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SELECTED SOVIET MILITARY TRANSLATIONS

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FOREWORD

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SELECTED SOVIET MILITARY TRANSLATIONS

(Military-District and Fleet Party Conferences)

[Following are translations of selected articles taken from various numbers of the Russian-language newspapers Sovetskiy flot (Soviet Navy) and Krasnaya zvezda (Red Star). Complete source data on each of the articles are given below.]

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I. BALTIC MILITARY DISTRICT

UPHOLD THE HONOR OF THE LENINIST COMMUNIST

Krasnaya zvezda, Vol. 37,
No. 35, 12 February
1960, page 2

Col. N. PARSHIN

The 8th Party Conference of the Baltic Military District has been concluded. Lt. Gen. of Tank Troops I. I. GUSAKOVSKIY, the district commander, gave an address at the conference.

The thought which stood out in this address and in speeches by comrades I. I. AL'KHIMENKO, Yu. A. NAUMENKO, Ye. K. PAL'TSEV, and other delegates was that the army Bolsheviks always have been, are, and will continue to be a militant vanguard of our party in the struggle for building Communism and for strengthening the defense capacity of the USSE, and they will always uphold the honor of the Leninist Communist. Unanimously approving the decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, the conference delegates focused most of their attention on the concrete tasks of party organizations in improving the combat readiness of the troops and the strengthening of discipline.

Marshal of the Soviet Union Kh. BAGRAMYAN, Deputy Minister of Defense USSR, gave a long speech at the conference. He dwelt in detail on the tasks of the armed defenders of the motherland in the further strengthening of combat readiness and in increasing vigilance, and he wished the Communists of the district new successes in their work.

The representatives of party and soviet organizations of four brother republics participated in the work of the conference. Speaking before the army Communists were A. Ya. PEL'SHE, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Latvian SSR; A. Yu. SNECHKUS, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Lithuanian SSR; I. G. KEBIN, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Estonian SSR; and N. S. KONOVALOV, secretary of the Kaliningradskaya Oblast Party Committee.

II. BELORUSSIAN MILITARY DISTRICT

RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS, AND ASPIRATIONS

Krasnaya zvezda, Vol. 37,
No. 27, 3 February
1960, page 2

Col. V. LEVCHENKO
Lt. Col. M. AKSHEVSKIY

The 21st Party Conference of the Belorussian Military District was held in a businesslike manner and on a high ideological and organizational level. It showed the inviolable solidarity of Communists and of all the servicemen of the district around the Leninist Party Central Committee and Soviet state. The conference delegates discussed actively, in a condition of sharp, principled criticism and self-criticism, the address of Lt. Gen. N. A. NACHINKIN, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Administration of the district, "On the Condition of Party-Political Work and Measures for Its Further Improvement in the Light of Decisions of the 21st Party Congress, the October Plenum of the Party Central Committee, and the Decisions of the IV Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR."

At the center of attention at the conference were the historical decisions of the IV Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR on the new, sizable reduction in the Soviet armed forces. All the speakers stressed, without exception, that the decisions of the session are vivid testimony to the economic power of the Soviet state and the growing might of our army, which is capable of resolving successfully the tasks of the defense of the USSR with less military personnel.

Deeply realizing their patriotic duty in guarding the security of the Soviet state, the commanders and political workers and the entire personnel of the district are resolving the new tasks with a feeling of great responsibility. N. G. VEDENICHEV, I. I. TRUKHANOV, I. A. CHERNYSHEV, D. G. OSETROV, and other delegates to the conference spoke of the growing political activity and consciousness of the servicemen. In the short period which has passed since the IV Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, many patriotic undertakings, directed toward the further improvement of the combat skill and the combat readiness of troops, have arisen in the chasti of the district. In almost all chasti and podrazdeleniya, the servicemen, sergeants, and officers have taken upon themselves more obligations and have outlined new goals for mastering high combat skills. More attention was given to raising classification two steps per year, training 5-7 driving experts in each tank regiment, increasing the speed of combat vehicles, and hitting targets with the first shot. The veteran servicemen of one chasti initiated a movement for mastering the skills and knowledge of sergeants and for training and educating worthy replacements.

