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THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY.

June 1950.

1. THE FIGHT FOR PEACE.

On 31 May a meeting of the Bureau of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress (otherwise known as the Partisans of Peace or World Defenders of Peace) was held at the Cora Hotel, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1. This was attended by:-

- (NK) X BAILLOT, Louis Henri. Probably acting for Guy de BOYSSON, president of the World Federation of Democratic Youth.
- CHI TSIN JEN. Chinese interpreter.
- (NK) X COTTON, Mme. Eugenie. Vice-chairman of the Women's International Democratic Federation. Member of the Permanent Commission of the French Partisans of Peace.
- (NK) X d'ARBOUSSIER, Gabriel. Vice-president of the World Peace Congress. General Secretary of the Communist-controlled Rassemblement Democratique Africain.
- (NK) X CHAMBRUN, Gilbert de. Member of the Secretariat of the World Peace Congress and a French Communist Deputy.
- (NK) X de GRADA, Dr. Raffaele. An Italian member of the Secretariat of the World Peace Congress.
- (NK) X FARGE, Yves Louis. An organiser of the Paris Peace Congress of April 1949. Fellow-travelling writer and propagandist.
- (NK) X FENOALTEA, Dr. Georges. Italian barrister. On the Secretariat of the World Peace Congress.
- ✓ D33259  
GUYOT, Mme. Fernande. Administrative secretary and treasurer of the World Peace Congress.
- PD42504 ✓ HEIBERG, Edvard Omfen. Chairman of the Danish Peace Committee.
- ✓ HODINOVA-SPURNA, Mme. Agnes or Anezka. Deputy-chairman of the Czech Communist Party. Deputy and vice-president of the Czech National Council. Vice-president of the World Peace Congress. Member of the executive committee of the Women's International Democratic Federation.

/KORNEITCHUK, Alexander  
Evdokomovitch.

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- X KORNEITCHUK, Alexander  
TD-42510 Evdokomovitch.  
President of the Supreme Council of the Ukraine S.S.R.  
Member of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress, April 1949.
- X LAFFITTE, Jean Gabriel.  
General secretary of the World Peace Congress. An active and influential French communist.
- X LECONTE @ MORGAN, Claude.  
Editor of "In Defence of Peace", the journal of the World Peace Committee.
- X LE LEAP, Alain.  
Secretary-general of the C.G.T.  
Vice-president of the World Federation of Trades Unions.  
Member of the French Committee of the Partisans of Peace.
- X LIU NING I.  
Vice-chairman of the Chinese Branch of the World Peace Congress.  
Vice-president of the World Federation of Trades Unions.  
Head of the International Liaison Department of the All-China Federation of Labour.
- X MENETRIER, Elyane.  
Secretary employed by the World Peace Committee.
- X MOOS, Mrs. Elisabeth.  
Director of American (Peace) Campaign Committee.
- X POPOV, Alexei Yakoubovitch.  
Interpreter to KORNEITCHUK.
- X ROBESON, Paul.  
Chairman of the Communist-controlled Council on African Affairs.
- X ROGGE, Otto John.  
Bureau member of the World Peace Committee.  
American lawyer.
- X SERENI, Emilio.  
Italian communist senator.  
Member of the Italian National Committee of Partisans of Peace.
- X TAKMAN, John Oliver.  
Secretary of the Swedish Peace Committee.
- X TILLON, Charles.  
Member of the World Peace Committee.  
Prominent French communist deputy.
- X TUOMINEN, Terttu Miriam.  
Communist secretary of the Finnish Women's Democratic League.

X The Conference was also attended by J.G. CROWTHER, J.D. BERNAL and Ivor MONTAGU of the British Peace Committee.

Decisions were taken as follows:-

(a) That the campaign for signatures for the Stockholm Appeal should go on and that those "consciously opposing" the appeal should be branded as warmongers. A competitive spirit should also be fostered between national peace committees in their collection of signatures.

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(b) That an international bureau of from ten to twelve persons should be set up forthwith in Genoa to make arrangements for the Second World Peace Congress to be held there on or about 15 October, 1950. (The British Peace Committee has been asked urgently to designate two representatives on this bureau). Should the Italian Peace Committee fail to obtain visas for the proposed 2,500 delegates to this Congress, Czechoslovakia or Poland were to be preferred as alternative sites.

(c) That the agenda of the Congress should be:

- (1) The progress of the World Peace Campaign since the Paris Congress in April 1949.
- (2) Action for the prohibition of the atomic weapon.

(d) That, following the invitation of the Czech Peace Committee, the International Jury for Peace Prizes should be convened in Czechoslovakia in the second half of August 1950.

(e) That the monthly review of the World Peace Congress, "IN DEFENCE OF PEACE", should in future be produced every fortnight.

During the course of the discussions the British Peace Committee was strongly criticised and its campaign described as the most backward peace movement in the world. The British representatives accepted the criticism.

On 1 June a meeting organised by the British Peace Committee was held at Lincoln's Inn Fields. Some 5,000 people attended. It was addressed by:- Frederick John HORNER, the General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, who presided, J.G. CROWTHER, Alain Le LEAP, Gabriel d'ARBOUSSIER, Mme. HODINOVA-SPURNA, the Dean of Canterbury, Georges FENOALTEA, Alexander KORNEITCHUK, LIU NING I and Paul ROBESON.

It was announced that a sum of £500 had been collected at the meeting, and that a total of 150,000 signatures had been received in favour of the Stockholm petition to ban atomic warfare.

