



SOVIET PEOPLE

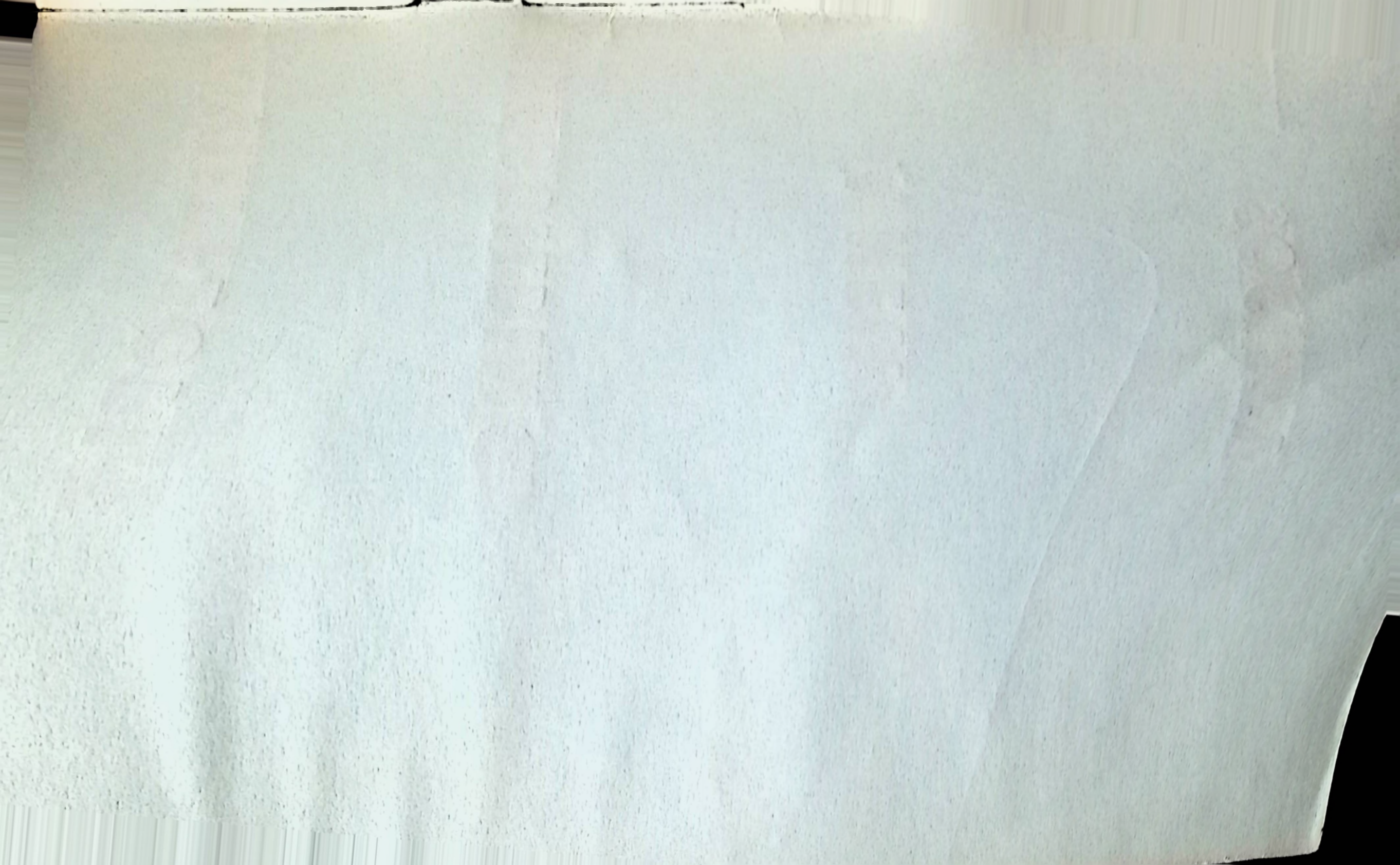
ARE BUILDING

A NEW

SOCIETY



NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY PUBLISHING HOUSE



THE SOVIET PEOPLE
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by

A. KONDRATOVICH

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"The Soviet people are building communism." This statement often recurs in Soviet newspapers, at meetings or around the family table. The construction of a new society is not an abstraction of philosophers and sociologists. It is the day-to-day life and work of all the Soviet people.

Not everybody understands, however, what kind of a society communism is, or how it is being built. And so we have asked Alexei Kondratovich, a prominent Soviet journalist, to tell us more about it.

For more than twenty years, since Alexei Kondratovich went into the field of journalism, he has journeyed thousands of miles up and down the country and interviewed hundreds of people; he has written about days of war and days of peace. His articles, feature stories and booklets hold the mirror to Soviet reality. Alexei Kondratovich is now deputy editor-in-chief of Novy Mir (New World), a leading Soviet literary, social and political magazine.

To build a new society is no easy or simple matter. It is a job that takes in all aspects of economic, political and social life. To explain just one of them would fill volumes. This small booklet touches upon only a few of the most important problems. In it you will find a few pages of revolutionary history, how the Soviet people live now, a look into the future twenty years hence, sidelights on the life of the Soviet nationalities, and how their country is being transformed.

We hope this booklet will give you a general idea of the most significant process in the world today — communist construction in the U.S.S.R.

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What is Communism?

It is in the nature of man to dream of happiness. But what is happiness? As if the question could be answered in a word! Some people see happiness in being rich, others in being beautiful, still others in being loved. The dream of happiness expresses itself in a multitude of forms. Each person has his own cherished dream.

Still, for the majority of people, happiness is inseparable from freedom. It would be hard to find a person who would say: "I do not want to be free."

The same is true of equality. Each of us plainly desires



equal rights with every other member of society, and wants to be treated with an equal degree of justice.

Then there is work. It is not true that people do not like work and try to avoid it. That notion was invented by people who did not work themselves and lived at the expense of others. Work is the true meaning of the life of the individual and of society as a whole. It was work that made man what he is today. The material civilisation and spiritual culture of mankind were all created by work.

Everyone who visits Soviet cities notices the multitude of cranes helping to build new houses. Photo shows Mir Prospekt, a new avenue in Moscow



To be creative and joyous, work must be free. It must not be regarded merely as a means of subsistence. Only when people work for themselves and for their free society of equal citizens can their work bring them happiness.

For ages the happiness of free labour was nothing but a dream. The human race has been divided since time immemorial into oppressors and oppressed, rich and poor. What is more, the numbers of the poor and oppressed were always many times greater than those of their oppressors. It seemed as though that was how things were meant to be and would always remain.

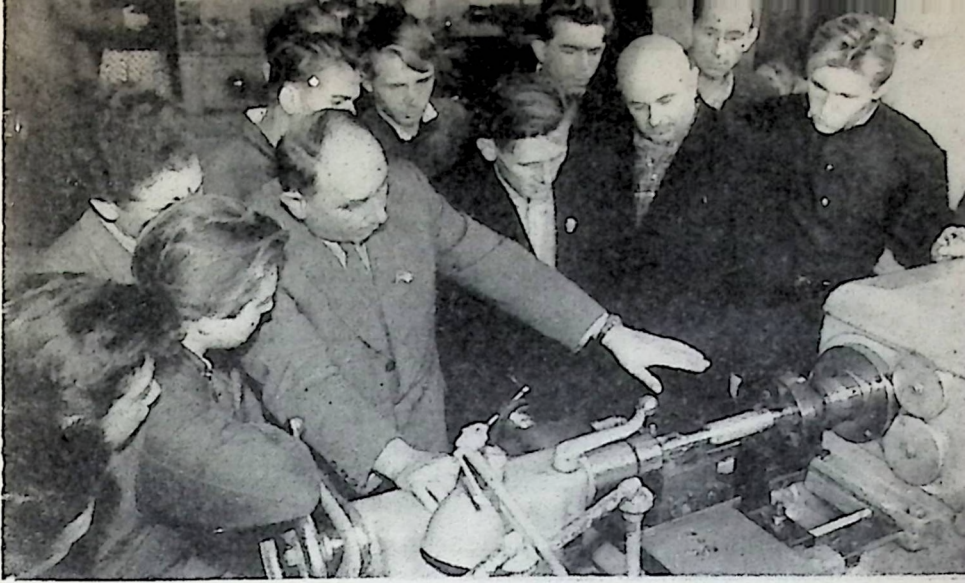
Still, many people realised that the unequal status of the members of society was unfair, and looked for ways of remedying it. But it was a long time before anyone showed mankind how to really emancipate itself.

The first scientific theory on freeing man from exploitation was formulated more than a century ago by two great scholars and revolutionaries, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. They proved that exploitation would not go on for ever and that the capitalist society, then in its ascendancy in Europe and the United States, would be the last exploiting society. In its place there would come a new and really equitable society, which they called socialism.

Socialism would develop into a higher phase — communism. Marx and Engels not only described the new society, but also drew up a programme to guide the working people's struggle for the construction of that society.

In many countries there sprang up groups of people who shared the view that communism was the form of society that would make man free and happy, destroy the chains of exploitation and injustice, and open up infinite possibilities for the advancement and harmonious development of the individual.

Such a Party was formed in Russia by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, the great disciple of Marx and Engels, who continued the work they had started. Guided by that Party, the working people carried through the Great October Revo-



Turner Vitaly Seminsky from the Krasny Ekskavator Plant in Kiev demonstrates his devices for high-speed metal machining in a laboratory of the Scientific and Technical Propaganda Centre. You will find more detailed information about Seminsky in the booklet

lution of 1917. It was a socialist revolution, for its aim was to build a new socialist society that would be free from the exploitation of man by man.

Such a society has already been built in the Soviet Union, where the means of production, the factories, railways and so on, belong not to a few individuals, but to society as a whole, to all the working people. That is the basic thing. Consequently there are not and cannot be any exploiting classes in the U.S.S.R.; no one owns any means of production which would enable him to use or profit by the labour of others.

Socialist society is a society of equal members—workers, peasants, and intellectuals. It has ruled out the very possibility of one person amassing enormous profits and others dying of hunger, of one person living in a villa attended by dozens of servants while others being homeless and destitute. Incomes in socialist society depend on how people work and are distributed on the basis of the prin-

ciple "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work". In other words, the good things of life are distributed among the people according to the quantity and quality of the work each does.

Socialism already is the beginning of communism, its first phase.

In 1961 Moscow became the venue of the 22nd Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which adopted a new Party Programme, the programme of building communism in the U.S.S.R.