The results of the work of the political organs and the party organizations during the past training year were deeply analyzed at the party conference. Most of the attention of the Communists and the entire cadre of officers was directed toward resolving the main task, that of the increased vigilance and combat readiness of the servicemen. In delving deeply into all aspects of the training and life of the troops, many commanders and party organizations have become higher qualified and have acquired much skill in handling problems of combat training and military education and in decisively eliminating indulgence and simplification in the combat training of personnel.

All this has produced favorable results. The number of outstanding battalions and companies has increased by 1.5 times, and the number of rated specialists has doubled. In the majority of tank chasti of the district, the number of driving experts has increased threefold.

The experience of the party organization of the chasti in which Maj. I. I. SHATALOV is bureau secretary was discussed at the conference. In 2 years, this chasti has become outstanding and it has no gross disciplinary violations. The commander, the staff, and the party organization are working amicably and in concord, and are displaying high exactingness and party principle in resolving the tasks of training and educating the servicemen.

Many other party organizations have improved their work considerably. The Communists of one chasti have worked selflessly. Here, over 90 percent of the members and candidate members of the Communist Party are outstanding in their studies. Each day, the bureau studies questions on the combat training of airmen and renders assistance to the commander in resolving all the tasks which arise in the course of his job.

However, as the conference delegates noted, not all the party organizations of the district have yet overcome the separation of party-political work from the tasks of combat training, and not all of them are delving daily and deeply into combat training. One of the podrazdeleniya of an unidentified chasti finished the training year with an outstanding evaluation. Apparently, the successes turned the heads of the Communists of the podrazdeleniye. The bureau, headed by Capt. SOKOLOV, ceased to work with the aktiv and divorced itself from the masses. The party organization slackened the struggle against complacency and conceit. As a result, the previous glory was lost. A check disclosed that during this year, only two of 17 Communists held the rating of outstanding, and only two of 40 Komsomol members held such a rating.

The conference resolutely opposed complacency, and directed the party organizations toward a further struggle for an improved quality of training and the high combat readiness of all chasti and podrazdeleniya.

Questions on the further strengthening of military discipline occupied a large portion of the delegates' speeches. It was noted that commanders, political organs, and party organizations of the district have done considerable work in educating the servicemen in the spirit of high political consciousness and responsibility for fulfilling their duty. It is characteristic that there have been no gross violations of discipline or amoral acts for a long time in many chastis and podrazdeleniya. An unidentified tank regiment in which there have been no such incidents for over 2 years was mentioned in particular at the conference.

However, party organizations of the district still have much to do in order to strengthen military discipline. In several podrazdeleniya and chastis, there are still many deviations from the regulations. Some political organs and party organizations are studying only superficially the causes of violations of discipline and do not always give a principled evaluation to cases of amoral acts. The speaker and delegates cited cases of gross violation of disciplinary practice in several chastis. It cannot be considered normal that some officers substitute educational work with disciplinary punishment. Cited at the conference was the example of Communist SHKARUPA, an officer, who in one day inflicted a total of 50 days' arrest on his subordinates.

Much was said about the shortcomings in educational work in the construction podrazdeleniya. The political section of the construction administration determines the shortcomings and takes them, so to speak, by the tail, but does not eliminate the causes of the faults and amoral occurrences. The political administration of the district has also failed to do everything to instill order in the construction podrazdeleniya.

The speaker and the delegates to the conference paid much attention to the organizational activities of the commanders and political organs, the improvement of inner-party work, and the increased role of the bureaus of primary party organizations as organs of collective leadership. At the last reports and elections meeting, many commanders and deputy commanders for political affairs were elected to bureaus of primary party organizations. The bureaus have begun to resolve all questions in a more authoritative, and more principled and militant, and more skillful manner.

