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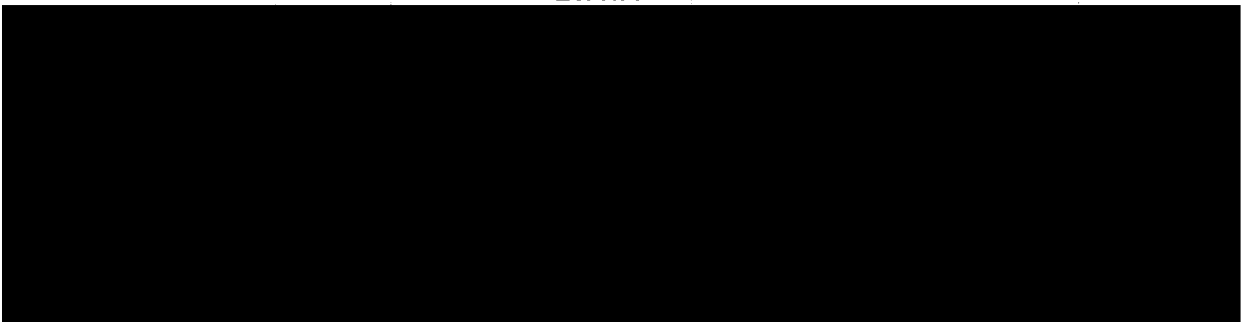
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COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

CENTRAL COMMITTEE, INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

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Bulletin

No. 8

April 1949



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MAY DAY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

By Klement Gottwald

May Day in Czechoslovakia will be above all, a joyous review of the results of great constructive effort by our workers. After having dealt with the saboteurs and traitors of our country in February 1948, the Czechoslovak people threw themselves at once into the work of reconstruction. Thanks to the enthusiasm of the workers the Two Year Plan destined to put the country on its feet again was successfully completed — which meant that Czechoslovak industry was 10% above its prewar level — and that we could go ahead with the first Five Year Plan. The beginning was good — as the figures for industrial output in the first month of the Five Year Plan show, when the plan was consistently fulfilled by more than 100%. Spring preparations in agriculture were no less successful. The successes of the Two Year Plan and the first months of the Five Year Plan are reflected in several Government measures, which have improved the food situation and the distribution of the products of light industry.

On the 1st of May the Czechoslovak people will see a review of the successes achieved so far in the fulfilment of the Five Year Plan. Socialist competition is responsible above all for those successes. And it is the first time that the Czechoslovak workers have introduced this mighty instrument for the development of our country. This competition takes the form of fulfilling the obligations undertaken by the workers in honour of the IXth Congress of The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, which will take place at the end of May. These obligations, which aim at increasing productivity and cutting down production costs, were undertaken in the beginning

mainly by works' organisations of the Communist Party. The movement gradually spread, however, to the Trade Union branches, Youth organisations, etc.; so that today we can speak of a nation wide movement incorporating all factories and majority of our villages.

Socialist competition is of great importance not only from the point of view of economic results but also as regards its moral and political significance. It instructs the working people in the new socialist economy and the new socialist relation to production, secondly it shows what respect and affection the Communist Party enjoys among the working people. Hundreds of thousands of workers are enthusiastically competing to fulfil their pledges in honour of the Party Congress; is that not the best proof that our people and its most advanced section the Communist Party are one, that our people recognize the Communist Party to be its brain and heart? The May Day celebrations, in which all parties of the National Front will join, will demonstrate the respect and the devotion of the Czechoslovak people to its recognized leader — the Communist Party.

May Day in Czechoslovakia will also be a militant review of the international solidarity of the Czechoslovak people with the nations of the Soviet Union, the People's Democracies and all progressive elements of the world in their struggle against the instigators of a new war, and for the preservation of world peace. Here too the contribution of the Czechoslovak people to the world peace effort is evident. A nation wide mobilization of peace forces was achieved for the Paris Peace Conference. At hundreds and

thousands of meetings the Czechoslovak people demonstrated their opposition to the imperialist warmongers, and their will to defend international peace. A significant contribution to the strengthening of the world peace camp is moreover the further extension of the international links of the Czechoslovak Republic. In April a Czechoslovak Government mission visited Bulgaria and Rumania where it discussed successfully the strengthening of friendly political, economic and cultural relations. A Government mission also visited Hungary where a treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance was signed between Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

This Treaty shows especially how deep is the gap between the capitalist international policy and that of the People's Democracies. Only the Czechoslovak and Hungarian People's Democracies, whose policy is the interest of the working classes, have succeeded in overcoming the centuries old grievances and conflicts between the two nations, and have entered a new era in Czechoslovak Hungarian relations, an era of mutual cooperation and friendly alliance. There can be no doubt that this historic step of the Czechoslovak and Hungarian nations strengthens the democratic front led by the Soviet Union, and that it also strengthens the forces of peace the world over. Against the imperialist policy of Marshall Plan and the North Atlantic Pact the People's Democracies raise the flag of peace, national independence and cooperation of nations on truly equal terms.

