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De leden van het Executive Comité o.k.
Bittg. 12-12-50

NOTA

Van: KA-R.A.

Aan: Hoofd B.

No. E.469.

ONDERWERP: Maandelijks overzichten Engeland.

1. Lang gewachten toch gekregen!!
2. Hierbij de maandelijks overzichten Engeland van Juli - December 1949 en Januari 1950.
3. De volgende overzichten zullen ons maandelijks worden toegezonden.

In het overzicht over 27-2-50.
Dec. 1949 komt een verslag
van het Congres voor
Bittg. 28.2.50
datw. 28.2.50

BIJLAGEN: 7

OP KAART
ACD/809
DAT: 27-1-51
PAR: R.M.

4.21
21-01-1951

1001 830 14
3 Maart 1950
ACD/80924Z

Jessie Bittg. 5/12/50

Aan ~~KB~~ T.k.

~~KB~~

Deze maandoorslagen wijken af van het door ons gevolgd systeem. Er zijn kennelijk ook gegevens in verwerkt, afkomstig uit geheime bronnen. Men er is goed geïnformeerd, ook over het geen zal gaan gebeuren.

Voor het Partij-congres wordt in het overzicht van Nov. '49 een extra. rapport aangekondigd, dat hier niet bij is. Ik zou K.A.R.A. willen vragen, om toezending er van te verrichten. Bittg. 2.3.50

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THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY

AUGUST 1949.

1. POLICY

"The Socialist Road for Britain"

The British Communist Party has re-affirmed its policy in a sixpenny pamphlet, "The Socialist Road for Britain", a draft of its General Election programme intended for discussion at the Party Congress which is to be held in November.

The new statement reiterates the main arguments which the Party has uniformly repeated since December 1947. If Britain breaks with capitalism at home and in its foreign relations, all economic difficulties will vanish and the way will be open to "a future of secure employment, rising standards of living and lasting peace". The "path of mass unemployment, subjection to America and a new world war" is presented as the grim alternative.

2. PREPARATIONS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION.

The appearance of "The Socialist Road for Britain" has coincided with the issue by the Propaganda Department of instructions for the mounting of an election campaign in the hundred constituencies where the Party proposes to put forward a candidate. Constituency organisations have been told to prepare a propaganda plan and to make arrangements, such as the booking of halls, for its implementation. It has been emphasised that, because the Party intends to put forward a hundred candidates, each constituency must rely on its own resources and not expect speakers or money from headquarters.

3. THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE TRADE UNIONS.

The decision of the Transport and General Workers Union to exclude members of the Communist Party from office in the union has been interpreted by the industrial leadership of the Party as a grave challenge to its influence in the whole trade union movement. The decision is seen as the precursor of similar rulings in other unions, if it is unchallenged. The Party has decided that nothing is to be gained by a resort to methods of conspiracy: it considers that a direct attack is best met by an open counter-attack in which the names and records of service of officials of the union who are Party members shall be widely publicised in order to demonstrate the folly and injustice of the decision. All Party districts have been instructed to bring pressure to bear through the trade unions for the revocation of the ban.

The forthcoming Trades Union Congress in Bridlington is, as is usual, receiving the attention of the Industrial Department. Delegates who are Party members are receiving customary briefing and Party industrial officials are preparing to visit Bridlington during the Congress.

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The strike of colliery winding men has presented the Party with a dilemma. Although the winders have a grievance about wages which the Party would eagerly support, its main influence in the coal industry is exerted through the National Union of Mineworkers, which views with disfavour the winding men's break-away union.

4. VISITS ABROAD.

On 13 July, 1949, a delegation from the Scottish Area of the National Union of Mineworkers went to Poland to inspect and report on the Polish coalmines. The delegation was led by Abe MOFFAT, president of the Scottish Area of the National Union of Mineworkers and a member of the National Executive and the Scottish Committee of the British Communist Party. On 5 August, 1949, a further delegation from the Scottish Area of the National Union of Mineworkers, which included Alexander MOFFAT, brother of Abe MOFFAT, and William PEARSON, secretary of the Scottish Area of the National Union of Mineworkers, both members of the British Communist Party, left for Moscow to inspect Russian mining conditions.

The British delegation which went to Moscow to attend the All-Union Peace Conference on 25 August, was composed of two groups, one comprising the Dean of CANTERBURY and Dr. J.G. CROWTHER representing the British Peace Committee, and one representing the Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R., and including the Hon. Ivor MONTAGU, Professor J.D. BERNAL, Mr. and Mrs. E.V. TEMPEST and T.A. RUSSELL of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. E.V. TEMPEST is a member of the British Communist Party and is described by it as a "Marxist business man". He is a director of the firm TEMPEST and Sons of Bradford, and has travelled extensively, since the war, in Eastern Europe.

5. THE BRITISH-SOVIET SOCIETY.

As foreshadowed in March, the appointment of William WAINWRIGHT as secretary of the British-Soviet Society has resulted in closer co-operation between it and the British Communist Party. First, in conjunction with the Party's drive for new members, the Society is expected shortly to concentrate on the formation of more area groups, which it is hoped will attract those persons who, though not prepared to join the Party, are sympathetic enough towards the U.S.S.R. to join a friendship society. Secondly, there is little doubt that the Congress for Peace, Trade and Friendship with the U.S.S.R. held at St. Pancras Town Hall on 12 June formed an integral part of the Party's peace campaign.