A vivid characteristic of the further enlivening of inner-party work is the growth of party groups in the companies and the equivalent podrazdeleniya. Now, there are many chastis in the district in which each company has created party groups which are rendering an increasing amount of influence on the course of combat training and on the education of personnel.

A check on the execution and daily control over the fulfillment of previously made decisions are very important for improving the standard of the organizational work of political organs and party

organizations. At the conference, the experience of the foremost party organizations in checking on execution was broadly elucidated, and the existing shortcomings in this matter were disclosed. For example, the party bureau in which comrade KURYNDIN is secretary made several good decisions and planned dozens of measures for strengthening discipline and for improving educational work. However, not one of these decisions was completely fulfilled.

The questions of improving party leadership of the Komsomol occupied a high spot at the conference. Now, every eighth Communist in the district works in a Komsomol organization. Recently, the stratum of Communists in Komsomol organizations has doubled. This produced favorable results in the activities of many Komsomol organizations. In the chast' in which Lt. POPKOVICH is chairman of the Komsomol bureau, 70 percent of the Komsomol members are outstanding in their studies, and every second Komsomol member is a rated specialist and has an athletic category. However, many Komsomol organizations of the district do not have a fruitful and purposeful influence on young people. Many delegates mentioned very serious shortcomings in political-education work in Komsomol organizations.

Those who spoke at the conference included Chief Marshal of Aviation K. A. VERSHININ, commander of the Air Forces; N. P. MIRONOV, head of the Administrative Organs Section of the Central Committee CPSU; Marshal of the Soviet Union S. K. TIMOSHENKO, commander of troops of the district; and Maj. Gen. V. A. GREKOV, chief of the Party Organization Administration of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy.

Marshal of the Soviet Union R. Ya. MALINOVSKIY, Minister of Defense USSR, gave an important and vivid speech at the conference. In his speech, he gave a profound analysis of the internal and international situation of the Soviet Union and indicated that the further reduction in the Soviet armed forces testifies to the great power of our Motherland. The Minister of Defense drew the special attention of the Communists of the district toward exemplary fulfillment of the tasks presented by the IV Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR.

The conference accepted with great enthusiasm a salutatory letter to the Central Committee CPSU.

Participating in the work of the conference were K. T. MAZUROV, candidate member of the Presidium of the Central Committee CPSU and first secretary of the Party Central Committee Belorussian SSR; T. Ya. KISELEV, chairman of the Council of Ministers Belorussian SSR; V. I. KOZLOV, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet Belorussian SSR; and V. F. SHAURO and F. A. SURGANOV, secretaries of the Party Central Committee Belorussian SSR.

III. CARPATHIAN MILITARY DISTRICT

SUCCESS IS DEPENDENT UPON ORGANIZATIONAL WORK

Krasnaya zvezda, Vol.37,
No. 26, 2 February
1960, page 2

Lt. Col. V. VIKHRENKO

Capt. Lesnikov, commander of a tank company, was among the delegates in the Presidium of the 7th Party Conference of the Carpathian Military District. He also held this position 2 years ago, when the previous district party conference was held. We asked the captain during an intermission what changes had taken place in his company during this period.

The changes proved to be many. During the past 2 years, the company has made great progress. In the past each crew had a satisfactory evaluation in preparation fire, but last fall over half of the gunners had the evaluation of outstanding. The servicemen have learned to strike the target with the first shot.

Or take the drivers. Two years ago, there was not one expert driver or driver-mechanic first class in the company. This year, three persons became expert drivers in the podrazdeleniye. The remaining driver-mechanics have become rated specialists. Capt. LESNIKOV speaks with gratitude of the chief force which assisted him to achieve these successes -- the party group. The creation of a party group in the company is also one of the gratifying changes in the life of the podrazdeleniye. The group appeared after the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU and became the heart of all educational work among people in the podrazdeleniye.