Finally May Day in Czechoslovakia will be a demonstration of the loyalty of the Czechoslovak people to the Soviet Union. The working people of Czechoslovakia fully realise that their

national independence and unhampered progress towards Socialism is guaranteed only by the fraternal, disinterested help of the Soviet Union, that most powerful pillar of international peace, progress and friendship. To strengthen and deepen the Czechoslovak—Soviet Union Alliance is thus one of the basic tasks of Czechoslovakias' new policy.

May Day in Czechoslovakia as well as May Day in the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies will be a demonstration of the overwhelming predominance of the forces of progress, peace and socialism over the forces of imperialist reaction and war. Facing the nations of the capitalist countries with their fears of the morrow and of unemployment, who are falling ever more into slavery under their imperialist oppressors, is the Soviet Union and by its side the People's Democracies who point the way to the freedom of nations, the joy of creative work and the brotherhood of mankind.

Their eyes fixed on the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies the oppressed and exploited masses of capitalist countries assemble on May Day for another — still fiercer fight for peace and people's democracy in their countries. Conscious of their obligations to the working people of the world the working people in all progressive countries — among them those of Czechoslovakia — promise the workers of the whole world on this 1st of May to continue their work of building a new order in their homeland with even greater ardour and to strengthen the ties of international solidarity of the working people of the world in their fight against the imperialist instigators of wars, for the preservation of peace and progress in the whole world.

SLOGANS FOR THE IX PARTY CONGRESS

Forward to socialism with Comrade Gottwald!

Honour to those who have fulfilled their pledges to the Republic for the IX Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party!

The February victory of the working class and the working people, headed by the Communist party, is the guarantee that we shall advance to socialism!

For peace, against the imperialist instigators of a new war!

Long live the world socialist front of Communist and workers parties, guided by the CPSU(b).

Long live the great teacher of the working people and their best friend, Comrade Stalin!

Let us master the greatest of all teachings — marxist-leninism.

We greet the IX Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party!

The strength of the Czechoslovak Communist party comes from the people!

Long live the Czechoslovak Communist party — the party born of our people!

Long live the Czechoslovak Communist party, the leading force in the building up of socialism!

The IX Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist party is the rallying ground for the fight against the remnants of capitalism!

The IX Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist party is the rallying ground for the victorious march to socialism!

The IX Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist party is the rallying ground for the fulfilment of the Five Year Plan!

Communism is the youth of the world!

All roads lead to Communism!

Communists are the heirs of the finest traditions of our nations!

In honour of the IX Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party we have given the Republic...

The gifts offered in honour of the IX Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist party help to fulfil the 5 year plan.

Against bourgeois nationalism — for proletarian internationalism!

Long live our glorious Communist Party, steeled in the fight, led by Comrade Gottwald!

Forever with the Soviet Union!

We greet the Soviet Union, the guarantor of peace, freedom and the independence of nations!

We greet the working people of Poland, Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary on their road to socialism!

May the democratic, anti-imperialist peace camp grow and prosper!

The defence of peace is the duty of the nations of the world!

Build your country — strengthen peace!

Honour to those who are fulfilling the Five Year plan!

Honour to the workers, engineers and technicians who are fulfilling and exceeding the Five Year plan!

Honour to the shock brigaders, the finest sons and daughters of the nation, who are developing socialist competition!

For increased productivity, for lower production costs!

Honour to the farmers who are fulfilling their production plans and delivery quotas!

Through the united cooperative to a better life in the villages!

Go all out to build up state tractor stations and feeding centres!

For the development of our economy, for increased prosperity and a higher cultural standard for our people!

We will fight the remaining exploiters and the enemies of socialism!

Let us strengthen and consolidate the union of workers, peasants and medium farmers!

Long live the National front, the unbreakable union of workers, peasants and intelligentsia.

Let us strengthen the brotherly union of Czechs and Slovaks in one indivisible state.

Long live our People's Army, the guarantor of peace and the security of the country.

Long live the National Security Corps, the loyal defender of the people and the Republic.

Long live the People's Militia, drawn from our working class, the guardian of our socialist reconstruction!

Long live our working class, under the leadership of the Communist party, the guarantor of our road to socialism through the February victory.

Long live the Czechoslovak people, who are building a happy socialist future!

Long live the Czechoslovak Republic, the home of our working people!

Greetings to the Republic on her road to socialism!

DECISION TAKEN BY THE PRESIDIUM OF THE C. C. OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA REGARDING THE CZECH EDITION OF J. V. STALIN'S WORKS

The Presidium of the C.C. of the C.P. of Czechoslovakia has decided to publish a Czech translation in 16 volumes of J. V. Stalin's Works from the Russian edition.

