

ment of Socialism are expending their energy in vain, that any attempts to turn back the wheel of history and bring the people once more under the heel of capitalism are nothing but empty fantasy.

#### HISTORIC ADVANCE.

We ourselves are witnessing and are taking part in the historic advance of the people of the world who are going forward to a better life. One of the greatest events is the disintegration of the colonial system, which is taking place before our eyes.

More than 1,200 million people - half the population of the world - have been liberated from colonial dependence in the course of the recent decade. The complete abolition of the colonial system is now on the order of the day.

The peoples of all countries, progressive people throughout the world joyously greet the national liberation movement in the enslaved countries and justly regard this movement as a natural development in the advancement of mankind.

The Resolution of the 20th Congress of the C.P.S.U. reads:

"The new period of world history, foreseen by the great Lenin, has set in - the period when the peoples of the East, now taking an active part in deciding the destiny of the world, are becoming a new, powerful factor in international relations."

There is no strength on earth that can today hold up this powerful movement.

Communism and Communists do not threaten anybody with war. They have never imposed and do not want to impose their ideals and mode of life by means of force.

"Our Party," the decision of the 20th Congress reads, "takes as its starting point the invariable Leninist thesis that the establishment of a new social system in one country or another is purely a matter for the people of the given country."

#### FOREIGN POLICY.

The appeal for peace and co-operation among peoples resounded as a clarion call from the lofty rostrum of the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The preservation and strengthening of peace, peaceful co-existence on the basis of the well-known five principles - this is the most cherished wish of millions of people in all countries.

"The general line of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union," says the Resolution of the 20th Congress "was and remains the Leninist principle of peaceful co-existence of



countries with different social systems."

The Congress has instructed the new Central Committee of the C.P.S.U.:-

To steadily pursue the Leninist policy of peaceful co-existence,

To actively struggle for peace and security of the peoples,

To strengthen the bonds of fraternal friendship with the peoples of the countries of the Socialist camp,

To strengthen friendship and co-operation with the Republic of India, Burma, and with other peace-loving countries,

To pursue a vigorous policy of further improving relations with the U.S.A., Britain, France, Italy, Western Germany, Japan and other countries,

To promote and develop economic relations and extend contacts and co-operation in all spheres of culture and science.

#### NEW PLAN.

The 20th Congress of the C.P.S.U. has worked out a magnificent programme for the further upsurge of Soviet economy and culture. This programme will be looked on with joy and pride by the Soviet people and millions of working people in all countries.

The Soviet people are well aware and are firmly confident that the Directives for the Sixth Five-Year Plan, endorsed by the Congress will not remain on paper. They will be carried out in the dams spanning mighty Siberian rivers, in the energy of the atomic power plants, in new industrial enterprises, schools and theatres, they will be reflected in the material welfare and the intellectual enrichment of the Soviet man.

A magnificent, breath-taking programme! The Soviet Union is wholeheartedly greeting the historic decisions of the 20th Congress of the C.P.S.U. and is mobilising all its strength to put them into practice.

The people of the Soviet Union, like the working people of the whole world, are well aware that the Communist Party does not have and cannot have any other interests except the interests of the people, the interests of struggle for the happiness of the working man. This is precisely why the people love and support their great Party.

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FOR PEACE

and

FRIENDSHIP

PRICE 3d

39<sup>th</sup>

ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
UNION OF SOVIET  
SOCIALIST  
REPUBLICS

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

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# BRING THE CONSUL BACK!

A period of 39 years is not long in the history of any state; and yet, in spite of two wars during that period (the War of Invention and the Second World War), the Soviet Union has risen economically from one of the poorest to the second most advanced state in the world. At the present rate of development, let it be observed, she will be leading the field shortly.

Even the tragic consequence flowing from the cult of the individual did not prevent this remarkable advance; and now, of course, it should be more rapid than ever. Whilst the revelations were shocking enough, it augers well that the injustices are being admitted and faced up to. There has also been a weakening of the one-sided authority of the thousands of "Little Stalins" at lower levels, whose drive and energy played an important part in industrialisation, but whose undemocratic ways are now holding things up. The effect of the personality cult on literature is dealt with in the article "Literature under the Cult."

Cultural exchanges between the Soviet Union and other countries increased greatly over the past year. The visit of the Bolshoi Ballet to London,

as described in the letter "Bolshoi Ballet at Covent Garden", was the highlight of these exchanges.

It is painful to recall the expulsion of the Soviet Consul from our country at the beginning of this year. This unwarranted action is strongly deplored as an assault on the generally accepted need for a policy of peaceful co-existence. All supporters of our Society are urged to make their voices heard in the demand: "Bring the Soviet Consul Back!"

