

NOTA  
Van: KA-R.A.  
Aan: Hoofd B en C  
No. E. 1032.  
ONDERWERP: Britse C.P.

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PAR: 18

- 1) U gelieve hierbij aan te treffen een rapport betreffende de Britse C P over Jan. 1951, ons door SARDINE toegezonden.
- 2) Met betrekking tot CVN/I's rapport no. 98887 dd. 12-2-51, waarin Nan GREEN werd genoemd, maakt SARDINE ons er op attent, dat ze in het rapport vermeld wordt als een der organisatoren van het Britse Vredes Comité, dat kortgeleden gereorganiseerd is.

2-3-51, H

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THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY

JANUARY 1951.

1. GENERAL

The New Year found the Party still pre-occupied with its forthcoming major statement of policy, to be issued on 1 February. This was given a considerable advance build-up and steps were taken to ensure it would receive the widest publicity within the Party. Much time and thought have been spent on it and the Party leadership anticipate that its publication will be a major political event.

2. PEACE CAMPAIGN

General Eisenhower's visit to Europe was the occasion for renewed attacks in the Party organs on defence preparations in general and the re-arming of Western Germany in particular. The latter theme presented opportunities for exploiting fears of anti-Semitism and German militarism, and the Party had clearly been encouraged by the attendance at its demonstration held in Trafalgar Square on 31 December to protest against German re-armament. Various Jewish organisations connected with the Party could be trusted to make the most of these opportunities, but the most effective protest meeting was that arranged by the Ex-Service Movement for Peace. This is run by Captain Robert GAITT from his home and still has no open connection with either the Communist Party or the British Peace Committee. Leo GOLLHARD, however, who is the leading member of the Communist Ex-Service Advisory Committee, has been in almost daily touch with Captain GAITT, and the "Daily Worker" gave the fullest publicity to its demonstration against Eisenhower held on Sunday 14 January. After laying a wreath on the Cenotaph, a delegation went to the United States Embassy to deliver a letter of protest against General Eisenhower's appointment. Since it is known that the Party were reluctant to demonstrate themselves against Eisenhower's arrival, the Ex-Service Movement for Peace undoubtedly did them a good turn on this occasion. Captain GAITT issues a monthly bulletin whose circulation he claims increased from 150 in November to 1,200 in January. An appeal has been made for financial support, and it is believed that the movement is spreading to the provinces.

The staff of the British Peace Committee has been reorganised as follows:-

Chairman	D.N. FRITT, K.C.
Secretary	Vincent S. DUNCAN-JONES
Propaganda	Maurice SHAARTZ
Organisers	Roy GORE, Kath DANCE, <u>Man GREEN</u>
Finance	Doris NELSON
Reception and	Anita REYNOLDS
Public Relations	

The office of President is still vacant. The Committee has continued to encourage the formation of local Peace Committees and in particular of Factory Peace Committees. Its next campaign is to organise a country-wide petition against German rearmament.

*daar dus durelfoe latische font.*

/3. ORGANISATION

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## 3. ORGANISATION

Serious concern was expressed at a meeting of the National Executive on 13 January at the progress of re-registration. Returns by that date showed that the registered membership of the larger districts was only about 70% as great as last year, while the proportion in the smaller ones was even lower. The plea put forward by some District Secretaries that reliability was preferable to mere numbers was not considered acceptable and the aim is now to register a further 10,000 before the end of February.

The Organisation Committee has sent a letter to the 28 constituencies which the Party intends to contest at the next election, giving its views on how the campaign should be prepared. Preparations are also being made to fight the municipal elections, which, except for London, are to be held on 16 March. The line advocated is to oppose to every Tory candidate a single "fighting working class candidate" chosen by some sort of local conference representing the entire workers' movement, which would agree to limit the number of candidates put forward.

The transfer of Party officials from one District to another is always a source of concern to the National Organisation Department because of the inability of Districts to provide replacements who are both suitable and capable of undertaking full-time responsibility. The latest examples of this are the following:-

### North East Coast District

The North-East Coast has lost its two leading organisers, Hymie LEE and Margaret AIREY, who have been found employment in London. LEE, although believed to be in the Party's black books, is reported to be now on the staff of the Soviet Monitor. He has been succeeded in Newcastle by Horace GREEN, formerly the Yorkshire District Organiser. Margaret AIREY has become the first National Literature Organiser, a new appointment created to emphasise the importance of the Party's literature sales throughout the country.