The publication of J. V. Stalin's Works in Czech is a significant step in the ideological life of the C.P. of Czechoslovakia.

These works place the great historic experiences of the Bolshevik Party in its fight for the victory of the Socialist revolution, for the building up of a Socialist society in the Soviet Union and for the creation and consolidation of the Soviet State within the reach of all. In these works the Marx-Leninist theory is further developed and enriched by a new and inspired contribution.

The historic experiences of the C.P.S.U.(B) are an invaluable source of instruction for all revolutionary parties of the working class and they are applicable and valid for all countries that are advancing along the path of Socialist

construction. From the works of J.V. Stalin, the great leader and teacher of the working people, our Party will draw further instruction on the laws governing the development of society, on the inevitability of the transition from capitalism to socialism.

J. V. Stalin's works, of which the first volume will be published on the occasion of the 9th Party Congress, will be of great assistance to all Party functionaries and members in mastering Marx-Leninist theory and in acquiring a thorough knowledge of the experiences of the Bolshevik Party, so indispensable for the building up of Socialism in our country.

In view of the historic significance of J. V. Stalin's Works which will provide a basis for the Marx-Leninist education of our Party, the Presidium of the C.C. of the C.P. of Czechoslovakia appeals to all Party branches to explain to their membership the significance of the Czech publication of J. V. Stalin's Works.

THE EXAMINATION OF INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATES AT THE END OF THEIR PROBATION PERIOD

Many candidates who were given a year's probation, are now coming to the end of their period of probation. Party Branches must consider each case and decide whether the candidate shall become a full member, whether the probation period shall be extended, or whether the candidate shall not be removed from the list of members, or even expelled.

Checking up on the probation period.

We must take this opportunity of putting right the faults and shortcomings which crept in during the examination of Party members. In particular each Branch must consider whether candidates were not given a probation period of one year where it should have been two. The shorter period is appropriate only in the case of workers. All other candidates who were given a year's probation must have the period extended to two years. Extension of the probation period must be approved by a general meeting.

Removal of candidates' names and expulsion.

At the same time we must consider the way in which the candidate carries out his Party responsibilities, what is his relation to the Party, how he carries out the tasks allotted to him, and especially his tasks in reconstruction. If he does not carry out his Party responsibilities and does not show sufficient interest in them, we must either remove his name from the list of members, or expel him outright. There is no need to wait until his probation period is up. This is especially so in the case of office workers and tradesmen, where failure to carry out responsibilities must be severely judged.

Procedure at the end of three and six months' probationary periods.

In the case of probationary periods of three and six months, which are now coming to an

end, we must first carefully consider whether the member should not have been made a candidate rather than given a probationary period. There were occasional cases in which owing to an incorrect interpretation of the Central Committee's resolution on the status of candidate, and from a wrong desire to be accomodating, members who should have been made candidates were given six months' or even three months' probation. These mistakes can now be put right by transferring the members in question to the status of candidates. In addition the Branch will decide in every case separately whether the member has fulfilled the tasks given him for his probation period, and how he carries out his other Party duties; he will either be accepted, made a candidate, removed from the lists, or expelled totally, accordingly.

Transferring members to the status of candidates.

"It is one of our essential tasks to continue to examine our members, even after the end of our official examination, and to check up on their Party work and their carrying out of the tasks set them." (From the letter to all Party members.) Even those members who were accepted on their examination may be transferred to the status of candidates if it becomes clear that they do not fully understand the significance of the Party and if they do not carry out their Party responsibilities.

Transferring candidates to full membership.

"Candidates will only be given full membership after a severe scrutiny of the way they have fulfilled the tasks allotted them and of the way in which they have helped in the building of socialism." (From the letter to all Party members.) This means that the Branches and their Committees will make a thorough examination of every case where the probation period has come to an end, even if this year only workers are concerned. In such a serious matter thoroughness and conscientiousness cannot be sacrificed to speed.

How the Branch will examine candidates.

Every candidate will first be considered separately at the Committee meeting, to which will

also be invited the candidate's guarantor, his dues' collector, possibly the comrade in charge of the non-Party organisation in which the candidate works, and the political instructor of the Branch.

Examination of candidates.

The Branch Chairman will report on the way in which the candidate has carried out his duties; this report must be carefully prepared beforehand. Members of the Committee, the dues' collector, the guarantor and the political instructor have the right to ask the candidate questions to judge his political education, his attitude to the Party, whether he has carried out the tasks allotted to him and whether he knows the Communist ten commandments.

How the Branch must examine candidates.