This is how the Programme of the C.P.S.U. explains what communism is:

"Communism is a classless social system with one form of public ownership of the means of production and full social equality of all members of society; under it, the all-round development of people will be accompanied by the growth of the productive forces through continuous progress in science and technology; all sources of public wealth will gush forth abundantly, and the great principle 'From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs' will be implemented. Communism is a highly organised society of free, socially conscious working people in which public self-government will be established, a society in which labour for the good of society will become the prime vital requirement of everyone, a necessity recognised by one and all, and the ability of each person will be employed to the greatest benefit of the people."

As socialist society advances, the differences between the cities and the countryside will gradually diminish and disappear, as will the distinctions between mental and physical labour. And so the difference in the cultural and living standards of the workers, peasants and intellectuals will gradually dwindle away.

Until recently those differences were very marked, but now there is a great resemblance between the countryside



"Kazan balls" — this is how Soviet polar explorers sometimes call radio-sonde balloons manufactured by the rubber articles plant in Kazan, capital of the Tatar A.S.S.R. The photo shows a shop of the testing station of the plant

and the socialist cities with their highly mechanised labour and culture.

The Leningrad Collective Farm, situated in the Fergana Valley, in the heart of Central Asia, was established in 1929. At that time the peasants grew only one crop — maize. They lived in tumble-down huts, and for light burned twigs and dry grass. The collective farm had only 450 acres of rocky land which was worked with primitive tools drawn by cattle; its pastures were small. In 1931, the first farm machines arrived there. But machines alone could not do much, for there was a shortage of water and that, plus the scorching heat, destroyed the crops. Huge funds were allotted by the people's state for the construction of an irrigation canal. As soon as its water flowed into their fields, the peasants' life began to change.

The old huts are gone now. The collective farm settlement looks very much like a town, a verdant town of tree-lined streets set off by orchards and gardens with comfortable apartments. In the centre there are shops, a secondary school, and several libraries stocked with thousands of books. It has its own hospital and maternity home, and soon a wide-screen cinema will be opened.

The time is not far off when farm labour, thanks to the mechanisation of agriculture, will become a form of industrial labour, with all its advantages. The villages, too, will gradually be built up with modern houses, schools, medical centres, and all other public services.

Under socialism the essential differences between mental and physical labour persist, but even now they are beginning to recede before our eyes. The training of new personnel in the Soviet Union is based on the principle of combining theoretical studies with productive labour. Apart from the schools for children and adolescents and the ordinary higher schools many evening and correspondence courses and technical secondary schools and colleges enable millions of working people to study while working. Factory and office workers and collective farmers are tak-



Achievements of science benefit mankind only when they are used for purposes of creation and not destruction. This atomic ice-breaker "Lenin" leads caravans of ships in the ice-bound Arctic seas. The atom in the hands of peace-loving Soviet people helps them subjugate Nature to man's will

ing courses on technics and economics. The total enrolment in the general and specialised schools of the country and special courses and study circles tops the fifty million mark!

It is not unusual nowadays to come upon factory shops where every worker is a secondary school graduate. Many Soviet workers are studying to obtain engineering degrees. In fact, such things are now taken for granted.

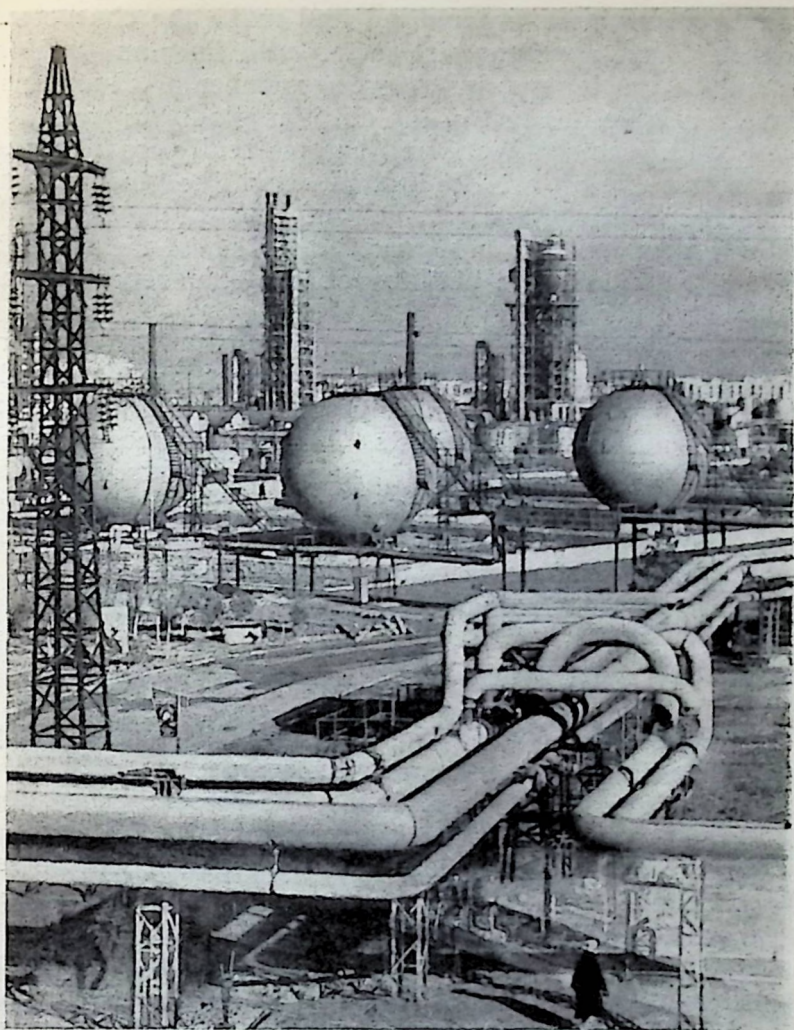
The following is a good example. The Learned Council of the Kiev Polytechnical Institute is in session; the speaker is Vitaly Seminsky, a highly skilled lathe operator at the Krasny Excavator Plant whose name is known throughout the country. He is telling the audience of scientists about his new methods of high-speed metal cutting. He finishes, and the scientists discuss his report and emphasise the great scientific and practical importance of Seminsky's innovation.

Who is Vitaly Seminsky? He is an ordinary worker who received a secondary education while working, and he is still studying; of an inquisitive, enterprising nature, he never rests in his search for more advanced production methods. He has constructed dozens of new tools and appliances in the past few years. He is also the author of several technical books.

Millions of workers and collective farmers in the Soviet Union are studying and raising their qualifications. They know how to run complex machinery; their work is becoming more and more like that of college-trained specialists. With time, all manual workers in the U.S.S.R. will rise to the cultural and technical level of brain workers.

The aim of communist production is to ensure the steady progress of society and satisfy the growing material and cultural needs of all its members and their increasingly varied requirements and tastes.

Many Soviet people are today demonstrating their high political consciousness, industry, organisation, and devotion to the interests of society. Those qualities will grad-



This oil refinery in Baku has won the title of Communist Labour Enterprise. In the Seven-Year Plan period it has increased output by more than 50 per cent and labour productivity by 63 per cent. Built ten years ago, it is a comparatively young enterprise in the Azerbaijan S.S.R.

ually become more pronounced and make the characters of the citizens of communist society still finer and nobler. It will be the inner urge of every member of communist society to give the best of his abilities gladly to work for the good of society. Work will become really creative and prove a source of joy. The individual will be given unlimited opportunities for vocational and cultural development.

Only then will the best moral qualities of the emancipated individual, his abilities and talents reveal themselves in full.

Under communism, the bonds of friendship and co-operation among the nations will grow closer, and they will advance together on the basis of their common economic, political and cultural interests. Communism accomplishes the historic mission of delivering all men from social inequality, from every form of oppression and exploitation, and proclaims Peace, Labour, Freedom, Equality, Fraternity and Happiness for all peoples of the earth.

A Bit of History

The twenty-year Programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union ends with the words:

"The Party solemnly proclaims: the present generation of Soviet people shall live in communism!"

The Soviet people confidently believe that it will be so. To explain that confidence, we need only take a look back to the history of the Soviet state.

... On October 25 (November 7), 1917, the cruiser *Aurora* left the Gulf of Finland, sailed down the Neva to Petrograd and took up a position opposite the Winter Palace, former residence of the Russian tsars. After the overthrow of the tsarist autocracy in February 1917, the Winter Palace became the seat of the Provisional Government. While it had replaced tsarism, that Government had not changed the way of life that had prevailed under the tsars. It had not



Krasnodar Territory has always been famed for its abundance. These fields belong to the Berezan state farm. Grain harvesting is in progress. The rural landscape in the Soviet Union is unthinkable without machines today

improved the lot of the people. The workers and peasants were still oppressed, were still being used as cannon fodder in World War I. The country was on the verge of collapse.

... The guns barked on the *Aurora*, and the historic storming of the Winter Palace began. The Provisional Government was overthrown, and the people took power into their own hands.

The American writer John Reed, who witnessed that historical occurrence, described the mood of the workers right after the victory of the October Revolution.

"... An old driver pointed with a triumphant gesture to the city whose contours loomed in the distance, and

said: 'It's mine, all mine now! My Petrograd!' His face shone. . . ."

Millions of ordinary people, like that worker, began to regard the cities, the soil, the whole land as their very own. They enjoyed that new feeling. They realised that new times had come, bringing with them great and radical changes.

The workers and peasants of Russia were not fated, however, to begin the construction of their peaceful life immediately. First they had to take up arms to fight back against the internal counter-revolution and the intervention by fourteen capitalist powers which wanted to turn back the course of history and reinstate the old way of life.

Even during that grim conflict, the Communist Party and working people of the young Soviet republic strove persistently towards their goal. In 1919 the Party adopted its second Programme, drawn up by Lenin. That Programme formulated the task of building a socialist society and highlighted the main landmarks on the road to socialism. In addition to social changes, the Party also focussed its attention on the solution of economic tasks. After many years of the world and civil wars in Russia, the country found itself in dire straits. Its weak industry was now reduced to utter ruin, its agriculture was in a state of collapse. The task was not merely to rebuild the economy, but to advance it considerably, for socialism is inconceivable without a highly developed economy.

The attainment of that difficult task called for a heroic effort such as no nation had ever made before to build up its economy.

