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## Open Letter to the Young Communists of all Countries

*We publish in this number the open letter to the Young Communists of all countries issued by the European Conference of secretaries of the Young Communist Leagues, on the History of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of the U.S.S.R.*

*The History of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R. ought to become the text-book of every Young Communist; it ought to be in the hands of all conscious young revolutionaries and all young anti-fascists. Every organisation of Communist youth understands what value this work has for the younger generation. Thus the task of mass distribution falls upon all.*

*Already several leagues have decided upon their distribution plans and schemes of study, but the results are still very slight in comparison with the immensity of the task. There is not a minute to be lost in increasing the tempo of distribution. Let us take part in organising mass sales in the capitals, in the large provincial towns and in the remotest villages; let us go from door to door; let us increase the number of campaigns; let us create a spirit of emulation among our members and our organisations. In order to carry out our struggle well, there is no more important task than that of making widely known to our generation the glorious history of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of the U.S.S.R., the Party of Lenin and Stalin.*

**T**HE treasures of Marxism-Leninism have just been enriched by the publication of the "History of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks)" of the U.S.S.R. Edited by a commission of the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party, with the personal collaboration of Comrade Stalin, this book constitutes the greatest event in the ideological life of the revolutionary movement of our times. This work has been translated into most languages; millions of copies have already been sold and are being studied in all countries.

The History of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R. is the history of the victorious Party of Lenin and Stalin, the Party with the richest experience of revolutionary struggles, the Party which leads the first Socialist State of workers and peasants. Under its leadership, tsarism was destroyed, the capitalist system abolished, and the Government of workers and peasants established over one-sixth of the globe. Under its leadership, foreign armies, which for four years attempted



to strangle the revolution, were crushed. The agents of international capitalism and fascism, the Trotskyist-Bukharinite gang, were unmasked as a group of assassins, spies and saboteurs and punished by the justice of the people. Under the Party's leadership the Stalinist Constitution was promulgated, the most democratic constitution in the world, which records the achievements of the Soviet people and shows the way to the exploited of the whole world. Under its leadership the two first Five-Year Plans were accomplished, giving the country a socialist industry and agriculture. To-day, with the third Five-Year Plan, a country of 170,000,000 inhabitants is accomplishing the final construction of Socialism and beginning the gradual transition to Communism.

The History of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R. is the history of the Party which was and is the advance-guard of the struggle for peace.

It has played and continues to play this role, for, in the course of its activity and under all conditions, it has carried on a resolute struggle against "unjust wars, wars of conquest waged to conquer and enslave foreign countries and foreign nations." (History of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R., p. 168, English edition.)

At the same time, it has upheld and continues to uphold "just wars that are not wars of conquest, but wars of liberation waged to defend the people from foreign attack and from attempts to enslave them, or to liberate the people from capitalist slavery, or, lastly, to liberate colonies and dependent countries from the yoke of imperialism." (History of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R., pages 167/168, English edition.)

This position destroys the pacifist theory of concessions to the aggressor, the cowardly theory of "slavery is preferable to death." It provides an example for youth in heroes such as the partisan Chapaev, the leader of the Black Sea, *André Marty*, and the implacable accuser of fascism in the Leipzig trial, *Georgi Dimitroff*. The History of the Bolshevik Party tears the mask from those who are aiding and encouraging fascist aggression by their policy of non-intervention and the Munich policy.

That is why the Soviet Union is to-day the principal bulwark against wars of fascist aggression. That is why the Soviet Union is to-day the principal support of the peoples and nations fighting to keep their freedom and their independence against fascist aggressors.

The History of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R. is the history of the Party which succeeded in uniting the working class and winning to its side its natural allies, the peasantry and the urban middle classes. To achieve such unity and such alliances, the Party fought and defeated all those who fomented disruption within the ranks of the working class and the labouring masses. The principles of Lenin and Stalin which guided the Bolsheviks in their struggle for unity provide the strategic plan for the united front of the working class, for the democratic people's front.

Thus the History of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R. shows us, the youth, the elements making for success in the struggle for the unification of working-class youth, for the unity of the younger generation, for a greater participation of youth in the work for national and international unity of the working class, the condition for victorious struggle against fascism.

The History of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R. contains the essentials of Marxist-Leninist ideology.

"The study of the heroic history of the Bolshevik Party arms us with a knowledge of the laws of social development and of the political struggle, with a knowledge of the motive forces of revolution." (Introduction to the History.) It shows us how to reach unity of theory and practice, which is the basis of Marxism-Leninism, and of which the whole history of the Bolshevik Party is a brilliant example. The history of the Bolshevik Party teaches us that Marxist-Leninist theory is not a dogma, but a science, bound up with the realities of social life and, consequently, develops together with social development and is enriched with the new experiences of the working-class struggle.

The History of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R. teaches us the immense role played by Comrade Stalin at the side of Lenin in the course of preparations for revolution, in the decisive days which gave power to the working class, during the war against the armies of intervention, in the years of consolidation of Soviet power and after the death of Lenin in the victorious struggle for the construction of Socialism under conditions of capitalist encirclement and in face of the treacherous agents of the enemy.

Comrade Stalin, successor in Lenin's work, has developed and enriched Marxist-Leninist theory. He is the great guide of genius for the working class of the world, and to him go out the hearts of millions of men devoted to justice, liberty and peace.

This book, which contains the epic of the Party which has led a whole people to the realisation of what, for centuries, has been the noble dream of some few advanced minds, is destined to become the bedside book of every young Communist.

It is the powerful weapon which shows the world movement of Young Communists how to overcome its ideological weaknesses. Every Young Communist should study the history of the Party to find out the essential elements of Marxist-Leninist theory which are indispensable for a clear understanding of current problems and for solving the tasks before him. Absorption in the practical work of the Young Communist Leagues to the neglect of theory is one of the worst faults, which must at all costs be corrected. Young Communists must educate themselves ideologically if they want to become conscientious Communists and trustworthy leaders for the youth of the working class.

Study of this book should be carried out perseveringly—nothing is learnt without effort. But what a joy for every Young Communist when, as a result of that effort, his brain grasps the laws of social development, the science of Marxism-Leninism. The struggle in which he takes part will appear to him in all its greatness in relation to the struggles of generations which went before, in relation to struggles carried on by millions of other human beings in the effort to build a society, freed for ever from exploitation of man by man.

As the essential method, we recommend and encourage personal study of the History of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R.; at the same time, forms of collective study must be utilised and organised; study circles including young people of the same political level, led by qualified teachers appointed by the Communist Party; theoretical conferences scrupulously prepared; a system of reading and discussion; articles in the press on particular problems concerning the History.

Together with study, the widest possible distribution of the History of the Bolshevik Party of the U.S.S.R. must be considered a point of honour with every member of the Young Communist League. Let us develop campaigns of all kinds to distribute it among the entire anti-fascist youth. There where competition has been organised for distribution, the Young Communists must be the most active participants, the shock brigades. All local and central organisations must stake their honour on reaching agreed sales figures.

Among the student youth in capitalist countries, the History of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R. must be specially distributed in order to help them to take their place at the side of the working class, the class of progress and of the future.

The whole of the younger generation is interested in the reading and study of the History of the Bolshevik Party of the U.S.S.R., because in this book it will find the answer to the problems which it raises desperately at a period when the forces of obscurantism are trying to destroy hope in a future of human brotherhood.

Thanks to the Party of Lenin and Stalin, Soviet youth has found the solution to the problems of the present and the future. It does not know unemployment; before it the paths of science and progress are opening widely. It is ready, at any instant, to defend with unparalleled heroism the conquests of the Revolution and the sacred territory of the fatherland. The radiant life of Soviet youth illuminates the way for the younger generation in the capitalist countries in their struggle for happiness. It is the crowning achievement of the monumental work carried out by the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of the U.S.S.R.

In the light of the History of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of the U.S.S.R., every Young Communist, every young anti-fascist, will find new and powerful stimulus for his struggle, his faith in victory, his love for and confidence in our great Stalin and the country of Socialism. Sacrifices in the struggle will seem to him a duty which one accepts enthusiastically for the great ideal of Communism which opens up to youth the hope of the future and the certainty of a new world.

*The European Conference of Young Communist Leagues at Paris, the 12th and 13th June, 1939.*



## Campaign of the Y.C.L. of Great Britain for the Study of the History of the C.P.S.U. (B.)

THE publication of the *History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks)* has given a tremendous impetus to the desire among the youth of Britain for collective education and self-education in Marxist-Leninist theory. Never has any book received such a warm welcome or taken such a firm hold of youth.

The Eleventh National Conference of the Y.C.L., in its resolution on education, correctly summed up the thoughts of all its members who had read the *History*. "Our generation is fortunate indeed, in that now every young worker who wishes to study Socialism and play some part in the battle for the liberation of mankind from all forms of exploitation and oppression, may be guided from the beginning by the *History of the Party of Lenin and Stalin*."

A nineteen-year old apprentice compositor from the East End of London has expressed his impressions of the *History* in the following words:

"Reading the *History of the C.P.S.U. (B.)* is a step in one's life that can, perhaps, be termed a landmark. Not in the sense that all one has to do is to open the covers and read, but because it contains such lessons, such rich experiences, that if one reads and assimilates these lessons and experiences, it must have the effect of a tremendous stimulus to the thoughts and actions of the reader."

One of the results of the *History of the C.P.S.U. (B.)* is to impress upon every young reader a deeper conviction of the victory of Socialism. A young worker from Clydebank, Scotland, writes that "the book shows any person that capitalism can be replaced by Socialism."

At a time when the reactionary leaders of the Labour Movement are making strenuous efforts to strait-jacket the Labour Youth within the irksome limits of an organisation restricted to electioneering and social activities, the *History of the C.P.S.U. (B.)* is showing the youth of Britain the Bolshevik path of combining theory and practice, education with participation in the struggles of the workers. Writing on this point, a young London worker notes that "often a statement of Lenin's has cropped up, namely, that the mass of people will gain true socialist understanding only in the course of their experiences in the bitter class struggle against capitalist exploitation and oppression. At last the truth of this has been proven, for me, in the stirring pages of the *History of the C.P.S.U. (B.)*."

Nor are the young readers of the *History* slow to draw practical conclusions for the improvement of our organisation and activities. For example, a 17-year old woodworker writes:

"One of the main lessons for our youth movement to be drawn from the *History* is the importance Lenin attached to the establishment of a political newspaper."

He then links this with the need for greater support to the *Challenge* campaign.

These few extracts illustrate the profound impression the *History of the Bolshevik Party* makes on all who read it. Unfortunately there are still many in the Y.C.L. who do not understand that it is just the book that tens and hundreds of thousands of youth are searching for, a book that shows them the only way out of the terrible conditions of exploitation and oppression with which they are afflicted. There are still many who are quite satisfied if the *History of the C.P.S.U. (B.)* is read by the select few whom they consider the "best" or "more advanced" members of their Y.C.L. branch. Such people have themselves learnt

nothing from the *History* and stand in the way of others learning from it.

An excellent answer to such incorrigible sectarians is provided by the example of one small boys' school. In this small school of 80 boys the Y.C.L. group placed a copy of the *History* in the school reading room. The interest was so great that 20 out of the 80 boys bought copies, while even more read the book and attended study circles.