Every candidate must be carefully examined for political education, devotion to the Party and personal characteristics. He must prove his knowledge of the principles, policy and organisation of the Party; he must show how he has carried out the tasks set him, whether he works in the Party Branch, attends Branch meetings and pays his dues regularly, whether he reads the Party press and tries to convince his companions of the correctness of Party policy, how he has fulfilled the tasks allotted him by the Party Branch, worked as assistant dues' collector, member of National Committee sub-committees etc., and how he has worked in the appropriate non-Party organisation. It is essential to pay particular attention to the way in which the candidate carries out his tasks in the building of socialism, how he works in his job and whether he fulfils his responsibilities as a citizen. Every candidate must be judged with care and a sense of responsibility.

After considering the political standard of the candidate and his work, the Committee will work out proposals for the general meeting.

Proposal to expel.

A candidate can be expelled from the Party outright if he has failed to carry out his responsibilities and shown no interest in the Party, or if he has committed some act contrary to the

principles and policy of the Party. He can, be expelled (particularly in the case of hostile action) before the end of his probationary period.

Proposal to remove a candidate's name.

A candidate who performs his normal duties at work but does not realise the significance of the Party, shows no interest in political education and gives no hope that his attitude to Party work is likely to change, will be removed from the list of members. This may also happen before the end of the probation period.

Proposal to give full membership.

Full membership can be proposed only for those candidates who were given the appropriate probation period, who proved their worth during probation, and who give a guarantee that they will be good Party members. This year only workers will come under consideration, and they only if they fulfil all conditions.

Proposal to extend the probation period.

In other cases the period of probation will be extended to another year.

Discussion of candidates at the General Meeting.

Every proposal of the Committee, whether for expulsion, removal of names, extension of probationary period or transfer to full membership, must be put before a General Meeting and justified. For the sake of all members present it must be again emphasised what it means to be a member of the Party, how the good name of the Party must be cared for and the Party cleared of all hostile elements. At the same time reference must be made to the resolution passed by the Central Committee on November 17th, 1948, about the status of candidate, and the importance of decisions as to membership must be stressed.

The Branch Chairman must then give information about the candidate: a short life-history, reasons for joining the Party, the results of his examination, how he carried out his tasks in the probationary period and the Committee's proposals.

The candidate must himself declare how well he has carried out his duties during the probation period. After his self-criticism all present

have the right to ask him questions, to criticise and to add suggestions to the Committee's proposal. The candidate himself answers the questions put to him.

After discussion of the Committee's proposal the Chairman sums up and puts the proposal, supplemented by suggestions made during the discussion, to the vote.

The candidate may appeal against the decision of the General Meeting to a higher Party authority.

Administrative procedure.

If the General Meeting decides to remove a candidate's name or to expel him, the Secretary must inform the District Committee on the form of notice of changes.

Similarly the District Committee must be informed if the probation period is extended. If the General Meeting decides to transfer the candidate to full membership, the Secretary must fill in the form of transfer to full membership; the Chairman signs and stamps it, and sends it to the District Committee.

Discussion of candidates in the District Committee.

The District Committee is bound to consider every candidate's case separately and to vote on it either in an Executive or a full Committee Meeting. If they decide to approve the transfer of a candidate to full membership the form of transfer must be sent forward to the Regional Committee.

Discussion of candidates in the Regional Committee.

The Regional Committee, which investigates and approves every case of transfer from candidate status to full membership, must have exact knowledge of the state and numbers of candidates and transferred candidates according to Branches and Districts. The organisational secretary of the Region must give all Committee members a complete list of all candidates to be transferred to full membership.

Endorsement slip for membership cards.

After investigation the Regional Committee will send the transfer form to the Records Department of the Party Secretariat. Here the endorsement slip confirming the transfer of the

candidate to full membership will be issued after the special commission appointed by the organisational secretariat of the Central Committee has gone into the transfer and approved it.

The endorsement slip for the candidate's membership card will be sent by the Central secretariat to the Region, thence to the District and on to the Chairman of the Branch, who will hand it over to the member at a full meeting. This must be done in a way which will bring out the solemnity and importance of the transfer to full membership.

Former officials of other political parties.

Candidates who were formerly officials in other political parties will be transferred to full membership on decision of the Regional Committee. The case of important officials, i.e. regional or central committee officials, will be decided by the Central Committee.

Prague, March 29th, 1949.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK UNION OF YOUTH — A NEW TRIUMPH OF YOUTH UNITY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Zdenek Hejzlar, Chairman of the Czechoslovak Union of Youth.

Ever since the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Army in May 1945, progressive Czechoslovak youth has been endeavouring to create a firm progressive, democratic unity of the younger generation. They strove to create such a unity as would be an integral part of the unity of all working people within the National Front of Czechs and Slovaks under the leadership of the Communist Party, and an effective factor in the construction of the country, which would become a school for the youth of all classes. Up to February 1948, Czechoslovak reaction, in the service of Anglo-American imperialists, was able, by means of agitation, intrigues and unbridled demagoguery, to try to disrupt the unity which the Union of Czech Youth and the Union of Slovak Youth strove to build up from the first days after the liberation. Thanks to the unbreakable determination of the very best of Czech and Slovak youth and thanks to the help of progressive and democratic forces, above all the Communist Party and the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement, reaction, in spite of its massed attacks before February, did not succeed in smashing the united youth organisations. But the conditions under which the youth organisations had to work were indeed very difficult. Many youth workers from all over the world had the opportunity during the World Youth Festival in Prague, in 1947, to see for themselves what intrigues the united youth

organisations of Czechoslovakia had to combat and how tough they had to be in defence of their unity.

