

INFORMATIVE REPORT

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1. A Discussion Center for the elaboration of the new statutes of the Belgian Communist Party was opened on 20 September 1948. Meetings were held at the following places throughout Brussels:

At the "Rose Blanche", rue du Fort, for St. Gilles, Forest, Droogenbosch and Uccle Sections.

At the Maison des Tramwaymen, for Brussels.

At the "Vieil Ixelles", 37 Chaussee de Vleurgat, Ixelles for Auderghem, Etterbeek, Ixelles and Watermael-Boitsfort Sections.

At the Maison des Brasseurs for Schaerbeek, Evere, St. Josse and Woluwe-St.-Lambert Sections.

Attendance at these meetings numbered only about 150 people in all and was disappointing to Communist leaders.

a. At the Ixelles meeting Antoine Laurent expounded on the Marshall Plan which is "enslaving our industry and commerce and spreading unemployment among our working classes", and on the "valets of American imperialism, Spaak, Van Acker, and Company". For these reasons the BCP is laying down new principles in every aspect of its activities. Further Discussion Centers were to be held on 28 September, 4, 12, and 18 October for a more complete examination of these questions.

b. Samuel Herssens was the main speaker at the Maison des Brasseurs meeting. He stated that the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the pamphlet, Tous au Travail, which sets forth the new principles of the Communist Party. He also stated that, for the 1949 registrations, sections and business enterprises will require members to show their union booklets. All militants will be obliged to tell of their political activity, work, income and private life at public "purge" meetings, so that the Party may differentiate between the real militants and those whom it may wish to remove. When asked if war were inevitable, Herssens said that he was counting on the people of Europe not to be influenced by American propaganda, but that if America forced the USSR to intervene it would be serious. "Shock troops" to reinforce the brigades which

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will see action in any conflict, either local skirmishes or war, are already being recruited. These "shock troops" must be able to fight effectively as they did before the war. The Communists do not wish to fight but they must be prepared to withstand any use of force by reactionary groups.

2. The "collective education" group of the Brussels Federation of the Belgian Communist Party met at 36 Boulevard d'Anvers on 27 October 1948. The meeting was presided over by Robert Juwet. Others present were Lea (Leona) Motquin, Trimborn (fau), Jean Dewil, Vandergooten (fau) and wife, and Juliette Pierre.
 - a. Discussions revealed that only from five to seven members per section had enrolled in the elementary courses and among these only three to five regularly attended the courses. The intellectual standard of the students is extremely low. They understand with difficulty and are content to study the assigned lessons word by word without fully comprehending them. It was felt that a more practical method of elementary education is needed.
 - b. Professors in the Federal school are not satisfied with results there. The students read and learn without any discussion of the subjects. Some of the assigned reading is too hard and, as most of the students are good militants devoting all their time to the Party, they do not have the necessary time to study the problems which are too advanced for their cultural standards. It would be necessary to send the students to the USSR over a period of years in order to educate them satisfactorily. In Belgium the intellectuals who could do immediate and fruitful work do not respond to the Party wishes.
 - c. Arnold Duitsch alias Jean Van den Berghe, tried to justify the Soviet position in the Berlin situation and criticized US action. Juliette Pierre, whose husband is one of the editors of Drapeau Rouge, discussed the workings of the United Nations and claimed that the USSR had always used the veto for the good of its people.
 - d. The agenda for the next meeting on 5 November 1948 was announced and discussion of "The case of the twelve American Communists" was included.

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