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1. Bijgaande rapporten dzz. van Sardine ontvangen om te behouden.
2. De inhoud mag niet "buitenshuis" gebracht worden.

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## THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY.

APRIL 1951

### 1. The Party Programme.

During the month the Party has been adjusting itself to the new Programme, which it is now admitted envisages new conditions for Socialism in the United Kingdom. A leading member of the Party has said that Socialism would not come to this country suddenly by revolution, as in the Soviet Union, but would come gradually. The people of Britain must be converted to Communism, and this could best be done by infiltration into every left-wing organisation such as Peace Movements and Co-operative Movements. The United Kingdom had experienced every type of Party government, except Communism, and all had failed to give the people what they wanted, and now the people must be united in support of Communism. In explaining why the Programme no longer insists that British troops will be removed from the Colonies, it is pointed out that such a removal would leave a vacuum which would inevitably be filled with American troops, and the Colonies would be worse off than before.

The Party appears to have realised that while devoting so much of the "British Road to Socialism" to violent attacks on the Labour Party, it has failed to attack the Conservative Party. This has now been rectified by articles in the "Daily Worker", etc., and the Party line seems to be "the working class must unite in the next election to defeat the Tories", and this can only be done by basing the Programme for the next election on the "British Road to Socialism", and not on a Programme issued by the right-wing of the Labour Party.

### 2. Registration for 1951.

Registration for 1951 should have been completed by the 31st March, but was allowed to continue until the 19th April. Final figures have now been issued by the Party as follows:-

<u>District.</u>	<u>Members.</u>			<u>Y.C.L.</u>	
	<u>Number.</u>	<u>% of Total.</u>	<u>% of 1950.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>% of 1950.</u>
London.	11,625.	33.1.	95	1,070	84
Scotland.	5,590	15.9	91	468	100
Lancashire.	3,330	9.5	89	374	89
Yorks.	2,003	5.7	92	148	79
Midlands.	1,480	4.2	90	137	85
West Middlesex.	1,425	4.0	89	85	87
Surrey.	1,298	3.7	100	127	115
East Midlands.	1,255	3.6	89	118	90
Wales.	1,242	3.5	86	116	79
Kent	1,061	3.0	96	75	86
West of England.	812	2.3	92	97	101
South East Midlands.	737	2.1	95	83	95
North East.	735	2.1	95	45	88
South Midlands.	531	1.5	92	32	74
Hampshire.	455	1.3	87	30	67

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<u>District.</u>	<u>Members.</u>			<u>Y.C.L.</u>	
	<u>Number.</u>	<u>%of Total.</u>	<u>%of 1950.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>%of 1950.</u>
East Anglia.	410	1.2	93	24	74
Sussex.	407	1.2	88	30	72
Tees-Side.	271	0.8	92	20	100
North West.	224	0.6	99	18	86
Devon.	204	0.6	101	10	166
Jersey.	23	(0.1)	70	-	-
Guernsey.	6	( )	86	-	-
<u>Total.</u>	<u>35,124</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>3,107</u>	<u>88</u>

The membership of the Party has fallen by about 3,000 or some 7%, and it will be seen that this fall has been fairly uniform throughout the districts.

3. The Campaign for building the Party and Young Communist League and for increasing the circulation of the "Daily Worker".

The Party is so worried at the fall in membership and in the sales of the "Daily Worker" that a special campaign is being launched on May Day to obtain recruits. The campaign will be based on the new Party Programme and will lead up to the 22nd National Congress, to be held in November. Pollitt and Gallacher will be touring the country together in June and July and will speak at rallies in six Districts. The remaining Districts will be covered by other leading members of the Party.

4. The Peace Campaign.

The Party is committed to supporting the Appeal of the World Peace Council for a Peace Pact between the Five Great Powers and to obtaining as many signatures as possible in support of it. It is apparently intended that this should be run by left-wing and peace organisations, and the Party hope to achieve a large number of signatures as well as useful political results.

The Party is finding it difficult to explain what purpose the Peace Pact can achieve. It considers it would be dangerous to say that it will mean peace in Korea or an end to German and Japanese rearmament, since these aims may be achieved first at the United Nations and by the Foreign Ministers Deputies in Paris. The decision is likely to be to keep all discussion as vague as possible over its specific advantages and to relate it to the cost of living in the United Kingdom by saying that a Peace Pact would mean an end to the rearmament programme and consequently would mean a fall in prices, this being of more concern to the average person at present.