The February victory of the working people, which crushed the traitors on the pay-roll of the imperialists and ensured the development of People's Democracy in Czechoslovakia, was a definite victory for the ideal of progressive youth unity. The year which has passed since the famous February victory of 1948 has brought great and un hoped for developments in the youth movement. The Unions of Czech and of Slovak Youth have won tens of thousands of new members for their ranks. Both organisations have achieved great success in constructive and educational efforts, in factories, schools and villages. They have strengthened their authority among the widest masses of youth and in the whole National Front.

On April 23rd, 1949, the Union of Czech Youth and the Union of Slovak Youth were fused into a single all-state organisation — the Czechoslovak Union of Youth, which also unites groups of Polish, Ukrainian and Hungarian youth living on Czechoslovak territory. Thus the organisational unity of the youth movement of Czechoslovakia has been achieved and the Union of Czechoslovak Youth has become an import factor in the brotherly union of Czechs and Slovaks, living together in a common state. Besides fulfilling its other tasks, it is helping to

eliminate the remnants of bourgeois nationalism and to create real brotherhood among the nations of our country in the spirit of proletarian internationalism.

What is the programme and what are the aims of the new Czechoslovak Union of Youth? The Czechoslovak Union of Youth is making use of all the experience both of work and struggle gained by the former national Youth Unions. It is learning from the experiences of youth organisations in the other People's Democracies and above all learning from the experiences of the most famous of all youth organisations, the Soviet Komsomol Movement. Its programme originates from the need for an all-state youth organisation to be a decisive factor in the building of socialism, a school for youth of all classes, from the need for a youth organisation, whose programme, method of work and organisational structure will become the loved possession of the majority of youth in Czechoslovakia, an organisation which will strengthen progressive unity and unite young Czechs and Slovaks on a basis of equality for a common aim: to be good citizens of today's People's Democratic Czechoslovakia and of tomorrow's socialist Czechoslovakia.

The Czechoslovak Union of Youth has become an important factor in the political life of the Republic. The set-up of this life is the union of the working people of town and country, realised in the National Front of Czechs and Slovaks and led by the Communist Party. The Czechoslovak Union of Youth, therefore, has its place in the National Front, where in cooperation with other organisations, it is helping to extend the unity of the working people and to mobilise young people of all classes for their tasks in the building of socialism. During the present development of Czechoslovakia, it is the bearer of the fine traditions of the progressive movement of Czechoslovak youth, traditions of struggle for youth unity in the face of capitalism and fascism, struggle for national independence and for people's democracy and socialism.

What are the decisive tasks of the Czechoslovak Union of Youth? Its first task is to educate young people in love and devotion to the People's Democratic Republic, to educate them in a new patriotism, which finds its expression, above all, in a new relationship to work, which

liberated from capitalist exploitation, means prosperity for all and the basis of a new social order. Youth must be encouraged to work as shock brigaders, in factories and field and at school, following the example of the heroic youth of the Soviet Union; youth must be encouraged to take their full part in socialist competition, to study and raise their qualifications — all this is part of the most important task of the Czechoslovak Union of Youth during the first Five Year Plan. If youth is to take its full share in the building of a new world, then they must be educated, must be conscious, must know and understand the way which is being followed by the Czechoslovak people, led by the working class. The task of the Czechoslovak Union of Youth therefore, is to educate youth in the spirit of the progressive ideals of our national history, above all in the spirit of the ideals of our national and democratic revolution, it must teach them to learn from the lives and works of the great figures of our history, particularly from the life and work of our President, Klement Gottwald; it must teach youth even deeper love for the Soviet Union and its people, from whose hands our country received her freedom, and whose powerful defence of peace allows the Czechoslovak working people to develop this freedom still further. It is the task of the Union to see that the younger generation gets to know the principles of the most important teaching of all, which is the basis of scientific socialism — the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, which show the nations the sole way forward, and to bring up Czechoslovak youth in the firm consciousness of the international solidarity of all working people.