To encourage branches and members in selling the *History*, the educational department of the Y.C.L. is organising a competition and offering as prizes copies of *Soviet Communism* by Sydney and Beatrice Webb.

Another expression of this entirely false and sectarian estimation of both the *History* and the capacity of youth to learn, is seen sometimes in the argument that the study of the *History* is "too difficult" for "ordinary" members, who must first go through this, that or the other preliminary courses.

However, this attitude is being broken down, and the insistence of the members themselves is overcoming the objections of such "superior" people.

An indication of the improvement in the educational work of the Y.C.L. branches may be seen from the fact that 50 per cent of the League branches have appointed and registered with the Central Educational Department their branch education secretaries. Of course, the fact that 50 per cent of the branches have still to take this simple step indicates how much has yet to be done. All branches which appoint and register with the Central Education Department their branch education secretary receive free a copy of a "Handbook" which has been most helpful in improving educational work in the branches.

A Lecture Outline on "What we can learn from the *History of the C.P.S.U. (B.)*" has been used in many branches as the basis for open lectures to popularise the book and prepare for classes. However, very many branches have still not taken this elementary step.

In practically every district, week-end schools for leading members of the *History of the C.P.S.U. (B.)* have been carried through. The main concentration now is on completing four-lesson classes in all branches for the branch committee members and selected leading comrades.

While *Challenge* has carried quite a number of articles popularising the *History*, even more interesting is the way in which the *History* has been utilised in a series of discussion articles. For example, it has been used most effectively in articles which discussed the standpoint of Christian Youth on social problems.

Little has been done to encourage and assist comrades in self-study of the *History*, but, in part at least, this is now being remedied. Full use will be made of the correspondence course of Marx-House. Under this scheme comrades receive each month a guide to the study of a section of the *History* and submit an essay answering certain questions which are put.

While all of this shows a certain progress in the educational work of the Y.C.L., based on the study of the *History of the C.P.S.U. (B.)* it also shows quite clearly how weak this work still is.

### NOTICE

Until further notice all subscriptions and communications for "World Youth Review" should be sent to Central Publications 16 King Street, Covent Garden London, W.C.2.



## United Front and Youth

# Message from the Soviet Youth to the Youth of Spain

IT is with indignation that we have learned through the *Komsomolskaya Pravda* that the enemies of anti-fascist unity who have penetrated into the leadership of the Socialist Youth International are preparing treachery—the expulsion of the Young Socialist Youth of Spain from the ranks of the Y.S.I. This infamous deed cannot fail to rouse decent people throughout the world. We do not doubt for an instant that our feeling of anger is shared by millions of Soviet youth and the younger generation of anti-fascists in all countries.

We have faith and we know that the struggle of the Spanish people against fascism is not ended. In persistent and heroic struggles, the United Socialist Youth has been and remains an immense and unconquerable force against the enemy.

So the agents of Franco are trying by every means in their power to break the militancy of Spanish anti-fascist youth. In Spain itself, the fascist butchers unleash a wave of terror and flood the country with blood. In France, a so-called democracy, thousands of young Spanish champions in the struggle for independence have been thrown into concentration camps, subjected to inhuman martyrdom and unheard-of tortures.

It is quite evident that the enemies of unity who are working within the leadership of the Y.S.I. are in league with Franco agents.

These cowards, traitors to the cause of democracy, progress and liberty, arouse sublime indignation, hatred and contempt in our minds.

For three years the youth of the world united their forces to

help the Spanish Republic. The best representatives of this youth have spilt their blood on many fronts and sacrificed their lives in the cause of the Spanish people. Under fire and beneath the banner of struggle for effective help for the Spanish people, unity was forged between the advanced youth of all countries.

We are convinced that in the harshest hour of trial now upon the Spanish people, the younger generation and anti-fascists throughout the world will have enough strength and enough courage to unmask the traitors and check the miserable activity of the disruptionists within the Y.S.I. and the Second International.

The struggle against fascism demands unbreakable unity in the ranks of working-class youth. This unity is greater to-day than ever. We hope that anti-fascist youth will know how to safeguard its unity of struggle.

Long live international anti-fascist unity of the young generation!

Long live the heroic and glorious youth of Spain, lovers of liberty!

*Tatiana Feodorova*, deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., hero of the Soviet Union; *P. Desnitski*; *S. Mikhalkov*, writer, hero of the Soviet Union; *M. Raskova*; *A. Yakovlev*, construction-engineer, test pilot; *E. Mednikova*, laureate of international contests, violinist; *Boris Goldstein*; *Z. Troitskaia*, chief of the Moscow district railways; *G. Znamenski*, sports leader, ballet artist at the Great Academic Theatre of the U.S.S.R.; *O. Lepechinskaia*.

## The Glorious United Youth of Spain

### The U.S.Y.S. Shamefully Attacked by the Enemies of Unity, is Strong in the Support of All Anti-Fascist Youth.

It is with profound indignation that the anti-fascist youth of the whole world has learned the intention of the leadership of the Socialist Youth International to exclude from its ranks the glorious United Socialist Youth of Spain.

Does it reproach them with having achieved, against the fascist rebellion, unity of the anti-fascist and revolutionary youth of Spain? Does it reproach them with having achieved, against the foreign invasion, national unity of all Spanish youth? Does it reproach them with having succumbed to the blows of Hitler and Mussolini, so well aided by "non-intervention"? Does it reproach them with having succumbed to the blows of the Casadist treachery? If it is that, then let the Socialist Youth International, at its Congress of Lille, turn against others, but not against the glorious struggle led by the U.S.Y.S. against defeatists and traitors.

Does it reproach them for having wanted to continue the fight in spite of temporary defeat, and with that object, does it think it can isolate them while Franco is assassinating the best of their militants? Does it reproach with having for 32 months, obstructed and retarded the plans of international Fascism, at the price of its own blood? Does the International reproach them with having, by their resistance, helped the people of Czechoslovakia, betrayed at Munich? Does the International reproach them for having in their struggle, prevented Hitler from making earlier his demands to Poland? Does it reproach them with having, by their struggle, retarded Mussolini's seizure of Albania?

The Young Socialist International, the leaders of the French League of Young Socialists—do they reproach them with having defended, for nearly three years, the frontier of the Pyrenees?

Does the International reproach them and does it want the youth of Belgium, Holland, Switzerland and Denmark to forget, that the struggle of the Spanish people and its youth has saved them till to-day from the greed of Hitler?

Does the International reproach them with having allowed the best of German and Italian young revolutionaries in the International Brigades to fight within the Spanish People's Army against their executioners? Does the International reproach them with having, by their example, roused the enthusiasm and international solidarity of the youth of all countries and the largest sections of the International of Socialist Youth, such as Sweden, Denmark and Norway? Does it reproach them for having received powerful support and the boundless love of the magnificent youth of the great Soviet Union, the country of victorious Socialism?

We hope that the leadership of the International of Socialist Youth, the Executive Committee of the Young Socialist International, and the Congress of Lille, would not wish to erect, on Franco's example, a "law of responsibility" against the glorious United Socialist Youth and that they would not try to commit the greatest crime in the history of the revolutionary youth movement.

Long live the United Socialist Youth of Spain! an example of unity and heroism for the youth of the whole world!

That is the cry of young anti-fascists all over the world in solidarity with the United Socialist Youth.

NOTE: Since the above was written the leadership of the Young Socialist International has struck a further blow at unity and decided to expel the United Socialist Youth of Spain.



## Resolutions of Solidarity

### THE CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST STUDENTS FEDERATION

**RECOGNISING** that the struggle in Spain is not at an end and recognising that the youth of Spain has not abandoned its struggle against Franco and his foreign allies, the Congress of the I.S.S.F. declares itself proud to belong to the same International as the United Socialist Youth of Spain, whose heroic example in organising resistance against the fascist invaders, whose work during the war at the front and in the rear and whose work at present in Spain and in the concentration camps, have been and remain an example for the working class youth of the whole world.

The Congress of the I.S.S.F. declares that it will oppose any attempt at exclusion of the U.S.Y.S. from the Young Socialist International.

The League of Young Communists of Norway has just published a manifesto, from which we reproduce a few extracts on the solidarity of Norwegian youth with the U.S.Y.S. in its struggle against the enemies of unity:

The enemies of unity within the Young Socialist International will try at the Lille Congress to exclude the glorious United Socialist Youth of Spain from the ranks of the International. This would be a shameful and repellent act, an insufferable insult to the heroic young Socialists who offered their lives in the defence of Spain, liberty and democracy. Those of the leadership who are preparing this crime seem to wish to complete the handiwork of the Italo-German aeroplanes and the traitors who delivered Spain and its glorious youth into servitude. What are the reasons inspiring them with such a base intention against the U.S.Y.S.? you will ask. The U.S.Y.S. and its 500,000 members demanded, several times, the achievement of international unity; it wanted to show its will to unity by maintaining friendly relations with the Young Communist International. That is its crime.

We pledge ourselves with the working class youth of Norway, to remain in solidarity with the youth of Spain, and we count, too, on our friends in the working class youth of Norway to prevent this criminal plan.

### RESOLUTIONS OF THE LEAGUE OF SWISS SOCIALIST STUDENTS

**To the leadership of the Young Socialist International at the Congress of the Y.S.I., from July 29 to August 3, 1939.**

During the heroic struggle of the Spanish people, every day brought us fresh proof of the brilliant and inspiring manner in which the United Socialist Youth of Spain was able, not only to mobilise the Spanish youth against fascist aggression and lead them with exemplary courage, but also to show the youth of the whole world how magnificent and encouraging are the results obtained from unity between Young Socialists and Young Communists.

So we are all the more indignant to learn that there are in our International elements which are not ashamed to dispute the right of the United Socialist Youth of Spain to the place of honour they deserve in the International. Before the entry of the United Socialist Youth of Spain to our International, Comrade Carillo declared without reserve that among the United Socialist Youth of Spain there was fraternal unity between the Young Socialists and the Young Communists. Expressly approving this report from Carillo, the Executive Committee of the Socialist Youth International, at the time of the admission of the United Socialist Youth of Spain to the Young Socialist International, unanimously adopted a resolution in favour of this affiliation.

Nothing has changed in the United Socialist Youth of Spain, except that this organisation has given multiplied examples of heroism in the struggle against fascism. So it seems to us absolutely impossible that our Socialist Youth International could exclude the United Socialist Youth of Spain, a league rightly honoured by all youth and which in France alone still has 50,000 members. Such a step could profit none but Franco and his allies.

Together with all sincere Young Socialists, aware of their debt to the United Socialist Youth of Spain, we demand that this organisation be recognised, with all the honours due to it, as a section of the Socialist Youth International.

Strong in our Socialist conviction, we shall struggle untiringly for this goal and we do not doubt that the Socialist Youth International will reject fittingly the proposals of the dastardly enemies of the United Socialist Youth of Spain, a tried organisation whose experience in the struggle offers such priceless lessons to young Socialists such as ourselves. Socialists, we salute them.