In one of his novels, the Soviet author Alexei Tolstoi described the adoption of the State Plan for the Electrification of Russia (GOELRO), which Lenin called the Party's second Programme. The cold hall of the Bolshoi Theatre, unheated for days, was packed with workers, peasants and soldiers. On the stage hung a map showing



V. I. Lenin's study in the Kremlin, 1920. British writer Herbert Wells talks with Vladimir Lenin about the situation in Russia. Science-fiction writer Wells called Lenin's plan for the electrification of Russia an unrealisable dream. But the young Soviet republic rapidly restored its economy and went further, to unprecedented progress of economy, science and culture

the sites of power stations still to be built; they were indicated by red circles. It took all the current the Moscow Electric Station could generate to illuminate the map. As Alexei Tolstoi said, "the lamps in all the offices of the People's Commissars in the Kremlin, except a solitary one of sixteen candle-power, had to be switched out".

In his book "Russia in the Shadows" the English writer Herbert Wells called Lenin "the Kremlin dreamer": he considered the electrification of Russia an unrealisable dream.

But it was Lenin, a sober-minded realist, and not Wells, a science-fiction writer, who proved to be right.

The working people of the young Soviet Republic set about building the new life with great enthusiasm. By the middle of 1921, new power stations generating

12,000 kilowatts were commissioned. That was not a great deal. As Lenin said: "12,000 kilowatts is a very modest beginning. Maybe the foreigner, who is acquainted with the American, German or Swedish power systems, will laugh at it. But he who laughs last laughs best."

The first large power station, on the Volkhov River, went into operation in 1926. That was a great victory.

Step by step the Soviet people advanced towards the goal they had set themselves. The lights of one power station after another were lit, not on a map, but in reality. In 1932, the Dnieper Hydropower Station began to generate current. It was the largest station in Europe.

The dam on the Dnieper represented a popular construction effort, for thousands of people volunteered to help build it and flocked to the site from different cities. They were not afraid of the hard work ahead, at a time when the Soviet Union did not have powerful building machines. The earth had to be dug with spades and carried away on hand-carts. The work went on through the winter, when the ground froze like rock. But the creative ardour of the masses worked wonders. Many a record was set on the banks of the Dnieper, including the world record for laying reinforced concrete in one shift. A major battle was won by the Soviet people's tenacity of purpose, a victory that made even the most hardened sceptics in other countries sit up and take notice.

Space does not permit a description of each stage of the magnificent construction effort that went into the creation of the Soviet power system. We need only say that by 1957 the GOELRO Plan had been exceeded twenty four times over. Huge stations without parallel anywhere in the world, each bigger than the one before, appeared on the Volga. But soon even they will look small compared to the new stations on the rivers of Siberia.

We have touched on only a few highlights of the Soviet people's fight for socialism. We might have mentioned

others, such as their fight for metal and wheat, for literacy and for the health of the population. Every such chronicle would abound in examples of the people's labour heroism. It was a fight crowned with glorious victories, which proved the correctness of the line taken by the Communists. And that explains the Soviet people's confidence today that the magnificent vistas of the Party's third Programme, adopted at the Twenty-Second Congress of the C.P.S.U., will also come to life.

Many radical changes have taken place in the life of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. since the Great October Socialist Revolution. The results speak for themselves. A backward agrarian country before the Revolution, Russia has become a highly developed state with a powerful industry and a collectivised highly mechanised agriculture.

Something like forty years have gone by since the first Soviet-made tractor rode across the Red Square in Moscow during one of the holiday demonstrations. Witnesses of that event recall how they held their breaths, lest the engine stop in the middle of the square. But now more than 1,200,000 powerful machines bearing Soviet trademarks cultivate the fields of the U.S.S.R.

And what about the remarkable changes in the economy of the national republics! Like the other Central Asian republics, Kazakhstan was once a backward hinterland of the tsarist empire. Today the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic has left many of the capitalist countries trailing behind. Although its population is only a third of Turkey's, it produces one and a half times more steel and five times more coal than Turkey.

The Udegehs are a small Far Eastern people who were on the brink of total extinction before the revolution. Hunger, disease, and plunder by tsarist officials — that was all they ever knew. The Soviet government put the Udegehs on their feet again and gave them a new lease of life. With the help of the state the Udegehs formed fishing and hunting co-operatives. The whole country heard about that

tiny people and helped it find a place in the friendly family of Soviet peoples. It now enjoys the same amenities as all the other peoples of the U.S.S.R. The Udegehs have acquired a written alphabet, something they did not have before, and have all learned to read and write. The fame of the Udegeh author Djansy Kimonko has crossed the borders of the U.S.S.R.

Socialism has given that nationality, like all the other Soviet peoples, a happy life.

And here is an entirely different example from the life of national minorities in capitalist society. English journalist Ralph Parker wrote to Ritkheu, a Chukchi writer, about the Eskimo tribe of Igalmuts living in Alaska:

Here it is, the joy of emancipated labour. Such a smile can only be seen on the faces of happy people who have found their place in life



"In 1912 the Igalmuts numbered 2,000; in 1916 only 300 of them remained. Towards 1947 their number dwindled to 46. As regards the last vestiges of the tribe, there are less than ten of them today — it is already a dead tribe, with no women in it. I am writing about a dead people. The pernicious breath of capitalism has done what the Arctic cold cannot do: it has killed a whole people, upright and industrious, with an original national culture."

In the Soviet Union, all the nations and nationalities can look to the future with confidence. All live a happy and full life.

That is borne out by innumerable facts. But it would be a mistake to think that those wonderful changes came of themselves, as if by the flick of a magic wand. Of course not. It was much more complicated.

The Soviet Union built socialism and created a powerful industry all by itself, relying only on its own resources. It could not hope for help from outside: the imperialists would not contribute a farthing to the development of the national economy of the Soviet Union. In order to lay a stable economic foundation for their country's independence and industrialisation, the Soviet people had to accept many privations. When industrialisation began, the people helped the state by contributing part of their savings; they lent it money in the form of a small reduction on their earnings. A strict regime of economy was introduced. There was an all-out effort to raise the productivity of labour on every job.

An especially grave damage was done to the peoples of the Soviet Union by wars.

The Soviet peoples suffered great losses as a result of the war against the German fascist invaders which lasted nearly four years. In that terrible time, the Soviet people defended their liberty and independence. Their exploit in the war decided the defeat of fascism.



Russian winter. There are corners in every country where Nature seems to be saying: Look, you will not find a place more beautiful than this. Photo shows young people on a trip

But during that war, the fascists completely or partially destroyed and burned down 1,710 Soviet cities and towns, more than 70,000 villages and hamlets, and thousands of industrial enterprises and collective farms. And how many people were killed, families broken up! How many children were orphaned! "How well we would be living now, but for the war!" one could often hear Soviet people

say, both during and after the war. And it is indeed not hard to see what great progress the Soviet Union would have made but for the plunderous Nazi invasion.

The damage caused by the war was tremendous. Many western politicians were quite certain that the Soviet Union would not be able to reconstruct its economy and cope with post-war difficulties by itself, that it would have to accept onerous terms from the West. But they miscalculated. The Soviet people worked yet another miracle: in a very short period of time they rehabilitated their war-torn industry and surpassed the pre-war level of output.

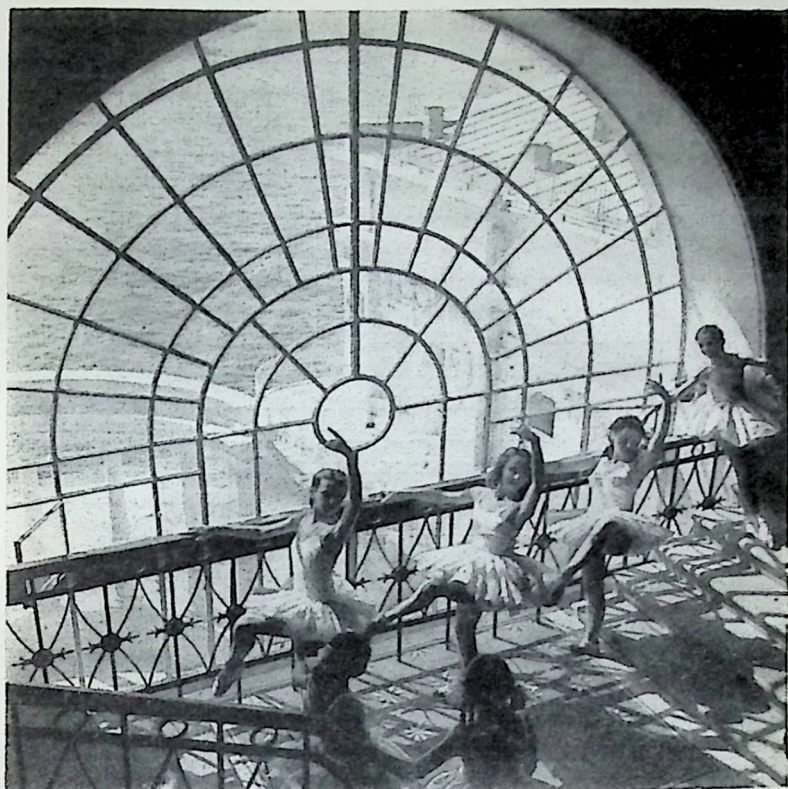
The advantages inherent in the socialist system made that possible. Socialist society is developing on a strictly scientific basis. Its unified state plans take in all branches of the national economy. The economic plans are drawn up for different periods of time, ranging from one to five or seven years and more. The organisation and practice of planning are being steadily improved. Recent economic, scientific and technical progress attaches ever greater importance to the role and scientific level of planning. That is why, at its Plenary Meeting in November 1962, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union adopted the very important decision to delegate the functions of planning and implementation of the plans to the Union republics. The rights of the republics have thus been broadened still more. That reflects the process of the growing sovereignty of the peoples who forty years ago entered on a voluntary basis into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The plans of the Union republics will be thoroughly studied in the State Planning Committee of the U.S.S.R., and the plan for the whole country drawn up on their basis. The State Planning Committee becomes the only all-Union planning body, while the U.S.S.R. Economic Council answers for the realisation of the plans. It is significant that there have been no instances of the Soviet Union's economic plans not being fulfilled, except for the period



A canal 540 kilometres long was built in the Turkmen S.S.R. It carries the Amu-Darya water to the Tedzhen oasis area. The canal was built by people of many nationalities, with the help of the entire state.

"Water in the desert has an especially sweet taste," says An-nameret Orusov, a member of the Moskva Collective Farm



A dancing lesson in the Young Pioneers' Palace in Sevastopol

when its economic development was interrupted by the war. The plans have invariably been fulfilled and over-fulfilled. That in itself is a proof of their reality.