In the efforts of the nations of Czechoslovakia for a better and richer future, the Czechoslovak Union of Youth occupies a special place in the front of those who are building — the front of socialism. In the great world struggle for lasting peace, for freedom for the nations and against imperialism, the Czechoslovak Union of Youth stands in the front ranks of progressive youth of all nations, fighting in the World Federation of Democratic Youth for friendship between the nations, for strengthening peace and achieving freedom and independence for everyone. The organisational set-up of the Czechoslovak Union of Youth which is based on the principle

of democratic centralism, ensures a strongly led all-state organisation and ensures full possibilities for the free national development of Czech and Slovak Youth. This set-up enables youth to unite together wherever they live or work, that is to say, in factories or in schools, in districts of different towns, in boarding schools and in the villages. An organisation led in the spirit of these principles will become a real school of democracy and responsibility for Czechoslovak youth.

The preparatons for setting up a united all-state organisation met with enthusiastic approval from all members of the youth unions in the Czech Provinces and Slovakia and was the signal for tremendous activity in all spheres of work. This activity above all found its expression in the increased participation of youth in the fulfilment of the first Czechoslovak Five Year Economic Plan. In the second half of 1948, young factory workers, on the initiative of the youth unions started a great shock brigade movement, aimed at improving working morale and increasing productivity. Thanks to the care and attention devoted to this movement, not only by the youth unions but also by all sections of the National Front and above all by that great teacher and friend of Czechoslovak youth, our President Klement Gottwald, thousands of shock-brigades sprang up in factories and mines, and fought against absenteeism, against the squandering of working time, of material and energy, and surpassed and are still surpassing working norms. They are endeavouring to make the best possible use of machinery, to improve the quality of products, to improve the organisation of work they are lowering task rates, economising in production and giving all round attention to the raising of production. For example, shock brigadier comrade Bořucký of the General Jeremko Mine achieved an output per shift 200% of his norm. When the Five Year Plan was announced, he set himself the task of fulfilling his Five Year Plan norm in four years. The very first day, he fulfilled his day's task by 312%. At the Tesla Radio Works, shock brigaders took over one conveyor belt and increased its output from 113 radio sets to 125 a day. Shock brigadier Lupáš at Libčice steel works, on the first day of the Five Year Plan made a proposal for improvement which effected a saving of more than

200%. A twenty-one member shock brigade in the tinsmiths shop of the Tatra works raised its daily norm to 200%. Young shock brigaders at the Metra factory succeeded in lowering the absenteeism of young workers to 4%. Thousands of similar examples have been set by young shock brigaders in the course of a short time. Their example stirred members of the older generation and so on the threshold of the Five Year Plan, the initiative of youth gave rise to a tremendous shock brigade movement in Czechoslovak factories as the basis of socialist working competitions. In March there were already more than 12,000 shock brigades at work. The example of working youth showed the way and the finest young agricultural workers and farmers in the villages have followed suit. In the first agricultural shock brigades they are striving to raise agricultural production and surpass production plans. In all schools and universities study competitions between pupils were started on the eve of the establishment of the Czechoslovak Union of Youth on the initiative of the former youth unions, and more than 250,000 boys and girls are already taking part. Another great extension of constructive work and of the initiative of the workers is the present campaign of "gifts to the Republic" on the part of shock brigades and individuals in honour of the IXth Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. Youth set out on this campaign with great enthusiasm, increased its shock brigade activity and dedicated its work to the Communist Party whose wise leadership has won the gratitude of the whole nation and above all of youth, by firmly ensuring a socialist future. So Czechoslovak youth has celebrated the establishment of the new youth organisation by strengthened and successful constructive work for the prosperity of the country, and for the fulfilment of the bold aims of the first Five Year Plan. The working efforts of youth are also linked with efforts for increasing creative cultural work by means of the competition of youthful creativeness, in which more than 500,000 boys and girls of all classes are taking part. The great activity of the Czechoslovak youth movement can be judged from one important fact, that is, the continual growth of the membership of the unions. From January to April 1949, 167,000 new members joined the Union of Czech Youth and 2,300 new groups

were started. During the same period, the Union of Slovak Youth won more than 70,000 new members. The new youth union has started off with nearly 600,000 members and is therefore a truly mass organisation of the youth of Czechoslovakia and its aim of winning the majority of youth to its ranks has become a real and tangible one.

The main reason for the tremendous growth of the progressive youth movement in Czechoslovakia, apart from the increased activity of the youth unions, is in the first place, the fact that day by day, the younger generation is coming to recognise more fully the advantages of the new life, freed from reactionary wreckers, and that day by day their love for and confidence in the People's Democracy grows and increases and with it their devotion to the ideals of People's Democracy and of socialism. The younger generation in Czechoslovakia receives everything necessary for their development. Their social position is extremely high. There is no threat of unemployment or hunger such as menaces youth in the capitalist countries. On the contrary, there is any amount of creative manual and intellectual work waiting for them. Great care is given to the specialised training of young people. The government for example is building further apprentice homes attached to national enterprises, which will accommodate another 50,000 apprentices. In spite of all difficulties, the government sees to it that youth is given priority in food supplies. The state is devoting millions to recreation facilities for young people. This summer alone the state will

provide for the accommodation of more than 50,000 young people in holiday camps. Education of all kinds is open to all and state support is given to those fitted for higher education. Not long ago a preparatory course was started for young workers who had previously been unable to receive secondary education and yet were anxious to study at universities... Similar courses have been initiated for future officers for the Czechoslovak Army from the ranks of the working class. Youth has a share in the running of the state, not only because they have the vote at eighteen years of age, but also because they are widely represented in Parliament, in national committees and other bodies of public administration. Such a position for youth ensures their confidence in the people's democratic order. Day by day the number of those still affected by reactionary propaganda becomes less and less.

