

SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF BELGRADE BY SOVIET ARMY FROM HITLER INVADERS.

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October 20 marks the seventh anniversary of the Soviet Army's liberation of Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia—from the Hitler fascist invaders. This date is the greatest national celebration of the Yugoslav peoples—a celebration of friendship with, and affection for the great Soviet people, the liberator.

In 1944, Yugoslavia was in an extremely difficult situation. On the one hand, the Hitler invaders sought to hold Yugoslavia at all costs. On the other, the Anglo-American “allies” aided by Tito, their camouflaged agent, preparing to occupy our country themselves, were taking measures to smash and annihilate the genuinely patriotic and revolutionary forces of Yugoslavia. The fate of our peoples depended on getting the timely aid of the Soviet Army.

When the seventh Stalin blow in the Jassy-Kishinev area put 22 German divisions out of commission, and the Soviet troops began the liberation of Rumania and Bulgaria, the Hitler command made desperate efforts to organise a defence line on Yugoslavia's borders. The loss of Yugoslavia threatened the Hitlerites not only with complete collapse in the Balkans; it also meant that the Soviet Army had opened a way from the South to Hungary and Austria.

The Hitler generals concentrated enormous forces of the German fascist army on the territory of Yugoslavia. Moreover, numerous quisling units, commanded by the Hitlerite General von Weichs, were located in Greece and Albania. Clearly, only Soviet troops were in a position to liberate Yugoslavia from the German invaders; the lives of millions of working people in Yugoslavia depended on the successes of the Soviet troops.

The Yugoslav partisan units were in particularly difficult straits. This was due not only to the enemy's superiority, but also to the subversive work of the Titoites and the Anglo-American espionage “missions”. Hand in glove with Tito, these “missions” had as their concealed aim the complete elimination of the partisan movement before the entry of the Soviet Army. As has since become known, the clique of Titoite traitors and Anglo-American spies were in touch with the Hitler invaders through the medium of Mihailovic's headquarters; they kept the enemy informed about the movements and composition of the partisan units, and in every way helped the German fascists in fighting against the Yugoslav partisans.

The working class of Yugoslavia, equally, was in difficult straits. U.S.-British aircraft ceaselessly and brutally bombed Belgrade, Subotica, Nish, Slavonski Brod, Leskovac, Osijek, and other towns. As a result, far more civilians were killed every day than was the case in the savage Hitler bombing of Belgrade in 1941. This attempt to demoralise the working class in connection with the approach of the Soviet troops was carried out with naked cynicism. While tens of thousands of workers were killed by these raids, not a single Hitlerite garrison suffered from bombs dropped by Anglo-American aircraft.

Early in October 1944, the troops of the Second Ukrainian Front forced the Danube south of Turnu-Severin and began the battle for the liberation of Yugoslavia. Almost simultaneously, Soviet troops entered the northern part of Yugoslavia—the Voevodina—while the troops of the Third Ukrainian Front entered eastern Serbia. The Hitlerites failed to withstand the powerful pressure of the Soviet troops. Having spilt the German forces into a number of groups, the Soviet Army surrounded each group separately and smashed them at Negotin, Zajecar, Knjazevac, Pozarevac and other places, and it effected the speedy liberation of practically the whole of Serbia. Considerable enemy forces, surrounded on October 19, were annihilated south-east of Belgrade. Next day, the Soviet soldiers

routed the enemy garrison holding Belgrade. The capital of Yugoslavia was liberated. As a result, the forces of the Hitler invaders, which had been assigned the task of preventing the liberation of Yugoslavia, were, for all practical purposes, put out of action. Hastily retreating in a north-westerly direction, the enemy abandoned the territory of Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Hercegovina, south-east Bosnia, and southern Croatia. Thus, as a result of 20 days fighting, the Soviet Army liberated the greater part of Yugoslavia. The country was no longer in danger of savage bombings by U.S.-British aircraft, and the partisan units were saved from destruction.

The successes of the heroic Soviet Army frustrated the plan of the Anglo-American imperialists to occupy Yugoslavia, as was the case in Greece. The Soviet Army saved Yugoslavia and brought freedom and independence to the Yugoslav peoples.

During the first days of the fighting on the territory of Yugoslavia, many partisan detachments succeeded in forcing their way to the units of the Soviet Army. Having received Soviet arms and having multiplied their forces ten-fold, they developed into militant formations capable of actively assisting the Soviet soldiers in clearing the homeland of the Hitler invaders. In his order of the day on the occasion of the liberation of Belgrade, J. V. Stalin, Supreme Commander of the Soviet Army, noted the selflessness of the Yugoslav units.