After 39 years .....

R U S S I A -  
WHAT NEXT ?

Soviet Anniversary Meeting

at the

Gandhi Hall

50 Fox Street, Johannesburg

7th November -- 7.30 p.m.

- . Rev. Douglas Thompson (Chairman)
- . Mrs. Lilian Ngoyi
- . Mr. Leslie Masina
- . Mr. Paul Joseph

S.A. Society for Peace and Friendship with the Soviet Union.



# CURTAIN DOWN

by Recent Visitor

Eighteen months ago my friends laughed heartily when I proposed Galina Ulanova and the Bolshoi Theatre Ballet Company or Sergei Obraztsov and his Puppets as a star attraction for the Johannesburg Festival. Today the proposal might be considered more seriously, for the Iron Curtain has rattled down so far that it can fairly easily be stepped over.

I spent the whole of last summer in Russia, Poland and China. During that time I was able to observe the degree of freedom a foreign visitor can enjoy in the socialist countries. For part of the time in the Soviet Union I was a member of a cultural delegation, when, naturally, we adhered to a programme of excursions and entertainments which had been drawn up to cater for our expressed wishes. Even then we had free time when we wandered at will. Later I was in Moscow by myself, studying the Soviet theatre. During that time I had an interpreter when required. For the rest I was as free and anonymous as I was in London or Istanbul. I boarded busses at random: I rode on the underground, not knowing where I was going to emerge. I went shopping and sightseeing when and where I felt like it. I went into mainline railways stations and, with roubles in my pocket, found nothing to prevent me from buying a ticket to Kiev or Sverdlovsk. I could not have been more free from surveillance or interference.

The relaxation in international tension has resulted in an increased flood of foreign delegations entering the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies: parliamentarians, scientists, farmers, artists, municipal councillors, ministers of religion - all sorts of people from all parts of the world, including the United States, have visited the Soviet Union in the past twelve months.

Calling all supporters of  
our Society!

Don't forget the  
Braaivleis & Social

to celebrate the  
39th Anniversary of the Soviet  
Union

to be held at:  
46a African Street, Orchards  
on Saturday, 10th Nov., 1956 at  
7 p.m.

I am convinced - despite the regrettable closing of the Soviet Consulate in Pretoria - that any group of South Africans, no matter what their politics, who are interested in studying some aspect of Soviet life, would here and now be eagerly welcomed as guests of the Soviet people. (How furious our members of Parliament must be with the Prime Minister for his discourtesy in not even passing on to them the invitation to spend a holiday in Russia, and



## CURTAIN DOWN (Contd)

what little trust he places on the members - he fears they would too readily see the hypocrisy of apartheid, once they saw its opposite!)

But apart from the increased number of delegations, an important indication of the détente\* is the fact that any tourist from the wide world is now free to take a Holiday in the Soviet Union. It will be a conducted tour after the style of Mr. Cook's tours, chosen by the traveller from a number of itineraries.

Other signs of the downfall of the Iron Curtain are the new agreements between Soviet and foreign airlines, which permits, for instance, B.E.A., to fly regular flights through to Moscow and the Soviet Airline to fly through to London airport.

### PLAYING TO ECSTATIC AUDIENCES.

Cultural exchanges on a commercial basis are increasing rapidly. In the last few months, for instance, David Oistrakh, the Soviet violinist, has been playing in the United States, Great Britain and other European countries. The American "Porgy and Bess" company has played to ecstatic audiences all over Russia, China and Poland. The Moiseyev Dance Ensemble filled the 6,000 - seater Empress Hall in London for weeks (and what a show!). The London "Hamlet" company received a great ovation in Moscow the Japanese Kabuki players included the Soviet Union in their recent tour: Burmese, Indian and French artists have all performed for Soviet audiences.

### SOVIET JET OVER HIMALAYAS.

A Soviet TU-104 jet airliner arrived in Delhi on October 18 on a test flight Moscow-Tashkent-Delhi-Rangoon.

On the route Tashkent-Delhi flying conditions were good and the airliner flew at a speed of 670 miles an hour.

The TU-104 flew at an altitude of between 29,500 to 34,500 feet over the highest mountain range in the world, the Himalayas. The flight from Moscow to Delhi took eight hours.

Two months ago arrangements were made for London and Moscow symphony orchestras to exchange visits. In October Ulanova and the Bolshoi Theatre Ballet are going to Covent Gardens, while Fonteyn and the Sadlers Wells Ballet are going to the Bolshoi. Foreign films are increasingly being shown in the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, just as their films are being more generally released in the West. Last autumn there was an interchange of British and Soviet Children's Art Exhibitions. Muscovites listen in to the B.B.C. and Radio France and it is the accepted thing for young people

\* détente = cessation of strained relations between States



CURTAIN DOWN (Concluded)

to dance to British dance music, broadcast from London.

