

for Peace and Friendship

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

Editorial.

September/October, 1955.

FORWARD from GENEVA

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).

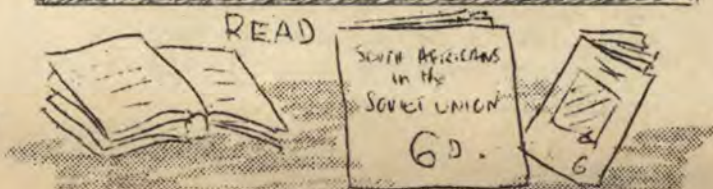
SOUTH AFRICANS in the ★ SOVIET UNION ★

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 done a 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 Sygman 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.B.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 of India. Do you ask what effect such a visit was? 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 traveling 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. Plisetskaya.

The itinerary took the party from Moscow to Stalingrad and then on to the Crimea, Georgia, and Taskkent 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 tension in the Far East, the advent of Austrian independence, improved relations between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. It acclaimed the results of the Afro-Asian 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

Muscovites 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 Muscovites 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 Muscovites 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.



HELSINKI

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 lies 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 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 28. 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 Lacis 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," Lacis 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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★ For Peace and Friendship

1917 - 1955

38th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
SOVIET UNION

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

★ THIRTY-EIGHT TREMENDOUS YEARS ★

November 7th is celebrated as the principal national holiday throughout the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics because it marks the anniversary of the day in 1917 upon which the Councils of Workers, Soldiers and Peasants ("Soviet" is the Russian word for "Council") took over State power. In March of the same year the infamous Tsarist despotism had fallen in a revolution that embraced almost every class of the people of that vast empire. The intervening months had witnessed a mounting tussle for power between the self-appointed "Provisional Government", aiming at a Parliamentary system along conventional Western lines, and the Soviets.

By October of 1917 the struggle had come to a head. The Provisional Government, headed by Kerensky and other middleclass politicians of the Liberal and 'Labour' type was pursuing a policy diametrically opposed to that of the Soviets, in which Lenin's Bolshevik Party (the word means "majority", and is related to a split in the Russian Social-Democratic Party) had become predominant. Lenin and his supporters demanded an immediate end to the war, land for the peasants, and the establishment of a socialist economic system. The Kerensky administration was completely unable to satisfy the desperate needs of the people for peace and reconstruction and persisted in continuing the war, which had become wildly unpopular. It was against this background that the Revolution of November 7th took place - a great upsurge of the

working people which swept Kerensky from office and placed the Soviets in power.

Many believed at that time that this daring experiment, to build a new sort of society, to fare forth upon uncharted seas, would not last long. It was freely predicted that the young Soviet state would collapse within six months; the more so in that, with the help of the great powers on both sides in the first world war, Lenin's opponents began immediate wide-scale military measures to overthrow it. The predictions proved false. The Soviet state showed amazing powers of resistance and stability. It survived not only the rigours of the civil wars and wars of intervention and famine that marked its infancy, but also the greatest test that any nation had ever been put to -- the full impact of Hitler's huge battle-hardened army that had overcome every military force in Europe.

Today, as the Soviet people and their well-wishers throughout the world celebrate the 38th anniversary of November 7th 1917, it has become crystal clear to all who have eyes to see that the U.S.S.R. has come to stay as a mighty factor in the world. It is absurd to label as "Communists" all those who recognise this fact and draw the necessary conclusions. Essentially, the presence of

Editorial: (Contd.)

President Eisenhower and Sir Anthony Eden at Geneva was an acknowledgment:-

- (a) That the U.S.S.R. exists as a foremost world power and will continue to do so;
- (b) That the Soviet leaders seek world peace and good international relations;
- (c) That it is therefore necessary to end the abnormal state of "cold war" and to reach a general settlement with Russia based upon peaceful co-existence of all nations, whatever their political and economic systems.

These are precisely the points which our Society has attempted for many years to bring home to the people, and which we shall continue to maintain. The road that the Soviet people have chosen is not necessarily the best road for South Africa or any other country. But we must concede them the right to determine their own destiny, and we must accept the hand of peace and friendship which they have extended to all peoples. The alternative is lunacy and destruction.

It is for these reasons that we invite all South Africans, whatever their political views, to join with us in congratulating the people of the Soviet Union and wishing them well on the occasion of the Seventh of November, 1955.

