

Soviet Bloc May Unveil New Tactics

Giant Peace Parley,
Red Style, July 9

By WILLIAM L. RYAN
Of the Associated Press

The Kremlin is readying a major propaganda offensive. It will be launched July 9 in Moscow when a "world congress for general disarmament and peace" opens under sponsorship of the Moscow-directed World Peace Council.

World Peace Council conferences have been going on since the immediate postwar years. Each meeting has been the forerunner of a new Soviet cold war move. It is reasonable to suppose the forthcoming meeting will have similar results.

The council says the congress will attract representatives from 100 countries around the world. Most are run-of-the-mill Communists and fellow travelers. Many will be Communist-lining artists, writers, professional people, public figures. Artist Pablo Picasso has designed a new "peace dove" for the occasion—a dove hovering over a heap of destroyed weapons. It is supposed to dramatize Premier Khrushchev's proposals for disarmament.

Zigzag Tactics

Others on hand will likely be dupes of Communist propaganda. Some probably will believe sincerely that going to the meeting strikes a blow for peace. The latter include members of parliament from left of center parties around the world.

Zigzag tactics have persisted all through the Soviet Union's 45 years. In this case, the peace offensive provides the zig, and aggressive move the zag.

Meetings like the one scheduled have preceded such actions as the Berlin blockade, the Korean invasion and other major moves. In 1958, a peace council drive was a prelude to Premier Khrushchev's sudden offensive against West Berlin.

Such operations often have double purpose. Frequently a propaganda drive is used to obscure trouble on the home front.

The Soviet people, paying 30 per cent more for meat and butter, have been told they must live with the idea of nagging shortages because of agricultural failures. Food shortages plague the rest of the Communist bloc.

Khrushchev has told the people: "The international situation...insistently demands that the Soviet Union and all countries of the peace-loving Socialist system should always be ready to give a shattering reply to any aggressor. However, as is known, the defense capacity cannot be strengthened without great expense...there is no other way out...perhaps one could switch some of our resources to agriculture at the expense of reduction of investments in (heavy) industry? One must not...go along that road."

Bitter Pill

The only answer is continued investment in the sort of industry which builds military power. Indications are ample in the Soviet press that the food price hikes were a bitter pill for the Soviet public after years of hoping for abundance. Apart from violent daily propaganda against U.S. "atomchiks" and American nuclear tests, much publicity is given to the peace congress. At the same time, papers dwell on economic conditions in the United States.

The theme is that the U.S. economy of abundance really is a myth for the bulk of Americans. Numerous items quote U.S. sources to lend an atmosphere of authenticity. Pravda carried a long article by a correspondent of the official Soviet agency Tass in New York, Harry Freeman. Pravda did not identify him as a Tass man. It called him an "American publicist." The article blasted the idea of U.S. abundance.

The Soviet press also has been making much of the recent stock market drop. Pravda called it a "symptom of the sickness of the capitalist economy." Americans are pictured as facing the future with fear.

Attractive Target

All this may be part of a campaign to make the Soviet people feel better about their own economic troubles. They are told their government is working hard for peace, the only solution to their problems.

But too much peace can arouse too many popular hopes. Therefore, in the wake of the big Moscow peace rally, a new crisis may appear somewhere. Berlin always makes an attractive target.

Rejection Upheld

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (U)—The federal court of appeals upheld Saturday rejection of an application for a writ of habeas corpus for deposed President Arturo Frondizi, imprisoned by the present government.

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