### West Middlesex District

Phil PIRATIN, relieved of his full-time responsibilities as National Peace Organiser, has succeeded Abe LAZARUS as secretary of the newly formed West Middlesex District. This District has never found its feet, partly because of the mutual antagonism of its two leading personalities, Abe LAZARUS and Joe O'FARRELL. LAZARUS, the retiring secretary, is to join the staff of London District, whilst O'FARRELL, the organiser, is to remain in West Middlesex to work with PIRATIN. The history of the District so far shows that it is far from being independent of the London District from which it was formed.

### East Midlands District

William FERRIE, the former secretary of the North West District who retired from public life on health grounds, has joined the staff of the East Midlands District in Nottingham.

## 4. THE "DAILY WORKER"

The "Daily Worker" celebrated its 21st birthday on January under rather difficult conditions. In August 1950 the financial position of the paper was so bad that a decision was actually taken to stop the special London edition and to increase the price of the paper to 2d as from 1 January. Before the end of the year, however, an anonymous donation had been made to the funds so that a reprieve was possible. This, however, is only temporary and really strenuous efforts have been made to increase sales and the number of shareholders.

/With advertising ...

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With advertising revenue at only £15,000 per annum for 1950 as against £65,000 in 1947, the trading loss for 1950 was £15,000. The price of newsprint and ink increased during 1950 and the price of the former has just risen again. The circulation fluctuates but is, in fact, dropping steadily and is now only 100,000. It seems almost certain that further "anonymous donations" will be required if the "Daily Worker" is to continue to exist throughout 1951 in its present form or at its present price.

5. Douglas HYDE

*Vide  
M.O. 1-51  
H.L. 1 B21*

The widespread publicity which the publication of 'I Believed' by Douglas Hyde, former News Editor of the "Daily Worker", has achieved, has caused considerable consternation among the leaders of the Communist Party. Their private comments indicate that they recognise that Hyde has divulged 'inside' information about the Party's activities and aims which is damaging to the interests of the Party. In their efforts to combat the influence of the book they have referred specifically to one or two incidents mentioned therein which they claim are completely untrue, but in the main their energies are concentrated on discrediting Hyde's character in the eyes of the public. They emphasise that Hyde was at no time an important leading official of the Party and they denounce him as a renegade who has painted deliberately a distorted picture of the Communist Party for the purpose of anti-Communist propaganda. It is known that Party leaders have been trying to collect as much material as possible further to blacken Hyde's character. The lengths to which they are prepared to go in this direction indicate that they regard the disclosures in the book as serious.

6. THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE DOCKS

The Party continues its interest in the affairs of dockers, but still finds the problems of co-ordinating action in the various ports difficult to resolve, especially in view of the general opposition by dockers to Communist Party leadership.

Early in December the National Industrial Department (where Sam HENDERSON, formerly National Passenger Services Trade Group Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, has recently taken over responsibility for activities among transport workers) recommended the line to be followed by the Lancashire & Cheshire and Scottish districts of the Party. This was to stress the Fight for Peace and its relation to wage claims, to urge unity of purpose in the opposition to the shipowners, and to foster opposition to further mechanisation in the docks.

Rumours about disciplinary measures and other conditions demanded by the shipowners as necessary before wage increases could be granted were regarded by the members of the London Portworkers' Committee as good ground for strike action. The belief that action may be possible when the result of the wage claim is officially made known, but only then, is shared by the Merseyside Area officials of the Party. A cautious publication of these rumours was made by the "Daily Worker" on 15 December. It is believed that BARRETT, the Communist Secretary of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers Union, was responsible for the leakage of information about the deliberations of the National Joint Council for the Dock Industry, but other leakages have also occurred.

/Meanwhile ....

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Meanwhile preparations for the formation of a National Portworkers' Committee at a delegate meeting at Liverpool on the morning of 14 January were made by the London and Merseyside Portworkers' Committees. Invitations to other ports were extended, but the response from the South and West of England was disappointing. Liverpool and Birkenhead were represented and two delegates were present from Southampton, together with DICKENS and THOMAS (members of the Communist Party), TIMOTHY and CONSTABLE from the London Portworkers' Committee. Delegates are believed to have been present from Manchester, Bromborough, Immingham and Leith, but there were none from Bristol or Hull.

A dockers' meeting was convened by the Merseyside Portworkers' Committee on the afternoon of 14 January, and approximately 1400 were addressed by the delegates. A resolution was passed demanding that any offer made by the employers should be referred first to the rank and file for acceptance or rejection. The Communist Party was somewhat anxious lest the dockers might be stampeded into action by the non-Communist Merseyside Committee, since it was considered that as a whole, and certainly in London, they were not sufficiently prepared.

It was noticeable that the non-Communists made the strongest hints at strike action, and this is one of the reasons why the Party fears a "Trotskyist" plot in opposition to its own policy and leadership. In fact, the Communist Party attempts at leadership remain largely ineffective.

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