

'Nepszabadsag' on Party Building

As quoted on the home service at 11.00 on 5th May and by the information service on the following day, a 'Nepszabadsag' leader said that although there was still much to be desired in the composition, unity, and ideological training of the Socialist Workers' Party, it was stronger and more united than the Workers' Party had been in recent years. Now that the heroic phase of Party building had come to an end, it could be said that the membership of the Party, "with a possible exception of three or four per cent", consisted of truly militant Communists. Undesirable elements had been kept away.

In organising the Party, attention had so far been concentrated mainly on former Workers' Party members, because the Socialist Workers' Party had been built on the membership and organisation of its predecessors. But those who, during the counter-revolution and the months following it, distinguished themselves by their firmness should also be admitted.

An Unremitting Struggle

The article went on: "About 400,000 members of the Workers' Party have not applied for membership in the Socialist Workers' Party; we regard them with some anger and sometimes with hostility. While some of them deserve this, others do not, although they are careerists and cowards. We know that not only Communists but also sympathisers were admitted into the Workers' Party; our policy towards them must be to gain their sympathy, if not necessarily within the framework of the Party, since the majority of them are honest supporters of our regime." Although they had fallen short of Communist requirements in times of difficulty, their intentions were good, and their years in the Workers' Party had not passed over them without leaving a trace. Many would certainly like to be admitted as new members.

The Party's task was to wage within the labour movement an unremitting struggle against all petty-bourgeois wavering and influence. But the Party was not launching a campaign against the petty-bourgeoisie, the majority of which could and must be won over to the building of socialism. The most important thing was the unity of the Party, which now had 300,000 members. The defensive attitude of conciliation must not be allowed to spread; any detente in the ideological struggle now might undermine the continued internal solidarity of the Party organisations.

Marosan on Need for Better Party Work

'Nepszabadsag' was quoted by the information service on 2nd May for a feature containing the replies given by 10 people who were asked "whether the past will recur, and whether we can overcome the mistakes that remained with us". One of those asked for their views was Gyoergy Marosan who said that in the last eight years "a poor style of work" had developed in the Party. The leaders had become merely producers of paper (Hungarian: papiremberek). Today the leaders of the country were in constant contact with the people. The guarantee that a good style of work would now develop was that all Party workers should follow the Central Committee's style, and maintain close contacts with the workers and learn from them. A further guarantee was that the masses would no longer allow the leaders to move away from them.

In his reply, the writer Sandor Gergely said the counter-revolution had proved that the slightest diversion from the basic tenets of the dictatorship of the proletariat would be construed by the enemy as a concession to him. The Party could defeat shortcomings and ideological impurities in cultural life - which remained conspicuously behind the growing economic and political spheres - only by fighting perseveringly and consistently.