A fine and happy future awaits the youth of Czechoslovakia. They will be able to live freely and richly in a country, whose socialist order they have helped to build. Such a position, however, imposes on them great responsibilities and great tasks. But they have the example of the youth of the Soviet Union and therefore nothing need hold them back. It is therefore the task of the new Czechoslovak Union of Youth, in the present situation, to lead the whole of the younger generation to the fulfilment of the motto of the great statesman and wise leader of the Czechoslovak people, President Klement Gottwald: „Forward, not a step back.“

**THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION PLAN
FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE FIVE YEAR PLAN
EXCEEDED BY 3,6%**

General results in the fulfilment of the 5 Year Plan for March and the first 3 months of 1949 show what an important factor the widespread drive for gifts to the Republic in honour of the 9th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia has become in industry. In March the industrial plan (not including food production) was fulfilled by 104,6% the best result achieved since the beginning of the year. The constantly rising figures show that output as well as productivity of work is improving monthly: in January the plan was fulfilled by 101,8%, in February by 104,3% in March by 104,6%.

These are the results of the drive for gifts to the Republic which called a successful shock brigade movement into existence and can be seen as the first promising stages of socialist competition. The fact that the initiative of the working people has often not been taken into account when planning the gift showed itself in the actual course of the gift drive by the fact that original obligations were fulfilled long before the time limit was up. They are now being further extended. Thus the development of the workers' initiative becomes an ever increasing force, which helps to fulfil the plan ahead of schedule.

The gifts became the most important factor in increased production especially in such important branches of industry as foundries, mines and the textile industry. In all those branches gift targets proved to have been well thought out and the majority of employees were putting all their efforts into fulfilling their promises.

Especially in foundries and in the textile industry a constant rise in production and the overfulfilment of the plan by ever greater percentages can be noted. Thus a good foundation is being laid for the speeding up of production in other branches of industry.

The figures on the fulfilment of the industrial plan (not including food industry) do not, of course, show which are being effected by workers' initiative in reducing production expenses and which also contribute towards in-

creasing the productivity of work in our industry.

During the first quarter excellent results were achieved in the food industry, when the plan for this period was fulfilled by 120,3%.

Increased production was most evident in the food preserving industry.

In the schedule below figures of the way the plan was fulfilled in the different branches and for different months are given. In most cases an upward trend can be observed.

Industry (not including food industry)	January	February	March	January-March
Industry (not including food industry)	101,8	104,3	104,6	103,6
Mining industry	99,5	100,6	101,1	100,9
Power industry	102,9	102	108,9	103,6
Foundries	105,4	106	110,3	104,2
Metal and machine industry	98,9	103,8	102,9	101,6
Chemical industry	100,4	103,8	102,3	101,4
Glass industry	94,7	94,8	104,7	97,9
Building industry and ceramics	117,7	108,8	102,5	108
Paper industry	96,6	102,4	98,7	99,2
Timber industry	93,2	99,6	94,7	97,6
Textile clothing industry	102,5	108,6	109,4	106,9
Rubber and leather industry	98,8	102,1	105,9	102,7
Gramophones and films	110,1	108,2	127	115
Food industry (not including sugar and molasses)	—	—	—	120,3

Thus in March the plan was exceeded in 11 branches of industry and only 2 failed to fulfill the plan. For the first 3 months 3 branches have so far failed to fulfil the plan. They are the glass, paper and wood industry. All the others exceeded the plan.

Mining Industry:

In spite of great difficulties the mining industry fulfilled the plan mainly because the

obligations undertaken in honour of the Congress were in most cases fulfilled. This again is mostly thanks to the shock-brigaders' movement which originated in the mines and is received there more enthusiastically than anywhere else. In the Šverma mine — in the Ostrava district — for instance, the pledge to increase mining output by 60% was fulfilled by the end of March thanks to an unexpected development in the shock brigaders' movement which meant that norms were exceeded by 40%. Increased productivity of work is apparent only in the individual mines and cannot yet be felt generally. Increased production laid a greater strain on the power industry; these demands were met and the output planned for the power industry was thus exceeded.

