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ONDERWERP: Engels Maandoverzicht over September 1951.

Schakkel is permissief

U gelieve hierbij aan te treffen het Engelse Maandoverzicht over September 1951 dzz. van SARDINE ontvangen.

BIJLAGE: 1

SECRETTHE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY.SEPTEMBER 1951.1. THE GENERAL ELECTION.

A manifesto issued by the Executive Committee of the Party on the 31st August 1951 began with the words: "The new statement of policy issued by the Executive Committee of the Labour Party is an insult to the millions in the Labour Movement who are gravely concerned by the disastrous consequences of the Government's policy." Nevertheless, on the 19th September the Political Committee called upon its supporters to vote for the Socialist candidate against the Conservative in those constituencies where there is no Communist candidate. Some Party members are finding it difficult to reconcile these two pronouncements. The explanation is that the Party regards the defeat of the Conservatives as of paramount importance and since it cannot achieve this by its own efforts is forced to adopt "united front" tactics. Yet on many issues the Labour programme is at variance with the Communist policies, notably on rearmament. As far as possible, however, in spite of running 25 candidates at the election, the Communists will continue to woo the Socialists, concentrating on those with the greatest "left wing" tendencies. They hope ultimately to persuade the Labour Party to change its policy and to bring it closer to Communist aims.

2. PEACE.(a) Signatures to the Petition for a Five Power Peace Pact.

At the end of September it was claimed that 808,000 signatures had been collected, of which 494,000 had been received by the British Peace Committee. The target now set is 1,000,000 signatures by 4th November. There is no means of determining the truth of the claims that have been made.

(b) Autumn Crusade.

An Autumn Crusade was launched by the British Peace Committee on 1st September 1951 in London and Cardiff under the slogan "Peace is in your hands". A procession took place on that date (from Hyde Park to Alfred Place, Tottenham Court Road). This was jointly organised by the London Peace Council, the Ex-Servicemen's Movement for Peace and the British Youth Festival Committee. About 1,000 people took part and speeches were made urging the opening of negotiations for a Five Power Peace Pact, and an immediate cease-fire in Korea.

In Cardiff, also on 1st September, an All Wales Peace Rally was held under the auspices of the National Peace Council of Wales. The speakers included:

Ivor MONTAGU
Mrs. Monica FELTON
Mrs. S.O. DAVIES

3. LITERATURE.(a) "Daily Worker"

There has been no improvement in the circulation of this newspaper. During the election campaign the paper is to contain six pages each Saturday. The Editor, J.R. CAMPBELL, is standing as Parliamentary candidate in opposition to Mr. Winston Churchill.

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(b) "Labour Monthly"

This periodical, edited by R. PAIME DUTT, has increased its price from 1/- to 1/6d.

(c) "From Trotsky to Tito"

This is the title of a new book by James KLUGMAN, Education Organiser of the Party, which is to be published in October or November. Party members are being urged to get copies and to help to circulate it widely in Party and non-Party circles, particularly amongst Socialists.

(d) Other literature

Considerable efforts are being made to stimulate the sale in Britain of the Cominform Journal "For a Lasting Peace, for a People's Democracy". This has a small circulation, probably of the order of 500.

Not Communism is in England Kennedy's foreign problems

All Communist District Organisations have also been asked to apply for copies of the 1d. pamphlets issued by the "Soviet Weekly".

4. WOMEN.

(a) The Women's Recruiting Week is fixed for 22nd - 29th September in England and 3rd - 10th October in Scotland. A large number of meetings and demonstrations has been planned. In addition to the main object of drawing more women into the Party great emphasis will, as usual, be placed on the peace drive. Tamara RUST, National Women's Organiser, states that the Party will provide the answer to the question "What is the alternative to the war drive, cuts in social services at the expense of the children, the rising prices?". The Week will also be used to the full to further the election campaign.

(b) The National Committee for the Celebration of International Women's Day.

(i) The Child Care Commission of this Committee has called a conference on the Defence of Children's Education to be held on 30th September in Victoria Hall, Bloomsbury Square, London. This will be preparatory to the International Children's Conference planned to take place in January 1952 in Vienna to which, it is proposed, a British delegation should be sent. Communist Party delegates to the London Conference are to be Tamara RUST, Bessie LEIGH, Val WALKER and Joan GARRITT.

(ii) Members of the International Women's Day delegation of 20 women who recently visited Moscow have been active in report-back meetings describing the satisfactory conditions that they saw on their visit.

5. INDUSTRY

(a) The Communist Party and the Trades Union Congress.