Today the economic development of the U.S.S.R. is subordinated to the fulfilment of the twenty-year economic plan (1961-80). Its most immediate tasks have been concretely defined in the seven-year plan which the Soviet people are now energetically bringing to life. The plans

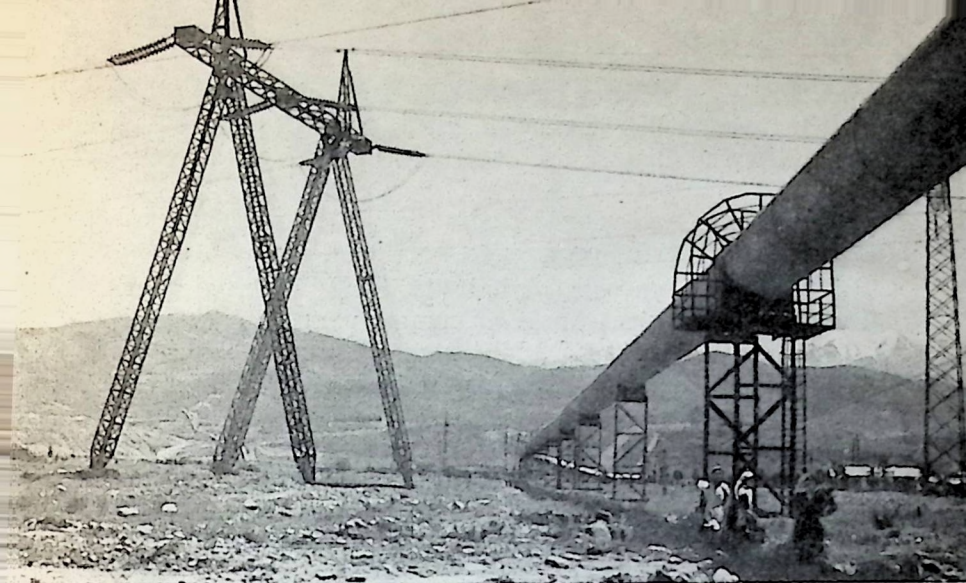
envisage the total volume of industrial output, establish how much of each commodity is to be produced by each branch of industry and what new establishments need to be built, and where; they also make provision for the training of the necessary labour force. Such planning is carried through not only on a countrywide scale, but every factory, every collective farm and state farm also has its own plan. That guarantees its supplies and the sale of its products. When the economic plan that has been so carefully thought out and weighed by the state has been adopted, it becomes law for every office and factory in the country. But the plan is not the result of the efforts of a narrow circle of scientists, engineers and economists. It is the product of the political thinking of millions of people. The workers, collective farmers, technicians and engineers make their contribution to the plan; they are also the ones on whom the fulfilment of the plan depends.

The Road Ahead

The space-flights of the Soviet cosmonauts have been called the highest achievement of the mind of man, which is always striving forward, always seeking. It is an eternal road ahead.

The Soviet Union's achievements in the mastery of space speak of the wonderful creative opportunities the socialist system has given the people. It was only natural that the Soviet people should have provided the necessary industrial, scientific, technical, and cultural potential and the training of scientists, designers, engineers and workers equal to the difficult task of building those highly perfected space vehicles.

The Soviet Union has entered the era of the full-scale construction of communism. What do we mean when we say "full-scale" construction? We mean that the struggle



The Angren Thermal Power Station is the biggest in Central Asia. In order to raise the efficiency of its boilers Uzbek specialists suggested that coal be burned directly in its deposits and the resulting gas piped to the station. On photo: A gas pipe-line not far from snow-capped mountains

for communism embraces all fields of endeavour, from government, economic and cultural life to the education of the people.

As we pointed out earlier, the principle of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs" will be implemented in communist society. That principle can be applied only if plenty of commodities are produced to satisfy the growing and varied requirements of all the people, that is, only if our economy reaches a much higher level than now.

The Soviet Union ranks first in Europe and second in the world for volume of industrial output. The only country that produces more is the United States. But since the Soviet rate of industrial growth is considerably greater

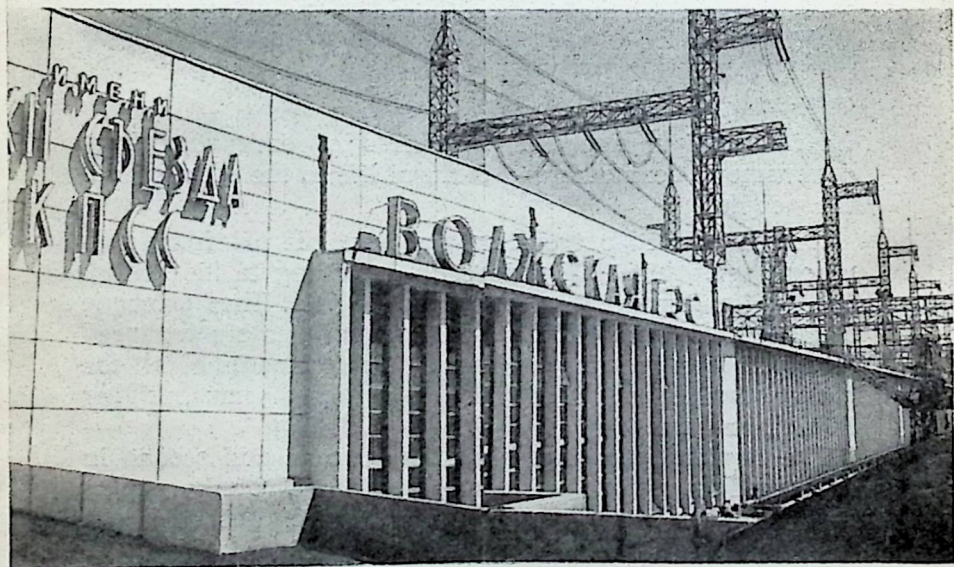
than America's, the Soviet people are sure of outstripping the United States in the very near future.

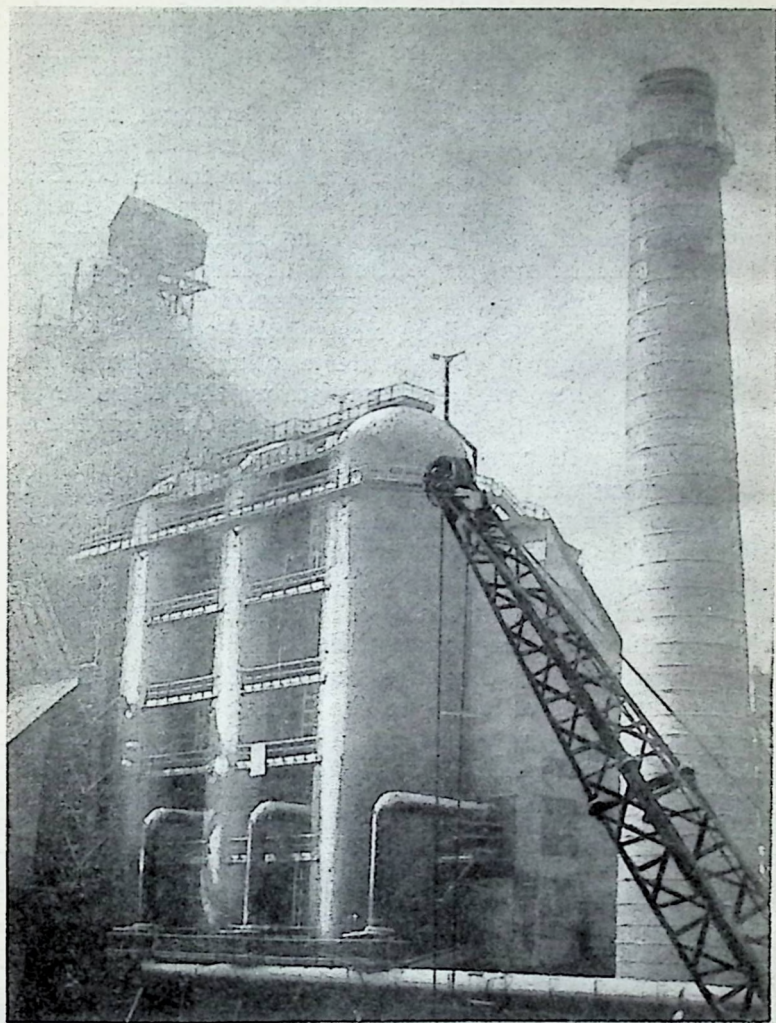
The following tasks are now being tackled by the U.S.S.R.:

In the current ten-year period (1961-70), to reach first place in the world for production per head.

In the second ten-year period (1971-80), to create the material and technical basis of communism. Output will be raised to a level that will ensure an abundance of material and cultural benefits for the entire population. By the end of that period, the U.S.S.R. will have built communist society in the main. In that period Soviet society will be ready to put into effect the principle of distribution

The Volga hydropower station named after the 22nd Congress of the C.P.S.U. Our time and events will leave a good legacy to the future generations—new cities, power stations and factories which will further improve the life of the Soviet people





Without such iron and steel plants the steppe and the desert remain lifeless. They are the basis of material life, of a state's strength and independence. Photo shows a new blast-furnace at the Orsk-Khalilovo Iron and Steel Combine in Orenburg Region, the Russian Federation

according to needs and to go over gradually to one system of public ownership. The construction of communist society will be completed in the following period.

Is the creation of the material and technical basis of communism a realistic task? Yes, we know it is. Even those scientists in the West who are hostile to the U.S.S.R. have reluctantly admitted, after estimating the Soviet Union's potentialities, that it has every chance of winning the peaceful economic competition with the United States.

Many facts bear out that conclusion. Before long the whole of the U.S.S.R. will be electrified. Powerful electric stations are springing up one after another in Siberia and Central Asia, where vast expanses are waiting to be developed. Electricity will transform those areas and new towns and factories will come into being.

Construction work of tremendous scope is under way in the national republics of the U.S.S.R., where new industrial establishments and power stations are being erected. Oases are appearing in deserts and roads are cutting through mountains. All kinds of valuable farm crops are being produced in larger quantities.