In the past year or so the USSR has joined a number of international organisations from which she has previously held aloof, for example, the World Health Organisation, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the United Nations Educational and Scientific Organisation and the Olympic Games. Russian and other socialist countries have competed more and more in open sporting events in other countries. According to the British press, the atomic scientists, meeting at Geneva last August, were amazed and delighted at the Soviet's unrestricted display of their atomic research results.

I have heard it said that Russia's interest in a further relaxation of international tension is a stratagem to infiltrate into the Western countries. I can only express the sincere opinion I gained from direct and free contact with the Soviet people: namely, that men and women, who have suffered so terribly from the devastation and horrors of modern war, as the Russians did in World War II, need no ulterior motive to rationalise their repeated declaration that they really do want to co-exist in permanent peace with their fellow human beings.

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LET'S MEET AT THE  
BRAAI -  
SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> NOV;

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# VICTORY on the GRAIN FRONT

The news of two big victories in the great nation-wide battle for grain has just been published, and the Soviet people have welcomed it with great satisfaction and justifiable pride.

By October 10, collective and state farms of the Russian Federation had delivered and sold to the state 32,300,000 tons of grain or 5,143,000 tons more than the target of the state plan. At the same time, collective and state farms of the Kazakh S.S.R. had delivered 16,127,000 tons of grain, which is 6,480,000 tons more than the planned target.

A wonderful victory! Its importance can be seen clearly when we remember that only three years ago the total annual grain deliveries for all the Soviet Union amounted to 32,400,000 tons.

Of course, the victory was not won easily. The Government allocated huge sums of money for the cultivation of the virgin soil and sent to the East big numbers of various machines. The conquerors of the virgin soil who came to the arid steppes of feather grass, came across many difficulties and weathered many trials.

Further successes in this decisive branch of agricultural production will mean that in the shortest possible time there will be an abundance of food products for the people as well as raw materials for industry.



# Bolshoi Ballet

## AT CONVENT GARDEN

A friend in London who attended the first performance by the Bolshoi Ballet at Covent Garden has written to us about her exciting experience:-

"It was a triumph; the Bolshoi and Ulanova last night proclaimed themselves as great as any one had hoped, expected, or dreamed of. The great roar of cheering that went up from Covent Garden as the curtain descended on the first act of "Romeo and Juliet" proclaimed this one of the great occasions in Covent Garden history. The ballet was on a grand scale, with vast, sombre scenes of gold and brown and dull red, set in the ancient city of Verona. Shakespeare's tragedy was transformed into a new magic, the poetry of words into the poetry of motion.

"Covent Garden lifted its head in excitement at this fresh wind which came with the Bolshoi's first appearance in England. Ulanova shed many of her 47 years and was like a leaf blown on that wind in her incredible pirouettes. At the end of the first act she took two curtain calls, looking slightly bewildered while the audience clapped and roared their delight for several minutes.

"Thousands surged round Covent Gardens before the show started. Black marketeers were demanding £5 for 6s. 6d. tickets."



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From the Secretary.

- |     |   |                       |     |
|-----|---|-----------------------|-----|
| (1) | "The Bolshoi Theatre Ballet":<br>A beautiful art book with<br>drawings ideal for framing. | 124 pages<br>12" x 9" | 7/6 |
| (2) | "Ulanova"   | 112 pages             | 5/- |
| (3) | "Galina Ulanova"  | 32 pages<br>12" x 9"  | 5/- |
| (4) | "Galina Ulanova, The making of<br>a Ballerina"  | 24 pages              | 2/9 |
| (5) | "Maya Plisetskaya";   | 32 pages              | 1/6 |
| (6) | "Raissa Kruchkova";   | 32 pages              | 1/6 |

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# SUEZ - A Concession Cancelled

by Milton Twist

A hornet's nest has been raised in world affairs over the nationalisation of the Suez Canal. The Soviet Union sees it as a new and legitimate stage in Egypt's fight for national independence, and consequently sees no cause for all the fuss.

After the Second World War, when the movement for ending foreign occupation sharply intensified in Egypt, the Soviet Union gave firm support to Egyptian national aspirations. As early as 1946, the Soviet delegation at the United Nations General Assembly raised the question of the withdrawal of foreign armed forces from the territory of other countries. In the following year, during the Security Council's discussion of the Egyptian demand for the withdrawal of British Troops from the Canal Zone where they had been for the last 70 years, the Soviet representative stressed that this demand was legitimate and justified. President Nasser recently acknowledged: "After the Second World War we felt the Soviet Union helped us. It supported us every time our freedom was infringed in the United Nations.