The Communist Party achieved no success at the 83rd Trades Union Congress held at Blackpool 3-7 September. Public attempts to influence the delegates included a meeting held on 2 September and addressed by POLLITT, and the distribution of an open letter to the delegates from the British Peace Committee. Private hopes that delegates might be induced to vote for resolutions in the usual Communist sense, such as the halting of rearmament at home and in Germany and Japan, negotiations in favour of a five power peace pact, and increased trade between East and West, were

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disappointed by the event. Nevertheless, the "Daily Worker" and KERRIGAN, writing in "World News and Views," drew disproportionate comfort from the size of the minority votes on these questions. The votes in favour of severance of relations with Spain and the abolition of charges for certain health services reflected not the prowess of the Communists who spoke in support of the resolutions, but feelings held by all trade unionists on dictatorship in general and on matters affecting their own finances. The Communists refrained from criticising the new Order No. 1376 regulating procedure in strikes because they believe that it will in any case be unworkable in conjunction with the existing negotiating machinery of the larger unions. However, the "Daily Worker" took advantage of the replacement of the previous Order No. 1305 to proclaim: "in the same way working class action can kill all the reactionary decisions taken at this congress."

No Communist candidates were successful in the elections to the General Council.

(b) Annual Conference of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers.

This conference took place at Margate on 17-21 September.

The Executive of the Society had reduced the size of the Agenda by putting composite resolutions; these had the effect of getting rid of some Communist resolutions. Communist delegates tried to defeat the Executive and replace the original resolutions, but they were defeated. The President of the Union, Mr. McKELVEY attacked the Soviet Peace Campaign in his address, and on subsequent days other attacks were made on the Communists, notably by Norman KENNEDY, a former member of the Party. The Party delegates never succeeded in bringing forward any resolution on foreign policy, and a resolution against unofficial organisations and committees was carried. In view of the strength of the Communist Party in this Union, the Conference was a decided success for the anti-Communist leadership.

(c) The Biennial Conference of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers at Blackpool.

The Biennial Conference of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers was held at Blackpool, from the 17th to the 20th September.

A resolution that no member of any disruptive party or organisation should be eligible to hold office in the Union was defeated. However, a Communist resolution moved by Mrs. Olga MIDDLETON, in favour of the Five Power Peace Pact, was defeated by a majority of approximately two to one. Another resolution in favour of reduction of armaments was side-tracked by Dame Anne Loughlin, the General Secretary. A resolution for the banning of the atom bomb was carried unanimously.

(d) Visits by Members of the Industrial Department to Party Districts.

In addition to the visits forecast in last month's note Jack DUNMAN is to visit Scotland between 3 and 11 November. His tour will probably cover Ayrshire, Fife, Dundee and Aberdeen and will have special reference to agricultural affairs. DUNMAN's visit to the N.E. District (and presumably also to Teesside) has been cancelled due to shortage of staff at King Street and on account of the General Election.

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(c) Obituary

On September 11 George ALLISON, Head of the Communist Party National Industrial Department, died at his home in London, aged 56. He had been in ill-health for some years, but was taken seriously ill while in Blackpool organising the Communist delegates to the Trades Union Congress. His ill-health was aggravated by overwork on behalf of the Communist Party, of which he was a foundation member. He was a member of the Party National Executive Committee and of the Political Committee.

This is the second serious loss from the higher ranks of the Party since the beginning of August. ALLISON had a very wide experience at his job and, perhaps more important, a detailed personal knowledge of the people through whom he was working. His absence from the Industrial Department at King Street will be a severe handicap to the Party, whose industrial members were always turning to him for advice.

The question of a successor was held in complete abeyance until the return of POLLITT, although nominally Sam HENDERSON was acting as substitute.

6. ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF COMMUNIST STUDENTS

On September 15-16 the National Student Committee of the B.C.P. held its Annual Conference at the Holborn Hall. George MATTHEWS, Assistant General Secretary of the Party, attended as the representative of the National Executive Committee. Figures for the Student membership of the Party were given as follows: 640 members at the end of the 1949-50 session, 470 members at the end of the 1950-51 session.

The salient points of the programme adopted by the Conference were:

- (1) A strong "Students for Peace" movement in Britain.
- (2) Reduction of military conscription to 12 months and abolition of compulsory T.A. service.
- (3) The exposure of Wall Street "culture".
- (4) Equal rights for the people of the British Empire.
- (5) A single national standard grant, based on the State Scholarship scale for all students; a one third increase in the existing State Scholarship scales to meet the increased cost of living.
- (6) Increased expenditure on higher education.
- (7) The right of all students to hold political and religious views and to express them freely; the vote at 18 for all young people.

7. PARTY EDUCATION

The programme for 1951 - 52 has recently been issued by the Central Education Department. Its objects are:-

- (1) To extend planned personal study of Marxism-Leninism throughout the ranks of the Party, to include not only top but also middle cadres.
- (2) To extend and improve planned educational work in the basic units of the Party, and in particular in the factory branches.
- (3) To fight for the spread of a Marxist-Leninist understanding in the broad labour and progressive movement.

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8. THE HALDANE SOCIETY.

Eight members of this society, which is a Communist-dominated group of lawyers, attended the Congress of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers in Berlin at the beginning of September. More than half of the British delegation were Communists.

9. POLLITT.

Harry POLLITT, General Secretary of the Party, went on holiday from 5th to 24th September 1951. He spent most of his time in Rumania. POLLITT's health has been bad and there is no doubt that the main purpose of his trip was rest and recuperation.

2nd October, 1951.

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