The example discussed above sheds light on the general growth of the combat training of troops in the district. Lt. Gen. P. T. LUKASHIN, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political administration, said in his address to the party conference that in 1959, the chasti of the district have risen to a new stage in their combat perfection, and many problems have been solved much better than in previous years. This was made possible by the beneficial results of applying the decree of the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU and the resolutions of the 21st Party Congress. The party organizations have grown and become stronger. Among the conference delegates are many party organizers of companies. Previously, 2 years ago, there were only a few in the chasti. Now, there is a manifold vanguard of party leaders, represented by right at the district conference.

Socialist competition is a powerful weapon in the struggle for the further improvement of the gunnery training of troops. Delegate A. S. PALKO, a company party organizer, spoke of this in his speech.

"Our podrazdeleniye," he said, "is going confidently forward because all the servicemen are interested in the improvement of combat training in the company. The fulfillment of their obligations is controlled each day. Public opinion is created against those who forget their promises."

Also, it was mentioned at the conference that there is still some formalism in competition. Some leaders maintain that it is sufficient to give a slogan, to call on their subordinates to study in an outstanding manner, and to make this summons in the form of an obligation, as if the matter begins with them.

In a speech in this connection, the name of Capt. SAVRASOV, commander of a company, was mentioned. At his initiative, at the beginning of the last training year, the podrazdeleniye pledged to become outstanding. However, in the fall, they were still far from this evaluation. Discussion of the conditions of competition was conducted here, not in a businesslike manner, but instead in a festive, gala manner. The regiment commander, his deputy for political affairs, and the party bureau secretary visited the podrazdeleniye. They sang the praises of the initiators of the competition, but did not examine the status of affairs and did not engage in organizational work.

Delegate M. P. MIKULIN admitted in self-criticism that in the chasty in which he serves, competition is underrated and there is much formalism in its leadership. Some commanders, political workers, and staff officers, when in the podrazdeleniya, are not interested in how the servicemen fulfill their obligations.

It was no mere chance that the question of socialist competition disturbed the delegates in this matter. The experience of the foremost chasty and podrazdeleniya has indicated that only with the assistance of competition can successes be gained in combat and political training. During the period of discussing decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, many servicemen took upon themselves new, increased obligations, attempting thereby to raise the combat readiness by one more degree. And, so that these obligations are not forgotten, great organizational work among the party organizations is needed.

Marshal of the Soviet Union A. A. GRECHKO, Deputy Minister of Defense USSR and Commander of the Ground Forces, gave an important speech at the conference. He spoke of the historical significance of the materials of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR and of the tasks of party organizations in maintaining the combat readiness of the chasty and podrazdeleniya. Col. Gen. of Tank Troops A. L. GETMAN, commander of troops of the district, devoted his speech to the necessity of further perfection of the combat and political training of the personnel.

In the name of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Ukrainian SSR and the party committees of the oblasts in which the district is located, M. K. LAZURENKO, first secretary of the L'vovskaya Oblast Party Committee, welcomed the conference.

Participating in the work of the conference were Air Marshal S. I. RUDENKO, first deputy commander of the Air Forces; Col. Gen. P. A. LAPKIN, deputy chief of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy; S. V. STEFANIK, chairman of the Executive Committee of the L'vovskaya Oblast Soviet; F. T. KOZAL', second secretary of the L'vovskaya Oblast Party Committee; and P. F. OVSYANKO, first secretary of the L'vov City Party Committee.

IV. FAR EAST MILITARY DISTRICT

COMMUNISM'S MOTTO: ONLY FORWARD!