NO AGREE- Suez has been nation-  
MENT VIO- alised but the USSR  
LATES does not accuse  
Egypt of violating  
any international agreements.  
She states categorically that  
all Egypt has done was to can-  
cel a concession to an Egypt-

ian company, the Suez Canal Company, which had twelve more years to run. It is noted that Colonel Nasser has pledged his country to uphold the 1888 Convention and its guarantees.

Egypt is assessed as playing the role in the international arena of an Arab state which opposes aggressive military blocs and intervention in the internal affairs of the Arab Countries. The Baghdad Pact is regarded both by the Soviet Union and Egypt as an aggressive military pact. Gamal Abdel Nasser has branded the Baghdad Pact as a prison for the Middle East.

Soviet-Egyptian political relations are obviously very cordial. These two countries can serve as models of how to practice peaceful co-existence. No-one would care to describe Colonel Nasser as a Socialist or a Communist. So here we have two countries, with greatly differing political systems, living in the closest of harmony with each other. Quite naturally this has led in turn to cordial trade and cultural relations.

HELP WITH  
ATOMIC  
REACTOR.

Egypt is being assisted to develop the peaceful use of atomic energy. In addition to Egyptian physicists going to the Soviet Union for further training and joint research, Egypt will be helped to build an experimental 2,000 killewatt atomic reactor.

Under the terms of the trade agree-  
(continued Next Page, Column 2)



# LITERATURE under the "CULT"

by - BOOKWORM -

The Stalin personality cult penetrated into literature as it did into all public affairs. In fact literature itself helped to spread it.

The tendency to varnish and prettify reality began to creep into Soviet literary productions in the second half of the "thirties". Influenced by the atmosphere of the cult of the individual, many writers began to overlook the negative aspects and hardships of Soviet Life.

The love of dogma and doctrine engendered by the personality cult had an adverse effect upon Soviet literature. Instead of carrying out its sacred duty of studying and comprehending the manifold phenomena of life, it all too often contented itself with illustrating generalities. The depiction of history and of life, the portrayal of individual characters was in such cases trimmed to fit a set pattern.

## SPEAK IN STOCK PHRASES.

The function of art is to study life in its eternal process of development, in its eternal newness. The author who forgets this (and there were some who did) cannot produce a true work of art, but only another book in which the characters will stand in their allotted places, with the "ideal heroes" necessarily triumphing over stereotyped "villains". The authors of such books neither take the trouble to think for themselves nor allow their characters any individual traits; they prefer to think and speak in stock phrases.

The laudation and exaltation of Stalin became widespread in literature. Some books belittled the role of the people, ascribing to Stalin achievements for which the credit was rightly due to the people. Literature

Remember GANDHI HALL. 7th

slackened its attention to the life of ordinary Soviet men and women.

### SUEZ: A CONCESSION CANCELLED, Continued from Page 6.

ment of March 27, 1954, the Soviet Union is supplying Egypt with industrial equipment, tractors, agricultural machinery, motor vehicles, iron and steel products, oil products, timber, grain and pharmaceutical goods. Egypt is sending the Soviet Union cotton, rice, artificial silk, yarn, leather and hides.

The exchange of groups of cultural workers and sportsmen is also promoting friendship between the two countries.

All in all, Soviet-Egyptian relations are of a kind which one wishes would exist between all states. This is surely worth working towards, for therein lies the hope of realising peace on mother earth.



## LITERATURE UNDER THE CULT (Contd.)

This tendency to paint things in a rosy light, to be merely illustrative brought forth no few dull, standardised novels, plays and poems. The search for new artistic forms and means of depicting reality was relaxed. Critics lowered their aesthetic standards and began to judge a book by its author's intent, by his subject-matter.

### EXAMINE THE MAIN TREND

It would be wrong to run down all Soviet Literature of the last two decades and pronounce it wholly "spoiled" by the personality cult. This becomes evident when one examines the main trend in Soviet literature.

In the pre-war years Soviet literature did not conceal the contradictions and difficulties of life; the dramatic and complex nature of the struggle and the Soviet people were waging was faithfully depicted. One need only reread one of the books published in 1938 "Tanker 'Derbent" by Y. Krymov.

#### RECENT MEASURES

It is only a few months since the historic 20th Congress of the C.P.S.U. It can already be seen how the measures decided on by the Congress are being carried out.

- On March 10 the working day was cut by two hours on Saturdays and on days before public holidays.
- The Supreme Soviet has adopted a new law on State pensions considerably improving the position in this sphere.
- Paid maternity leave has been extended from 77 to 112 days.
- Fees for education in the higher classes of secondary schools and in higher education have been abolished
- The six-hour day has been introduced for youths of 16 to 18 and their wages will be as for a full working day for adult workers.