### MESSAGE FROM THE BUREAU OF THE FRENCH YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

The Bureau of the Young Communist League, having learned through the press of the holding at Lille, on July 30 next, of the Congress of the Young Socialist International, salutes the members of the congress and wishes them all success.

It expresses once again the will to unity of the Communist Youth of France which remembers that the enemy confronts us.

After having noted an article appearing in the *Cri des Jeunes* of May 15, over the signature of E. Ollenhauer, Secretary of the Young Socialist International, the Bureau of the League registers its expressed intention of struggling against fascism and defending democratic liberties.

This statement gives more force to our indignation against the unchallenged rumours about the malicious blow in preparation by the enemies of unity within the Young Socialist International, namely the exclusion of the valiant United Socialist Youth of Spain from the ranks of the Socialist Youth International.

This infamous act proposed by cowards who treacherously stabbed the Spanish Republic in the back, cannot leave decent people indifferent throughout the world.

In taking such a decision, the leadership of the young Socialist movement would accomplish the greatest of all crimes against working class youth.

In associating themselves with such a base act, the leadership of the Socialist Youth of France would make itself the accomplice of those who act in league with the agents of Franco. Pronouncing the exclusion of the United Socialist Youth of Spain from the ranks of the Young Socialist International means associating themselves with the Daladier Government in its campaigns against those who have fought for our liberty and the peace of the world.

The Bureau of the Young Communist League calls on all Young Communists and the entire working class youth of France to prevent such a deed being carried out.

Young volunteers for liberty, soldiers, officers, commissars of the International Brigades, do not allow the disruptionist agents of the enemy to triumph. Your motto, "United as in Spain," at the side of your Spanish brothers, must triumph.

Long live the anti-fascist unity of struggle of the youth of the world.

Long live the heroic and noble youth of Spain!



## The Congress of the Young Socialist International

By Victor Joannes

(Secretary of the Y.C.I. of France.)

**O**UR Young Communist League of France has taken upon itself the great task of uniting working-class youth.

The work of our last congress, at Easter 1939, was animated by a strong spirit of unity. From our first session a message was sent from the Congress to the delegates of the Socialist Youth meeting at the same time at their national assembly at Toulouse.

Receiving no answer, we renewed our proposals in a letter dated April 22.

On May 8, a month after our first message, Comrade Max Norel, national secretary of the Socialist Youth, briefly acknowledged our letter.

Much time had been lost, but we felt justified in expecting that decisions were being arrived at with the care demanded by the situation. It was not so. The enemies of unity within the ranks of the young Socialists managed to delay the answer awaited by the working-class youth of France.

Such an attitude does not reflect the will of the widest strata of Socialist youth. Indeed, there are many districts where common action already takes place. Faced with the harsh realities of life, of the struggle for the defence of standards of living, the Young Socialist draws nearer to his brother, the Young Communist. He knows that his isolation serves none but his exploiters. His enemy he sees face to face on the other side of the barricades and not at his side, not in those who are struggling against Fascism and social reaction.

Partisan passion does not blind him to the extent of making him forget the anti-fascist struggle in favour of the anti-communist struggle. Further, honest youth considers unity as its pledge of victory.

This opinion is expressed forcibly by the Young Socialists of the Aisne district, who wrote, in reply to proposals from our Young Communists:

"Not underestimating the seriousness of present events, the Young Socialists attach great importance to the pact of unity of action."

This idea of action and united action extends far beyond the borders of our country. The Conference of the Young Communist Leagues has expressed this will of bending all its forces to the victory over Fascism.

The pledge of victory is national and international unity.

On July 29 and 30, before the Congress of the Young Socialist International, there will take place at Phalempin a great meeting of Socialist Youth. On the 31st, at Lille, the Congress takes place. Our comrades have chosen France in which to hold their international assemblies. For us it is an opportunity, while welcoming the delegates, to remind them once again of our desire for unity.

In the letter sent to the Executive Committee of the Young Socialist International by the representatives of our Young Communist International and the secretaries of the European Leagues, the proposal was made for united "common action for the preservation of peace, for the defence of the liberties and rights of youth, for help for refugee victims of reaction and Fascism, and to stop the terror in Spain, Czechoslovakia and Austria."

Comrade Emile Ollenhauer, secretary of the Young Socialist International, in an article published in the *Cri des Jeunes* on May 15, 1939, expressed this necessity for common action.

"In grave times," he writes, "we address ourselves once more to the Socialist youth of the world, calling on it to demonstrate in common"—and he adds further on: "and

to prove to the world that the younger generation of the working class remains faithful, in spite of all dangers and threats, to the ideal of Socialism and that it is determined to resist the attacks of Fascism and the sinister, threatening dangers of a new world conflagration, with all the enthusiasm and devotion of youth."

It is clear that such an appeal is not addressed only to Young Socialists organised in the ranks of the Young Socialist International. Our Communist Youth is, indeed, an integral part of the young generation of the working class which has the ideal of a Socialist transformation of society and its full achievement in Communist society.

As we are fighters in the cause of peace, so we never give up the ideal of liberty.

But if it is thus, the logical consequence of the work of the Lille Congress should be the acceptance of the proposal contained in our letter of June 13, namely:

"That the Young Socialist International and the Young Communist International issue a common appeal against war, for the construction of a peace front with the U.S.S.R. and for the support of the peoples of Spain, Czechoslovakia and Austria, that both our Internationals carry on a common campaign on this basis, and that, in the capitals of the principal countries in Europe meetings be organised with speakers from both our Internationals."

It is true that acts are not always in perfect accord with words. For example, Comrade Ollenhauer writes:

"At Lille we shall raise our voice in protest against Fascism's rule of violence which tries to oppress ever fresh nations and so impose its hegemony over all Europe. We shall affirm our determined will to defend democratic liberties and the social rights of nations against the barbarism of fascism."

But, at the same instant that such declarations are being made, undenied rumours are circulating about the exclusion of the United Socialist Youth of Spain from the ranks of the Young Socialist International. The accomplishment of such an act would be an unforgivable crime against working-class youth. It would be, in fact, a very strange method of raising one's voice in protest against Fascism's rule of violence.

To become indignant, only then to allow the enemies of unity to have their way, means, in two words, serving Fascism. It is obvious to everyone that reactionary and disruptive elements are in this way working in league with the agents of Franco.

The cowards and traitors who stabbed the Spanish Republic in the back now want to complete their work of disruption by attacking the glorious United Socialist Youth of Spain. Will our comrades in the Socialist Youth of France, and their leaders Max Norel and Bernard Chochy, allow such a deed to be carried out? Are their appeals for help for the Spanish refugees suffering in the French concentration camps—merely words?

In voting for the exclusion, will they complete the physical and moral miseries endured by 50,000 young members of the United Socialist Youth in France?

That would be quick forgetfulness of the glorious pages written with the noble blood of youth which fought for us, for democracy, liberty and peace.

No! It cannot be! It shall not be.

Young Socialist workers and with them all young anti-fascists will rise with indignation against such an expulsion.

All those who have followed with admiration the struggle of the heroic Spanish youth will rally against the treacherous enemies of unity of the young working class.

What youth awaits from the Congress of Lille is not a decision against unity. On the contrary, it demands more determinedly than ever before that unity of action should be achieved with the Communist Youth. It demands for its future that everything be done for the victory over Fascism.



## The Congress of the Socialist Students

IN SPITE OF DISRUPTIONIST MANŒUVRES, UNITY  
WILL BE REINFORCED

WITH the object of weakening unity between Socialist and Communist students, the Socialist delegates of France, Holland and Denmark do not shrink from striking blows against their own International Federation of Socialist Students.

The Second Congress of the International Alliance of Students for Socialism was held on July 16, in the Palais de la Mutualité in Paris. About a hundred delegates and observers represented twenty countries and thirty odd students organisations of Socialist, Communist and progressive opinion.

The first session, under the chairmanship of **De Brouckère**, **Paul Bouthonnier**, **Santiago Carillo**, general secretary of the United Socialist Youth of Spain, **Spencer**, secretary of the Alliance, **Ferri**, representative of the Young Communist International and **Morin**, secretary of the French Socialist Students was dominated by an obvious spirit of unity. In turn, **Morris** of the Socialist students and **Daudin** of the Communist students welcomed the delegates by praising unity and expressing the wish to see it strengthened in the Congress.

After the speeches of **De Brouckère**, **Bouthonnier**, and **Santiago Carillo**, the first session closed with a toast to the delegates by the French Communist and Socialist students.

The Second session heard the speech of **Ferri**, greeting the

"We, representing the Socialist students of the following countries: Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden,\* Norway, Spain, Great Britain and Bulgaria, proclaim our intention of remaining faithful to the decisions of the International Federation of Socialist Students and of collaborating fraternally in the work of the International Alliance of Students for Socialism. We regret that some Socialist students have not kept to the decision adopted unanimously by the Congress of the I.F.S.S. two days ago, a resolution declaring that Socialist students are 'ready to exert themselves in common action with all students sincerely devoted to the democratic and revolutionary ideal.' These students had not discussed their attitude previously with the delegation of the I.F.S.S. and they have thus created the appearance of division within the Socialist student movement.

Our first task is to defend the reputation of the I.F.S.S. which is affiliated to the I.A.S.S. and to act in accordance with the decisions unanimously adopted by the I.F.S.S.

That is why we consider that our duty compels us to follow the work of the I.A.S.S. in order to correct the impression that certain delegates have given of the I.F.S.S. and in order to defend the honour and the decisions of the I.F.S.S."

In its turn the Congress declared unanimously:

## George Dimitroff Greets Congress of Socialist and Communist Students

"My best thanks for your kind invitation to take part in the second Congress of the Students' League. Since it is impossible for me—for reasons which you will understand—to accept your invitation, I send best greetings to the assembled Socialist and Communist students.

The struggle of the fraternally united Communist and Socialist students against barbarity and ignorance, against the war of aggression, and against fascism, the worst enemy of freedom, culture and science, is important not only for the students in general, but this joint action is at the same time of great importance for putting an end to the split in the working class, and in achieving the unification of all anti-fascist forces in Europe and all over the world.

The progressive students will be the more successful in their role as champions of the cause of the freedom of the oppressed and threatened peoples, in their role as ardent fighters for the cause of the peace of the peoples, in proportion as they are closely linked up with the people and, above all, with the working class, as they are equipped with the great teachings of our epoch, with Marxism, the science of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin, and in proportion as they combine their study and their knowledge with a firm determination, a militant spirit, and are prepared to make every sacrifice for the victory of the great ideal of Mankind, Socialism, which has already won the victory on one-sixth of the earth in the Soviet Union.

I wish your Congress best success for the cause of freedom, of science, of culture, of peace, for the cause of Socialism."

Congress in the name of the Young Communist International, and the report of **Spencer**, secretary of the Alliance. In the discussion which followed, **Lery**, French Socialist student, spoke; in spite of the excellent words of **Morin** at the morning session, **Lery** considered it his duty to deliver a violent speech against unity, in which the word "fascism" was never mentioned. **Lery** took up a position against the International Alliance of Students. The delegates of the Socialist students who, at their congress of the International Federation of Socialist Students held just previously had been unanimously in favour of unity, showed their astonishment at the French delegate's speech against unity.

