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ONDERWERP: Engels Maandoverzicht Juli 1951.

U gelieve hierbij aan te treffen het Engelse Maandoverzicht over Juli 1951.

BIJLAGE: 1

A.C.D. George Allison (zie slot)  
met functie o.k.

~~HB~~ 1/10  
B III  
B IV 17/9  
B VI 20-9-51  
7.9.51  
B III 9/59 - d. 13.9.51  
15.9.51

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## THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY.

JULY 1951.

### 1. General.

- a. The Party is working towards co-operation with the Labour Party in so far as this is possible. Communists have been asked not to antagonise Socialists but to work with them whenever they can.

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party leading?*

"One Way Only", the pamphlet published by Aneurin Bevan and his supporters, is given limited approval by the Communists, but they consider that it does not go far enough.

- b. In the last week of September a Women's Recruiting week is to be held and 30,000 copies of "Women To-day" (the Party's publication for women) are to be available at that time.
- c. A series of big meetings is to be held by the Party throughout the country in November to celebrate the 24th anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

### 2. Literature.

- a. A further drop in the circulation of the "Daily Worker" has been reported. Weekday sales are down by about 5,000, and weekend sales by 800, since the price was increased.
- b. The districts had taken up (but not necessarily sold) 170,000 copies of "The British Road to Socialism" by the 22nd of June. This compares with a target of 200,000.

### 3. Peace.

- a. The Peace Campaign retains its first importance to the Party. A new "Crusade for Peace", organised by the British Peace Committee, is to be made during the next six months. Intensified appeals are to be made to people of "all parties or none" to sign the petition for a Five Power Peace Pact. Local peace committees and organisations are to be urged to greater activity and twelve great meetings are to be held throughout the country.

The British Peace Committee claims to have obtained 500,000 signatures to the Petition. In this connection, however, it is interesting to note that the number of signatures claimed to have been collected by the Party itself is 345,000, but only 142,000 of these have actually been received. All districts are being urged to send in the signatures which they say that they have collected.

- b. The Third World Youth Peace Festival.

Preparations have been under way since March this year for the 3rd World Youth Peace Festival which is to take place in Berlin between the 5th and 19th of August and which is organised jointly by the World Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Union of Students.

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Applications to attend the Festival have been dealt with in this country by the National Union of Students, and by an organisation set up by the International Youth Council, known as the British Youth Festival Preparatory Committee (B.Y.F.P.C.). From the outset the National Union of Students has made it clear that it does not support the Festival. Arrangements which they have made for 150 students to travel to Berlin via Helmstedt and for 16 more to travel separately have been undertaken as part of the normal duty of the Union to help students. The officers and most of the staff of the B.Y.F.P.C. are members either of the British Communist Party or of the Young Communist League. The Committee has been trying to secure the attendance at the Festival of as many Party members and sympathisers as possible.

On the 16th July it was announced in the "Daily Worker" that the final figure for the British delegation to the Festival was 1,650. (It is thought that this excludes those travelling through the National Union of Students). It was broken down as follows:

1,000	"Young workers".
210	Students.
440	Colonials.

It has been arranged that the British delegation should travel in three parties. The first hundred left Britain on the 24th July, the second party, of 500, is due to leave on the 1st August, and the final thousand leave on the 4th August.

#### 4. The Communist Party and Annual Trade Union Conferences.

Various resolutions in line with current Communist Party policy were passed at the annual conference of the Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers in June: these included resolutions condemning the rearmament of Germany and Japan and some which called for greater trade with the "People's Democracies," the U.S.S.R. and China, and for the withdrawal of British troops from Korea. James GARDNER, the Communist General Secretary, condemned the split in the International Trade Union Movement, but a resolution calling for re-affiliation to the World Federation of Trade Unions was narrowly defeated. At the Amalgamated Engineering Union National Committee meeting Communists were prominent in demands for a wage increase of £1 a week which is to be made through the Confederation of Shipbuilding & Engineering Unions. The "Daily Worker" continued its campaign against the President of the Union, at that time engaged in the presidential election against the Communist candidate, Claude BERRIDGE, who was only defeated by the comparatively narrow margin of 7,000 votes in 81,500.

Delegates to the conference of the Association of Supervisory Staffs, Executive & Technicians refused by 4,830 to 2,390 votes to adopt the rule banning Communists from holding office in the Association. This reversed the authorisation given last year to the Executive to draw up alterations to the rules so as to prevent Communists from holding official positions in the Association. In July, at the biennial conference of the Transport & General Workers' Union, the appeal for reinstatement made by seven ex-full-time officials who had been dismissed by the Union in 1950 for their Communist views was rejected.