Portraying mechanic Basov as an advanced type of Soviet man and describing the heroic action of the "Derbent" crew Krymov avoids all affectation and embellishment. His characters are as ordinary as can be. The crew starts out as an indifferant, backward body of men; the plant management is conservative.

This book is by no means an exception to the rule. The unvarnished truth and profound understanding of the march of history are to be found in Makarenko's "The Road to Life", Gladkov's "Energy", Tvardovsky's "The Country of Miravia" and many other books of the same period, all dealing with burning problems of the day.

#### HONEST DEPICTION.

The war with fascism was also for the most part described without affectation, in its true colour. Who does not remember the articles of Alexei Tolstoy and Ilya Ehrenburg about the danger threat



## LITERATURE UNDER THE CULT (Concluded)

ening Moscow, the poems by Olga Berggolts and Nocolai Tikhonov about the seige of Leningrad, the sketches of Konstantin Simonov and Vasili Grossman about the defence of Stalingrad? In the autumn of 1942, when the fascists were making their big push on the Volga, "Pravda" published Korneichuk's play "Front" with its straight forward analysis of the reasons for the temporary setbacks of the Soviet Army and its criticism of backward military leaders and their entourage of ignorant and fawning people.

Without losing faith in victory for a single moment, Soviet literature depicted the war profoundly and veraciously.

The tendency to varnish reality was definitely most evident in post-war literature. But even in this period in its main trend Soviet Literature followed the path of realism, the path of truth and kinship with the people; it did not go back on its finest traditions. And this not only in books about the war or in historical novels, but also in books about postwar life. One may like or dislike Pavlenko's "Happiness", but it cannot be denied that the grave aftermath of war, the difficulties involved in reconversion, the troubles of the invalided Voropeyev are courageously and objectively presented in it. Galina Nikolayeva's "Harvest" may be criticised for its occasional idyllic pictures and poor characterisations, but the Herculean task of rehabilitating a collective farm, the personal drama of the Bortnikovs, the complex processes by which people change and develop are drawn with complete realism.

The creative talent of Sholokhov, Alexei Tolstoy and others of the older generation have today flowered and revealed new facets of honest and talented new writers, some of whom are mentioned above, a whole legion has appeared. These writers have achieved much for the multi-national literatures of the Soviet Union.

### PHILADELPHIA CONGRESS

A few days ago a delegation of Soviet scientists returned from the Fifth International Congress of Anthropologists and Ethnographers held in Philadelphia from September 1 to 9.

Dr. Potekhin, leader of the delegation, had this to say on his return:

We found that there are many problems of common interest to both Soviet and American scientists. At the same time we could not accept the point of view of our American colleagues on a series of questions concerning methods used. The majority of American ethnographers denied the theory of progress. They recognised changes but denied progress.



# AMERICAN JUDGE HURLS CHARGES OF COLONIALISM AGAINST USSR

Recently Justice William O. Douglas of the Supreme Court of the United States visited the Soviet Union, and on his return he sent a letter to the editor of "Look" in which he hurled the charge of Colonialism against the Soviet Union and alleged that in Central Asia the national sentiments of the people are ruthlessly stifled, that the leading posts in industry are held by Russians, the discrimination and segregation are practiced, and there are separate schools and courts for the Russians in the Republics and so on. "Look" published his letter but when four prominent Justices of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Court replied to these charges, "Look" refused to publish them. We print hereunder the major portion of

what "LOOK" refused to publish

Mr. Douglas was a visitor to the Soviet Union and even from his article it can be seen that he moved about freely and talked freely to our people. Why then has he so clearly and deliberately distorted the truth?

## THE FACTS:

During the Soviet regime, many industrial enterprises, including steel mills and machine-manufacturing plants, have been built in the Central Asian Republics. Today, in this territory where some seventeen million people live, three times more electric power is produced than in Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan put together, whose combined population is 160 million. Mr. Douglas himself admits that Soviet Central Asia has a miscellaneous group of factories producing goods from agricultural implements to machine tools. Where, in what colonial country, could Mr. Douglas find such things?

Would it not be more correct to admit the truth which is corroborated by facts well known to Mr. Douglas? For it is true that it was precisely as members of the family of Soviet peoples that the Central Asian Republics, which were once backward agrarian regions, have become industrial and agrarian countries!

## CONTRADICTS HIMSELF:

Mr. Douglas writes that "Russians dominate" industrial plants in the Central Asian Republics. This domination is expressed, according to him, in that Russians allegedly hold the more important posts in all plants while the people of the country do the unskilled work. But Mr. Douglas himself has admitted that "there are Kazakh engineers, Uzbek foremen, Kirghiz supervisors, Turkmen mechanics and Tajik managers". We shall only supplement here what Mr. Douglas has said.



