

RAPPORT:  
Van: KA-RA  
Aan: Hoofd B  
No.: E/1117

28 APR. 1951

26.4.1951.

ACD/108185

Onderwerp: Maandoverzicht Engeland - Maart 1951.

Hierbij gelieve U aan te treffen, om te behouden, het  
Maandoverzicht Engeland Maart 1951.

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## THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY

March 1951.

### General

The British Communist Party has now set as its target the sale of a quarter of a million copies of "The British Road to Socialism", and activities in this connection have continued throughout the month.

### The Peace Campaign

For the British Communist Party the most important results of the World Peace Council arrived at in Berlin on the 24th February are firstly: the appeal for a Peace Pact between the five great powers, America, the Soviet Union, China, Great Britain and France, which is to be launched shortly and secondly, the proposal to send a delegation to meet Mr. Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the United Nations. Mrs. S.O. Davies will be the British member of the delegation, which Mr. Trygve Lie has agreed to receive.

Party members have been instructed to study carefully all the resolutions passed by the World Peace Council and to bring them to the notice of the public whenever possible.

### The British Peace Committee

Little has been heard of the progress of the declaration on German rearmament, and it is thought that the special effort on the week-end of 3/4 March failed to achieve any great result. The campaign is to be ended on May 8th. ?   
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### The Ex-Service Movement for Peace

The Ex-Service Movement for Peace held a demonstration in Trafalgar Square on the 25th February, their most ambitious effort to date. It is estimated that by the close the audience numbered some 3,500. A collection which was taken was announced to have raised £366 towards the cost of the Demonstration and general funds of the Movement. The usual Communist speeches were made and a resolution was passed by the audience, without dissent, opposing the rearmament of Germany and Japan, the release of war criminals, and the placing of British forces in the hands of foreign Generals. It protested against the recall of "Z" and "G" class reservists, and the meeting pledged itself to develop the greatest Movement of men and women for Peace. A copy of the resolution was taken to Downing Street.

The National Conference of the Movement was held on the 24th and 25th March.

Captain Robert GAITT has resigned from the position of Secretary of the Movement, ostensibly on the grounds of ill-health. His resignation may not be unconnected with the recent disclosure in the House of Commons by the Attorney General that he was a Communist, which threw doubt on the claim of the Movement to have no affiliation with any political party. The Acting Secretary is Charles William WEST, until recently Borough Secretary of Wandsworth. As he is also a well-known Communist, there has been some discussion as to whether his appointment should be confirmed or whether some non-Party members should be appointed to this post.

/International Women's Day

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International Women's Day (March 8th)

The principal meeting in connection with International Women's Day was held on the 7th March and was attended by over 1,000 people. The Soviet and Roumanian delegations failed to arrive in time, but have addressed other meetings in the country.

National Council for Civil Liberties

The National Council for Civil Liberties held a conference on the 7th March on "the state of Civil Liberty in Britain". The conference dealt with the following subjects:-

- (1) The equality of citizenship.
- (2) Democratic Control.
- (3) Freedom of information.

The reports and the speeches followed a line indistinguishable from that of the British Communist Party, which is only to be expected in view of the Communist domination of the officers of the Council and its Executive Committee.

The Union of Democratic Control

KINGSLEY MARTIN has recently resigned from the Chairmanship of the Union of Democratic Control on the grounds that it was getting too active and was going too fast! The new Chairman is F. Elwyn JONES, M.P. A new Executive Committee has also been elected and the new members include Guy ROUTH, a South African and very active Communist, Barbara DRAKE, Chairman of the Kensington Branch of the British Soviet Friendship Society as well as Fenner BROCKWAY, M.P. and Reginald SORENSEN, M.P.

The principal aim of the Union of Democratic Control is to assist African self-government to come about under "hopeful and progressive conditions without resort to armed force". Its activities are therefore mainly in connection with the African people, but it also conducts campaigns with regard to developments in Germany and Japan and with regard to Greece. It will support anything which seems to hold out hopes of lessening the danger of war.

British National Union of Students

At the end of 1950 a National referendum of the British National Union of Students (B.N.U.S.) revealed that there was a small majority in favour of withdrawing from the International Union of Students (I.U.S.). At a Council meeting of the B.N.U.S. held in Southampton from the 2nd to the 4th March a proposal by the Executive Committee that full membership of the I.U.S. should be replaced by fraternal membership, not involving the B.N.U.S. in the political views of the I.U.S., was adopted by a very large majority.

Strikes at Festival of Britain Sites

In 1950 a National Wage Agreement was negotiated by the Electrical Trade Union with the employers' representatives: this allowed for payment of 2d and hour "Exhibition Money" at sites like Olympia and Earl's Court, where extensive alterations to exhibition buildings are required in quick time. The question of the Festival Sites was raised, and it was agreed

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that as it was a straight construction job "Exhibition Money" should not be paid. Nevertheless, between the 8th and the 26th January Arthur Eric STRIDE, the London Area Organiser of the E.T.U. and a prominent Communist, led an agitation among the electricians for "Exhibition Money". When the employing contractors refused the claim and pointed to the National Wage agreement, the electricians struck on the 26th January and, except for a short interval, they remained out till the 13th February. About 800 men of all trades, mostly builders, joined them from the 31st January to the 3rd February. These were led by Mick GAMMON and Desmond Brian BEHAN, who are both young but unscrupulous members of the Party.

The strike was a complete success from the Communist point of view, since it made the task of completing the buildings by the opening date a very difficult one. Owing to the absolute necessity of getting the men back to work, a Committee of Inquiry recommended payment of "Exhibition Money" and consequently the Communist Party and STRIDE gained much prestige.

It is anticipated that the Party will not cease to stir up trouble at the Sites till the Festival opens.

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