One of the reasons why WAINWRIGHT was appointed secretary was to attempt to improve the unsatisfactory financial position of the Society. His efforts have, however, been frustrated by the necessity of having at short notice to find alternative accommodation for the British Soviet Society, when the lease expired for the premises at 15, Devonshire Street and no extension was granted. As a temporary measure the Society has moved to 17, Bishop's Bridge Road, Paddington, W.2., where it shares office accommodation with the Communist-controlled Worker's Music Association. So unsatisfactory is the present arrangement that the Society intends appointing a full-time paid employee whose sole task will be to find suitable accommodation. The precarious financial position of the Society has prevented it from purchasing one of the many

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premises it is known to have considered. An unsuccessful attempt by WAINWRIGHT to obtain a loan or gift of money from British-Soviet Friendship Houses Ltd. has shown up the differences of opinion that exist about the future of this company. It is a trust whose purpose is to provide club houses. Its Management Committee is adamant in refusing to allow any of its money to be used for propaganda or political purposes; it has however reluctantly agreed to purchase a suitable building, once it has been found, and to allow the British-Soviet Society to have office accommodation there. WAINWRIGHT's idea, and this represents the official Party line on the point, is that the company should be liquidated and its capital made available to the British-Soviet Society. He fears that if a club house is established it will be frequented only by the rich patrons and members and will be "bourgeois". The position at the moment remains one of uneasy tension between the two organisations, which are to all intents and purposes a joint concern since many members of the Management Board of the one are also on the Executive Committee of the other. WAINWRIGHT is unable to act decisively since he is dependent on the financial backing of the company.

Membership of the British-Soviet Society at the beginning of the year was believed to exceed 3,000 of whom some 1,168 were provincial members. It is interesting to note that at the time of the "Amethyst" incident on the Yangtze, only one member resigned in protest, whereas, after a public meeting in London held at that time, 134 new members were enrolled.

When in July the German-Soviet Society held a congress in the Russian sector of Berlin, Commander Edgar YOUNG, Honorary Vice-Chairman of the Society, and Miss Dora SCARLETT, the Society's South West Area Secretary, attended as official delegates. The British-Soviet Society is itself intending to hold a congress, probably at the Empress Hall, Earls Court, on 6 November, when it is hoped that Harry POLLITT will address the meeting.

6. THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND CHINA.

In March 1949 the Communist Party finally abandoned its attempts to gain control of the China Campaign Committee and decided upon the formation of an Anglo-Chinese organisation which would be under effective Party control. A preparatory meeting was held in April at the Howard Hotel in London, attended by about 40 persons, chiefly representatives of trade unions. The meeting was convoked by Neil STEWART of the Party's Far East Committee and J. PLATTS-MILLS, M.P., in the chair. The meeting elected a working committee, which is completely dominated by the Party, to work out proposals for the establishment of the new organisation and to make arrangements for a conference to be held in the autumn of 1949 to launch the new organisation officially. The general aims of the organisation are to be:-

- a. To work for recognition of the new Chinese Government as soon as it is established.
- b. To work for the development of trade with New China.
- c. To build by means of propaganda and in all other possible ways, the closest possible links between the British and Chinese peoples.

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A Britain-China Conference Committee has now been set up with offices at 15 Half Moon Street, London, W.1., and a minor Party official from North London, Jack DRIBBON, has been appointed full time paid secretary. The Conference will be held on 3 and 4 December at the Beaver Hall, London. It will probably be called 'Conference for Trade and Friendship with China'. Already the Conference Committee is busy raising money and canvassing important public figures as sponsors of the Conference. The Daily Worker has announced that Lord BOYD ORR and Lord LINDSAY of BIRKER have already agreed to act in this capacity.

7. THE PARTY AND THE WEST INDIES

July 1949 saw the publication of the first number of the 'West Indies News Letter', prepared by the recently formed West Indies Committee of the Party. Based largely on material obtained from the West Indies, the news letter is intended for readers both at home and abroad.

This is the fourth of the News Letters now being regularly published by sub-committees of the International Committee, the others being the Africa, India and Middle East News Letters.

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY

Dissolution

In accordance with the resolution of the annual conference of the Revolutionary Communist Party (Majority Group) to enter the Labour Party, it was publicly announced on 9 July, ^{that} 1949, the Party would disband and call upon its members to join the Labour Party. It was also announced that the publications "Socialist Appeal" and "Workers International News" would be discontinued.

Although the Party has been formally dissolved, it will continue to exist as a secret body. The Party's aim is to split the Labour Party by pursuing within it the fight for the overthrow of the capitalist system and the introduction of a socialist regime in Britain, which were its aims when it existed openly.

The object of publicly announcing the dissolution of the Party and of discontinuing the two Party publications was to convince the public that Trotskyism in Britain is dead and that the Party had thus really been dissolved. This was necessary to gain entry into the Labour Party.

In spite of its opposition to the Communist Party the Revolutionary Communist Party nevertheless intends whilst in the Labour Party to work with the Communist Party whenever anti-capitalist action is involved and whenever the Communist Party follows the policy of supporting strikes and fomenting industrial unrest.

Fusion between the Majority & Minority Groups

The fusion between the two groups has not yet taken place. It was decided in June, 1949, to form a joint negotiating committee of the two groups to discuss fusion. It is now apparent that disagreement exists over the conditions on which the new organisation should be formed. It seems unlikely that a final decision will be taken for several months.

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Membership of the Minority Group

The membership of the Minority Group in the United Kingdom numbered 154 in June, 1949.

Location of the Party Centre

The Revolutionary Communist Party Centre is now located at 41, Marylands Road, London, W.9.

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