

A.C.D.

O.D. 1593.

Afschrift van de eerste 5 bladzijden van
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

OP KAART
ACD/809
DAT: 27-1-51
PAR: R.M.

4.21
21-01-1951

1001 830 14
3 Maart 1950
ACD/80924Z

Josien Bittg. 5/12/50

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 er is 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

SECRET

THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY

January 1950

1. THE GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

Since the date of the General Election was announced the Communist Party's efforts have been directed almost exclusively to its election campaign. The election manifesto was released on 20 January. Claiming to place before the workers the only policy which will protect them from "the growing economic crisis" and bring them "peace, prosperity and happiness", it contains many extravagances; but the appeals it makes to trade unionists, which are primarily calculated to extend Communist influence regardless of the election result, may not be wholly unsuccessful. Its policy slogans are:-

"Fight to prevent the slump", by putting greater purchasing power in the hands of the workers, extending the social services, and carrying out a vast building programme.

"Fight to win higher wages, jobs and homes".

"Stop the drive to war".

"End American control of Britain"

"Peace trade and friendship with the Soviet Union".

"For a strong free and independent Socialist Britain".

The manifesto includes sections advocating "democracy" in the trade unions, self-government for Scotland and Wales, the withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland, and a united Ireland; sections condemning the record of Tory Governments in the past and accusing the present Labour Government of having consistently surrendered to capitalism; a section designed to make a special appeal to trade unionists by advocating an extension of nationalisation, increased taxation of profits, reduction of compensation to shareholders of nationalised industries, and a "purge" of capitalists on their boards; and sections aimed at securing the favour of co-operators, old-age pensioners, women and youth. The manifesto states in conclusion that the return of a strong group of Communist Members of Parliament will guarantee a real fight, inside and outside Parliament, "to defend and improve the working and living conditions of the working people and help to remove the fear of war".

Before the manifesto was published, TOLLITT had sent a letter of encouragement and advice to all Communist candidates and agents. Predicting that the economic situation would result in the sharpening of the class struggle at home and the antagonism between the Capitalist and Socialist worlds abroad, the letter stated that neither Labour, Liberal nor Tory Party dared to tell the workers what burdens would be placed upon them in the effort to defend capitalism. However, the size of the minority vote recorded against the wage restraint policy of the Trades Union Congress was an indication that organised workers had come to realise where the pro-Tory policy of the Labour Government was leading. Candidates should have no illusions about the power of the forces ranged against them, but should take encouragement from the fact that Communist policy was now being supported on a scale that few thought possible a few months ago. "It is clear that we have underestimated the moods of the working class in relation to the wages issue...."

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All the Party's efforts are now being directed towards support of the 100 candidates it hopes to put forward. The National Industrial Conference has been postponed until after the election, and will be held on 5 March. Reuben FALBER, the Assistant National Organiser, has been left almost in sole charge of Party headquarters, many of the other full-time officials having left for the constituencies they are contesting. A recommendation has been made to organise women's brigades in constituencies, similar to the youth brigades already formed, to hold kerbside meetings of women. Daily Worker reporters are being despatched to cover many constituencies being contested by the Party. Special emphasis has been laid, in the Party's instructions to candidates and agents, upon the need to increase the sales of the Daily Worker, and to use it as a propaganda medium. A special policy leaflet entitled "Fight for Wages, Homes, Peace!" has been printed and is on sale for a penny. The Party has had difficulty in many areas in obtaining committee rooms and in booking halls; where halls are not available open air meetings are held. Party officials have told the press that in all constituencies the election fund at the end of January totalled £12,000. The sum so far collected is likely to be smaller.

2. THE BRITISH PEACE COMMITTEE

An information document prepared by the International Department at Party headquarters states that there are about 44 local Peace Committees in touch with the British Peace Committee. Half of these are in London, the remainder covering Buckinghamshire, Bradford, Bristol, Cambridge, the Isle of Wight, Leeds, Nottinghamshire, Manchester, Oxford, Plymouth, Reading, Rugby, Sheffield, Tyneside and Scotland. Activity is confined chiefly to meetings. A "good action", however, was said to have been organised by the Croydon committee when 70 representatives of Surrey organisations lobbied Members of Parliament. A Peace Committee has been formed by the North London Amalgamated Engineering Union, and 1,000 forms for associate membership of the British Peace Committee have been distributed in factories. The London Teachers' Peace Committee, formed recently, is the first professional group of its kind. The B.P.C. now has some 800 associate members and a mailing list of 2,000. The number of associate organisations is "inconsiderable".

Future plans of the B.P.C. include a national peace ballot, the formation of a London Peace Committee, a factory conference, various activities of peace and culture in the summer or autumn in London on

Since the preparation of this report it has been learned that the London meeting of the World Peace Committee arranged for 17 February has been cancelled owing to the preoccupation of Party officials with the election campaign.

continues to be "a ban on the reporting of Party activities by intellectuals". The ban on the reporting of Party activities, allegedly imposed by the press, and lack of a regular income, are two of the difficulties encountered.

3. DAILY WORKER BAZAAR

Boroughs in the London area claim to have raised £2,054 out of a target of £2,100 from the Christmas Bazaars.

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Future plans of the B.P.C. include a national peace ballot, the formation of a London Peace Committee, a factory conference, various regional conferences, and a festival of peace and culture in the summer or autumn. A meeting of the World Peace Committee will be held in London on 17 February, at which it is hoped that foreign members will be persuaded to address meetings in Great Britain.

The International Department complains that the peace movement continues to be "Narrow and lacks strength both in the factories and among intellectuals". The ban on the reporting of the activities of the Committee allegedly imposed by the press, and lack of a regular income, are two of the difficulties encountered.

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4. THE MALAYA COMMITTEE

The campaign begun by the Communist Party 18 months ago against the use of British troops in Malaya lost most of its impetus during the latter half of 1949. There are signs that as soon as the General Election is over it will be prosecuted with increased vigour. At the beginning of January 1950 a manifesto was issued by the Executive Committee of the Party demanding that troops be withdrawn from Malaya and that the Malayan people's right to national independence be recognised. This has been followed by the formation of a Malaya Committee which is to co-ordinate Party activities in the campaign. Its members are Pat DEVINE, H.B. LIM, John DOWDING, Syd KAUFMANN, John HORNER and Jack WODDIS. The inclusion of HORNER suggests that the Party intends to make a strong appeal to trade unions.

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