The Party do not appear to have much confidence in the success of the new appeal or of the Peace Month which is to start on 9th May and to finish on 10th June with a rally in Trafalgar Square.

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5. European Workers Conference against German Rearmament.

The following British delegates, all members of the Communist Party, attended a conference of European workers held at Easter (23rd to 25th March) in the East Zone of Berlin in order to protest against the "remilitarisation of Germany":-

Dave MICHAELSON, Editor of the "Metal Worker",  
the organ of the Engineering and Allied Trades  
Shop Stewards National Council.  
Finlay HART, of Blythswood Shipyard, Glasgow.  
Laurence NICKOLAY, of Smiths, London.  
Joseph GREEN, of K.L.G. Plugs, London.  
Harry GUNSON, C.W.S., London.  
Peter PERRY, Vickers Armstrong, Barrow-in-Furness  
Basil BARKER, Sheepbridge Engineering Works, Chesterfield  
Stephen FROW, an engineer from Manchester.

The convening of this conference was discussed at the World Federation of Trade Unions Executive meeting in December, 1950, but the idea may have originated at the Warsaw Second World Peace Congress, held in November, 1950.

Invitations to the conference had been issued to their opposite numbers in England by the shop stewards of various German factories, but the notice given was too short for any delegate to be able to attend unless he belonged to the Communist Party and thus had the advantage of Party backing in order to obtain his visa without delay; moreover no instructions for travel to Berlin were issued except through the Communist Party. The Party considered it satisfactory in the circumstances to have been able to send even these eight delegates. Arrangements were coordinated by the Communist organisation, the Engineering and Allied Trades Shop Stewards National Council, after the preliminaries had been undertaken jointly by the Industrial Department of the British Communist Party and the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The delegates were interviewed by Prague radio on their arrival and the interview was later broadcast. Finlay HART, the official leader of the Delegation, who is a member of the Executive Committee of the Communist Party, was elected to represent the British workers on a permanent "European Workers' Committee against the remilitarisation of Germany". Delegates were instructed on their return to stimulate all forms of protest against any backing by the British Government for the remilitarisation of Germany, while the "Daily Worker" published the appeal made by the conference for joint action in the organisation of meetings and collection of signatures, and carried a leading article on the subject.

It is hoped to gain support for the appeal on the widest front, and the Communist Party wishes to hold "report back" meetings on a large scale, probably organised by the Engineering and Allied Trades Shop Stewards National Council, in order to give them a more respectable air. Emphasis has all along been chiefly laid on the need to bring the conference home to engineers, who are regarded as the corner-stone of the rearmament programme, and the conference and its results will be much publicised in the "Metal Worker".

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6. The British Peace Committee.

The General Council meeting of the British Peace Committee was held on the 31st March. The two principal decisions taken were, first to intensify efforts in connection with the declaration against German rearmament, instructions being issued that as many copies as possible of the declaration should be sent to Mr. Davies, Parliamentary Under-Secretary now in Paris, to influence him at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers Deputies; secondly, it was decided to organise a Peace Month on the 9th May, leading up to the National Conference of the British Peace Committee on the 9th and 10th June. For this conference leading members of the Peace Movement are being invited to participate from several countries, including the Soviet Union. The object of this Peace month will be to obtain signatures to the appeal of the World Peace Council for a peace pact between the five Major Powers. It is also believed that the General Council discussed the question of filling the offices of President and two Vice-Chairmen, as since the resignation of Professor CROWTHER, D.N. TRITT has been acting as President, Chairman and Vice-Chairman. No statement however has been issued, and it is not yet known what decisions were made.

7. The Ex-Service Movement for Peace.

The first National Conference of the Ex-Service Movement for Peace was held on the 24th/25th March. It was attended by 82 delegates from London and 72 from English provinces, Scotland and Wales. There were 73 observers present from different organisations, and the official figure of the total attendance, including visitors, was 340. A large proportion of those present were between the ages of 25 and 30. It was claimed that the Movement now had more than 150 organised branches, that the membership was between 5,500 and 6000, and that the Bulletin of the Movement's activities had a circulation of 10,000.