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5. The Miners' Annual Conference.

The Annual Conference of the National Union of Mineworkers was held at Blackpool from the 2nd to the 5th July. It was attended by some of the leading Communists in industry, such as Arthur HORNER, Abe MOFFAT, William PEARSON, John WOOD, and Bill PAYNTER. On the anti-Communist front the best known speaker was Sir William LAWTHER, the President of the Union. As a result, there was a good deal of skirmishing on almost all subjects between the Communist and anti-Communist delegates. It was noteworthy, however, that when foreign policy was to be discussed on the 4th July, the news of the proposed cease-fire in Korea brought about a temporary armistice at Blackpool. An anti-Communist motion on foreign policy was withdrawn by the mover, and Abe MOFFAT made a conciliatory speech.

In the election for the National Union of Mineworkers' nominees, for the T.U.C. General Council, Sir William LAWTHER, Arthur HORNER (Communist) and W.E. JONES (non-Communist) were elected. Abe MOFFAT was defeated though his vote increased since last year.

6. South Wales Coal Strike.

On the 7th June, 1951 the Wern Tarw Colliery Lodge Committee succeeded in bringing out the miners at this Colliery on the issue of the transfer of ninety-seven men to the Llanharan Colliery. The Committee contains five known Communists. Three of these, Frank MAYWARD, Henry JONES and David DAVIES, were the ring leaders and played a prominent part in spreading the Strike to other areas.

The Welsh District Committee of the Party made strenuous attempts to bring about a general stoppage of work in the South Wales coalfield. In this they were only partly successful, though by the 21st June it was estimated that 9,926 were idle, and more than 10,000 tons of coal was being lost daily. The Strike ended on the 1st July as a result of a Conference of the South Wales Area of the National Union of Mineworkers, at which it was decided to accept the transfer of the Wern Tarw men as part of the National Coal Board's reorganisation plan. The strike, therefore, was a failure.

The Party took the greatest interest in the strike at all levels; it produced, however, differences of opinion which caused a split. Alfred DAVIES, President of the South Wales Area of the N.U.M., had previously allowed his membership to lapse, but on this issue he was forced into the open, and did all he could to bring about a return to work. DAVIES is a longstanding friend of Arthur HORNER, General Secretary of the N.U.M.; HORNER's views on the strike are unknown, but the Party prevented him from visiting South Wales during the strike, and it is clear that the Party leadership regarded him with the greatest mistrust.

The opinion of the Party's Welsh District Committee on the strike is that though the rank and file of the miners were ready for action, the Party leadership in the Union was divided and failed miserably, with the result that the strike collapsed.

7. Annual Conference of the National Union of Railwaymen.

The Annual Conference of the National Union of Railwaymen was held at Hastings from 2nd to 7th July, 1951. The delegates numbered eighty-two, and a large majority held extreme left-wing views.

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It was decided to arrange a joint meeting of the three railway unions to decide on an immediate application for a substantial wage increase. On foreign policy, the Conference passed a resolution that in its considered judgment the only basis upon which a real settlement of the Korean trouble "can be achieved is by an early withdrawal of all foreign forces".

"... Believing, however, that world peace and the living standards of the workers are endangered by the race to rearm, we urge upon our Labour Government to take the initiative of calling upon the United Nations to convene a conference which shall include representatives of the People's Republic of China, with the object of achieving a drastic reduction and the control of all forms of rearmament and the abandonment of the proposals to rearm Germany and Japan."

This resolution was carried by eighty votes to two, and most of the speeches in support of it vigorously attacked the U.S.A. At other sessions the "niggardly" size of old age pensions was attacked, and objections were taken to "wasteful expenditure in nationalised transport", which according to the "Daily Worker" means the expense accounts of high officials. At a private session a new charter for railwaymen was drawn up and passed by seventy votes to three. This included a number of conditions of service which the Railway Executive is likely to find very difficult to accept.

On the whole, the Conference may be said to have been a success from the point of view of J.B. FIGGINS, the General Secretary, as none of the major resolutions was inconsistent with the Communist line.

8. Visits Abroad.

George ALLISON, the Communist Party National Industrial Organiser, was in Vienna for the Executive Bureau meeting of the World Federation of Trade Unions from the 2nd to the 6th July. A report stressing the peaceful intentions of the World Federation of Trade Unions and "the need for working-class unity in the common struggle of the workers against their capitalist exploiters" appears under ALLISON's name in "World News and Views" for the 21st July 1951.

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