

A.C.D.

O.D. 1593.

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overzicht Achemblen 1949 in O.D. 36, of verwijzing
daarv. naar O.D. 1593.

De leden van het Executive Comité o.k.
Bittg. 12-12-50

NOTA

Van: KA-R.A.

Aan: Hoofd B.

No. E.469.

ONDERWERP: Maandelijks overzichten Engeland.

1. Lang gewachten toch gekregen!!
2. Hierbij de maandelijks overzichten Engeland van Juli - December 1949 en Januari 1950.
3. De volgende overzichten zullen ons maandelijks worden toegezonden.

In het overzicht over 27-2-50.
Dec. 1949 komt een verslag
van het Congres voor
Bittg. 12-12-50
datw. 28.2.50

BIJLAGEN: 7

Aan ~~KB~~ A.k.

~~KB~~

Deze maandoorslagen wijken af van het door ons gevolgd systeem. Er zijn kennelijk ook gegevens in verwerkt, afkomstig uit geheime bronnen. Men is er goed geïnformeerd, ook over het geen zal gaan gebeuren.

Voor het Partij-congres wordt in het overzicht van Nov. '49 een extra. rapport aangekondigd, dat hier niet bij is. Ik zou K.A.R.A. willen vragen, om toezending er van te verrichten. Bittg. 2.3.50

OP KAART
ACD/166
DAT: 27-1-51
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THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY

November 1949

1. GENERAL

The main effort of the British Communist Party during November has been directed, through a wide range of activities, towards the General Election campaign. A revised election programme has been prepared and will be published shortly. The Education Department, "in view of the success of the recent National School for election candidates and agents", has decided to hold two similar schools in the New Year. It regards the XXIst National Congress, "coming on the eve of a General Election and in a period of sharpening crisis and class struggle", as of exceptional importance, and has instructed all Districts of the Party to organise classes, a syllabus for which has been prepared, for the close study of the General Secretary's report to Congress. An ex-Service Advisory Committee of the Party, which will assist the Borough Committee in its election propaganda, has been formed in Hendon. The Health Advisory Committee of the Party, in preparation for a meeting on 4 December which will explain the election tasks of health workers, has issued a statement of policy. This advocates a classless society to end the situation where the wealthy have the best chance of life and health; peace, hospitals instead of battleships, and health centres instead of bombers; higher wages to nourish and clothe the workers, low wages being the cause of "sick people and dead babies"; and more houses, overcrowding resulting in disease. The Women's Department has not been slow to develop a campaign exploiting the effects of devaluation among women upon whom, either as housewives or industrial workers, it claims that the first effects of this policy will fall. The Cultural Committee has instructed Party members in the professions to strengthen their organisations and intensify their efforts to produce material for Party propaganda; these instructions are being obeyed energetically.

The dilemma of a Party with Marxist-Leninist aims which seeks to extend its influence by canvassing support from the politically moderate is exposed in a recent directive to the Daily Worker. This re-asserts that the development of the workers' struggle entails concentration on the wages issue, the fight for living standards and for peace, and the General Election campaign. But, while agitation and active campaigning remain the central issues, it is emphasised that the paper must maintain and improve its popular character, and not only guide and inspire members of the Communist Party and equip them for the struggle, but also "avoid phraseology and arguments which appeal only to Communists".

The XXIst National Congress held at Liverpool from 26 - 28 November will be the subject of a special report.

2. THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

The 1949 Summer Schools of the Communist Party were held from 16 July to 22 August at Netherwood, Hastings. In a report issued by the Education Department of the Party it is stated that 382 students attended, of whom 26 were present on scholarship awards. 36% of the students were industrial workers, 23% came from the distributive and clerical trades, 11% were teachers, and 11% housewives. Of the total number attending, 64% held some position of responsibility in the Party, and 20% held positions in the trade unions.

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Six courses each lasting a week were held at the school, the subjects being Socialism, Political Economy, and "The Communist Party and the Labour Movement". Four members of the National Executive Committee and two leading District officials acted as tutors. HOLLITT, DUFF, FIRATIN, KERRIGAN and CAMPBELL gave evening lectures.

Arrangements for the 1950 Summer Schools have been made already. The Tong Hall, a Co-operative Youth Centre near Bradford, with accommodation for 50 students a week has been reserved from 8 - 25 July; Netherwood with 85 places a week has been booked provisionally for 4 weeks. The Education Department has agreed that £100 shall be spent on additional scholarships in 1950.

3. STATUS OF ALIEN, COLONIAL AND COMMONWEALTH COMMUNISTS IN THE U.K.

The question of the admission of alien, colonial and Commonwealth Communists to membership of the British Communist Party has recently been under discussion at Party headquarters. It is a question on which there has been considerable divergence of opinion among Party officials, and it does not seem that all aspects of the problem have yet found a final solution.

The practice for members of foreign Communist Parties who come to the U.K. for temporary visits or semi-permanent residence has by now become more or less standardised. They retain their original party membership cards, but arrangements may be made for them to attend branch meetings and participate to a limited extent in British Party activities. This applies particularly to visitors staying for a short time. Those who are planning to make a protracted stay normally bring with them a letter of introduction and credentials, and provision is made for a transfer of membership to the British Party after a very close scrutiny of credentials.

It is on the question of potential recruits that differences of opinion exist, particularly in the case of West Indians, West Africans, and other colonials from territories where there is no indigenous Communist Party to which they can belong. It is believed that the Party is on the whole opposed to the grant of temporary membership to such persons, although it is recognised that exceptions may have to be made. If, for instance, as a result of a recruiting appeal at meetings attended by a number of colonials, some of these apply to be enrolled as members, it may be difficult to refuse them. The argument against the grant of membership cards has been largely based on considerations of security, and on the contention that it is in the best interests of the recruits themselves not to be enrolled as full Party members. It may also be connected with the Party's desire to be regarded as a British party working primarily for the British working class and not under foreign influence.

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