Few people tried to cross the Kara-Kum desert, that huge southern wasteland, even in the recent past. But now anyone can do so by motor car. The desert is dotted with innumerable geologists' towns and experimental stations and hundreds of oil derricks. Rich stores of minerals have been unearthed, and huge beds of natural gas tapped. Where the geologists have gone, rapid industrial construction has followed and workers' towns have been built. The main Turkmen canal, hundreds of miles long, goes right through the Kara-Kum. The canal is far from finished, however. Many other parts of the desert are waiting for its water in order to spring to life.

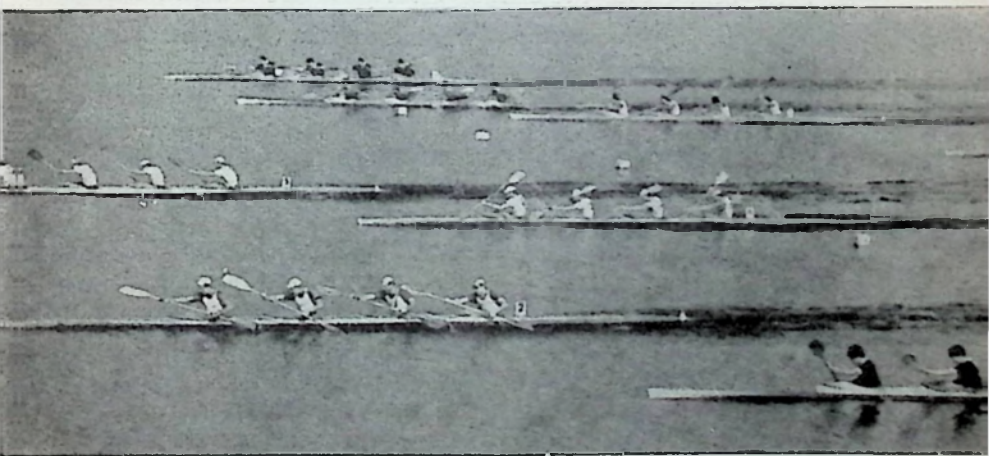
Important problems challenge the Soviet farmers. The rapid creation of an abundance of products rests with them too. The size of the Soviet population is increasing, and agriculture will have to keep raising output proportionate-

ly. In addition to foodstuffs, it must also produce raw materials for industry—and plenty of them!

Seven or eight years ago, the south-eastern part of the Soviet Union was nothing but vast expanses of disused land, where occasional herds of sheep and droves of horses wandered. The Soviet Government decided to transform that situation and tens of thousands of people answered the call. The youth shouldered the task with particular enthusiasm. The state gave them up-to-date machines and all kinds of generous assistance. Soon more than 100 million acres were put to the plough and hundreds of large state farms and collective farms were formed. Some of their fields are so massive that they cannot be crossed by car in one day.

Such are the potentialities of the socialist system, and they are increasing all the time. In the next few years, for instance, it is planned substantially to expand the production of chemical fertilizers and to raise farm labour productivity five or six times with the help of highly

A close race



efficient machines. Soon all state and collective farms will have plenty of electricity. Modern machines and scientific methods will reduce to a minimum the dependence of agriculture on the whims of nature.

So the material and technical basis of communism will grow stronger.

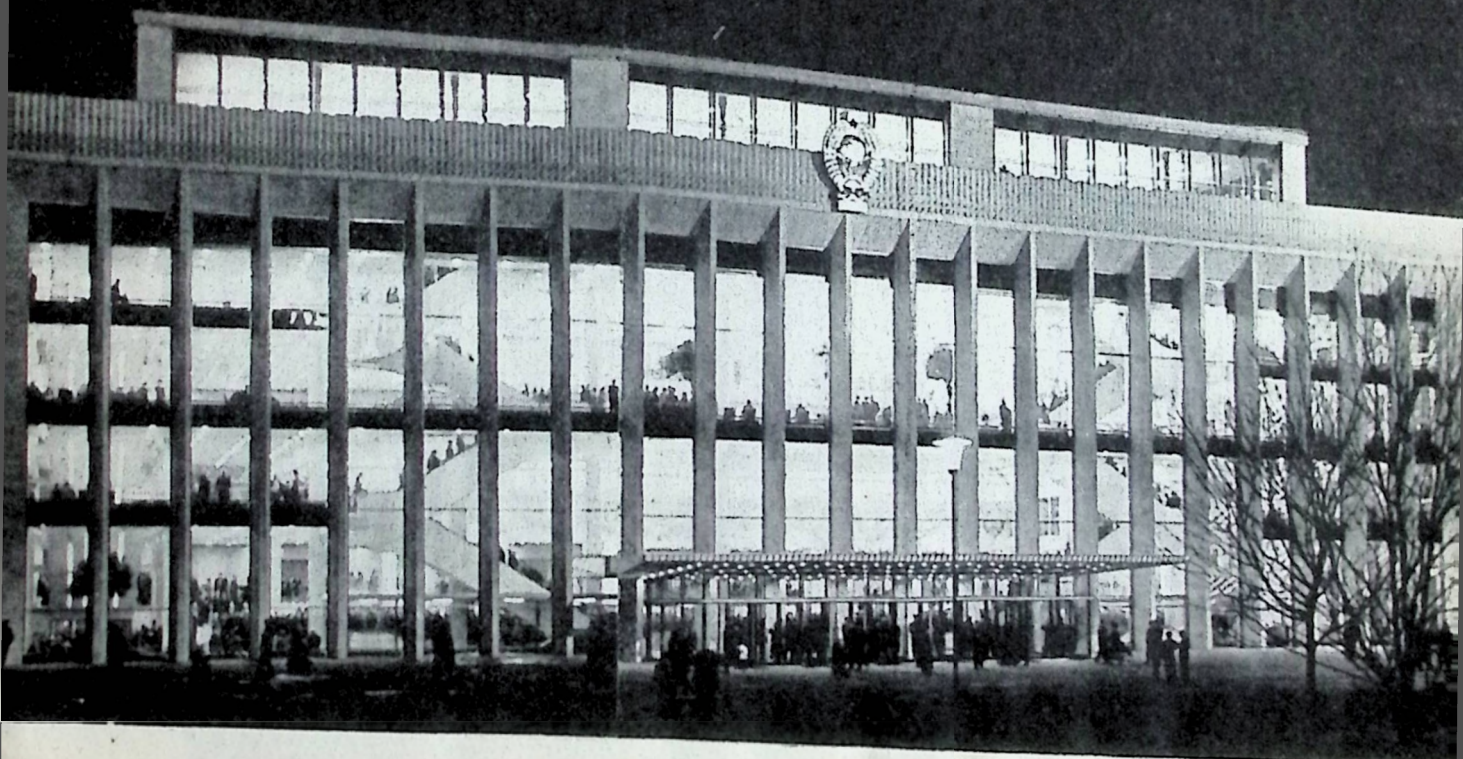
The highest principle of the life of socialist society is the good of society as a whole and of every man and woman individually. "Everything for the sake of man, for the benefit of man" is the motto of communism.

The vigorous, all-round development of the socialist economy plus the socialist principle of distribution of incomes according to work have ensured a rapid rise in the living standards of the entire population. With the construction of communism, the Soviet Union will attain a higher standard of life than that of any capitalist country.

The United States, Britain and several other countries are known to have a comparatively high standard of living. But at what price? At the price of the merciless exploitation of the working people, the shameless plunder of other peoples. Even officially independent countries groan under the burden of actual dependence on imperialism. Addressing himself to the ruling circles of the U.S.A., the former Argentine Vice-President A. Gomez said in June 1961: "You have been ruling the roost in Latin America for a century, and what do we see? More than 50 per cent of its population is illiterate; it has the highest child mortality rate and the shortest life expectancy. Your empire rests on the poverty of 200 million people" (of Latin America *A. K.*).

These wrathful words addressed to the imperialists could be repeated by the peoples of many countries, especially colonial ones. The imperialists' riches have been obtained by the sweat and blood and suffering of millions of people.

Even in their own countries the capitalists obstruct the intelligent utilisation of wealth created by the labour of



The Kremlin Palace of Congresses, built in 1961

the people. As Lenin said: "On all sides, at every step one comes across problems which man is quite capable of solving *immediately*, but capitalism is in the way. It has amassed enormous wealth — and has made men the *slaves* of this wealth. It has solved the most complicated technical problems — and has blocked the application of technical improvements because of the poverty and ignorance of millions of the population, because of the stupid avarice of a handful of millionaires.

"Civilisation, freedom and wealth under capitalism call to mind the rich glutton who is rotting alive but will not let what is young live on." (*Coll. Works*, Vol. 19, p. 389.)

In socialist society, where public wealth is intelligently distributed in a planned way and is being steadily multiplied, and where the well-being of the people is the highest law, it is possible to raise the living standards of all sections of the population to a degree never known before.

If you recall, in the first years of Soviet power there was a tremendous difference in the living standard between the Soviet and American population. However, having built socialism, the Soviet people managed to reduce this gap. And in 1980, the national income of the Soviet Union will surpass by approximately 3-fold the present level of the U.S.A. The level of real incomes of the Soviet people will by that time be approximately 75 per cent higher than the present level of incomes of working people in the U.S.A.

The Soviet state will be an example to the whole world of the really full and many-sided satisfaction of the growing material and cultural requirements of man.

How will that be accomplished? In two ways.

Firstly, by raising the individual's payment for his labour, by increasing the personal income of every member of society.

Secondly, by augmenting the public funds allotted by the state budget for distribution among the members of society, irrespective of the quantity and quality of their work, in the form of public education, medical services,

the maintenance of children in kindergartens and boarding schools and other free services.

This will increase the real income of the entire population which will grow to more than 3.5 times the present level within the twenty-year period.