Resolutions were passed expressing alarm at the world race to rearm etc., demanding the political and economic independence of Britain, protesting against Clause 6 of the Reserve and Auxiliary Forces (Training Bill) and calling for the organisation of a National Protest Week between May Day and Whitsun for the repeal of the Government decision to call up "Z" and "G" reservists.

The organisation now has the following officers:-

Vice-presidents:- Wing Commander R. TURNER, M.C., D.F.C.,  
(Member of the Hampstead Branch of the Communist Party).

Commander E.P. YOUNG, R.N. Retd.,  
(Well known as a supporter of Communist inspired organisations).

Acting Secretary:- Charles William WEST,  
(Formerly secretary of Wandsworth Borough Communist Party).

Treasurer:- Flight Lieutenant J.N. AIREY, ex-R.A.F.V.R.,  
(a Communist sympathiser).

The Party considered the conference suffered from two weaknesses; that little reference was made to the sins of the Tories, although plenty was said against the Government, and that most of the speeches were made by Party members, which was unnecessary as there were many non-Party members present.

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8. The Factory Campaign.

The Communist Party is continuing its campaign for the extension of its influence in industry by the formation of Factory Branches, and considers it of sufficient importance to call two National Conferences on work in the factories. The first, which will cover southern districts, is to take place in London on the 27th May. The second, which will cover northern districts, is to take place in Manchester on 3rd June. It is intended that Party District Secretaries will be present, together with one or two members from their districts, who have had experience in the organisation of industrial work.

9. The Communist Party and Annual Trade Union Conferences.

At the annual meeting of the Representative Council of the Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen, a resolution to disqualify Communists from holding office in the Association was heavily out-voted, but delegates refused, despite Communist protest, to deplore the action of the Trades Union Congress General Council in proscribing the British Peace Committee. The debate on the section of the Executive's report dealing with the nationalised steel industry was opened by A.DAY (Glasgow East) a Communist who with others condemned the present form of nationalisation as not being in the workers' interests and opposed the rearmament programme. Other Communists who spoke on these issues included W.AITKEN (Glasgow North), D. HASHAM (Edgware) and E.MCKENZIE (Kingston).

At the Conference of the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers, Walter PADLEY, M.P. for Ognore, was re-elected President, defeating R.B.SEABROOK (Communist) by more than 180,000 votes. It was made known to the Press that there was not a single known Communist on the delegation of 26 to the Trade Union Congress, only one on the Executive Council of 17 and only 5 on the Divisional Council of 96. The Communists who were present were prominent in the discussion on the proposed minimum wages, and the cost of living, and were fully reported in the Daily Worker for 27th March. They also introduced a motion which was in accord with the Communist Party's line on Foreign Policy. This provoked a very bitter debate, after the Executive Committee had introduced an emergency resolution in line with the Government's Foreign Policy. The latter was carried by a large majority and the Communist resolution was defeated. Mr. PADLEY brandished Douglas Hyde's book, "I Believed", in the face of the Delegates, and this appears to have had some effect; at any rate the Communists were severely defeated in this debate. Some other minor resolutions were carried by the Communist bloc, for example on the repeal of order 1305 and nationalisation of the building industry, but these were of minor importance, and these views are held by some members of the Labour Party.

At the Conference of the Clerical and Administrative Workers Union, Miss H.WALKER defeated Mr.J.C.HILL (Communist) by 22,979 votes to 3,960, in the election for President. A new rule was passed that, as from 1952, no Communist will be able to represent the Union at meetings with any other body. This year Mrs.Mary WILLIAMS (Communist) was elected as one of the five delegates of the Union to the T.U.C. The Union considered appeals and letters of explanation from six Glasgow and two South Wales Communists who had been expelled from the Union. The expulsions of all were confirmed.

At the National Union of Teachers Conference, a motion by G.C.T. GILES (Communist) on foreign policy, was overwhelmingly defeated. The delegates were addressed by Madame PARFENOVA, the fraternal delegate from the U.S.S.R. A delegation from this Union has since visited the U.S.S.R.

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At the Co-operative Party Conference it was decided to ban all members of political parties other than that to which the Co-operative Party is affiliated, that is the Labour Party. This rule was aimed primarily at the Communists, but their protests were unavailing. The matter is to be raised again at the general Co-operative Conference at Whitsun. It is worth noting that the rule affects all parties other than the Labour Party.

4th May, 1951.

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