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Hierbij gelieve U aan te treffen een rapport dd. October 1950 betreffende de Britse Communistische Partij, dat SARDINE ons deed toekomen.

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THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY

October 1950

The Peace Campaign

The fight for Peace continues to be the principal plank of the Communist Party platform. Other issues such as agitation for improved working conditions and against the high cost of living are inseparably linked with the Peace Campaign. Although the Communist Party sets such high store by the Peace issue, care is taken so far as the British Peace Committee and the World Peace Congress are concerned that the Communist Party is not too openly connected with their activities. Nevertheless leading members from Party headquarters, including Peter KERRIGAN and Maud ROGERSON, have visited Sheffield for the purpose of helping to organise the Congress and arrange accommodation for the delegates.

The British Peace Committee

The British Peace Committee have been very active during this month in the collection of signatures for the Peace Petition and in making arrangements for the World Peace Congress. They are expected soon to move from their present office at 1a Park Crescent, Regents Park, W.1. to a new and much larger office at 81 City Road, E.C. The acting secretary, Roy GORE, has been replaced by Vincent DUNCAN-JONES, a member of the Communist Party since 1937. He is an able young man and is considered to be more efficient than his predecessor. Mrs. Jessie STREET, an Australian, has been appointed Joint Secretary with DUNCAN-JONES, and since her appointment she has spent most of her time abroad in Scandinavia and Czechoslovakia engaged on arrangements for the World Peace Congress. In this connection she flew to Canada on 23 October and she also intends to visit the United States of America.

The World Peace Congress

During October the World Peace Congress Preparatory Commission met twice in Prague. The British delegates were Ivor MONTAGU, J.G.CROWTHER and D.M.PRITT on the first occasion, and Ivor MONTAGU and Ralph BOND of the Electrical Trades Union on the second occasion. BOND remained behind in Prague after the second meeting as permanent British representative.

An office was set up during October which was independent of the British Peace Committee office, to make all the arrangements for the Congress which is to be held from 13 - 19 November. This office is situated at Flat No.1, 3 Cork Street, W.1. and is run by N.C.CRAIG, a member of the British Communist Party. There have been considerable delays in transferring to the U.K. from France the funds required for the organisation of the Congress, and the Committee feared at one time that the Congress would have to be held outside the U.K. It now appears that the difficulties have been overcome, and funds are being received from the World Peace Committee in Paris in sufficient quantity to enable all the arrangements to go ahead. There is no doubt that the British representatives of the World Peace Congress are anxious for the

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Congress to be a resounding success, and large scale and detailed arrangements are being made to give it all possible publicity. Hotel accommodation is being booked not only in Sheffield, but in nearby towns, and it is understood that reservations have already been made for the 2,500 delegates expected.

Extended Executive Committee Meeting - 14/15 October 1950

This meeting was called by the Communist Party to discuss the reactions to Harry POLLITT's outline of policy issued 8 July 1950 in the pamphlet "The Fight for Peace and Working Class Unity", and the comments and suggestions received from the various District Committees. The meeting was attended by 140 delegates and was presided over by R. PALME DUTT. Harry POLLITT presented the political report in which he stressed the importance of the Peace Campaign and the Party's duty to give proper emphasis to the Korean campaign and the war in Malaya. On the industrial theme he stated that the working class should mount a full scale attack against low wages, the high cost of living and the scarcity of houses. POLLITT also dwelt on the unity of the Labour movement, and urged delegates to recognise the significance of the fight put up at the Labour Party's conference against the use of atomic weapons, which, he said, opened the way for the Communist Party to show the Labour movement its leadership in the Peace Campaign.

James KLUGMAN spoke on Party education and urged the necessity for an intensification of the Party's educational activities.

The Party has embarked on an attempt to increase the knowledge of Marxist classics and Communist theory among the rank and file, largely in order to give better effect to its intention of leading the workers' movement. A thorough knowledge of Marxism is designed to enable Party members to take the lead in political discussions and trade union business and thereby to render easier the capture of the Labour movement from within.

An intensive recruiting campaign is being run, the aim being to secure a large number of new members in celebration of Harry POLLITT's birthday on 26 November. The targets are 5,000 members of the Party, 1,000 new members of the Young Communist League, and 100 new factory branches.

CHINESE DELEGATION TO GREAT BRITAIN

A Chinese delegation of six persons came to this country on 29 September as guests of the Britain-China Friendship Association (B.C.F.A.). The B.C.F.A. was set up at the instance of members of the British Communist Party who were dissatisfied with the policy of the China Campaign Committee, the influence of which had declined since the end of the Sino-Japanese war. The delegation was led by LIU NING I who brought with him over 12,300 American dollars; he is the chief of the International Liaison Department of the All China Federation of Labour and has been in this country several times before. Another member of the delegation has been LI TEH CHUAN, better known as Mne. FENG YU HSIANG, widow of the notorious "Christian General". Since it arrived the delegation has moved under the aegis of the B.C.P.; all arrangements have been made by Jack DRIBBON, the communist secretary of the B.C.F.A., and attempts by outside persons and organisations

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to meet and entertain the delegation have been skilfully repelled. At the same time it is likely that the party was told before it left China to limit its consideration to the "true British working class movement" and there has been no real effort by any member to make other contacts.

On 1 October the Chinese travelled to Scotland where they were entertained by the National Union of Mineworkers. They later visited various towns in the Midlands, including Birmingham, Coventry and Manchester, returning to London on 22 October. On 23 October the delegation attended the meeting at Transport House at which Cabinet Ministers were present. LIU NING I made a declaration indicting the attitude of H.M.G. towards the Chinese People's Government. LIU NING I and the female interpreter left the U.A. on 24 October for Prague by air, the rest of the delegation being due to follow him on 27 October. The reason for the early departure of the delegation is not yet clear; LIU may have been required for a meeting of the World Peace Bureau fixed for 25 October in Prague. Though the original visa was granted for one week only an extension to 30 October was permitted on 4 October.

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