By the end of the twenty-year period the public funds will come to about half of the total income of the population. The Soviet Union will come much nearer to practical implementation of the communist principle of distribution according to needs. The public funds will cover the costs of:

There are 600 automatic looms at the new silk-weaving shop of the Sverdlovsk Textile Mills. The modern conditions of Soviet textile workers can in no way be compared with the back-breaking labour in the most primitive conditions of textile workers before the Revolution

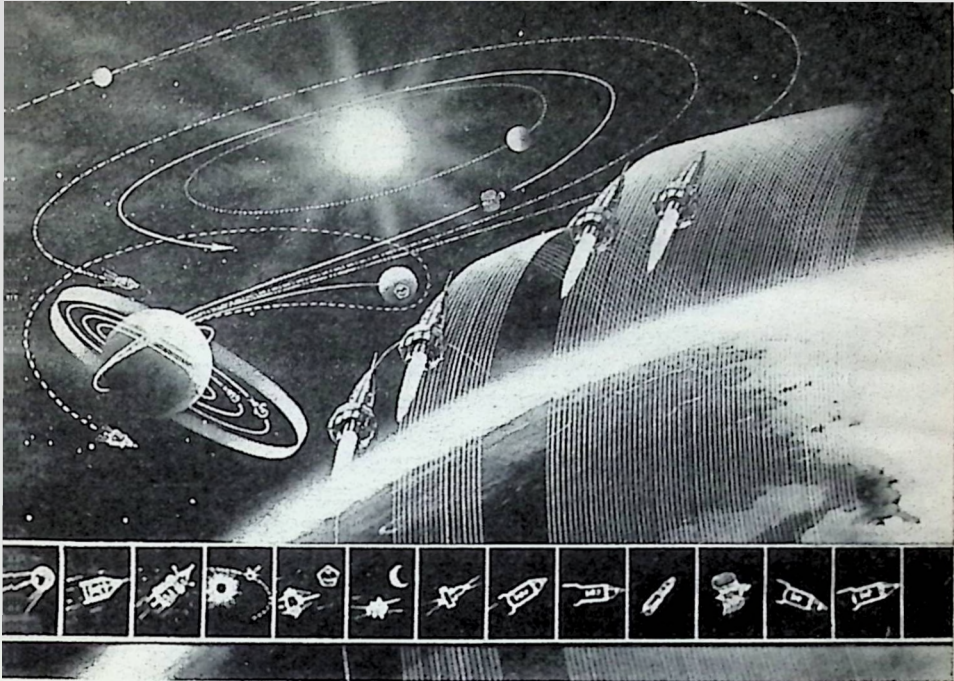


- the maintenance of children in kindergartens, nurseries and boarding schools;
- material security for the old and disabled;
- education in all types of schools, colleges and universities;
- medical services, including the free issue of medicaments and free sanatorium care for the sick;
- rent-free dwellings, including free gas, electricity, water;
- free city transportation;
- certain types of domestic services;
- free or partially free accommodation in holiday homes and tourist centres;
- grants to unmarried mothers and stipends for college students;
- gradual transition to free meals in factory and office canteens, free meals for collective farmers in the field.

The growing well-being of the Soviet people is, in fact, already being ensured and the process will continue in future.

Incomes and Consumption

As the public wealth of the country increases, the incomes of the Soviet people rise. A characteristic feature inherent in socialist society alone is that the gap between high and low earnings is gradually narrowing down. A definite minimum wage limit has been set, below which wages cannot fall. At the same time wages of the lower-paid categories of workers are steadily being raised. The network of vocational training centres makes it possible for any unskilled worker to learn a skilled trade and so earn more. By the end of the current ten-year period a task of historical significance will be solved: there will be no lower-paid categories of factory and office workers left



The first trails blazed by Soviet space pioneers. Reality has surpassed the boldest expectations. The conquest of outer space has started in our days — and in a country which less than fifty years ago lay in ruin.

This country has been transformed by the new, socialist way of life, by the power of the people

in the U.S.S.R. Their earnings will be approximately tripled in that period.

We would also like to mention here that in the U.S.S.R. both the disabled and aged members of society are maintained by the state. Social insurance is provided for all factory and office workers. During temporary disability every working man (or woman) gets between 50 and 90 per cent of his (or her) wage depending on the length of his (or her) working record. Pensions are paid in cases of old age, disability or the loss of bread-winner. In 1962 there were 22 million pensioners maintained by the state, collective farms and public organisations.

The rising incomes of the Soviet people will be accompanied by a rise in popular demand, to satisfy which agriculture must be further advanced and the light industries quickly expanded. The state is pouring large sums of money into those two jobs.

Some Western countries boast of the abundance of consumer goods they have created, and point to their shops bursting with goods. But there are different kinds of abundance. There may be plenty of goods on the shelves of the stores, but if the purchasing power of the people is low, if the price of those goods is beyond the means of most people, that is not real abundance. We can only speak of real abundance when there are plenty of commodities and they are within the means of all the people.

That is the kind of abundance we shall have under communism.

Good Housing for All

If we could take a bird's-eye view of the tremendous expanses of the Soviet Union, the first thing we would notice would be the great numbers of construction sites. The U.S.S.R. is often described as "a forest of cranes". Construction is going on in the far north, in the zone of eternal frost where only the top layer of soil is warm two or three months a year. Construction is also making rapid headway in the southernmost parts of the country. The ancient cities of the Baltic republics in the west are being rejuvenated. The lights of towns that sprang up in the taiga only two or three years ago glow in the Far East.

Although the scope of construction has been great in the Soviet Union all along, it has never reached such dimensions before.

Prior to the war, when the Soviet people built up their powerful industry, and again after the war, when they

rebuilt the economy, they had to engage largely in economic construction. Now they can conclusively solve the urgent problem of housing for all, and that in the near future.

Housing is indeed a very pressing problem. The United States was not hit by a single bomb or shell in the course of either of the two world wars, and yet 15 million American workers live in slums.

Fifteen million would make, in fact, the population of a whole state. In Liverpool, Britain, almost a half of all dwellings have been found unsuitable for normal life. It will be remembered that the United States and Britain are rich imperialist countries.

The Soviet Union has set itself the task of providing comfortable apartments or houses for all the working people without exception. Like all the other tasks the people of the U.S.S.R. have set themselves, that will also be successfully solved. Four-and-a-half times more housing space was built in our cities in Soviet times than in the entire history of Russia. And that in forty six years!

The closer we draw to communism the faster the pace of construction will be. The housing shortage will be remedied within the current ten-year period. Particular attention will be given in the towns and villages to the planting of greenery, the water supply, and the purification of the air, rivers, and lakes.

Let us pause a moment to take a look at a future town, prototypes of which are already appearing in the U.S.S.R. The example we have chosen is a village called Ilovka, in Belgorod Region. The centre of the village consists of buildings like the House of Culture, the hospital, maternity home, school, and shops. The homes of the people have all the conveniences we are accustomed to associate with city life. In fact, its inhabitants do not like to call Ilovka a village; they prefer the name "agrogorod", or "farm town". Increasing numbers of such "agrogorods", where

rural dwellers will be guaranteed all the amenities of city life, are under construction.

Within the past few years, millions of Soviet families have moved into new homes. They receive their dwellings free of charge, while the rent they pay is the lowest in the world. Rents in the Soviet Union do not exceed 4 or 5 per cent of the family income.

Shorter Working Day and Higher Wages

No one in the U.S.S.R. works more than seven hours a day. Heads of establishments are punished for arbitrarily introducing overtime. There is a six-hour day in the mines and collieries, or in factories with harmful or arduous conditions.

Along with reducing the working day to seven and six hours the state instructed the agencies concerned to organise the wage system in such a way that there should be a rise in the wages, especially in those of low- and medium-paid workers.

There is not and cannot be unemployment in the U.S.S.R. It was completely eradicated in this country more than thirty years ago. Despite the rapid introduction of automation and mechanisation, there is no danger of unemployment. The pace of economic growth is so high that the demand for labour keeps growing.

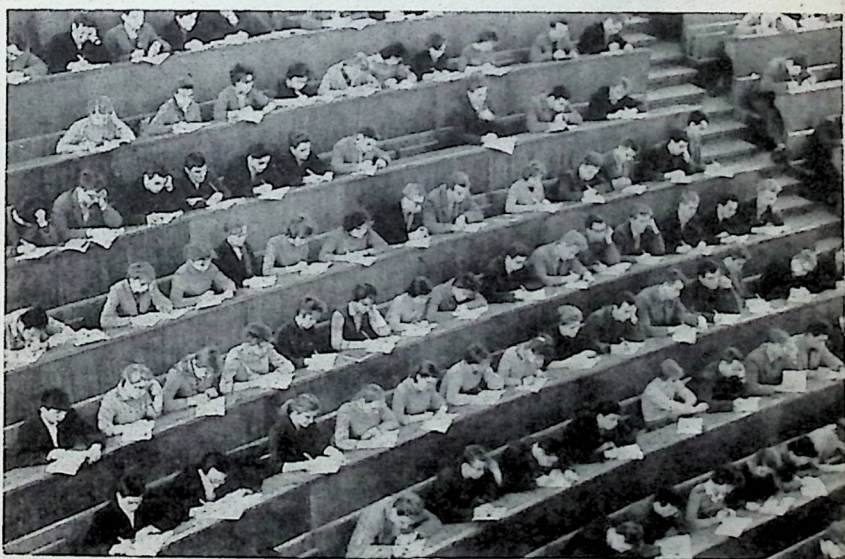
The convention of the International Labour Organisation places the maximum duration of the working week at forty hours. That condition has already been satisfied in the U.S.S.R. Neither the USA, nor Britain or France signed the convention. Moreover, the Soviet Union is to go over to a six-hour working day with one day-off, or a 35-hour working week with two days-off, and in underground and harmful jobs to a five-hour-day, or a 30-hour five-day working week, within the current ten-year period. In the following ten-year period, the working week will be further

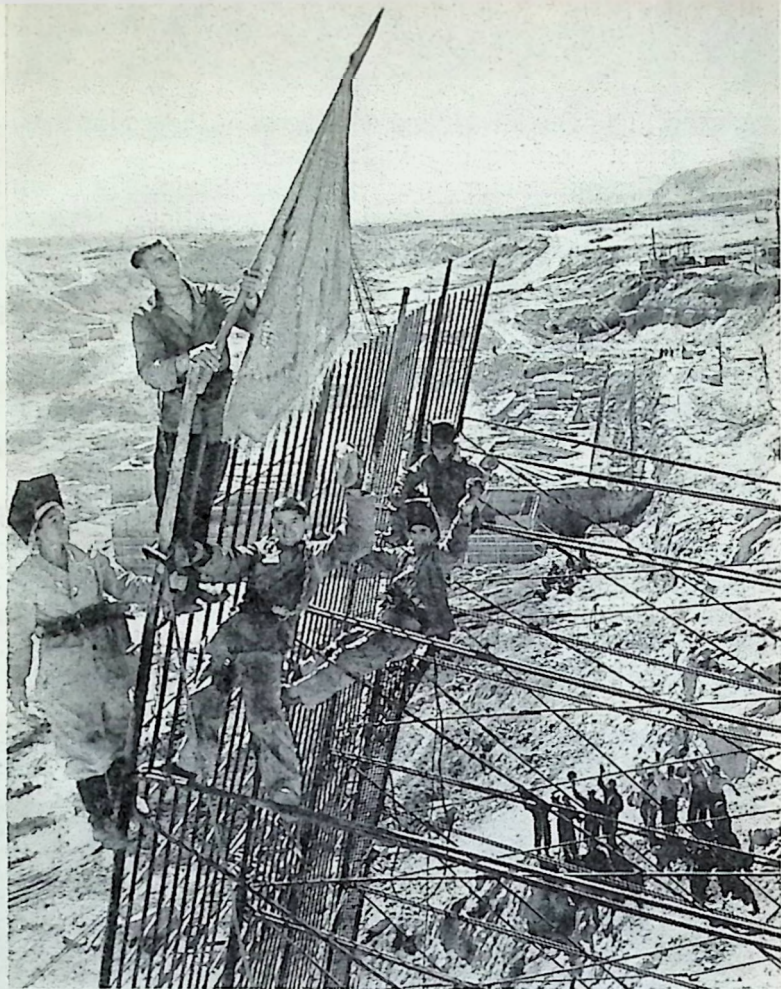
reduced. The Soviet Union will become the country with the shortest working day in the world.