Completing their disruptionist manœuvre which had obviously been pre-arranged, the delegates of France, Holland and Denmark left the Congress, declaring that they did not wish to continue collaboration with the Alliance, thus creating division in the delegation to the International Federation of Socialist Students. The work of the Congress was suspended to permit the delegation of the I.F.S.S. to reach agreement on the anti-unity action of the French, Dutch and Danish delegates. They could not prevent the latter from leaving, since they had made clear their intention of provoking incidents to disrupt the Congress of the Alliance. The manœuvre failed and in the course of the third session the delegates of the Socialist students adopted the following declaration:

"The Congress of the International Alliance of Students for Socialism, meeting in Paris on July 16, 17, and 18, 1939, after having heard the declaration of the following organisations: the Socialist students of France, Denmark, Holland and the reply made to them by the University Labour Federation, the Association of United Socialist Students of Belgium, of Switzerland, of Spain and the Socialist Students of Bulgaria, Sweden and Norway, regrets unanimously the departure of several delegates which cannot be explained by any comprehensible motive, and invites them fraternally to resume their place within the alliance, where they have always had the opportunity to express their own views, and that in the interests of Socialism, liberty and culture, to which their gesture is so highly prejudicial; and declares its faith in the action of the International Alliance of Students for Socialism, which will continue to unite the efforts of Socialist and Communist students throughout the world against fascism and war."

The session on Monday afternoon was above all remarkable for the speeches of the Yugoslav, Spanish and Hindu delegates on colonial problems and for the reading of a telegram

\*The Swedish delegate, after having voted for this declaration, subsequently associated himself with the three anti-unity delegates and also left the Congress.



from the Soviet youth and one from Dimitroff, which the delegates greeted by rising to their feet with great enthusiasm.

In spite of the attempts at disruption carried out by the representative of Denmark, a country greatly menaced by Hitler and the representatives of Holland and France, the Socialist and Communist students showed their sincere devotion to anti-fascist unity and will carry on their work with yet increased vigour for its defence against all enemies.

After having created a split among the Young Socialist Guard of Belgium and the Labour Youth, at the same time that they develop their abominable attack against the United Social-

ist Youth of Spain, the anti-unity elements continue under the cover of anti-communism (just like Hitler) to make their attack upon the unity of anti-fascist youth. Unable to damp revolutionary ardour and the desire for unity of the masses of young anti-fascists, they hope that by destroying their own organisations they can prevent the realisation of unity.

The Second Congress of the International Alliance of Students for Socialism has expressed yet once again, the desire for unity which animates Communist and Socialist students in the whole world; there is no doubt that the conclusion of the work of the Congress will be consolidation of that unity.

## From the Two Hemispheres

# Save the Peasant Youth !

By Maurice Thorez

*The following is an extract from one of a series of articles contributed by Maurice Thorez to "Humanité."*

**T**HE young peasant, whether child of the house or paid servant, has never finished. He it is as a rule who has to look after the cattle. Early in the morning, before setting out for the fields, and late at night, after an already over-long day's work, he has to clean the stables, clear out the heavy and evil-smelling dung, clean out the cow-sheds.

Certain work in the fields is beyond the strength of the adolescent. Too soon he seizes the scythe or the plough-handles. He sinks under the weight of a too heavy task. There are masters who pay more attention to the bringing up of their foals, which they take good care not to work too soon, than to the development of their young servants, and even of their own children.

M. Damecour, doyen of the Senate, told the agriculture commission of that body: "In many districts, a child of sixteen years does, on a farm, almost as valuable work as an adult." (Journal Officiel, June 22, 1939, Page 607, column 1).

The necessity to work outside in all weathers is not without effect on the health of the young people.

Whatever bourgeois writers may say about it, it is not at all nice, and still less healthy, to cook in the summer sun or shiver in a winter north-easter, or to be soaked to the skin by a sudden storm. Above all when on getting back to the house, which is lacking in all comforts, it is not even possible to carry out the most elementary operations of one's toilet. Hygiene is a rare thing in the country. The young peasant's shirt, soaked with sweat, stays on his back day and night for a whole week. In the blacksmith's shops they almost considered me a phenomenon because I washed myself every morning. But there is not always water in our French villages. How can one be surprised, in these conditions, that tuberculosis makes such ravages in the countryside.

If only the young peasants, who have too little leisure in the summer, could make some use of that the winter enforces on them.

When I was in the blacksmith's shops in Summer, I went to the market town once or twice a month as a rule. But in the winter we were able to rest. Throughout long evenings we remained around the fireplace the only light coming from the flames which licked the great logs of oak or chestnut. The lamp was only lit at meal-times. I bent my head to be able to decipher, in the firelight, the books the Clugnat schoolmaster lent me. I shall be told this is all changed. That was at the time of the war; it is clear that in those years of trials and unhappiness it was necessary to work more and do without entertainment! Now the young peasants can rest; they can even read in winter by the clear light of electricity.

Unfortunately, it is not true that there have been such changes

for the better. Listen to what the numerous correspondents who have replied to our peasant inquiry say. From Loulay (Charente-Maritime): "Young cultivators have hardly any leisure except in the winter." From Prats-de-Mollo (Eastern Pyrenees): "No leisure apart from an occasional Sunday, because the cattle have to be tended, and on these days the young men go to the village and drink." From Seringes (Aisne): "The young have no leisure time. In the week, because of the long day's work, they have hardly an instant's freedom. On Sunday they are again wanted to tend to the cattle. They spend the rest of their time in the cafes." From La Nouaille (Creuse): "No recreation for the young, save a few dances in the winter at which, for lack of knowledge, the Chopin waltz is more practised than the Viennese waltz."

Hardly any leisure for the adolescent, that is the general cry. And when the young peasant does have a little time in the winter above all, "they are left to themselves, following their own inclinations" writes a comrade from St-Germaine-la-Campagne (Eure).

There are hardly any communal libraries, few cinemas, few youth circles organising entertainments and study for the leisure times. The comrades in Anost (Saone-et-Loire) say that a film is shown every week, however out of date, and altogether unsuitable for the work of moral and intellectual development of the youth. "A sad conception of popular education" they write bitterly.

Go to the neighbouring town? Sometimes they go there if they have bicycles. Otherwise they have to "walk three miles to get a bus" they write from Jonquieres (Herauld).

Then? Then "they go to the cabaret" says a comrade from Cormier (Eure) "drunkenness develops beneath numerous notices posted up to ensure its repression."

I understand that the moralisers, the hypocrites who sometimes extol the advantages of country life and another time scorn the peasant as being "dull, badly clothed, smelling strongly and prone to bending the elbow," are annoyed. They do not understand the illusions of these young lads who delude themselves they are happy because they do themselves harm in consuming liquids their stomachs reject. Let them give these young peasants a better existence, let them be protected against too heavy work and too long days. Let them be given the means to better use their leisure, by creating everywhere libraries, circles with cinemas and meeting halls; let them be allowed to taste, thanks to the radio, the joys of music; then lay out playing fields—the young country folk can very well play football or pedal a cycle—and the cabarets will be empty. And perhaps the young peasants will turn less towards the town where many of their elders thought to find work, well-being and happiness, and where they have been broken, dismissed by the factories, condemned to unemployment and poverty.

It is in the village and for the village that the youth must in the first place be saved.



## Changes Which are Taking Place Among German Youth

By Karl Kunert

CHANGES are taking place in Germany in the midst of the working class and of the whole people. Here are a few remarks about the changes that are going on among the Hitler Youth. The Hitler Youth has been and remains a very strong organisation, a compulsory organisation. But, what is going on there? Youth has joined up, has signed membership forms, but then is forced into all sorts of exercises. That, in Hitler terminology, is called "service;" a movement is developing within the Hitler Youth (and above all since last September) against "perpetual service." Here are some figures: in Bavaria 60 to 70 per cent of the Hitler Youth did not take part in the youth service. In proletarian centres, such as Berlin and the Ruhr, large numbers of young people have, equally, taken no part in this service.

There is a great shortage of officials. Whole units either have ceased to exist any more or need to be formed again. Although there are 5,600 paid officials for the youth—officials who are not badly paid either—it is necessary to add to this figure the instructors, the officers, the S.A. officials, the doctors, who are forced to serve in the Hitler Youth, and are charged with giving the young people a military education, for liaison work in the army and with the S.S.

The Hitler Youth have had to express themselves openly on these events within their organisation, and this occurred precisely after the so-called great victory in September last.

An official admits that there is discontent among the youth. The organ of the Hitler Youth had a weekly sale of 50,000 though the organisation has from six to seven million members; it ceased publication on April 1, as did the regional papers. They say that the struggle is over, that there is now no need of such a paper, and they produce a monthly journal, costing 30 pfennigs. That is a lot of money. This monthly journal prints 100,000 copies; that is very small, since it is the only journal for the youth. Its contents are clearly orientated towards war.

In April a new law was passed. They wanted to smash the discontent at perpetual service. What did this law say? There must be close collaboration between the leaders of the Hitler Youth and the army. Premilitary service became compulsory from the ages of 10 to 18. The law compels young people to enter the Hitler Youth, and their parents to enrol them. Parents or relatives who do not obey this order will be punished either with a fine as high as 150 marks or with imprisonment. Those who try to prevent their children from joining this compulsory organisation to be fined 10,000 marks with the alternative of five years' imprisonment.

The leaders have created two distinct organisations: the youth in general, and the old youth. Those who have already been members of the Youth for a year are in the category of the old youth, and all the rest are classified as general youth. This is a safety measure. They want to try to get hold of the malcontents, and eliminate them from the youth which are considered reliable, but this will not be successful.

It is clear that our slogan, which is that of comradeship, true comradeship, is beginning to gain ground. We tell the youth that it is necessary to develop comradeship against perpetual service, for the protection of the youth, for greater freedom in the collaboration of young people. It is evident that the measures being taken against the Hitler Youth continue to revolt young people. For example, the "general youth" does not receive the band with the swastika, and is not allowed to wear the badge of the Hitler Youth. They do not receive the Hitler Youth eagle. Young Hitlerites have developed this opinion: "We do not want any classes, but that goes to create classes." That is very primitive, but at the same time very clear. That shows that the class spirit has penetrated into the minds of the young, and in turn this increases our task. It means that, parallel with this change that is taking place in the midst of the youth, we have to carry on a more serious educational work.

We are, for example, very satisfied that among the adult workers the desire to aid the youth is developing.

Up till now, the workers said of the youth "It is lost. Nothing can be done about it, the young people are corrupted." In the home there was often a great deal of trouble, many

quarrels. The youngster would go home and say "Hitler has said this, Hitler has done this." The old man replied: "Clear out. You are going crazy. I do not want to hear anything of this." The mother begins to catch the young one. The latter does not understand anything. There are divisions in the family, and that is what fascism wants. We do not want the proletarian family to be broken up; we want unity of the family, for unity in the family strengthens the unity of the working class, and if the working class wants to carry on a united struggle in the factories it has need of the youth.

Germany's youth is not only struggling in the army of the Hitler youth, but also in the factories, and there are many organised movements, not only among the working class but among the working-class youth as well. In the mining district where the working class is most advanced, thanks to our work the young workers are leading a struggle against seven-year apprenticeship agreements. With Labour Service and Military Service this comes to ten years, which means that a young worker does not receive a full wage till he is 25.