S.A. SOCIETY for PEACE & FRIENDSHIP TO HOLD A General Meeting

The past year has seen the beginning of a great transformation in the international situation in the direction of peaceful co-existence between all countries and a great broadening out of friendly relations in all fields, between East and West. This situation which is bound to affect South Africa, by no means eliminates the urgency of our work, but it will vastly facilitate it.

It is with this in view that a general meeting of the Society has been called for the very near future.

Too much responsibility has been placed on too few people, with the result that the Society has not been able to carry out all the work that should have been done.

It must be the duty of every member to be present, and to lay the foundation for the strengthening of the Society on a broad and national basis.

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I JOINED THE CELEBRATIONS I

by PAUL JOSEPH

When I was at school, I often got involved in a discussion on the Soviet Union with my fellow mates and school teachers, and invariably was told "Oh, go to Russia!" and "we cant believe what you say".

It never occured to me that one day I would be in the Soviet Union, more especially on the occasion of the anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

Well there I was in November 1953 joyfully trotting along Gorky Street thinking it was the Red Square(!), running around on the steps of the Bolshoi Theatre so as to satisfy my initial lust to be in it; wandering in and out of bookshops and stores and the breath-taking underground, and coming out very much alive from the Kremlin.

Did I ever dream of roaming in that heroic city of Stalingrad- the city that decided the future of the world?

Or living in Leningrad - the seat of the revolution?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? What does the anniversary of this historic occasion mean to the millions of Russian men and women striving for greater heights in achievements? How does one measure the appreciation and understanding of the people? These are some of the questions that usually crop up in the minds of the people who want to know about the U.S.S.R.

One did not have to wait for the day of the celebration to observe the answers. I discovered them when I met the first Russian in the railway carriage from Vienna to Moscow. And it became abundantly clear as one visited the factories, schools, flats parks, rest homes. In fact the essential and immediate requirements in life were within easy reach of every citizen irrespective of sex, age, nationality or occupation.

"SWAN LAKE"
AT THE
BOLSHOI

Night life on the eve of the celebration in Moscow was full of the fiery spirit of festivity - coloured lights, bunting, decorations, crowds walking arm in arm singing and laughing. In shops and bazaars, and restaurant windows, were portraits of the Soviet leaders. Throngs of theatre crowds, cars jamming the city streets.

We spent the night in the Bolshoi Theatre seeing the great "Swan Lake" ballet.

The day of the celebration itself was a thrilling experience. That morning I clad myself in corduroys, lumber jacket, scarf and a huge overcoat. I took copies of the anniversary number of Pravda and stuffed them into my shoes. That is what I thought of the cold, not of the celebration! My Russian hosts thought the day a mild autumn one,

I Joined in the Celebrations: (contd.)

LOVE FOR And so off to the Red
THEIR Square, to take our
COUNTRY places alongside the
rostrum with Malenkov and other
notables on it. Then came the
cheering and laughing and gay
crowds carrying banners, portraits
and figures of socialist emulation.

Throughout the demonstration
the theme was PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP.
And as they passed us they showered
flowers onto us. One felt the fire
and passion and love for the country,
the people, and the people the world
over who want to maintain peace.

**WHO IS FOR
GERMAN UNITY?**

Unwarranted assertions have
appeared in our press with regard
to the stand taken by Soviet rep-
resentatives at the Foreign Mini-
sters' Conference at Geneva recent-
ly. An attempt was made to show
that the Soviet Union is opposed
to Germany being united.

Facts show otherwise. The
history of the past 10 years is a
consistent one of Soviet strivings
to achieve German unity. And
there are no grounds to assume any
change in her attitude.

TEN In the years 1944/45 lead-
YEARS ing politicians of the
AGO Western Powers demanded the
partitioning and the agrarianisa-
tion of Germany but J.V. Stalin,
speaking in the name of the Soviet

Government, had insisted that
Germany should continue to be a
united state and that it should
be granted full sovereignty.
In the Potsdam Agreement of 1945
this principle of Soviet policy
with regard to Germany was estab-
lished as a principle of inter-
national law.

Then again, in March and
April 1947, the Soviet Government
demanded the establishment of an
all-German democratic Government.
As a first step it was proposed
to establish central administra-
tive organs for the main fields
of administration in Berlin.
The Western Powers rejected this
proposal.