All office and factory workers in the Soviet Union without exception are given annual paid vacations. That rule is also being applied now in the case of a lot of collective farmers. Many collective farms now give their members a paid holiday every year.

Great care is shown in the U.S.S.R. for mothers. In case of pregnancy and child-birth women holding jobs get a paid additional leave of 56 days before child-birth and another 56 days after child-birth. During all this period they get their full wages.

One out of every four Soviet citizens is studying. General, specialised secondary and higher schools—all educational establishments are accessible to everyone, for education is free in the Soviet Union. There are more than 700 higher schools in the country. Every republic has its own university and other higher educational establishments. On photo: in one of the lecture halls of the Moscow University





Tajiks, Russians, Ukrainians, Uzbeks and people of many other nationalities have pooled efforts to harness mountain rivers.

What has brought them here? A common purpose. Rivers do not recognise frontiers. Rising in the mountains, they descend to valleys, passing through regions, territories and whole republics. They can be made to serve people only by common effort, on the scale of the entire state.

Quite recently these people completed a hydropower station in Tajikistan. Now they are erecting the Nurek Hydropower station Asia's biggest

The Soviet state has assumed responsibility for the protection and continual improvement of the health of the entire population. Free medical services of all kinds have been provided by the state for all citizens without exception. That includes free treatment in hospitals, as well as medical attention in clinics and out-patient departments, and the services of a visiting doctor at home.

A huge army of doctors (425,745 of them, dentists excluded) and nurses are fighting disease, guarding the life and health of the people. As a result, the incidence of disease has fallen drastically in the U.S.S.R., the death-rate has been cut to a quarter and child mortality to a seventh of former dimensions. The average life span of the Soviet people has more than doubled since the revolution! Four years ago the census established that the average life span in the Soviet Union was sixty-eight years, as compared to thirty-two years before the revolution. Scientists have estimated that the Soviet people's expectancy of life will gain another seven years in the twenty-year period.

Culture for the Whole People

If anyone had said thirty years ago that the Soviet Union would soon be graduating more engineers than the United States of America, it would not have been believed. Yet it is now a fact, and there is no denying it: three times more engineers are graduated every year in the U.S.S.R. than in the U.S.A. There are 20 million brain workers, all told, in the Soviet Union.

That, too, testifies to the immense scale of the cultural revolution that has been carried through in the U.S.S.R.

The darkness, ignorance and brutality that were artificially bred by centuries of tsarist rule have been buried for all time by the socialist system.

At the dawn of Soviet government, Lenin wrote:

"...All the gains of culture will become the property of

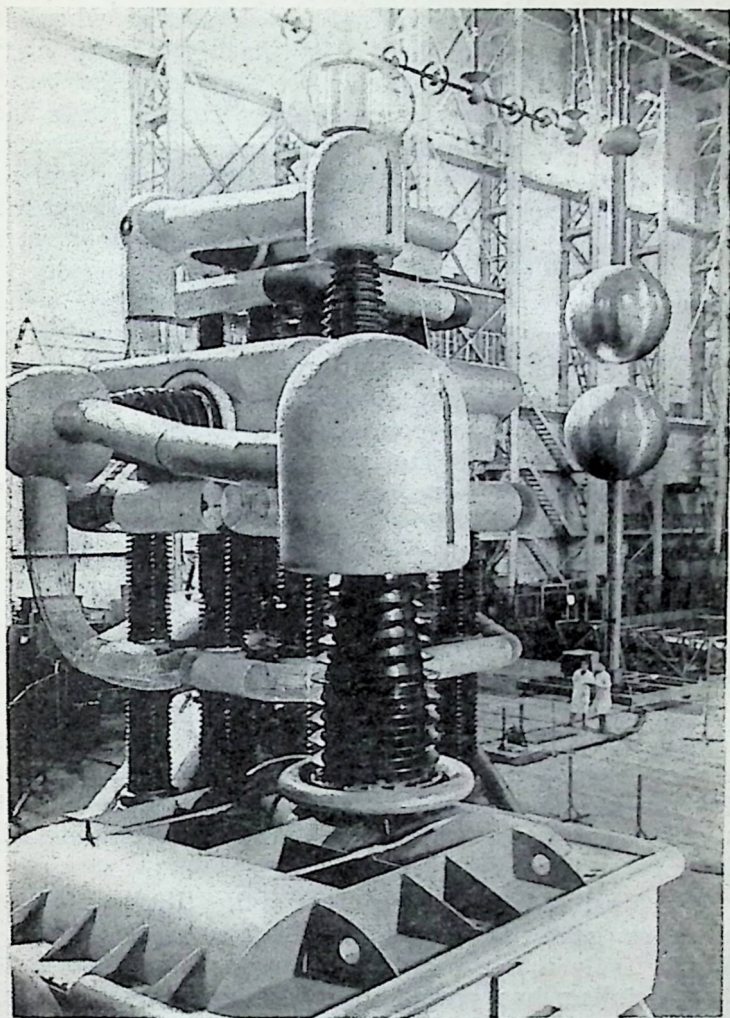
the people, and from now on the mind and genius of man will never again be turned into instruments of violence and exploitation. We know it is so—is not the greatest of historical tasks worth all the work, all the energy we can put into it?”

Following Lenin's behests, the Soviet state has given tens of millions of people access to the life-giving fountain of knowledge and culture.

In the Central Asian republic of Tajikistan there is a remote mountain village called Tash-Tak. Four months every year the village was cut off from the rest of the world by avalanches and the spring flooding of the tempestuous mountain rivers. But actually the village was cut off from the world the whole year round, for there was not a single villager who could read or write. The regional scribe travelled to the village several times a year to draw up the necessary official papers for the authorities. While there, he wrote down such appeals to the government as the villagers asked him to. That was the situation in Tash-Tak forty-five years ago.

The village still hugs the mountain side, and is still difficult of access, for it lies far from the highways and can only be reached over mountain paths. But otherwise everything has changed. Tash-Tak is no longer a “God-forsaken hole”, as it was once called. Radio links the people with the rest of the world. All the villagers can read and write. Young and old alike can be seen in the local library. Tash-Tak has its own school, many of whose graduates have continued their education in the towns. Some have graduated from colleges in Moscow. One is a professor, four are doctors. Ten teachers and five officers have come from the village. All the villagers have completed secondary schooling. Within the past ten years none of the pupils of the Tash-Tak school have left it before finishing all seven years.

Soviet society has given all citizens the key to the doors of knowledge. At the age of ten, the little Uzbek girl Yad-



Never before different sciences have co-operated so closely as today. Every new discovery is the result of the labour of many scientists and various research institutes. This photograph was taken in a laboratory of the V. I. Lenin Electrotechnical Research Institute in Moscow

gar entered a boarding school. She was sixteen when she matriculated at the Tashkent Institute of Railway Engineering. A regular stipend from the state enabled her to continue her studies normally. Yadgar studied with honours and graduated in 1941 a qualified engineer. During the war, she worked devotedly, building new railway installations and bridges and keeping the old ones in repair. For her heroic labour she was awarded a government decoration. Then she was elected deputy to the Supreme Soviet (parliament) of the Uzbek Republic, which is its highest organ of power, just as the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. is the highest organ of power of the Union of fifteen republics which make up the U.S.S.R. Soon after the war Yadgar was appointed to the post of Minister, heading the entire building materials industry of the republic. In 1955 she became the Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek Republic.

Now Yadgar Nasriddinova is a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic. The homeless little Uzbek girl has become the president of her republic!

"Who would have guessed, when she was a child, that she had such a phenomenal future before her?" exclaimed the French journalists Louise Mamiac and André Wurmser. "Can the legend of Timur, or any of the legends of Asian antiquity or of pre-revolutionary Uzbekistan compare with the story of little Yadgar?"

"The Most Beautiful Story" was the title the French journalists gave the chapter they devoted in their book to Yadgar. Truly it is a beautiful story, for it is the story of what socialism has given the once disfranchised and oppressed peoples, and what boundless opportunities it affords for every individual to apply his creative energies.

The U.S.S.R., where in the recent past the bulk of the population could neither read nor write, is now a country of 100 per cent literacy. To make all people literate in their

own language, more than forty alphabets had to be created for the nationalities that formerly had no written tongues. Today text-books, political, scientific and fiction books are published in all the languages spoken by the peoples of the U.S.S.R.

The Soviet Union is a country of high culture and advanced science. Within the current ten-year period the bulk of the members of socialist society will complete general or specialised secondary and higher education. In that period all Soviet schoolchildren will finish general or polytechnical secondary schools.

There are two times more college students in the Soviet Union than in all the colleges of Western Europe combined. The state has made it possible for all to receive a higher education. Various types of higher schools including an extensive network of evening and correspondence colleges, have been established for the purpose. A worker can go to lectures and attend classes in the evening, or study for his degree on his own. That is how hundreds of thousands of Soviet citizens have become qualified as engineers or other specialists.

The state does its best to defray students' expenses. More than 600,000 pupils of boarding schools are, on the whole, maintained by the state. About four million students of colleges, specialised secondary schools and technical schools get stipends and are provided with hostels free of charge.