In the Tajik S.S.R., for instance, the director of the Leninabad silk mills, one of the largest in the U.S.S.R. is A. Masidov, a Tajik. The head of the Kazakh Petroleum Corporation is S. Utebayev, a Kazakh, and the head of the Turkmen Petroleum Corporation is Dadashev, a Turkmen. The chief engineer of a pit operated by the Uzbek Coal Trust is Mavashev, an Uzbek. Any number of other examples could be cited.

#### ENJOY THE SAME RIGHTS AS OTHER NATIONALITIES:

The truth is that Russians living in the Central Asian Republics also work at industrial enterprises, and they receive the same pay and enjoy the same rights as do members of other nationalities there. When Mr. Douglas asserts that Russians get more pay than members of other nationalities do for the same work, he is just misinforming his readers.

#### VAST CULTURAL PROGRESS:

Could such vast cultural progress have been made in the Republics of Central Asia if there were colonialism there, as alleged by Mr. Douglas? He himself has felt constrained to admit that medical care is universally provided in Central Asia, and the doctors, hospital attendants and nurses in those Republics are Uzbek, Tajik, Kazakh, Turkmen and Kirghiz men and women. Every year sees more educational establishments opened in the Central Asian Republics where before the Revolution there were very few literate people; and instruction there is in the national languages of the Central Asian peoples. There are no separate schools for Russians in Central Asia. Discrimination and segregation are alien to the very nature of the Soviet State.

The following fact alone is enough to show how much the cultural standards of the people in the Central Asian Republics have risen: in the Turkmen Republic alone 80 odd newspapers and magazines are published there in a mixed language -- half Persian and half Turkic -- and Turkmen people did not understand it.

Academies of sciences, with their many scientific research institutes, have been opened and are functioning in the Central Asian Republics. The President of the Academy of Sciences of the Kirghiz S.S.R. is Prof. I. Akhumbayev, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the U.S.S.R., a Kirghiz by nationality; the rector of the Kirghiz University is B. Jamgirchiyev, Doctor of Historical Science, a Kirghiz, and the rector of the Tajik University is Academician Narzykulov, a Tajik.

#### CREATED THEIR OWN NATIONAL OPERAS AND BALLETS:

Mr. Douglas himself attests that "I saw Kirghiz ballerinas, who had been trained in Moscow, performing in Frunze with a skill that would put even the Bolshoi artists in Moscow on their mettle." Composers of the Central Asian Republics have created national operas and ballets for the first time in the history of the people of those Republics.



Do not all these attainments of the peoples of Central Asia in the sphere of culture and art show that the Russians respect the national culture, traditions and sentiments of these peoples?

Mr. Douglas asserts that all economic and political questions which concern the Central Asian Republics are decided in Moscow and the Republics merely carry out Moscow's orders.

TAKING A DIRECT PART IN SOLVING ALL STATE PROBLEMS:

Mr. Douglas evidently does not know that the Uzbek S. Rashidov, the Turkmen A. Sarayev, the Tajik N. Dodhudayev, the Kirghiz T. Kulatov, and the Kazakh Zh. Pashenov are Vice-Presidents of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. Neither does he say anything about the fact that 147 members of the nationalities of Central Asia have been elected deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. and take a direct part in solving all state problems in the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, which is the country's highest organ of power.

It is a truly startling discovery that Mr. Douglas has made, judging by his statement, that there are special courts for the trial of Russians in Central Asia. There are no separate courts for Russians or members of other nationalities living in the Central Asian Republics. Mr. Douglas himself has admitted that the majority of the judges there come from the local population. To that we may add that judicial proceedings in the U.S.S.R. are conducted in the language of the Union or Autonomous Republic or Autonomous Region concerned, and persons who do not know those languages are provided every possibility of acquainting themselves with the material pertaining to the case through an interpreter, and they also have the right to speak in court in their own tongue.

INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET PRESS:

Following his tour of Central Asia, Mr. Douglas told correspondents of the Soviet press in an interview that when people have themselves seen the things they talk about, they write the truth. We can only regret that Mr. Douglas has acted in clear contradiction of his declaration.

Respectfully yours,

c/o Supreme Court of  
the U.S.S.R.  
15, Vorovsky Street,  
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Justices of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Court  
Usman ABDURAKHMANOV (Uzbek S.S.R.)  
Halmamed PIRLIYEV (Turkmen S.S.R.)  
Mastibek RADJABEKOV (Tajik S.S.R.)  
Abdykasyym SUPATAYEV (Kirghiz S.S.R.)