THE TRUE It was the Western
SPLITTERS Powers which split
Germany, first through the uni-
lateral currency reform and then
through the establishment of a
separatist West German Govern-
ment.

And what of the draft Peace
Treaty submitted by the Soviet
Government to the three Western
Powers on March 10th, 1952? One
of the points included was a
demand for the restoration of
Germany as a united state. The
Western Powers to this day have
not even commented on this draft
peace treaty. Instead they are
trying to impose upon West
Germany a lasting partitioning
and a 50-year term of occupation
and far-reaching limitation of
state sovereignty and bourgeois
democratic liberties in West
Germany.

Who is for German Unity?: (Contd.)

MOLOTOV'S PROPOSALS At the Berlin Four Power Conference in January 1954, Mr. V.M. Molotov, Foreign Minister of the U.S.S.R., proposed the holding of a plebiscite in the whole of Germany on this question "European Defence Council Treaty or Peace Treaty." Mr. Molotov was, of course, in favour of a Peace Treaty such as had been proposed two years earlier.

On December 2nd, 1954 the Moscow conference for European Security published a declaration accusing the signatories of the Paris Agreement of causing a serious deterioration in the international situation, since West Germany would become a dangerous breeding ground for a new war. For the solution of the German problem it would be necessary to reject remilitarisation and reach agreement on free all-German elections in 1955.

The best way of indicating what the present Soviet attitude is, is to quote the words of Mr. Bulganin at the Geneva Four-Power Conference held last August:-
"The war in Europe ended ten years ago. Two Germanys have taken shape since then - the German Democratic Republic, and the German Federal Republic- each with its own economic and social system. Furthermore, under the Paris Agreement the German Federal Republic has taken to the course of remilitarisation, and has been integrated in the military groupings of the Western Powers. As for the German Democratic Republic, the conclusion of the Paris Agreement has prompted its decision to join

the Warsaw Treaty Organisation.

It is clear that in the circumstances it is impossible to raise the question of a mechanical fusion of the two parts of Germany, because that would be an unrealistic approach to this problem.

The Soviet Union has been, and still is, an ardent supporter of the unification of Germany as a peace-loving and democratic state. We are profoundly convinced that the German problem must not be discussed without representatives of the German Democratic Republic and of the German Federal Republic.

COMBINED EFFORTS CALLED FOR The only real way towards the unification of Germany in the situation obtaining in Europe, lies through the combined efforts of the Four Powers and of the German people for a relaxation of the tension in Europe, for the establishment of confidence among the states.

And the achievement of this aim would be facilitated best of all by the organisation of a collective security system in Europe, with the two parts of Germany co-operating on an equal footing, pending the unification of Germany. Since this would help to strengthen peace in Europe, and would create obstacles to the restoration of German militarism, the barriers now impeding German unification would in time be removed."

SOVIET EDUCATION as I FOUND IT —



by DUMA NOKWE



Education in the Soviet Union is regarded as one of the vital activities upon which the material and cultural advancement, the unity and happiness of the Soviet people depend. To Soviet children, throughout the vast stretches of the Soviet Union; in the bustling cities or lonely collective farms; among the 59 different nationalities, education is not merely a benevolent gift which they must accept with servile gratitude but it is an inalienable right. It is a right which the Soviet child can enjoy from the age of three when he enters a free Kindergarten. It is the right which every Soviet child must enjoy from the age of seven when he is compelled to begin his seven-year or ten-year career at a school.

DAYS OF DARKNESS Not more than forty years ago, the country which is now known as the Soviet Union was inhabited by some of the poorest and most backward nationalities in the world. The Russian people who dominated and oppressed these nationalities looked upon themselves as superior and upon the other nationalities as inferior. In order to preserve this illusion of superiority the cultural advancement of these nationalities was deliberately suppressed and, among other things, they were denied all opportunities of education. More than forty of these nationalities - the Tajiks, Kazakhs, Kinghiz, etc., had no written

language of their own and nationalities like the Uzbeks were almost completely illiterate.

EDUCATION BRINGS A FULL LIFE Today, however, under an educational policy which is based on the complete equality of all nationalities, illiteracy amongst these people has been completely liquidated. They have developed their own written language; their talents and creative abilities have been unleashed, and they now participate and contribute fully to the advancement of the whole Soviet Union. These nationalities have now reached a cultural standard which equals that of the most highly developed nations of the world.