This holds no future, gives no dignity to labour, and this idea penetrates everything. A third of all the young workers have refused to sign the apprenticeship contract for young miners. There are more besides, but even the fascist press has been forced to admit this third whose apprenticeship contracts have had to be cancelled.

We have published a pamphlet addressed to the mining youth, in which we take up our position on this question, and where we demonstrate how the young people in the mines of the U.S.S.R. live. We give books to the miners' relatives, we give them advice, and this contributes to helping the movement. Comradeship between the working-class youth and the Catholic youth is increasing; in Germany youth unity is to-day developing in the form of a comradeship.

## The Tragic Position of the Peasant Youth in Italy

**EVEN** though fascism has plunged the whole of the Italian youth into great intellectual and material poverty, the situation of the peasant youth is more desperate still.

The wages of young agricultural workers have been greatly reduced in comparison with what they were when fascism came to power. Mario Randini showed in his essay, *Caratteri e problemi della risicoltura Italiana* (Problems of rice cultivation in Italy), that the yearly wages of young agricultural workers in Lomellina had fallen in nine years from 2,125 lire to 1,275 lire. In certain regions of Southern Italy, young agricultural workers receive a wage no greater than 30 centesimi an hour. The pay for a day's work is not enough even to buy a kilo of bread (about 2 lb.).

The exploitation of the peasant youth begins at the earliest age. The author of the monograph "The depopulation of the Appenines, etc." (Lo spopolamento dell' Appennino Abbruzzese, etc.), writes, after having stressed that the whole peasant family is compelled to work unceasingly, without ever being able to limit working hours, depriving themselves of sleep, of holidays, even:

"There are no exceptions. Already, at the age of four or five, children are used to look after the cattle. You need to see them, their feet bare, or almost so, wearing, instead of an overcoat, a jacket belonging to some adult member of the family, exposed to cold and rain, to understand the reasons for the extremely early old-age of these people who, when they are thirty, have neither teeth nor youth."

In the present situation, when the peasants are crushed with debts and the wages of agricultural workers have decreased, the peasants and the agricultural workers have been obliged to reduce their consumption. That has had big repercussions, particularly on the youth, whose undernourishment is absolutely evident.

Doctor Giovanni Sala, adviser to the National Fascist Woodland Militia, claims in his book on "Valle Canonica" (a region in Italy), that "polenta" (a dish made from maize flour) is the basic food of the peasants and that it occupies a sovereign position. Sala writes:

"Among my papers, I find the following passages: Pezzo (village in the Ponte di Legno region), family composed of husband, wife and nine children, the oldest being 15



and the youngest seven. What do they have to live on during the long and so rigorous winter, cut off from everything save their home? They live on 'polenta,' and often on nothing else. Viore (another village). Family composed of father, mother and four children, of whom the eldest is ten years old. They have only a house, no cattle. The children eat 'polenta,' no milk. It is only on rare occasions that there is to be found a microscopic portion of cheese in the house."

Apart from under-feeding, the children nearly always are deprived of the most elementary conditions of hygiene. It is enough to read in various fascist monographs the pages dealing with the state of peasant housing to have a painful impression. In Italy, the big landowners are concerned more with stables than with the houses of the peasants, because animals are considered more precious than men.

In the Puglie district, for example, 60 per cent of the peasant families have one-room houses, sometimes only twelve to fifteen feet long. That means that seven or eight people, or even more, have to find a place to sleep, to prepare food and do the other things necessary to life in a space 180 feet square. Young people and old, women, men, children, sick and well, live day and night in a repugnant promiscuity. And more often than not the animals sleep in the same room.

From the day of their birth the children have to live in these houses and cannot grow strong. On this question *Sala* writes: "More attention must be paid to the children, for the race is suffering and degenerating for a whole series of reasons." Children often go short of bread and a hygienic place to live in, with the result that an ever-growing number fall victims to typhus and dysentery.

And indeed, according to the findings of *Annuario Statistico Staliano*, the number of cases of measles has increased in a few years by 110 per cent, of scarlatina by 45 per cent (approximately), while diphtheria has doubled.

The extremely grave position of the young peasants is also shown by the increase in *infantile mortality*. The fascist paper, *Il Corriere Pedano*, of *Ferrare*, writes on this question:

"Without going into details and without quoting figures, we can state that in recent years the death-rate has indeed tended to increase, and this increase is accompanied by a fall in the birth-rate to such an extent that in *Ferrare* province the birth-rate has in a few years fallen from 2,295 to 1,634.

The fascist monograph "*Mezzadri e piccoli Coltivatori*" (Tenant farmers and small cultivators) of *Umbria* says on page 31:

"Infantile mortality (up to the age of six) is very high. It oscillates between a minimum percentage of 11.75 and a maximum of 43.9, with an average of 32.53. Without any doubt one of the principle reasons for this high infantile mortality is to be found in the irrational feeding of the children."

This colossal increase in infantile mortality demonstrates in documentary fashion that fascism has transformed Italy not only into a vast barracks, but also into a big hospital.

### THE LABOUR CONTRACT MAKES THE YOUNG PEASANTS SLAVES

Under the fascist regime the young peasant is the victim of cruel exploitation by the employer.

The peasant contracts lay it down that the signature of the head of the family on the contract deprives the young peasant as well of all freedom. The mediæval clause makes the young peasant no more than a slave. He cannot dispose of his own life, cannot leave the village, nor his family, in order to seek a less strenuous work. He has no claim to demand an account of the family budget because he is considered to be an inferior person. The young peasant receives no payment for his labour. The head of the family buys his clothes for him, and from time to time gives him a few halfpence, hardly enough with which to buy a little tobacco.

Young peasants often marry without having known each other beforehand. These remnants of feudalism are particularly tenacious in Southern Italy, where poverty is the greatest and the enslavement of the peasant by the landowner is still more savage. In the monograph "*I contadini Siciliani*" (The Sicilian peasants) we read that the son of a rich peasant may not marry the daughter

of a poor peasant, that a young agricultural labourer may not marry the daughter of a peasant, however poor, because he does not own any land.

Naturally, fascism utilises these vestiges of feudalism in order the more to exploit and hold in submission the peasant masses of the South of Italy, and particularly the youth.

For this reason it is not surprising that in certain zones of Southern Italy 50 per cent of the population is completely illiterate.

There are agricultural contracts in which the landowner, who is sometimes owner of the whole village, forbids the young peasants to have any relationships with inhabitants of neighbouring villages. Other contracts forbid the young people to dance, since dancing is considered "immoral."

The landowners insert into the contracts clauses which force the young girls to go to the landlord's house (either in town or in the country) to do all sorts of domestic duties (chopping wood, cleaning, washing, gardening, etc.). They receive no pay for this work. In a word, fascism has returned to Italy to those already far-off days when the peasant was considered as a slave.

The "garzoncelli" (young farm-hands) are particularly exploited. The great majority of these garzoncelli are "natural" children that bourgeois society calls "bastards," and whose number has increased considerably under fascism—for the increase in poverty has also led to an increase in prostitution. These garzoncelli are placed with rich peasants or landowners, who exploit them in barbarous fashion. They are true slaves. For them there is neither a definite working day, nor time for sleep. They do all the most difficult work, and often are not even allowed to live in the house. In this case they sleep in the stable, on a miserable straw mattress, and their only furniture will be a small wooden box. In the Italian villages this formula has become a proverb: "After the watch-dog comes the farm-boy."

It is not surprising if these poor pariahs of fascist society supply a big percentage of the criminals.

And think that fascism has the cynicism to set itself up as protector of the youth and to post up the slogan "Largo ai giovani" (Way for the Young).

But, like all the other fascist slogans, this one means, as we have shown on the basis of figures and quotations from official publications of the fascist regime, a barbarous mediæval exploitation of the peasant youth and of the whole of the Italian youth.

## Austria's Youth is Fighting for National Independence

By Otto Meier

RESISTANCE to the fascist régime of plunder is showing itself openly even in the most distant mountain villages. The illegal organ of the Austrian Young Communists *Jung Oesterreich* (Young Austria) publishes the following report:

"It is learned from *Stubing* (Styria) that often after the Sunday services there have been conflicts between the Catholic peasants and the fascists. These latter heap insults on the peasants. One day a young peasant lad shouted at the top of his voice in the midst of a struggle, 'We do not need Hitler, we can eat our butter ourselves.' The crowd took up this cry with enthusiasm. Arrests were made by the police and the S.S."

The Austrian youth, conducting a struggle against foreign fascist domination, is animated by the feeling of solidarity with the peoples whose countries have become the object of Hitler's *coups de force*. This youth loves its Fatherland, but it is equally concerned for and respectful of the freedom of other peoples, and does not allow Hitler to use it to enslave them. A few days after the occupation of Czechoslovakia, the young Viennese published an appeal to the Czech youth:

"The German fascists," this appeal said, "have robbed you of your Fatherland and have destroyed your freedom and your democracy. You are reduced to the state of slaves by these brute beasts, in the same way as we Austrians are. We understand your sufferings, your unhappiness. Tears of anger, of hatred and vengeance fill our eyes. Courage, courage and again courage, brothers! Nothing can be for ever lost if man himself does not give up the



struggle. We firmly believe that the proud courageous youth of Czechoslovakia will oppose German despots with determined resistance. In this struggle, we, the youth of Austria, will be at your sides without fail. We are ready to give our blood and our young lives to win with you the freedom and independence of Czechoslovakia and Austria." Ten thousand young Austrians have been mobilised for the Labour camps under the command of German fascists. There is a Prussian officer for every 50 young conscripts. Here is the way an eye-witness describes the sending of two thousand young Viennese to the camps:

"All the young men had a uniform with a swastika on the sleeve. The young people made friends with each other immediately. They thought little about what was awaiting them. The many relatives, saying goodbye to their sons, their brothers, who were going to the camps, behaved quite differently. They knew what fate was in store for those who went there. A young worker whose brother was among those mobilised said: 'We have told him to put a swastika on his letter if conditions are bad, and two swastikas if they are very bad. If that happens we shall immediately try to get him back.'"

Shortly afterwards, the first letters arrived from the camps. They were veritable cries of despair from young people cheated and deceived. The camps were in no way equipped as the cinemas boastfully proclaimed. The youngsters were forced to get up at five in the morning immediately to begin difficult work, real convicts' labour that went on till nightfall. The fortnightly wage was only 13 marks each. And from this wage there was taken 7 marks for the sickness fund, the Hitler Youth contribution, and so on.

The lads worked in the homes of the fascist bosses and the aristocrats. Food as a rule was potatoes and coffee. Occasionally there would be a meat dish. The workers received very brutal treatment, and often they were beaten. This is what there was in most of these letters home, letters written in blood. Often defenceless young people found a solution in escaping. One of those who was in the camps speaks in these terms of the life of the young Austrians:

"In the Labour Camps the fascists insult the Austrians on every occasion. The favourite expression of the head of the Thuringen camp was 'the lazy Austrian pigs.' It goes without saying that the Austrians work in fitting conformity to this treatment of over-zealous chiefs. A worker back from Thuringen said the Austrians are solidly united and do not try to keep to the working speed of the camps. Every day there are violent disputes between them and the Germans. With satisfaction the worker observed that the other young people are beginning to follow the example of the Viennese 'in beginning to work in the Austrian fashion.'"

