</u>		<u>Roubles</u>
Bread, per lb.....	0.5 to 1.5.	
Cake flour, per lb.....	1.5 to 3.5.	
Sugar, per lb.....	4.5 to 5.0.	
Meat, per lb.....	7.0 to 12.	
Butter, per lb.....	8.0. to 13.	
Potatoes, per lb.....	0.25.	
Poultry, per lb.....	5.0. to 7.0.	
Fish, per lb.....	4.0. to 5.0.	
Milk, per pint.....	1.0.	
Eggs, per dozen.....	0.5.	

Some items of clothing:

Gent's shirt.....	59 to 125
Gents socks.....	4 to 11
Gents suit.....	400 to 900
Gents shoes.....	44 to 425
Ladies shoes.....	70 to 500

Rent is very cheap in the Soviet Union - the monthly rent for an average two-roomed flat amounts to 35-50 roubles. Bus fares average between 0.2 to 1 rouble, a bicycle costs approximately 500 to 650 roubles and motor-cars range between 6000 to 12000 roubles.

**BENEFITS IN ADDITION TO WAGES** In addition to the wages which a worker in the Soviet Union receives, he is ensured to receive an adequate old-age pension towards which he does not pay any contributions. Workers and their families are sent to holiday resorts or rest homes at little or no cost to themselves. Creches and nursery schools are available everywhere; medical treatment, hospitals, convalescent homes etc. are free and the worker receives full wages during periods of sickness. Opportunities for technical training and other studies are provided on an extensive scale and workers are encouraged to advance themselves rapidly. Many promising workers



WHAT IS THE ROUBLE WORTH? (Ctd)

are given bursaries which enable them to study at Universities comfortably.

Such goods as washing machines, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, electric floor-waxing machines, gramophones, radios and television sets are in very great demand. Gone are the days when these goods were considered luxuries. Shoes, fine woollens, woollen cloth and silk are also in great demand in the Soviet Union. Millions of Soviet citizens are moving into new flats and, naturally, they want their new homes to be well furnished.

MEETING THE DEMAND The Soviet Government - to meet the ever-increasing demand - had inaugurated a three-year programme for a sharp increase in the production of light industry. General consumer goods output will increase by almost half over the next three years. Production in existing factories will be stepped up and thousands of new factories will be built by the Ministry of manufactured consumer goods, by the Ministry of local industries and by producers' co-operatives. Over the next two years, output of washing machines will increase eleven times over, the total annual output of refrigerators will be stepped up to a third of a million and the annual output of vacuum cleaners will increase to half a million by next year. More than 7 1/2 million radio and television sets of the latest design will be produced over the next two years, forty times as many sets as were produced before the war during the same period.

Aircraft factories and factories of the defence industry will also produce hardware, bedsteads, bicycles, refrigerators, motor-cycle and motor-boat engines and small quality cameras for amateur photographers. It is intended to produce 4 million bicycles a year by 1956 - compared with less than 300,000 before the war; and over the next three years 62 million high precision watches will be produced.

The same picture of increased production is repeated in the clothing industry, shoe industry, furniture manufacture and in many other consumer goods industries.

The problem in the Soviet Union today, happily, is one of matching production to the rapidly-growing purchasing power of the Soviet citizen.

EAST - WEST TRADE

Shop Stewards at the plants of the North British Locomotive Company point out that traditional markets are suffering as a result of the emergence of Germany, Japan and Austria as successful competitors. They foresee 5,000 redundant workers within the next year if new markets are not found.

Reviewing Britain's traditional markets the shop stewards conclude that "the British loco. manufacturers are at the end of the queue in the 'traditional' markets. In face of this critical development the shop stewards feel that "if we remain indifferent and passive to the question of 'New Markets', i.e. Russia and China, we will be caught in a trap from which inevitable redundancy will be the result."

The shop stewards describe how a representative of the North British Loco Company attended the Moscow Economic Conference and received "irrefutable proof that the Russian Government are prepared to place an order for 1,250 locomotives with the Company, and further, the Chinese Government are prepared to take 100 locos. per year for the next five years. This would mean nearly 15 years' employment and would give a limited security to the families who are totally dependent on the export markets for locos.

"The firm are prevented from concluding an agreement with Russia and China by the refusal of the Board of Trade to grant export licences", while Japan has concluded a £30 million trading agreement with China and the American Government has removed 28 categories from the Japanese banned list."

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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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