The State in the Soviet Union administers and maintains education throughout the country primarily for the purpose of ensuring that uniform instruction is given and equal facilities are available to all children, irrespective of their social origin, nationality, colour or sex.

The Soviet State, which is elected by all citizens who have reached the age of 18 years, does not monopolise the control of education. The Soviet school keeps very close contact with the people. Schools have parents' committees and regular discussions are held on educational problems by trade unions and other peoples' organisations. The results of these discussions

Soviet Education: (contd.)

by Duma Nokwe

reach the Minister of Education and they are then carefully studied and applied in order to improve education.

Soviet education aims at developing to the full the creative abilities of the child, and training him to be a healthy, responsible, friendly and intelligent citizen who is capable of contributing his share to the construction of his motherland, and also of participating in the vast wealth created by his compatriots. The sole factors which determine the role the child will play in his country; the work he will do, are the activities of the child. His social origin, and nationality in no way determine his destiny in life.

LEARNING TO THINK

The mental training of the child is planned to develop the child's ability to think -- the ability to acquire and apply knowledge independently. From the fourth year at school, the child is taught among other subjects, Science, Geography and History. Science is taught to inculcate in the child a scientific outlook towards the world and society; to deepen his understanding of events and processes around him and to enable him to appreciate the unlimited potentiality of the world and human beings. History is taught so that the child should appreciate the development of human society and the undeniable progress made by human beings throughout the centuries. An appreciation of change and progress as a fundamental process in life instils in the

child a deep desire to contribute to that progress and change. In the study of Geography, the material wealth and potentialities of the U.S.S.R. are revealed to the child and he also learns about the people of the world and their countries in such a way that, not only does he develop a love for the motherland, and comradeship for his own people, but learns to respect and love other people, their culture and their independence.

PIONEER PALACES

In order to develop the creative abilities of the children and bring them into interaction with the material and cultural upliftment of the motherland, Soviet education bases its methods of teaching on the principle of maintaining the closest link between theory and practice; between education in the classroom and the practical problems of the country. This is carried out in the teaching of all subjects in school. The lessons are supplemented by students, science circles, music circles, mathematics circles and others which are organised in schools and which can be joined by the pupils. In addition, young pioneers' palaces provide scores of well-equipped circles for children in which children can develop their talents and increase their knowledge.

When a student completes his seven-year course he may proceed to the higher forms of the ten-year course and so complete a ten-year secondary education. From the secondary school entrance to a higher education institution depends merely on passing an entrance examination.

Soviet Education:(Contd.)

Once the student passes the entrance examination the State assists him financially to complete his course. Grants are given to all students who enter higher educational institutions, irrespective of social origin or nationality. These grants are sufficient to cover fully all the needs of a student, including a visit to a holiday resort during the holidays. The Soviet Government therefore not merely asserts its right to administer education but also performs its duty to create the most comfortable conditions under which students may study.

Since one of the aims of Soviet education is to prepare the student to apply his knowledge and talent to the construction of the country, long before he completes his course, he consults the principal of his institution and together they decide the place where he would like to work after completing his course.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS A MUST FOR TEACHERS In the whole system of Soviet education, the role of the teacher is regarded as vital and decisive. Consistent with the principle of maintaining a close link between education and the life of the people, the primary duties of a Soviet teacher are to keep close ties with the people and to take an active part in public affairs. A teacher who shuts himself up in the classroom and divorces himself from the cultural, political and economic advancement

of the people is incapable of setting an example to the children, and of performing his duties to train the rising generation to become responsible citizens. It is therefore regarded as the duty of the teacher to deepen his political understanding by participating in the political activities of the people. A large number of teachers have been elected to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., the highest governing body in the Soviet Union.

The teachers are regarded as workers. There is a uniform salary scale for all teachers irrespective of nationality. Teachers in school receive as much as engineers in industry.

Soviet education unfolds to the child the wealth of the human heritage; the equality and brotherhood of all men; it instils a respect and love of labour, and it develops to the fullest the creative abilities of the child so that he should love peace and peaceful construction.