## THE STRUGGLE OF THE COMMUNIST YOUTH

The Young Communist League of Austria works tirelessly and perseveringly for the creation of a united front of struggle of young patriots against the foreign fascist dictators. Already there is unity of action between communist and socialist youth groups in the country. In many places these groups are already working together.

The Prussian Commissars tremble before the Viennese youth, tempered in the struggle against the enslavers. The following fact shows that. The law on forced labour for all boys and girls aged from 10 to 18, which recently became operative in Germany, also compels them to be members of the Hitler Youth. However, this law was provisionally cancelled for Vienna for the reason that "the Viennese youth is too contaminated with Marxism." One single year of Hitler domination was not enough to change that state of affairs. German fascism fears lest this youth, forcibly driven into the fascist organisations, yet remaining faithful to its revolutionary principles, should communicate them to the other section of the Hitler Youth and bring it into the war of national liberation. The fascist leaders fear above all revolutionary action in the ranks of the Hitler Youth, conducted, not without success, by the Austrian Young Communists.

The correctness of their directives is to-day recognised by all the young patriots of Austria. These directives lay down

what must be the attitude of the Communist Youth towards the Hitler Youth organisations:

"It is a question of acting in such a way that the masses of young people see, from their own experience, the way of their liberation is through an implacable struggle of the whole people against Hitler fascism. The most important task for the Young Communists and for all the anti-fascist youth organisations, consists to-day of a broad and serious effort to expose the demagoguery and the robber character of German fascism. This will only be realised on condition that there is a determined struggle by the youth for its economic, political and cultural interests.

"In the conditions of the totalitarian fascist dictatorship, the centre of gravity of this struggle is to be found in the midst of the Hitler Youth, the German Young Girls' organisation and other legal bodies. The task of all young anti-fascists is to concentrate their forces in these organisations, to establish a mutual understanding, and to develop all possible forms of resistance to exploitation, oppression, fascist war provocation and to all the measures of the Hitlerites. Thus it is in no way a betrayal of the cause of the revolutionary movement of the youth for anti-fascist elements to join the Hitler Youth, if this is linked with the struggle for the independence of Austria, against Hitler domination. On the contrary, in this way the patriotic youth carries out a revolutionary task in the Austrian people's struggle for freedom."

The militant mouthpiece of all young patriots is the review *Jung Oesterreich* (Young Austria), edited illegally by the Austrian Young Communists. In the foreword to the first number of *Jung Oesterreich*, it said:

"Our people, which in an overwhelming majority struggles against foreign domination, must find at its side a youth that is strong and ready to fight. Young Austria will do everything possible to unite the youth, to make of them the decisive front-line troops for Austrian freedom."

The Young Communist League of Austria, conscious of the great tasks before it, envisages the future with confidence. Not for nothing do its resolutions contain the following words:

"The Young Communists have a great task before them—that of marching in the front rank of the anti-fascist youth, that of making all young patriots conscious of the necessity of a struggle for liberation of the whole of the people against foreign domination."

## Canadian Young Communists in Session

By Charlie Stewart (National Chairman Y.C.L.)

THE National Conference of the Canadian Y.C.L., which met in Winnipeg on July 5 and 6 with 39 delegates and two fraternal delegates present, was an important event for our League. This Conference is of special significance for us because this is an election year. This federal election will be the most momentous in Canadian history. The future of Canada for years to come may well be decided in this election—democracy and progress, versus reaction and fascism are the issues at stake.

Recognising that youths' vote (i.e., those in the age category, 21-30, constitute about one-fourth of the total electorate) may well be the decisive factor in determining the election results, our conference placed as its decisive task, "to do all in our power to help the Labour and democratic forces elect a democratic majority in the forthcoming federal election."

Electoral unity of Labour-Progressive bodies behind one Progressive candidate everywhere will result in the defeat of the enemies of progress. All steps leading in this direction will add up to spell victories for the people.

During the election campaign we will, wherever possible, help in the formation of special forms of organisation that will interest wide sections of young people in the elections. In some places the forms that youth organisations will decide upon will likely be non-partisan youth committees which would study the platforms of different candidates, their records, organising forums where all candidates would appear and have them express their opinions on agreed-upon youth demands.

First-Voters Clubs will be organised in many cities to



interest first voters. Youth committees organised around the personality of a candidate will be a popular form in many constituencies. Such spectacular forms as bike parades, walking marathons, hay-rides, etc., with appropriate slogans visible will do much to fire the imagination of young people. These are only some of the mediums that we will help organise to win young people behind Labour-Progressive candidates.

In the main report delivered at the Conference, the responsibility of our League and other Progressive youth organisations was outlined as follows: "There must be no excuse for any Progressive youth organisation to sit on the sidelines and watch the election go by. We want to be players in the game. We, the youth, have a stake in Canada and we have something to say about what's going on. It is up to us to get out and say it, in this way making our contribution to the cause of progress for Canada and its people."

Since our Eighth National Convention, which was held a little over a year ago, improvements in many phases of our League work were reported. At the time of the Munich betrayal, demonstrations and mass meetings were held in most of the cities. Leaflets and stickers were issued bringing forward the position of our League. Our branches raised thousands of dollars in the campaign to aid Spanish children. Youth Centres have been opened by our League in a number of cities. This has made it possible for our own members and for hundreds of young people in the communities where we opened centres to participate in recreational and cultural activity. In Vancouver, B.C., and in Toronto, Ontario, our League Branches raised money and food to help the transient single unemployed in their struggle for *Jobs at Decent Wages*.

The last year has also seen our League improve its contribution in helping to bring about united actions among youth organisations in the fight for peace, social and cultural and economic needs of youth. While recording these advances we nevertheless feel that much more could have been done.

In order that our League will in a truly Marxist-Leninist way face up to our tasks in the coming federal election, in the fight for peace, in the fight for the social and economic needs of young people, greater emphasis than ever before was placed on the need for a radical improvement in the whole work of our League.

As a result of a radical improvement in the mass work of our branches, getting out and fighting for youths' needs, the field for enrolling new members will be made much easier because far wider sections of young people will, when seeing us in action, and hearing our position on questions that concern them, come to realise that the Y.C.L. is the kind of organisation of which they also want to be members. We feel that if this is done we can be assured of rapidly building our League into a much more influential and stronger organisation of forward-looking youth.

The reports and discussions at our conference showed that there has been considerable improvement in our educational work. In the last year several hundred Y.C.Lers. went through one course or another. During the summer three full-time two-week schools for Y.C.Lers. will be held. But even with these improvements educational work in the League by no means occupies the high place that it should in our organisation. To help to rectify this our Conference had a separate session on education. A key report on the History of the C.P.S.U.(B) was given which occupied the centre of discussion in this session. We recognized that an improvement in Marxist-Leninist education is the prerequisite for an improvement in all phases of League work. We feel that of any one medium that would best help us to improve Marxist-Leninist education that medium presents itself in the study of the History of the C.P.S.U.(B). To encourage the sale and study of the History within the League, the National Executive Committee sent out to every member of the Y.C.L. a personal letter indicating the importance of the History of the C.P.S.U.(B) for him or her as the case may be.

After a thorough discussion with Y.C.L. secretaries and National Council members we pledged to sell within the League and amongst anti-fascist youth 1,000 copies of the History by December of this year.

As a result of our National Conference our Canadian Y.C.L. is better equipped to take its place as a champion of youth needs to-day and lead ever-wider circles of young people onward to socialism.

## The Fourth Canadian Youth Congress

By Dave Kashtan

THE great democratic youth gathering, the fourth Canadian Youth Congress, has met. A review of its findings prove them to be of far-reaching importance, not only to the Canadian youth, but for the Canadian people as a whole.

The Congress reflected the conditions under which it met. Taking place at a time when the world is menaced by fascist aggression and when the Canadian people are faced with National and Social insecurity, the youth of the Dominion declared their determination to play a forward part for *National and Social security*. For all who attended the Congress it was an exciting event as well as a great education. The delegates not only concerned themselves with youth problems, not as youth alone, but with the welfare of Canada as a whole. The spirit of the congress is well epitomised in the main report delivered by the former National Co-Chairman, *Norman Levy*: "The Pioneer spirit is not one of defeat, it is the spirit of strength and construction, of freedom and progress. In this spirit we dare to meet the spirit of our times."

*Three-hundred-and-sixty-two delegates of all faiths and views representing in all two-hundred-and-eighty-nine organisations were present at the congress and participated in the work of the five commissions, CANADIAN UNITY—CANADIAN PEACE POLICY—YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE—YOUTH IN INDUSTRY—TRAINING YOUNG CITIZENS.* It is significant that at this first Western gathering of the Youth Congress, which helped to further strengthen the unity of youth from East and West, the credential report showed improved representation from the Trade Unions and farm youth organisations, and young people of Catholic faith.

All provinces were represented with the exception of Prince Edward Island. Nearly half of the 362 delegates came from Manitoba, Ontario with 76 delegates, Saskatchewan with 41 delegates, British Columbia with 28, Alberta 26, Quebec had 13, New Brunswick 1, and Nova Scotia 1.

Church and "Y" groups had 96 representatives from 58 organisations. United Church had the largest delegation with 48 representatives, 12 Jewish organisations with 17 delegates. Anglican three, Baptists two, and one from two small Church bodies. No Roman Catholic groups were represented officially, but a considerable number were delegates from non-church groups. Twenty-one Youth Councils were represented. There were 28 delegates from student bodies, 35 trade union delegates and 21 delegates from rural and farm youth organisations.

There were 54 delegates from political bodies, including Young Conservatives, Young Liberals, Social Credit youth, Young Communist League, C.C.Y.M., New Democracy, Action Nationale. 49 delegates represented almost a dozen National youth groups. The rest of the delegates came from sport organisations, art groups, cultural and teachers' organisations, peace groups, discussion clubs, unemployed organisations, recreational societies, etc.

From the very first day of the Congress the spirit of unity of English-speaking and French-Canadian youth permeated all the proceedings. It became clear that the representative delegates were firmly resolved to maintain unity and to prevent any disruption or obstacle to hinder this unity. At all times, and on all questions the great majority of the delegates, voted either in favour of or in opposition to certain proposals. There never was any doubt as to the 75 per cent majority vote necessary for the adoption of any motion.

The speeches delivered by the delegates on Canadian Peace Policy clearly pictured the seriousness of the present International situation. The Congress recognised the need for an independent policy for Canada and strongly urged that our Government pursue a policy of *collective action against the aggressors*. The Chamberlain policy of "non-intervention" and "appeasement" came in for much criticism and condemnation. The great majority of the delegates favoured a *PEACE BLOC* of non-



aggressor states composed of Great Britain, France, U.S.S.R., and the U.S.A., and also urged that our Government establish much closer relations with all North and Latin-American countries. Amidst great applause, the delegates voted for an embargo on all war materials to aggressor states and approved a boycott of all products from aggressor states. *The Congress unanimously approved sending a cable to the youth of China on July 7, the anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities in China and pledging support to the youth of China until final victory.*

With the present tense situation in the world the stand taken by the congress on rearmament and conscription is of great importance. The representatives of 500,000 Canadian youth are for the defence of our coasts, but believe that a policy of rearmament and its effectiveness is preconditioned by a correct foreign policy of collective security.

