

'Nepszabadsag' on Unanimity and Discipline

In an article on the preparations for the conference 'Nepszabadsag' said that its importance went beyond the circle of Party members. The people did not expect the Party conference to work a miracle; they knew it would not dispel economic and political difficulties as if by magic. The people expected the conference frankly to reveal the country's economic difficulties and to show how industry and agriculture could be consolidated and developed.

The Party's consistent attitude in the struggle following October had won it the confidence of the people. The only way it could gain further strength was to be firm on principles and to wage an ideological struggle against revisionism and dogmatism. Communists therefore rightly expected guidance on the most important ideological questions. They also expected the conference to consolidate the Party's unity. The primary prerequisites of the Party's ability to act were unanimity of views on fundamental questions and strict discipline. The lessons of October had given rise to the justified demand that every attempt to disrupt Party unity and discipline be nipped in the bud. But the paper exposed "the incorrect interpretation of Party unity which seeks to ban the free expression of views from the Party and regards debates as contrary to the Party's spirit". Not only were Party unity and discipline of this kind contrary to Party democracy; they were formal and harmful.

The Party conference would also discuss the Party statutes. There was, however, no question of entirely new and final statutes; the Party Congress would adopt these at a later date. But the June conference would abolish the provisional character of Party organisations and further consolidate Party life. The paper spoke of "encouraging signs of turning towards the economic tasks, a courageous tone of criticism, the healthy desire to raise the standard of Party propaganda and lively political activity" at the current meetings in preparation for the conference.