The Soviet Government rendered great assistance to the working people of Yugoslavia in rehabilitating the national economy devastated by the Hitler invaders. All the booty captured by the Soviet Army on the territory of Yugoslavia was handed over, gratis, to the Yugoslav people. Soviet specialists rendered considerable technical assistance in rehabilitating Yugoslav enterprises, mines and transport which had been put out of commission by the Hitlerites during their retreat. For example, the Soviet Army built a railway bridge (nearly two kilometres long) over the Danube in the vicinity of Belgrade and presented it to Yugoslavia. The men of the Soviet Army built, as a gift to the working people of Yugoslavia, a large bridge over the Morava near Jagodina, and so on. In those difficult days for Yugoslavia, the Soviet Government provided food supplies for the working people. Thanks to the help of the U.S.S.R., in less than one year after the liberation of Yugoslavia from the Hitler fascists, the standard of living rose 4-5 times and was at least 8 or 9 times the present level.

Every Yugoslav patriot knows well that the Soviet Army saved the national independence of our country, that the selfless aid of the Soviet Government and the friendship of the Soviet people created conditions for introducing the system of people's democracy and the gradual socialist transformation of the country.

However, today our peoples have been deprived of all their revolutionary gains, deprived of the possibility of openly celebrating the anniversary of their liberation from the Hitler fascist invaders. The fascist-espionage Tito-Rankovic gang, which has completely lined up with the U.S.-British imperialists in their struggle against the camp of democracy and peace, prohibits the working people of Yugoslavia from celebrating the national festival—the anniversary of the liberation of the homeland from the Hitlerites. The Titoites seek to strangle the noble feeling of gratitude and the affection of the Yugoslav working people for the peoples of the U.S.S.R., knowing that the affection of our peoples for the Soviet Union and friendship with it are the main obstacles standing in the way of the imperialists' criminal plans.

As early as 1948, the Information Bureau of the Communist Parties in its historic Resolution, "Concerning the Situation in the Communist Party of Yugoslavia", exposed the treachery of the Tito clique and warned our peoples that a mortal danger threatened their revolutionary gains. "The Yugoslav leaders think", said the Resolution, "that by making concessions they can curry favour

with the imperialist states. They think they will be able to bargain with them for Yugoslavia's independence and gradually get the peoples of Yugoslavia orientated on these states, that is, on capitalism". The Information Bureau warned that the entire policy of the Tito clique will lead to the "loss of Yugoslavia's independence and to its transformation into a colony of the imperialist countries".

The prevision of the Information Bureau in relation to the activities of the Tito fascist authorities has been completely substantiated. The Tito clique abolished all the revolutionary laws enacted immediately after the war. For example, it abolished the law about the people's committees and decreed the transfer of all power into the hands of the fascist chieftains; it annulled the law on the nationalisation of industrial enterprises, the monopoly of foreign trade, all control and restrictions in relation to the scale of profits made by capitalist enterprises, annulled the progressive taxation; the landed estates were restored by means of forced seizure of the land of the working peasants; concentration camps and forced labour on strategic undertakings made their appearance, etc. In other words, as Comrade Molotov said at the celebration meeting in Warsaw last July: "The Tito-Kardelj-Rankovic gang has restored the capitalist order in Yugoslavia, has deprived the people of all their revolutionary gains and has transformed the country into an instrument of the aggressive imperialist Powers."

From attempts to discredit the Soviet Army, as stated in the Information Bureau Resolution in 1948, the Titoites have now passed over to denial of the historical fact of the liberation of Yugoslavia by the soldiers of the Soviet Union. By means of this foul lie they seek to cover up preparations for war against the Soviet Union in the interests of the American imperialists.

But, despite the attempts of the fascist Tito-Rankovic gang, on October 20 the working people of enslaved Yugoslavia will find a way to demonstrate their deep affection for the Soviet people, for Comrade Stalin, their firm resolve to prevent Yugoslavia from being involved in an anti-Soviet war. And this will infuse fresh vigour into the working masses of Yugoslavia in the struggle against the criminal Tito regime.

Our peoples have traversed a long path of selfless struggle for national independence. But they were unable to realise their dream, their desire for an alliance of Yugoslavia with the U.S.S.R., because the lackeys of the imperialists by means of deception seized power in the Party and in the country.

But although this year, too, Yugoslavia greets her national holiday—the day of liberation from the Hitler invaders—in conditions of wildest terror, the love and friendship of our peoples for the Soviet people is the firm guarantee that soon the sun will shine also in our street.

For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy

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