The large majority of the congress, including French-Canadian delegates, voted in favour of conscription in the event of direct military attack on Canadian territory. A large majority were in favour of conscription in the event of Canadian participation with other democratic states in defence against the aggressors. The congress expressed unanimous opinion in favour of the repeal of all legislation now existent that would permit the conscription of men in Canada without the democratic consideration of our Parliament under present conditions.

The Youth Congress urged youth to be vigilant in defence of democratic principles and to co-operate in the fight against any restriction of our democratic rights in Canada, against race hatred and anti-semitism, as alien to the democracy and unity of Canada.

The Federal Government was asked to enforce existing legislation against the penetration of agents of foreign powers alien to democratic principles. It was felt that greater powers should be given to the Federal Government to enact the necessary social legislation on a National scale, such as unemployment, health and

crop insurance measures, a National minimum wage and hours legislation and that if necessary to bring this legislation into being, the B.N.A. Act be amended.

The Congress favoured the Lapointe Bill, a law passed by the Dominion Government giving the right to workers to organise into trade unions, a slum clearance programme, a system of work projects, two weeks' holiday with pay, lowering of the present age requirement of 75 to 65 years in the old-age pension system, National minimum wage legislation, a National Youth Administration, against labour espionage, increased facilities for vocational and apprenticeship training, extension of recreational and health facilities (commendation of the Provincial Recreation Centre movement in British Columbia and Alberta), opposition to the semi-military camp scheme proposed by the Canadian Corps Association, extension of the Youth Training projects.

Of particular importance was the report brought forward by the commission dealing with problems of agriculture. Proposals for 80 per cent wheat, long term loans at low interest and mortgage rates to young farmers, minimum wage legislation for agricultural labourers. Against private monopoly control of our forest resources. These and other important matters were voted upon.

From Congress to Congress, Ottawa, 1936; Montreal, 1937; Toronto, 1938; Winnipeg, 1939, the Canadian youth movement has made great strides forward, making gains every year in the crusade for peace, democracy and security. 1939-1940 will undoubtedly show greater activity in the ranks of youth and, as stated so concisely in the concluding paragraph of the main report delivered at the Congress: "The task and privilege of the Youth Movement is to unify our youth, to develop our conception of citizenship, to give direction, coherence and strength to our efforts for national betterment. In our strivings for social justice and peace, we preserve and strengthen our democratic institutions, let us then be worthy of our great Pioneer heritage; let us face the future united, free and unafraid." The Winnipeg Congress worked in this spirit.

## In the Country of Socialism

# The Budget of the Soviet Union

By Otto Meier

**I**N all capitalist countries, the question of the budget is extremely disquieting for the mass of the people and for the youth: new taxes, new restrictions placed on social services, increase the poverty with which the mass of the workers is afflicted. In capitalist countries, the problem of the budget means that all the burdens are borne by the people, particularly in the countries of the fascist aggressors, where the people, the working class, are pillaged and bled white.

The Soviet budget is the reflection of the triumph of socialism, of the gigantic forces of the new social order. When the Soviet youth examines budgetary questions, it is not weighed down by grave anxieties. Quite to the contrary, since it is among the biggest beneficiaries from this budget.

The figures of the Soviet budget are extraordinary. During the years of the Second Stalinist Five Year Plan, the budget rose to 362,100 million roubles. The Soviet Union is the only country that has a stable budget. Receipts were 13,300 million in excess of expenditure.

On the other hand, in the course of one single year, the State deficit in fascist Germany increased by 10 thousand million Reichmarks. Is this not the proof that socialism leads the people to well-being, while fascism takes it to ruin?

Where does the money come from for this Soviet budget which, for 1939, was 155,607,000,000 roubles? (In 1938 it was 127,571,000,000 roubles).

An insignificant portion of the State income comes from taxes paid by the population: these in 1939 rose to 6.5 milliard roubles in all, or 4.2 per cent of the budget receipts. The bulk of the Soviet State revenues are covered by the accumulation of the socialist economy.

In the Soviet Union where there are neither exploiters nor

exploited, the profits of socialist industry and agriculture, far from accumulating, as is the case under the reign of capitalism, in the pockets of a handful of people, go to enrich the people in its entirety.

Where does the money go to? Here are some figures. The expenditure increased, in comparison with 1938, by almost 25 per cent. Almost two thirds of the budget is devoted to the development of socialist economy and to social and cultural measures.

The expenditure on national education rose in 1939 to 21,051 million roubles, as against 18,774 million roubles for 1938, or an increase of 12.1 per cent. The number of pupils in the schools will reach 34.8 millions in the course of the last year but one of the Stalinist Third Five Year Plan. In the towns all children will go to secondary schools, which will have ten classes. Such a triumph can be boasted of in no other country in the world. It must not be forgotten that in the course of the last eight years the Soviet country has built 18,778 new schools of which 15,107 are in the villages. School expenses for 1939 are 7,688 million roubles, to which has just been added 485 million roubles devoted to the construction of new schools.

Public health expenditure involves an increase of 15.8 per cent in comparison with 1938, and that on social insurance an increase of 18.2 per cent.

The Third Five Year Plan will solve the historic problem of raising the cultural and technical level of the working class to that already attained by engineers and technicians. The Soviet budget will contribute to this largely.

7,215 million roubles will be spent in 1939 in technical and scientific instruction of cadres. 903 million roubles are reserved to the scientific research institutes.



For the care which is lavished on children in the Kindergartens, the Soviet budget allocates, for 1939 1,368 million roubles. 77 million roubles are allocated for developing sports, that is to say 5.2 per cent more than in 1938.

One thousand million roubles is reserved for aid to big families.

The development of **socialist industry** has reached a tremendous pitch. Big new enterprises are created, destined to equal and surpass the foreign capitalist countries in all fields of production. 34,730,000 million roubles are allocated for the construction of industrial establishments.

Each year 1.5 million new young workers will come from the villages to these enterprises for the development of the national economy.

The whole world has been impressed by the decision of the Supreme Soviet to devote 40,880 million roubles from the budget to **national defence**. When this gigantic sum was announced, deputies rose to give a triumphant ovation to Stalin, to Voroshilov and to the Soviet Government. (In 1938 the section of the budget devoted to national defence was 27,044 million roubles.) This vote is a reply to the fascist war provocateurs, it contributes largely to the struggle for the saving of world peace. The Soviet people is ready at any moment to transform into action the words spoken by Stalin in the course of the 18th Party congress, that is "reply by a double blow to any blow of the war makers who might try to violate the integrity of the Soviet frontiers."

These 40,880 million roubles make it possible for 170 million men to hold themselves in readiness; this force is not only invincible, but it is capable of conquering everything. That is a truth that the Japanese imperialists, companions-in-arms of the fascist war axis, experienced sharply last year.

These figures prove the lightning development of the socialist productive forces and of the well-being of the Soviet people. Let us complete them with a few facts. In the Soviet Union 16 million men have savings. If, in 1934, the average holding at the Savings Bank was 40 roubles, this same average is to-day greater than 400 roubles.

The Third Stalinist Five Year Plan which constitutes a great step forward towards communism, will considerably raise the standard of living of the Soviet people. In the course of the Bolshevik Party congress which was held in the month of March, 1939, Molotov made a declaration on this subject. The salaries of the working class will increase by 35 per cent, the number of businesses by 53 per cent for the food industry alone, and 35 million roubles will be devoted to new houses: 8 million new high grade specialist workers will be trained.

## The Far East Will Become the Land of Youth

THE Far East, this vast territory of the Soviet Union, is famous for its impenetrable Taiga and for the richness of its animal life. One can encounter there all sorts of animals, ranging from wild goats to brown bears. The territory of the Far East hides inexhaustible riches, of which the principal are coal and minerals. The vast meadows of the Far East favour the development of cattle-raising.

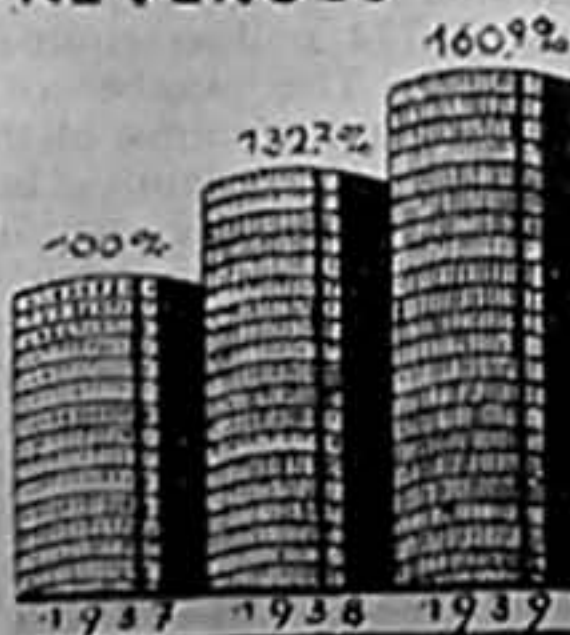
But the Far East is not sufficiently inhabited, and to settle people there is one of the tasks of the Third Five-Year Plan. At the Eighteenth Congress of the Bolshevik Party, Comrade Molotov said:

"Without a comprehensive development of the country's basic economic centres the most important interests of the State cannot be secured. The Far East must have on its own territory all it needs in the way of fuel and, as far as possible the metal and machine building, cement, lumber and building materials in general as well as the majority of the food and light industry products that are bulky to ship. Of course, the Far East must completely supply itself with potatoes and other vegetables and generally set to work determinedly for the advancement of agriculture, for the complete elimination of its lapses in agriculture. Large industrial construction is being carried out in the Far East, and railways are being laid at an intensified pace. In the Third Five-Year Plan period, the Baikal-Amur railway trunk line furnishing a new and powerful means of communication between the Far Eastern territory and Siberia, will already be partly in operation. We regard the Far Eastern territory, the mighty outpost of Soviet power in the East as one requiring further strengthening in every way." (Molotov report presented to the Eighteenth Congress of the C.P.S.U.(B).)

The collective farmers of the Vorobievsk district, in the Voronezh region, were the first to respond to the resolutions of the Eighteenth Congress of the C.P.S.U. (B) on the Far East. 138 families, or 714 people of one region have decided to set out for the new territory. Young Communists are numerous among those who, following the resolution of the eighth plenary session of the C.C. of the Y.C.L. of the U.S.S.R. are to take an active part in settling people in the Far East, in the exploitation of its natural wealth.