## THE DEMONSTRATIONS IN POLAND .

From information now available it is clear that the demonstrations have not been of an anti-Soviet nature. The great mass movement sweeping Poland is one for democratisation and friendship with the Soviet Union on equal terms. It appears that the government has been guilty of bureaucracy and suffered from the tendency to seek its policy in Moscow. The Polish people aim to correct these faults. Their demonstrations are directed essentially <sup>against</sup> these faults of the Polish government.

Mr. W. Gomulka, recently returned to power in Poland, urged the people to give a firm rebuff to the whisperings and voices aimed at weakening their friendship with the Soviet Union. He also said: "Anyone who thinks he can unleash anti-Soviet feelings in Poland is deeply mistaken".

The chairman of the Warsaw City Council, ex-General Zarzycki, stated that Soviet troops were in Poland on the basis of the Warsaw Pact Military Treaty only. Whilst there were British, French and other troops in Western Germany, there would be Soviet troops in Poland. These Soviet troops have not been active in Poland during the present period.

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## EVENTS IN HUNGARY .

Unfortunately press reports on recent events in Hungary have been too contradictory to make a proper assessment of the situation possible.

The Society will, however, pass on what worthwhile information it receives in its next issue of the bulletin.



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ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
UNION OF SOVIET  
SOCIALIST  
REPUBLICS

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

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## BRING THE CONSUL BACK!

A period of 39 years is not long in the history of any state; and yet, in spite of two wars during that period (the War of Invention and the Second World War), the Soviet Union has risen economically from one of the poorest to the second most advanced state in the world. At the present rate of development, let it be observed, she will be leading the field shortly.

Even the tragic consequences flowing from the cult of the individual did not prevent this remarkable advance; and now, of course, it should be more rapid than ever. Whilst the revelations were shocking enough, it augers well that the injustices are being admitted and faced up to. There has also been a weakening of the one-sided authority of the thousands of "Little Stalins" at lower levels, whose drive and energy played an important part in industrialisation, but whose undemocratic ways are now holding things up. The effect of the personality cult on literature is dealt with in the article "Literature under the Cult."

Cultural exchanges between the Soviet Union and other countries increased greatly over the past year. The visit of the Bolshoi Ballet to London,

as described in the letter "Bolshoi Ballet at Covent Garden", was the highlight of these exchanges.

It is painful to recall the expulsion of the Soviet Consul from our country at the beginning of this year. This unwarranted action is strongly deplored as an assault on the generally accepted need for a policy of peaceful co-existence. All supporters of our Society are urged to make their voices heard in the demand: "Bring the Soviet Consul Back!"

After 39 years .....

R U S S I A -  
WHAT NEXT ?

Soviet Anniversary Meeting

at the

Gandhi Hall

50 Fox Street, Johannesburg

7th November -- 7.30 p.m.

- Rev. Douglas Thompson (Chairman)
- Mrs. Lilian Ngoyi
- Mr. Leslie Masine
- Mr. Paul Joseph

S.A. Society for Peace and Friendship with the Soviet Union.



# CURTAIN DOWN

by Recent Visitor

Eighteen months ago my friends laughed heartily when I proposed Galina Ulanova and the Bolshoi Theatre Ballet Company or Sergei Obraztsov and his Puppets as a star attraction for the Johannesburg Festival. Today the proposal might be considered more seriously, for the Iron Curtain has rattled down so far that it can fairly easily be stepped over.

I spent the whole of last summer in Russia, Poland and China. During that time I was able to observe the degree of freedom a foreign visitor can enjoy in the socialist countries. For part of the time in the Soviet Union I was a member of a cultural delegation, when, naturally, we adhered to a programme of excursions and entertainments which had been drawn up to cater for our expressed wishes. Even then we had free time when we wandered at will. Later I was in Moscow by myself, studying the Soviet theatre. During that time I had an interpreter when required. For the rest I was as free and anonymous as I was in London or Istanbul. I boarded busses at random: I rode on the underground, not knowing where I was going to emerge. I went shopping and sightseeing when and where I felt like it. I went into mainline railway stations and, with roubles in my pocket, found nothing to prevent me from buying a ticket to Kiev or Sverdlovsk. I could not have been more free from surveillance or interference.

The relaxation in international tension has resulted in an increased flood of foreign delegations entering the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies: parliamentarians, scientists, farmers, artists, municipal councillors, ministers of religion - all sorts of people from all parts of the world, including the United States, have visited the Soviet Union in the past twelve months.

Calling all supporters of  
our Society!

Don't forget the  
Bravivleis & Social

to celebrate the  
39th Anniversary of the Soviet  
Union  
to be held at:  
46a African Street, Orchards  
on Saturday, 10th Nov., 1956 at  
7 p.m.

