

RAPPORT
VAN: KA.RA
AAN: H.B.
NO.: E 1374

ONDERWERP: Britse Communistische Partij.

NIET O.K.
ACD/ <i>VB</i>
DATE <i>18/9/51</i>
PAR. <i>VS</i>

<i>6.15</i>
<i>09.21</i>
18 SEP. 1951
ACD/ 110560

Hierbij gelieve U aan te treffen een exemplaar van SARDINE's maandelijks overzicht betreffende de activiteiten van de Britse Communistische Partij.

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THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY.

AUGUST 1951.

1. Peace.

(a) The Third World Youth Peace Festival.

This took place in Berlin between 5th and 19th August as announced. There is little to add to the numerous newspaper reports about it. The British contingent finally numbered about 1,400. As these return a series of report-back meetings can be expected throughout the country. British delegates have also been asked to stir up protests and demonstrations against the treatment they received on their travels.

(b) Peace Petition Signatures.

The Party claims that up to 17th August 603,302 signatures had been obtained, of which 356,500 had been received at headquarters.

(c) The British Peace Committee claims that there are now 335 local Peace Committees in Great Britain. In spite of the publicity given to the Communist interest in this movement, the Party is careful to provide as little evidence as possible to the public of its connection with the campaign. There is little doubt that many of those taking part in local peace activities are not Communists or Communist sympathisers.

2. Literature.

1. The "Daily Worker" circulation continues to be a source of worry to the Party. It is now less than 90,000 and, in spite of continued appeals by the Party, shows no sign of recovery.
2. The Modern Quarterly, edited by Dr. John LEWIS, is to be reduced to 64 pages, while retaining its price of 2/6d.
3. The Party has been negotiating for the sale of the Dorchester and District Newspapers Ltd., which prints, amongst other things, the Labour Monthly, edited by R. Palme DUTT. Jim GRAY was dealing with this matter and his death has caused considerable difficulties. If the sale takes place alternative arrangements may have to be made for the printing of the Labour Monthly.

3. Women.

(a) The National Committee for Celebration of International Women's Day is a Communist "front" organisation designed to appeal to women throughout the country. Its present plan of work is based on the following headings:-

1. Care of children.
2. Effect of the rising cost of living on the family.
3. Equal pay for women.
4. Peace and international friendship.

Under the first three headings appeals of interest can be made to many women. Under the fourth the organisation can be switched to support Communist aims. Mrs. Rose KOSKY, a Communist, is organiser of the Committee, and is in frequent touch with the National Women's Advisory Committee of the British Communist Party.

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SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

(b) On July 23rd a meeting was held under the auspices of the International Women's Day Committee to hear the report of a delegation of six British women who had recently visited Hungary. Twenty-four people attended and heard eulogies on the new republic of Hungary.

(c) On August 10th a delegation of twenty women, also under the auspices of the International Women's Day Committee, flew to Moscow as guests of the Soviet Women's Anti-Fascist Committee. The Chairman of the delegation was Mrs. Dora RUSSELL, an active Communist sympathiser.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND ANNUAL UNION CONFERENCES.

4. (a) The Annual Conference of the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers.

This Conference was held at Torquay from 23rd to 27th July. It consisted of fifty-one delegates, most of whom had extreme left wing views. The President of the Union is Harry ADAMS, a Communist sympathiser.

The Conference decided to restart a claim for "the builder's tanner", that is 6d an hour pay rise.

On foreign policy a resolution in favour of disarmament and negotiated settlement of international differences (Five-Power Peace Pact), was introduced by Joe ROOTES, a Communist. Its passing was secured by a neat piece of manoeuvring by the President, who, when opposition was expressed, said:

"You are voting on the resolution and not on any interpretation put on it".

The result was that the resolution was passed by a majority. —

(b) As was to be expected, Communists were prominent in the discussions at the Conference of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, held at Swansea in August, which led to resolutions in favour of wage increases and the nationalisation of large sections of the engineering industry. It cannot be said, however, that the resolutions as passed represented a triumph for the Communist Party, since they were not only a result of Communist pressure but reflected a very general feeling within the Trade Unions. In the last two years pressure for a £1 per week wage increase throughout the engineering industry has been unco-ordinated among the unions themselves, but it may now be expected that the Communist Party will take advantage of the present unanimity to agitate for the immediate granting of the claims, and thereby attempt to show itself as the only true representative of the workers' interests.

5. Visits by Members of the Industrial Department to Party Districts.

The Industrial Department at Communist Party Headquarters is preparing a programme of visits by members of its full-time staff to various Party Districts. The purpose of these visits, which will last from one to two weeks each, is to ensure that the Party's national industrial policies become more widely known in the Districts, and also to give assistance in some of the problems met with by lower Party formations. District Committees are to arrange suitable meetings and visits in their areas, and discussions will be held between the

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SECRET

SECRET

- 3 -

Industrial Department representative and the District Officials. The programme, so far as it is known at present, is as follows:-

About 29 September to
7 October

Frank JACKSON to visit the
East Midlands District.

About 13 to 27 October

Jack DUNNAN to visit the North
East and Tees-Side Districts.

October

Sam HENDERSON to visit Welsh and
Midlands Districts.

6. Communist Paper for Seamen.

A Communist paper for Seamen, entitled "On Watch", made its first appearance in February 1951. The Editorial Offices are at 75a, Rocky Lane, Liverpool, 6, which is the address of William Henry HART an active member of the Communist Party.

"On Watch" has the full backing of the Communist Party, but this is not publicly known, since the paper purports to be a production of rank and file seamen. Its real object is to cause discontent with working conditions and particular attention is being paid to distribution amongst coloured seamen. So far only two issues have appeared, in February and May 1951, since its sponsors are experiencing great difficulty in finding a printer. An approach has been made to the National Propaganda Department of the Communist Party to help in the production of a third and subsequent issues.

Obituary.

On August 4th Jim GRAY, aged 54, died suddenly of heart failure while on holiday in South Wales. GRAY was a chartered accountant of considerable ability and devoted himself to the service of the Party.

The financial affairs of the British Communist Party are exceedingly complicated. Any official balance sheet which they may produce bears no relation to the true state of affairs. Sums of Party money are salted away in many different accounts, often those of reliable Party members, and, it is believed, in cash in safe custody. It is doubtful whether anyone had a clearer grasp of all the financial details than GRAY, and his loss to the Party is serious. No successor has as yet been appointed, but it is unlikely that, whoever he may be, he will take over the full range of GRAY's interests.

GRAY was much concerned with the financial side of the Party's printing and publishing activities, and sat as a director on the boards of several Communist-controlled companies. (e.g. Farleigh Press Ltd., London Caledonian Press Ltd., Central Books Ltd.). Some of the negotiations in which he was engaged just before his death are being handled temporarily by Fred PATEMAN, News Editor of the "Daily Worker".

Correction.

In the July notes Page 3, Paragraph 6, lines 4/5, for Henry JONES read Ferry JONES.

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