## THE STATE BUDGET OF THE USSR

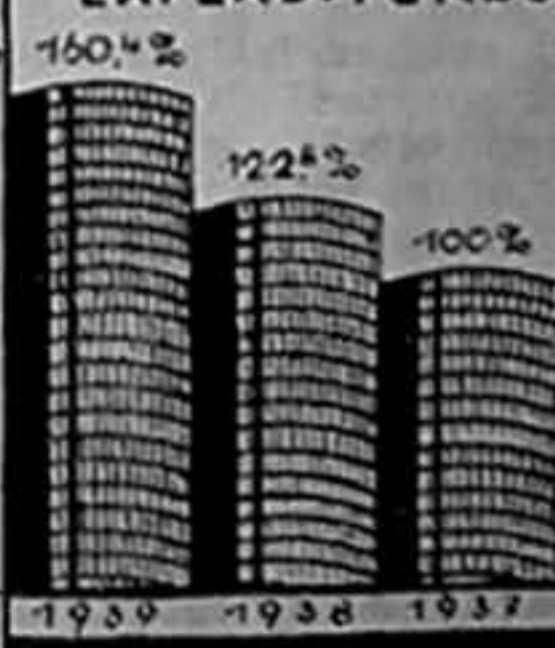
### REVENUES



### ALLOCATION OF FUNDS IN 1939



### EXPENDITURES



A. VOLKSWIRTSCHAFT / NATIONAL ECONOMY / ECONOMIE NATIONALE B. VERTEIDIGUNG / DEFENSE  
C. SOZIALE-KULTURELLE FRAGEN / SOCIAL-CULTURAL MEASURES / QUESTIONS SOCIALES-CULTURELLES  
D. DIVERSE / MISCELLANEOUS / DIVERS

Our photograph shows, left and right, increase of revenue and expenditure for 1939 with distribution of the budget in the centre.



## THE DREAM COMES TRUE: YOUTH SETS OUT FOR THE WONDERFUL LAND

The organ of the Voronezh regional committee and of the town committee of the Young Communist League of the U.S.S.R., *Molodoi Communar* (the Young Communar) devoted nearly the whole of its May 20 issue to the great initiative of the workers and peasants of this region. By means of articles and photos, the paper shows with what enthusiasm the youth takes part in this campaign. The paper publishes the appeal of the Young Communist League to the youth of the Voronezh region, a description of the farewells given to those who set off, and letters from the young colonists. 95 young Communists report in their letter to the youth that they are going to one of the biggest workshops of the Third Five-Year Plan, the Amurstalstroï. Seven colonists—"strong and healthy young men and girls"—tell us that they are astonished at the fact that:

"In impenetrable forests where perhaps man had never set foot before, factories are being built, railways constructed, mines developed, and minerals exploited. And in all this we ourselves do a small part. We are happy to be useful to our fatherland in the place where it needs us most." Yegor Lavrenev, secretary of a Young Communist unit at the Krasnoe Shamia collective farm (Red Flag farm) tells us that it was decided in the course of a meeting of young Communists that the whole unit should set out for the Far East.

## THE ENEMY SHALL NOT MARCH ON SOVIET SOIL

The first colonists were already working in the workshops and in the fields of their new territory. *Pravda* published on May 26 a letter from these pioneers to Comrade Stalin, that they had written after reaching the banks of the Amur while new trains, full of colonists, were joining them. A young accordion player, seated on a wagon seat, plays joyous melodies. From another wagon the sounds of the balalaika can be heard. The youth is going to a far off and marvellous land to strengthen still more this powerful outpost of socialism. That does not please the imperialists and the Japanese generals who dream of pillaging the rich Soviet territory. Filled with impotent hatred, these plunder generals who well remember the lesson they had near Lake Hassan, are beginning to understand that their day is over. Their regime is old—and they themselves are old. They can still bring their forces up against the weak, but they can in no way take up the fight against the Soviet Far East. The threats of old generals against the young Far Eastern territory are powerless. They received a convincing enough reply in the speech of one young Communist in a colonist wagon:

"The Party, the Government, has called for the settling in the Far East. The youth will do it. The Far Eastern territory will become a land of youth. Vigilantly we guard the frontiers of the U.S.S.R. and we shall not allow the enemy to march on Soviet Soil."

## Learn and Comprehend

# The Fourteenth of July, 1789

By Paul Bouthonnier

THE popular masses played a considerable role in the great Revolution. From this point of view the taking of the Bastille is, together with August 10, 1792, one of the greatest examples of the progressive action of our people in the course of the mighty events which ended in the abolition of the old regime and the beginning of bourgeois democratic liberties.

We know (see *World Youth Review*, May, 1939, number) that from the opening of the States-General, the deputies of the Third Estate came into conflict with the king and aristocrats, whose aim was to prevent the realisation of the reforms inscribed in the *Cahiers de Doleances* (Letters of Complaints).

Before the firm determination of the nation's elected representatives, Louis XVI and his advisers decided to resort to violence. A military coup d'état was prepared.

## THE KING AND HIS ADVISERS PREPARED TO CRUSH PARIS

The people of France, and the people of Paris in particular, realised the danger the resistance of the royalty constituted for the National Assembly. Both the capital and the provinces were, siding with the representatives of the nation, ready to act.

For the Court and the privileged classes it was then a question of crushing Paris. Paris once conquered, it would be easier to deal with the rest of France.

Thus Louis XVI concentrated 20,000 troops around Paris: Sevres, Saint-Cloud, Saint-Denis and the Champ de Mars were occupied by Swiss and German regiments. The Gardes Françaises (French Guards) were barracked in the capital itself.

This was a provocation to which the Paris population could not remain indifferent.

On June 25, 1789, the Assembly of Paris electors created a Citizens' Guard. The movement grew. On July 10, the Assembly of electors asked the King and the National Assembly (which they

thus placed on an equal footing with Louis XVI) for the withdrawal of the troops assembled around and in Paris.

The King replied to this move with a second provocation: On July 11 he dismissed Necker, his Finance Minister, who had the confidence of the Third Estate, giving him only 48 hours to leave France.

Instead, he appointed into the Government the *Baron de Breteuil* and *Marshal de Broglie*, sworn enemies of the new ideas.

The financiers, friends of Necker, who was a banker, replied by closing the Bourse. Grave incidents took place at the Palais Royal where Parisians crowded every day. When the news of Necker's dismissal was heard, a procession formed up at the call of *Camille Desmoulins*. It encountered a barrage of the Royal German regiment, which, however, could not stop the demonstrators. They invaded the Place de la Concorde. The Prince of Lambesc, who commanded the Royal Germans, gave the order to clear the square. The soldiers advanced. But the crowd resisted them. The French Guards made common cause with them, and fired on the horsemen of the Royal German regiment, who were forced to withdraw.

Before this the French Guards had demonstrated their sympathy with the people. On June 28, 1789, soldiers of this regiment mutinied with cries of "We are the soldiers of the nation." They had been put in the Abbaye prison. But on June 30 the people set them free. This fraternisation of the soldiers with the people was to be one of the reasons for the defeat of the criminal plans of Louis XVI. In fact, the soldiers were dissatisfied at the strict discipline imposed on them, and their non-commissioned officers, who were debarred from the higher army ranks, wanted the suppression of the privileged classes. All were opposed to suppressing the movement which was going to satisfy their demands.

On July 13, the Electors' Assembly, after the success the people had just gained, formed a permanent committee and a



Town Executive, taking from the municipality powers which were favourable to the King.

The whole of Paris was roused. The gunsmiths' shops had not enough supplies, so they seized the Invalides arms depot, with its 27 cannon and 30,000 rifles. There were more arms and munitions at the Bastille. It was decided to take them.

### BUT THE PEOPLE ROSE AND TOOK THE BASTILLE

The Bastille was an enormous fortress in the heart of Paris, between Faubourg St.-Antoine, the Quinze-Vingt hospital and the arsenal. The Bastille in the hands of the King meant his cannon dominating the town. To occupy it meant, at the same time, to strike a terrible blow at the monarchy.

In the afternoon of July 14, the people besieged the old fortress.

Its governor, De Launay, sheltered behind thick walls, tried to gain time. He counted on the intervention of the King's regiments to disperse the crowd. The delegates of the new municipal council, who interviewed him, secured a promise that the cannon which defended the Bastille should be withdrawn. But the people wanted the surrender of the garrison, composed of Swiss and invalides. They send forward a parliamentarian, *Thuriot*, who is received by the governor. De Launay tries to conciliate him. While these conversations drag on, *Santerre*, a brewer from Faubourg St.-Antoine, cries: "It is this very day the Bastille must be taken."

Then a wheelwright, axe in hand, advances to the drawbridge and smashes the chains. The people penetrate through the outer wall. The garrison fires on the attackers. A new deputation from the Commune, led by a lawyer, makes a final démarche to the governor. The Swiss fire once again. After a moment's pause, the struggle recommences. French Guards arrive with cannon. Now the garrison is forced to surrender. It asks for the honours of war. The people refuse, and only grant them their lives.

De Launay is arrested, as is Flaiselle, provost of the merchants, who tried to deceive the Parisians. Both are forthwith executed.

### THE CONSEQUENCES OF JULY FOURTEENTH, 1789

This day of July the Fourteenth, 1789, had a decisive importance. It was a great victory for the Paris popular masses in their struggle for liberty, and was the signal, for all France, for a vast movement which was to destroy feudal society.

Louis XVI dared not continue to attack Paris. He even came to the Town Hall on July 17 and recognised the revolutionary municipality. In his hat he wore the tri-coloured cockade, emblem of the people's triumph. Finally he recalled Necker to reassure the creditors of the royal treasury.

In the provinces, in all the towns, the electors of the Third Estate appointed new municipal councils, as in Paris, to replace the representatives of royal power. They, too, organised National Guards. In every parish the peasants, who since the elections to the States-General were in a state of revolt and refusing to pay their feudal taxes, marched on the chateaux and burned the old parchments on which the landowners' rights were inscribed.

In a few days they freed themselves from the fate of a secular oppression.

The National Constituent Assembly could only legalise the results of the popular action. This it did in the memorable night session of August 4, when the representatives of the nobility and the clergy solemnly renounced their privileges.

The day of July 14, 1789, has a valuable lesson for us. It shows us that the ruling classes, in their decline, refuse to give up their unjust privileges of their own free will. But the unity of the people always prevails against their policy of social reaction. Today, the two hundred families, who see in fascism the supreme means of maintaining their domination over the people, have an analogous attitude to that of the nobles and the King in 1789. Only the unity of the nation will save democracy and the liberties they want to destroy and allow our country to go forward on the path of human progress.

## Young Communists Greet Socialist Youth Call for United Action

Paris, July 31st.

*On behalf of the Young Communist International, Raymond Guyot, the General Secretary, has sent the following telegram to the Congress of the Young Socialist International now being held in Lille:*

On behalf of the Young Communist International, we send our fraternal greetings to the delegates to the Congress of the Young Socialist International. We renew the proposals for the united action of the two Youth Internationals, which we made on June 13, 1939, to save peace, for the defence of the liberties and rights of youth, for aid to the refugees and victims of fascism,

and against the terror in Spain, Czechoslovakia and Austria.

We reaffirm our wish for a joint meeting of delegations of the two Youth Internationals, to decide upon action to be undertaken rapidly, in view of the gravity of the situation.

We are convinced that the Congress of the Young Socialist International will give a favourable reply to our proposals, for the progressive anti-fascist youth has the duty of doing everything possible to obtain a victory over fascism.

On behalf of the Executive of the Young Communist International,

*Raymond Guyot, General Secretary.*