I am convinced - despite the regrettable closing of the Soviet Consulate in Pretoria - that any group of South Africans, no matter what their politics, who are interested in studying some aspect of Soviet life, would here and now be eagerly welcomed as guests of the Soviet people. (How furious our members of Parliament must be with the Prime Minister for his discourtesy in not even passing on to them the invitation to spend a holiday in Russia, and



### CURTAIN DOWN (Contd)

what little trust he places on the members - he fears they would too readily see the hypocrisy of apartheid, once they saw its opposite!)

But apart from the increased number of delegations, an important indication of the détente\* is the fact that any tourist from the wide world is now free to take a Holiday in the Soviet Union. It will be a conducted tour after the style of Mr. Cook's tours, chosen by the traveller from a number of itineraries.

Other signs of the downfall of the Iron Curtain are the new agreements between Soviet and foreign airlines, which permits, for instance, B.E.A., to fly regular flights through to Moscow and the Soviet Airline to fly through to London airport.

### PLAYING TO ECSTATIC AUDIENCES.

Cultural exchanges on a commercial basis are increasing rapidly. In the last few months, for instance, David Oistrakh, the Soviet violinist, has been playing in the United States, Great Britain and other European countries. The American "Porgy and Bess" company has played to ecstatic audiences all over Russia, China and Poland. The Moiseyev Dance Ensemble filled the 6,000 - seater Empress Hall in London for weeks (and what a show!). The London "Hamlet" company received a great ovation in Moscow the Japanese Kabuki players included the Soviet Union in their recent tour: Burmese, Indian and French artists have all performed for Soviet audiences.

Two months ago arrangements were made for London and Moscow symphony orchestras to exchange visits. In October Ulanova and the Bolshoi Theatre Ballet are going to Covent Gardens, while Fonteyn and the Sadlers Wells Ballet are going to the Bolshoi. Foreign films are increasingly being shown in the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, just as their films are being more generally released in the West. Last autumn there was an interchange of British and Soviet Children's Art Exhibitions. Muscovites listen in to the B.B.C. and Radio France and it is the accepted thing for young people

### SOVIET JET OVER HIMALAYAS.

A Soviet TU-104 jet airliner arrived in Delhi on October 18 on a test flight Moscow-Tashkent-Delhi-Rangoon.

On the route Tashkent-Delhi flying conditions were good and the airliner flew at a speed of 670 miles an hour.

The TU-104 flew at an altitude of between 29,500 to 34,500 feet over the highest mountain range in the world, the Himalayas. The flight from Moscow to Delhi took eight hours.

\* détente = cessation of strained relations between States



CURTAIN DOWN (Concluded)

to dance to British dance music, broadcast from London.

In the past year or so the USSR has joined a number of international organisations from which she has previously held aloof, for example, the World Health Organisation, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the United Nations Educational and Scientific Organisation and the Olympic Games. Russian and other socialist countries have competed more and more in open sporting events in other countries. According to the British press, the atomic scientists, meeting at Geneva last August, were amazed and delighted at the Soviet's unrestricted display of their atomic research results.

I have heard it said that Russia's interest in a further relaxation of international tension is a strategem to infiltrate into the Western countries. I can only express the sincere opinion I gained from direct and free contact with the Soviet people: namely, that men and women, who have suffered so terribly from the devastation and horrors of modern war, as the Russians did in World War II, need no ulterior motive to rationalise their repeated declaration that they really do want to co-exist in permanent peace with their fellow human beings.

LET'S MEET AT THE  
BRAAI -  
SATURDAY 10 NOV;

## VICTORY on the GRAIN FRONT

The news of two big victories in the great nation-wide battle for grain has just been published, and the Soviet people have welcomed it with great satisfaction and justifiable pride.

By October 10, collective and state farms of the Russian Federation had delivered and sold to the state 32,300,000 tons of grain or 5,143,000 tons more than the target of the state plan. At the same time, collective and state farms of the Kazakh S.S.R. had delivered 16,127,000 tons of grain, which is 6,480,000 tons more than the planned target.

A wonderful victory! Its importance can be seen clearly when we remember that only three years ago the total annual grain deliveries for all the Soviet Union amounted to 32,400,000 tons.

Of course, the victory was not won easily. The Government allocated huge sums of money for the cultivation of the virgin soil and sent to the East big numbers of various machines. The conquerors of the virgin soil who came to the arid steppes of feather grass, came across many difficulties and weathered many trials.

Further successes in this decisive branch of agricultural production will mean that in the shortest possible time there will be an abundance of food products for the people as well as raw materials for industry.



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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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