38th ANNIVERSARY

PUBLIC

MEETING

SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER

2 P.M. (1957)

Speakers ★ Mr. A. Hutchinson

★ Mr. P. Beyleveld

★ Mr. A. Patel

Chairman: Rev D.C. Thompson

Cultural Ties promoted by the SOVIET UNION

By G.M. KALISHYAN, Vice-president of VOKS

The Soviet Union's relations with all countries are based on the principle of peaceful co-existence of states, irrespective of their form of government and social system.

Proceeding from this principle, the Soviet Union seeks to develop in every way possible economic and cultural relations with all countries which are interested in such relations.

The Soviet people are developing with considerable success their culture, national in form and socialist in content. But, at the same time, they are strangers to national narrow-mindedness, complacency and disregard for the cultural achievements of other countries.

The Soviet cultural leaders, like the whole of the Soviet people, are greatly interested in the achievements of science and culture in other countries. They make a thorough study of the culture of foreign countries and carefully choose all that is most valuable and important for the purpose of assimilation. This refers not only to what has been created by different nations in the past and has become a part of the treasure-house of world culture, the same holds true in respect of the best that is being produced by modern culture.

The Role of Voks:

The Soviet Government has created all the necessary conditions for that and promotes the extension of personal contacts between workers of Soviet culture and their foreign colleagues. It encourages the expansion of an international exchange of scientific information, literature, periodicals, works of fine art, cinematographic and theatrical art, an interchange of groups of artists, etc.

An important role in that respect is played by Soviet public organisations, such as the U.S.S.R. Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (VOKS), which has recently marked its thirtieth anniversary, the Union of Soviet Writers, the trade unions, the Slav Committee etc.

One of the most effective forms of cultural co-operation is the interchange of delegations with foreign countries, which is widely practised in the U.S.S.R. Hundreds of foreign delegations and individual social, cultural and scientific workers visit the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet state and public organisations. During the past two years, over 900 delegations from all the five continents visited the U.S.S.R. During that period VOKS alone played host to 205 delegations made

Cultural Ties: (Contd.)

up of some 3,000 members, and to 125 individual cultural workers.

Visitors Speak in U.S.S.R.:

All delegations and individual cultural workers who come to the U.S.S.R. are given every opportunity to acquaint themselves with the life of the Soviet people and study those fields of Soviet economy and culture in which they are particularly interested. When in the U.S.S.R. the foreign guests, in their turn, deliver various lectures to the Soviet public on the development of science, culture or art in the country which they represent. These lectures arouse such keen interest among Soviet people that the halls where they are held cannot always accommodate all who wish to be present. During the stay of foreign scientists and cultural leaders in the Soviet Union, a fruitful exchange of opinions always takes place between them and their Soviet colleagues, as well as mutual consultations on different branches of learning.

470 Soviet Delegations Go Abroad:

Hundreds of Soviet delegations as well as individual scientists, cultural workers and artists visit foreign countries every year in order to participate in different conferences and congresses convened by scientific and public organisations, to attend Friendship Months, to give concerts and theatrical performances, or simply to make their acquaintance with the life and culture of other countries.

During the past two and a half years, more than 470 Soviet delegations have been abroad.

The acquaintance of the members of Soviet delegations with the life and culture of foreign peoples is not of a one-sided nature; meeting the wishes of the public, they deliver lectures, in their turn, to broad circles of listeners and on returning home to the Soviet Union publish books and articles in the newspapers and magazines about their trips abroad and also share their impressions with audiences at various meetings, and over the radio,

In the postwar years, it has become a tradition both in the People's Democracies and in capitalist countries to hold months and weeks of friendship and cultural relations with the U.S.S.R. In the Soviet Union similar events are organised on a large scale.

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN HONOURED Memorable dates relating to the lives of great men of all times and nations, as well as important landmarks in the history of world culture are widely celebrated in the Soviet Union.

Without referring to the past year of 1954, in the course of which many evenings and lectures were organised in commemoration of great men of world culture we shall mention only a few important events of the first three months of the current year. During this period the

Cultural Ties: (Contd.)

Soviet people marked the 100th anniversary of the death of the great German mathematician, Karl Friedrich Gauss, the 480th anniversary of the birth of the celebrated Italian sculptor, painter and architect, Michelangelo Buonarroti, the 150th anniversary of the birth of the illustrious Danish story-teller, Hans Christian Andersen, the 200th anniversary of the death of the prominent French thinker, Charles-Louis Montesquieu, etc.