Krasnaya zvezda, Vol. 37,
No. 34, 11 February
1960, page 3

Col. S. ALESHIN
Lt. Col. Ye. D'YACHENKO
Maj. V. TRIKHMANENKO

There Is Good News

Delegates to the district party conference have come to Khabarovsk from various parts of the Far East. Some came far, but amazingly fast: the TU-104 airliner arrives here from Kamchatka in a little more than 2 hours. Others managed to get here by automobile over snow-covered roads. However, the main thing today is not found in these contrasts or in the geographic, exotic character of the vast territory, but in the people. In answer to the usual question on meeting -- "What news do you have?" -- the majority of delegates speak of the great number of good undertakings. And those who succeeded in speaking from the high rostrum of the party conference spoke with pride about their colleagues.

P. D. YEGOROV, a conference delegate, spoke of the fact that innovation and creative daring are now inherent to all servicemen of their chasti and that these valuable qualities are apparent in everyday affairs. The plan for combat training was successfully fulfilled last year, and a good pace has been maintained since the beginning of the second year of the Seven-Year Plan. Thanks to the initiative of the foremost squadron commanders, it has become possible to accelerate considerably the training of first-class pilots.

Now all the pilots have assumed their obligations to study their fighter aircraft in the capacity of rated technicians. And the officer-technicians have pledged themselves to a man to have only first and second-class ratings by the end of the year.

Interesting, useful initiatives are springing up in all chasti of the district. The tankmen of the podrazdeleniya commanded by KHIZHNYAK and TERESHCHENKO decided to train 5-6 driving experts of combat vehicles in each company. The subordinates of Officer SKRIPNIK are fighting for complete elimination of motor vehicle accidents and their causes.

Such undertakings are becoming more frequent, particularly during these days, after the significant decisions of the December Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU and the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR. Almost every delegate who talked at the conference spoke of the fact that the servicemen, in response to the decisions of the session, have undertaken increased obligations, and that in recent days, the number of outstanding servicemen has

grown sharply, the quality of combat training has improved considerably, etc. All this testifies to the great patriotic enthusiasm of the servicemen, who are determined to treble their efforts in combat training.

Why There Is Bad Along With the Good

Lt. Gen. A. I. SHMELEV, member of the Military Council and chief of the political administration of the district, stressed in his address at the conference that in the district, the number of soyedineniya and chasty which achieved high showings during the past year has increased, and there have become more outstanding podrazdeleniya. P. Ya. BOYKO, I. Ya. BRAUL, A. I. ODINTSOV, and other delegates spoke about experiences in struggling to achieve these showings.

"But why, until now, is there bad along with the good?" was a question asked by conference delegates. "Why is the gap so large between those who are going forward and those who are lagging?" One of the reasons is that individual staffs and political sections of soyedineniya are not striving to transfer the advanced experience of their best chasty to the lagging ones. At times, it all consists of a general appeal to be equal to the best, of demands "to eliminate the noted shortcomings," etc. However, not enough is said about the advanced experience. It must be put into practice more persistently, and used to teach how successes should be achieved.

In the foyers and the halls of the district Officers' Club where the conference was conducted, many fine stands and photography showcases were exhibited which recounted interesting undertakings and didactic work experience. This is all well, but why are such displays timed only in line with large-scale measures? And why is it that in the district, hardly anyone knows about those officers whose portraits are hung on the stand in the Officers' Club?

The best achievements must be extended quickly throughout the chasty and podrazdeleniya, and must fly as good tidings to the most remote garrisons. This decision is in the hands of the staffs and political organs. They, as the conference delegates noted, have not done nearly everything for the broad propaganda of advanced experience and for its application by the troops, and they are not setting a good example regarding this matter. It is no mere chance that one speaker, in naming the patriotic undertakings of the servicemen, had to admit that not all of them had been broadly disseminated among the troops.

To some degree, this also concerns party-political work and the political education of the servicemen. Life in party organizations, as noted in a speech, has become more plethoric and richer in content, and many new, interesting forms of mass political work have sprung up. At the same time, as was mentioned at the conference,

some political organs and party organizations are allowing some portions of combat training to slip from their field of vision. They are unable to find the main link, and they are sociably considering decisions on important questions concerning the training and education of personnel. "Now we cannot work in the old manner," said the conference delegates. The spirit of creative work, a search for the new which answers present requirements, and persistent application of the new must permeate the activities of each Communist.