It is no exaggeration to say that there are more people studying today in the Soviet Union than in any other country. The Turkmen Republic, once a backward outskirt of the tsarist empire, has more students per thousand of its population than not only the Near and Middle East countries adjoining it, but even such capitalist countries as the United States, France and Italy. That the Turkmen Republic has outstripped America in this respect is the best proof of the significance and scope of the cultural revolution in the U.S.S.R.

Communism, Humanity and Peace

There is a section in the Programme of the C.P.S.U. which specially attracts attention. It is the section which explains the Soviet people's rules of life and the high moral and ethical qualities which are natural to the members of the communist society.

Those noble qualities are defined as devotion to communism, conscientious work for the good of society, mutual respect in the family. They include honesty and integrity, simplicity and modesty in social and personal affairs, and many other qualities that elevate the individual and make him a worthy member of society.

In the Programme for the construction of communism in the U.S.S.R., those qualities are grouped together as the *moral code of the builder of communism*. You will note that the Programme says "*builder*", not "*builders*", not the people as a whole, but *each person* individually, not the individualist, concerned only with himself and his own welfare, but a useful and optimistic member of the community, who understands that only the efforts of society as a whole can change the world and bring happiness not to the few, but to all the people of the earth. The Soviet people are trying to live according to the principles of that moral code, which takes in the universal standards of social behaviour worked out over thousands of years of the noble struggle against social oppression and ethical shortcomings and the new human qualities which the people of socialist society have acquired over the years of the revolution: devotion to the communist cause, concern for the preservation and augmentation of social wealth, a sense of fraternal unity with all the peoples of the U.S.S.R., and intolerance of national and racial hatred.

The huge "Friendship of the Peoples" Hydropower Centre in Central Asia illustrates those very qualities of the Soviet people. The name of the project is not an accident. People of thirty-seven nationalities joined in its



Many new talents have come to the fore during the years of Soviet power, because in the new socialist society art belongs to the people.

Audiences abroad often wonder at the mastery and inspiration of Soviet ballet dancers, and at the energy and beauty of folk dance ensembles. Embodying in itself the best traditions of the past and the achievements of the present, the great art of the Soviet Union is progressing towards the communist morrow.

Soviet art is often being compared abroad with the cosmic force prevailing in the Soviet Union. It seems that there is every reason for such a comparison.

A scene from "Swan Lake"

construction. Excellent work was done by the experienced reinforced-concrete works supervisor Grigory Orlov, a Russian, and by Hero of Socialist Labour, Yevgeny Simak, a famous excavator operator, who is a Ukrainian; by Gulliam Arzykulov, a Tajik concrete layer, and Ruzi Khasanov, an Uzbek mechanic; by Adyl Kakharov, a Kazakh, and

Ibragim Abdullayev, an Azerbaijanian. The list might go on and on. The point is that the "Friendship of the Peoples" Development, including the construction of a hydroelectric station and a reservoir (named the Tajik Sea), was completed with the friendly co-operation of different nationalities. It has brought life to former wastelands.

More than one million acres of arid land have been irrigated by the Tajik Sea.

Take another example. When, in 1948, an earthquake hit Ashkhabad, the capital of the Turkmen Republic, the whole country rallied to its help. The Turkmen people realised that they had millions of friends in all the Soviet republics. Trainloads of prefabricated houses, food and medicines were rushed to the city. They were all marked "Emergency Freight, Ashkhabad", and were given priority. Notices were displayed in the post offices: "Parcels for Ashkhabad Accepted Without Delay." The whole country helped to cope with the effects of the earthquake.

Ashkhabad is again one of the most beautiful cities of Central Asia. The scars of the earthquake have completely disappeared.

What happened in Ashkhabad is natural and intrinsic to socialist community life. The Soviet people are accustomed to befriending and helping one another and accomplishing great projects together. The friendship of the collective farmers of the Genichesk District of the Ukraine and Makhharadze District of Georgia started more than twenty years ago. Every year the farmers visit each other and share their experience and achievements.

"Man is to man a friend, comrade and brother." That is one of the most important tenets of the communist moral code. The Soviet people are applying it in their relations with all of mankind. They want to be friends with all nations, big and small. Every nation deserves to be respected, for every nation can make a worthy contribution to the development of the human race, to the common treasury of world culture. The nations must live together as friends.

We greet the friendly relations that have grown up between the young states of Asia and Africa which have embarked on the road of independent development and the Soviet Union. Those relations are inspired by mutual respect, sincere concern for one another's welfare, and a desire to help the young states in their difficult task of shaping their own lives as they see fit.

The most important problem of our day is the problem of war and peace. Despite the simultaneous existence of different social systems, capitalism and socialism, wars can be averted. The peaceful coexistence of the socialist and capitalist states must be ensured. Wars cannot and must not serve as a method of solving international controversies.

Swiss scientists recently estimated that wars have gone on, first in one place and then another, for as long as the human race has any record. Wars have cost mankind a fantastic sum, enough to encircle the whole equator with a belt of gold 100 miles wide and 33 feet deep.

What riches have been thrown to the winds, what terrible waste! And how can we ever measure the loss of human life!

Immense means are being spent on military purposes in times of peace, too. The United States, for instance, in its budget year of 1960-61 allocated the enormous sum of 45,500 million dollars for military purposes. It is worth noting that the sum of only 902 million dollars was allocated the same year for public health.

"But can the world get on without wars?" someone may ask. Yes, it can, say the peoples. Wars are not natural but social disasters, which means that they can be averted and completely eliminated.

The joint efforts of the mighty socialist camp which includes the Soviet Union and other countries, the growing strength of the young states that have thrown off the chains of imperialist oppression, and the efforts of all peace-champions will prove equal to the task of excluding

wars from the life of society. What a wonderful thing that will be for mankind!

But things may take a different turn. The imperialists have always sought a way out of difficulties in wars. Now as well they spend colossal sums on armaments, constantly threatening the peace-loving peoples.

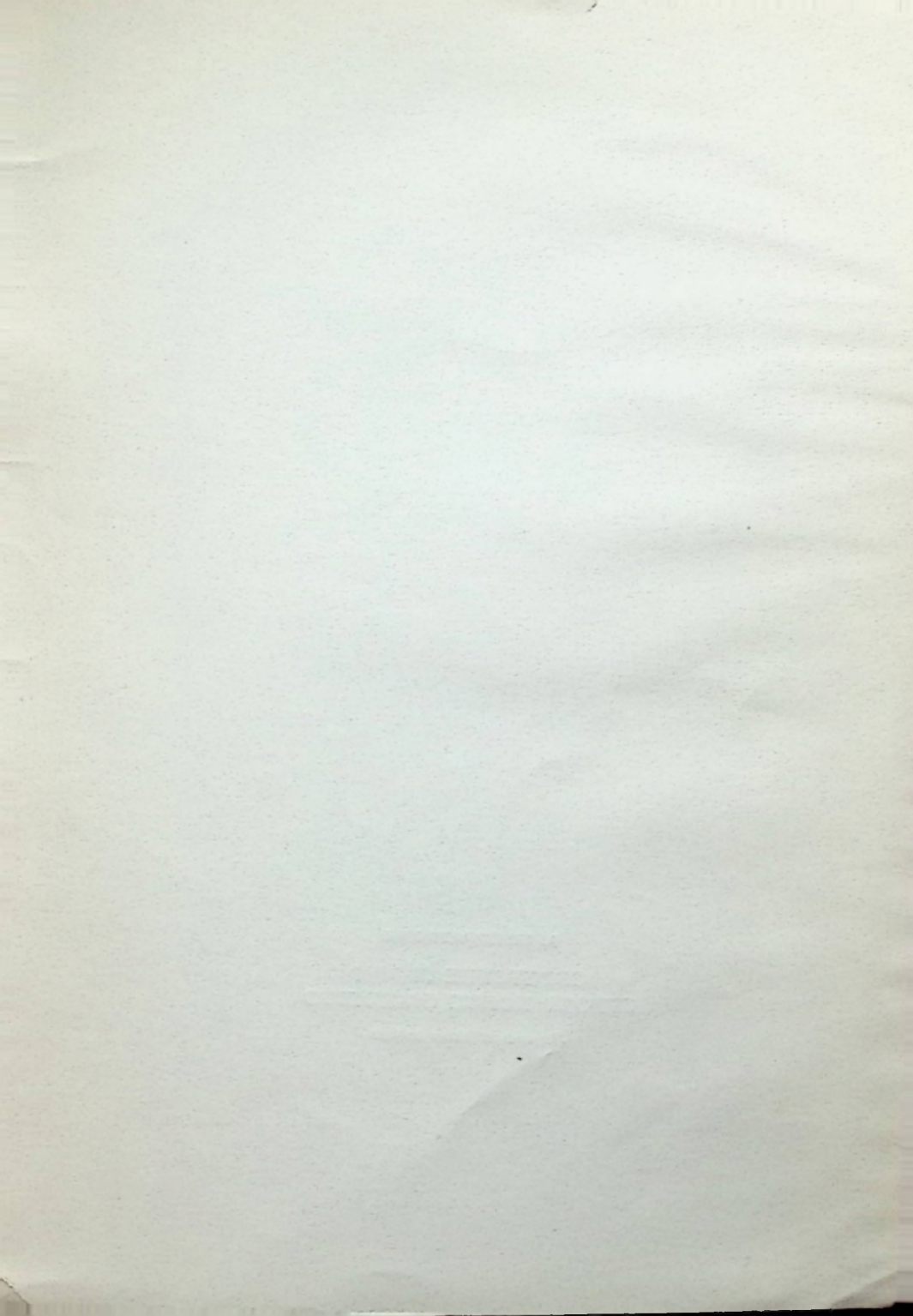
The mission of communism is to deliver mankind for ever from the nightmare of war. "To destroy war and establish lasting peace on earth is the historic mission of communism," says the Programme of the C.P.S.U.

Forty years ago the great Russian writer Maxim Gorky wrote: "I wanted—I want—to see all the people become heroes of labour and creativity, builders of the new, free forms of life. We must so order our lives that every one of us, individual differences notwithstanding, can feel that he is a man and the equal of all and any others."

Gorky saw that those heroes of labour and creativity, those builders of the new, free forms of life already existed. They were not the exception, but represented the whole people.

"From the Ararat to Murmansk, from Vladivostok to Leningrad, on this field, this huge expanse, a new people has now been born."

That new humanity as represented by the Soviet people is successfully building the truly new, communist society.



А. КОНДРАТОВИЧ
СОВЕТСКИЕ ЛЮДИ
СТРОЯТ НОВОЕ ОБЩЕСТВО
На английском языке