Results achieved in foundries:

The best and most important results of all industrial branches have been achieved by the foundries, which by consistently exceeding the plan, has won for our economy a surplus of thousands of tons of steel and iron. This is the result of painstaking work on the part of our foundry workers and technicians who by their joint common efforts worked out some of the best gifts to the Republic and brought to light great reserves. Such are the results of socialist competition, which have been achieved mainly in blockcasting but also in other sectors where great difficulties had to be overcome, such as for instance breakdowns at Great Mannesmann in the Vitkovice iron works and in the Kladno foundries. Increased production has in most cases been the result of the increased productivity of work, since the number of employees has remained almost unchanged.

Paper and Timber Industry:

The paper industry fulfilled the production plan for paper by 100,5%, the production of cellulose by 96,6% (the paper-mill at Větrní was unable to work for 3 days; workers could not get to the factory, because of snow-storms) pulp cardboard production by 97,2% (the Ostroh plant was prevented from working for 3 days owing to shortage of steam). Thus some factories, for instance the Větrní and Loučovice works did not fulfil their obligations to the Congress.

The industry fulfilled the plan in the wood cutting sector by only 83,4% as a result of snowstorms in the border lands which made mining impossible moreover as a result of the wood having become so dry as to make it useless. In plywood production the plan was fulfilled by 96% (the plywood sector of the UP factory failed to fulfil the plan), in wood veneers the plan was fulfilled by 113,7%.

Textile Industry:

A decisive role in constantly improving production results in the textile clothing industry was played by the gifts to the Republic in honour of the 9th Party Congress which were completed ahead of schedule, after which higher gift targets were set. The Liberec textile factory, for instance, increased their obligations by 11 million crowns. The fact that in the textile factories they have introduced the method of working according to a budget also increases the productivity of work, the increased absenteeism is a draw-back in this branch.

The rubber and leather industries have made up for the drop in the fulfilment figures of their plan, which were noticeable at the beginning of the 5 Year Plan. Here too the gifts to the Republic in honour of the 9th Party Congress have contributed to better production results.

In the gramophone and film industries the films overproduced above the plan and offered us gifts in honour of the IXth Congress of the C. P. C.

Results for the first 3 months of the 5 Year Plan in the various branches of industry.

Detailed results of the fulfilment of the 5 Year Plan in the various most important branches of our industry.

	March First Quarter	
Mining		
Black coal	100,8	101,1
brown coal	97,4	98,1
coke	104,5	100,5
iron ore	114,5	110,4
Power production		
Electricity	106,3	104,1
Gas	103,6	101,0

March First Quarter			March First Quarter		
Metallurgical industry			Textiles and clothing		
waggon	105,6	94,4	Cotton yarn	106,6	105,0
sewing machines	94,5	103,1	wool yarn	106,4	102,2
agricultural machinery	115,5	119,9	Linen yarn	97,0	96,3
tractors	98,2	87,0	Cotton fabrics	102,1	103,6
bicycles	108,6	111,7	Woollen fabrics	117,3	116,7
enamel containers	110,2	103,0	Knit-wear and tricot	112,4	106,6
electromotors (under 0,5 kw)	120,5	104,0	Stockings and socks	111,8	108,9
electromotors			Men's and boys' wear	116,4	101,5
(from 0,5 to 25 kW)	113,5	101,8	girls wear	117,4	103,2
telephone apparatus	111,5	73,6	Working (overalls)	135,5	132,4
radio sets	110,7	109,4	Mens and boys underwear	110,7	112,6
			and girls underwear	101,6	104,3
Chemical industry			Graphies, gramophones and films.		
nitrogene fertilizers	109,4	107,5	gramoph. records	208,1	175,7
phosphates	112,7	110,3	full length films	100,0	100,0
artificial fibres	106,0	106,6	short films	107,1	111,4
artificial silk	91,4	98,1			
soap	93,1	94,0	Sugar industry		
			refined sugar		117,0
Glass industry			molasses		130,2
blown glass	103,9	96,1	Distilling industry		
plate glass	107,6	103,9	crude spirit		68,5
fancy glass	96,2	87,8	10% vinegar		114,8
Building material and ceramics			Beer-breweries and malt industry		
cement	100,5	110,4	malt		131,3
bricks	100,5	114,4	beer		109,6
tiles	124,4	119,9	Mills		
technical china	108,9	103,7	edible wheat products		88,4
chalk	102,7	111,7	corn products		84,6
Paper industry			Fats and oils		
Unbleached fibre materials	96,6	98,5	Margarine		107,5
Paper	100,5	99,7	Milk production		
Pulp	98,4	99,5	Tined milk		107,5
Timber industry			butter		113,7
boards sleepers	94,4	97,3	cheese		114,3
wood veneers	115,4	110,8	Tobacco industry		
plywood	95,6	96,9	cigarettes		110,2
Leather and rubber industry			cigar		98,9
shoes	106,1	102,7	pipe tobacco		107,8
tyres and tubes	106,0	98,1			