"DON QUIXOTE" IS A FAVOURITE

Moscow theatre-goers celebrated the 125th anniversary of the first performance of Victor Hugo's drama "Hernani"; a special evening was organised at the House of the Actor of the All-Russian Theatrical Society, at which the play was presented in the French language by amateurs. Widely marked throughout the U.S.S.R. was the 350th anniversary of the appearance of the first edition of Cervantes' novel, "Don Quixote", which is highly popular with Soviet readers and has been published in huge editions in the U.S.S.R.:

The publication of the works of foreign writers in large editions is nothing unusual in the U.S.S.R. Books by foreign writers have been printed in editions totalling 279,206,000 copies in 63 languages in the years of Soviet government. A number of contemporary progressive foreign writers whose works have been published in the U.S.S.R. have merited Stalin Prizes, Foreign readers and authors, in their turn, highly value Soviet and

classic Russian literature. The British author A.E. Coppard writes that cultural relations between our peoples are of a reciprocal character and are developing thanks to the profound feelings which are stirred by the works of the great classics, such as Shakespeare, Dickens, Shaw, Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Turgenev and Chekhov. He mentions also other great names: Gogol, Pushkin, Gorky....

Free Exchange of Films:

The Soviet cinema-goers welcome pictures produced in other countries. Italian, French, British, Japanese and other films have been successfully demonstrated in the U.S.S.R. Last year, festivals of Chinese, Indian, Hungarian and Polish films were held in the U.S.S.R. In the course of January-March of the present year, festivals of films produced in the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia were organised in the U.S.S.R., and special evenings dedicated to the cinematographic art of Argentina and Mexico were held in Moscow.

MUSIC AND DRAMA

The foreign musical culture and drama are well represented on the Soviet stage, on the platforms of concert halls and in the performances of amateur art ensembles. There is no need of enumerating all the classical and modern music, as well as the classic and modern plays which are performed in the U.S.S.R. Suffice it to say that the repertoire of every large theatre in the country includes foreign plays, just as foreign musical

Cultural Ties: (Contd.)

compositions are included in the repertoires of all Soviet opera houses and symphony orchestras.

It is also well known how often Soviet theatrical companies, groups of artists and individual masters of art tour foreign countries and how frequent are the visits paid to the U.S.S.R. by theatres, song and dance ensembles, concert groups and soloists from foreign lands.

Soviet audiences evince a keen interest in foreign music, theatrical and folk art. Frequently, the works performed by foreign guests are subsequently included in the repertoire of Soviet theatres and orchestras and are successfully performed on the stage in many cities of the Soviet Union.

Soviet Sport Flourishes:

The international sport connections of the Soviet Union are being extended on an unprecedented scale. There is hardly a day in the year on which Soviet sportsmen are not to be found abroad, or foreign sportsmen in the Soviet Union. On the stadiums and in swimming pools, on the rings and tennis courts, during international sports contests and comradely sports meetings, the spirit of mutual understanding and comradely solidarity between the sportsmen of the Soviet Union and those of foreign countries is strengthened, and their skills improved.

Speaking of the international cultural relations of the Soviet Union, we should also like to mention the numerous industrial exhibitions, expositions of folk art and photographic displays which are successfully exchanged between the Soviet Union and a number of foreign countries every year. We may also point to the interchange of exhibitions of paintings and sculptures; to the collections of Western and Eastern art in Soviet museums; to the research work of Soviet scholars and postgraduates dedicated to the culture of foreign countries; to the works of Soviet artists portraying the life and customs of other peoples, and many other things. We had no intention of covering in this article the whole of the varied and extensive cultural relations of the Soviet Union, carried on by different Soviet state and public organizations. We have outlined only some of the basic forms of these contacts and cited a few facts by way of illustration.

Soviet Culture is Not Isolated:

But even that is sufficient to get a clear idea of the true worth of the anti-Soviet fabrications spread by reactionary circles, hostile to the U.S.S.R., and by the press in their service, regarding the "self-isolation of Soviet culture" and its "contempt" for the cultures of other peoples, etc.