## 2. CAMPAIGN AGAINST COMPULSORY TERRITORIAL SERVICE.

The Party is aiming to develop a wide campaign to protest against the four years compulsory part-time service in the Territorial Army of national service men on completion of their eighteen months service in the Regular Army, which it denounces as a further move to militarise youth and prepare for a third world war. This campaign is planned to coincide approximately with the time when the first group of national service men will be passing from their regular to territorial units.

The Party's intention is to make the fight against this compulsory service a central feature of the Young Communist League's campaign to gain the support of youth for the National Peace Petition and the Peace Congress. The methods proposed for carrying out this campaign include the following:-

- (a) The publication of articles in "Challenge" and the "Daily Worker".
- (b) The production of a leaflet by the Party and Young Communist League.
- (c) Measures to obtain resolutions from every type of organisation urging the cancellation of compulsory territorial service.

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- (d) Efforts to procure the withdrawal of all trade union support from territorial recruiting committees.
- (e) Demonstrations in every main centre on or about 1 July 1950.

3. THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND TRADE UNION CONFERENCES.

The Communist Party has been somewhat less successful in attracting support for its policies at the trade union conferences held in late May and during June. As was to be expected there was virtually no response from the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, which, together with the Transport and General Workers Union, is most solid in its support of Trades Union Congress policy.

At the annual conference of the Fire Brigades Union, however, resolutions were passed condemning wage restraint and political discrimination in trade unions, while the T.U.C. was criticised in this connection for "attempting to disrupt the individual trade unions by interfering with their autonomy". These all reflected Communist Party policy. Fraternal delegates, who also spoke, were present from Hungary and the Soviet Union. An invitation from the Soviet Union to send a return delegation of five was accepted.

Another union whose annual conference proceedings reflected Communist policy was the National Union of Vehicle Builders. Opposition to wage restraint was reaffirmed and new increases were demanded, while an emergency resolution urging strike action in support of the £1 a week wage increase claim was carried by 26 votes to 6.

The Tobacco Workers Union welcomed, as fraternal delegate, Bedrich KOBLIZEK, National Secretary of the Czechoslovak Food and Tobacco Workers Union, who spoke in praise of the trade union movement in his own country and in favour of the tobacco industry as a national enterprise.

The estimated proportion of 15 Communists to 32 non-Communists in the National Committee of the Amalgamated Engineering Union was reflected in the proceedings of its meeting at Blackpool during June. Resolutions calling for nationalisation without compensation and condemning the use of troops to safeguard essential supplies in unofficial strikes, were defeated, while two resolutions on peace were kept off the agenda because the British Peace Committee is listed as a "proscribed organisation" by the Labour Party, to which the A.E.U. is affiliated. It was announced that the result of voting in the A.E.U. section of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions' ballot on the £1 wage claim had been 143,579 in favour of arbitration against 51,280 in favour of strike action.

At the meeting of the Association of Supervisory Staffs, Executives and Technicians the Executive was authorised by 5830 votes to 3340 to draw up alterations to the rules so as to prevent Communists from holding official positions in the Association. This was after a resolution which would have meant dismissing Communists now holding full-time positions had been defeated by 4,600 votes to 4,160.

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THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY.

The National Committee of the new Trotskyist organisation which has taken the place of the Revolutionary Communist Party has recently expressed satisfaction over the progress of its penetration into the Labour Party. The new organisation is to all intents and purposes the same as the Revolutionary Communist Party, which has ceased to exist only in name. No official title has been given to the organisation in view of its work within the Labour Party, and it is normally referred to by its members as "the club". The National Committee claim that internal relations are good, and that the fusion between the old Majority and Minority Groups of the Revolutionary Communist Party is being increasingly strengthened.

In spite of these claims there is considerable friction and disagreement between a number of the more prominent members and the leadership, and a number of well-known Trotskyists have been expelled or have resigned from the organisation within the past few months. Divergences of opinion have largely been caused by a failure of co-ordination and understanding, and by the lack of information and clear direction, which have resulted from the secrecy in which the organisation is shrouded. An important development has been the complete break between Jock HASTON and Gerard HEALY, who were respectively the leaders of the old Majority Group and Minority Group. In March 1950 HASTON resigned and was at the same time expelled from the organisation, which is now virtually controlled by HEALY from 77, Sternhold Avenue, Streatham, S.W.2. The Executive Committee accused HASTON of having gone over to "reformism" and of having broken with the old revolutionary ideas. There is little doubt that HASTON is disillusioned over the organisation's prospects for success by means of the policy which it is at present pursuing. He is opposed to the present rigid discipline and the conspiratorial attitude of the organisation, which he believes are contrary to its own interests. He now appears to have lost confidence in adopting revolutionary methods and to favour the view that working openly within the Labour Party offers a better chance of success. HASTON's attitude has obviously contributed to the internal friction and dissatisfaction of a number of members with the present leadership.

The energies of the organisation are being mainly directed at the moment towards promoting the Socialist Fellowship, the activities of which the National Committee claims are being adjusted in accordance with its own requirements. The aim is to use the Fellowship as the vanguard in the drive for a true socialist policy within the Labour Party and the trade union movement. Every effort is being made to strengthen and increase the membership of the Fellowship. In addition particular attention is being paid to youth work within the Labour League of Youth, propaganda in support of Yugoslavia, and increasing the influence of the organisation within trade unions.

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