This spring, the Soviet Government has resolved to hand



Cultural Ties: (contd.)

over to the German Democratic Republic all the pictures belonging to the Dresden Art Gallery, which were saved by the Soviet Army when fighting on the territory of Germany, and which have been kept in the U.S.S.R. This act of a truly friendly concern for the interests of German people is another convincing proof of the Soviet peoples' profound respect for the monuments of world culture.

Honest People Approve:

The Soviet Union's sincere aspiration for peace and friendship between nations, its efforts to relax international tension, to maintain good-neighbourly relations with all countries based on the principle of equality and non-interference in their internal affairs and respect for the sovereign rights of other nations meets with the support and approval of all honest people throughout the world. The fraternal friendship and all-round co-operation of the peoples of the Soviet Union with the great Chinese Peoples' Republic and the Peoples' Democracies of Europe and Asia are being strengthened and extended from day to day. We are fully justified in saying that no objective obstacles exist in the way of extending and consolidating international cultural relations between the Soviet people and the peoples of the capitalist countries. The Soviet Union is anxious to develop such co-operation, for it will undoubtedly be of mutual benefit and serve the cause of peace and security of nations throughout the world.

Recently our Society together with a large number of other organisations was subjected to a police raid, allegedly investigating for sedition and treason. Here follows an extract from our statement of protest to the local daily press, which did not see fit to publish our statement.

"The aims of our Society, as has been repeatedly made public, are concerned exclusively with the promotion of improved relationships in the fields of culture, trade and other related fields between the people of South Africa and the USSR.

We are convinced that, particularly since the meeting of the heads of the "Big Four" powers at Geneva, these aims will be fully shared by every thinking citizen as the only sensible and possible alternative to a frightful world conflict.

We shall not be intimidated by the raids, but shall continue our efforts to build bridges of friendship and understanding in the cause of world peace. We call on all men and women of goodwill to assist us in these efforts. In the name of the deepest interests of the people of South Africa, we call upon the Union Government to end its campaign of petty persecution against our Society, and instead to play its own part in what is today widely recognised as the most important task facing all statesmen - the relaxation of international tension and the building up of peaceful co-existence and mutual confidence between "East" and "West".

FILM REVIEW

ROMEO & JULIET

Correspondence



Dear Sir,

Mr C.S. McLean, the technical director and deputy chairman of an important mining house, stated in the press at the beginning of October that shaft sinking in South Africa had reached a record standard of efficiency, and that there is nothing in the world to compare with it. He was referring to the world record for shaft sinking achieved at the Monarch Shaft of the West Rand Consolidated Mine, where 763 feet was sunk during September. This bettered the previous record of 667 feet by 96 feet.

However, this gentleman was quite obviously unaware of the fact that a Soviet mining crew had achieved a sinking depth of 662 feet in one month in the Kalinin Mine of the Donbas coal field early in 1955, and in all probability have bettered this figure since. This record breaking achievement was widely publicised in the Soviet press at the time.

It is unfortunate that Mr McLean did not know of this, and it seems obvious that our mining industry whilst maintaining a high technical standard, would be able to do even better if there were some exchange of views and information with its Soviet counterpart.

Perhaps an interchange of visits between the West Rand Consolidated Mine and the Kalinin Mine sinking crews would do much to benefit the mining techniques and skills of both.

Yours sincerely,

"Engineer"

Our Society has been proud to present the outstanding Soviet Film "Romeo and Juliet" as part of its celebrations marking the 38th anniversary of the USSR. The film drew a glowing compliment from the film critic of the Sunday Times- "It had clear untrammelled beauty, and was poetic and lyrical in its unobtrusive, almost austere, presentation".

The opening sequence, the quarrel between Montague and Capulet retainers growing into a tremendous street battle, is fascinating and exciting. The Capulet ball is effective, and so are the carnival scenes, which show great inventiveness of direction. The death of Mercutio and the Romeo-Tybalt duel are powerfully impressive. The first meeting of Romeo and Juliet, the birth of passion and love, the marriage and the fatal parting are developed in a high romantic manner expected of the finest stage performances.

Parkhomenko's settings are somewhat disappointing. The Capulet mansion has far too many luxurious "props", and the size and colour of the roses in the garden make them look vulgar.

Such an error of detail, however, cannot destroy the film's positive qualities. Taken as a whole, it is a fine production, of inestimable value in showing countless facets of the skill of top-level Soviet dancers, and above all of Ulanova.

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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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