The Main Thing Is Organizational Work

What is necessary in order to put an end to irregularity in the training of podrazdeleniya and chasty and provide advanced experience for all commanders, political workers, and heads of party and Komsomol organizations? The speech of K. P. MESHKOV, secretary of the party organization of one of the chasty, can serve as an answer to this question.

"Members of the party bureau," he said, "began by talking individually with each Communist. If one of them proved to be insufficiently trained, he was asked directly what hindered him from becoming an outstanding serviceman and what kind of assistance he needed. We reported to the commander concerning the practical conclusions which were made by the party bureau from these talks. Lively organizational work has been developed in the chasty."

Comrade MESHKOV stressed that the fruits of this organizational work, which was conducted by the commander, his deputy for political affairs, and members of the party bureau, are evident. In the chasty, discipline has been strengthened, the number of outstanding podrazdeleniya has grown, and the quality of officer's training has improved.

Lively organizational work with personnel is the lever with which it is possible to resolve successfully all the tasks which stand before the army party organizations.

Unfortunately, not all party organizations, political organs, and Communists understand this. Many of them are working in the old manner and are avoiding lively contact with people. Serious, critical remarks were made at the conference concerning the Communists of a number of administrations of the district, particularly of the district's Administration of Rear Services. They send to the chasty an excessive amount of various types of documents, and they are slow in resolving questions raised in the course of events.

In their speeches at the conference, communists P. Ya. BOYKO, A. S. KURTEYEV, and others stressed that administrations and staffs must modernize the style of their activities and must put an end to elements of formalism and conventionalism. The staff party organizations have been called on to play an important role in this

matter. It is the staff party organizations which must first be advocates of everything new which emerges in the chast, and above all, in the field training of troops and the organization of officer's training.

At their conference, the Communists of the Far East Military District displayed utter devotion to the great matter of Communism, as well as readiness to fulfill honorably any tasks presented by the party and the government.

Those who spoke at the conference included Col. Gen. P. A. LAPKIN, head of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy; Col. Gen. V. A. PEN'KOVSKIY, commander of troops of the district; A. S. BIRYUKOV, chairman of the Primorskiy Kray Executive Committee; and G. Ye. PODGAYEV, first secretary of the Khabarovsk City Party Committee. Also participating in the work of the conference were A. P. SHITIKOV, M. A. ORLOV, P. F. CHEPLAKOV, and A. K. CHERNYY, first secretaries, respectively, of the Khabarovskiy Kray Party Committee, the Kamchatskaya Oblast Party Committee, the Sakhalinskaya Oblast Party Committee, and the Yevreyskaya Autonomous Oblast Party Committee; M. I. MISNIK, chairman of the Khabarovskiy Sovnarkhoz; and Lt. Gen. I. V. TUTARINOV.

V. Leningrad Military District

WORK IN A MORE PURPOSEFUL, EFFICIENT MANNER!

Krasnaya zvezda,
26 January 1960,
page 2

Col. V. VORONOV
Col. I. GAGLOV
Lt. Col. B. GRYAZNOV

The 21st Party Conference of the Leningrad Military District lasted 2 days. During the 2 days, principled, ardent words were spoken in a Bol'shevik-like manner on the condition of party-political work and measures for its improvement in the light of the decisions of the 21st Party Congress, the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU, and the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR. Lt. Gen. V. K. TSEBENKO, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Administration of the district, gave an address at the conference. The conference was held as a vivid demonstration of the solidarity of the army Communists around the Leninist Party Central Committee, and their readiness to fulfill honorably all the tasks entrusted to the armed forces.

Not From Weakness, But From Great Strength

Everyone who spoke at the conference spoke mostly of the historical decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR. Soviet servicemen rejoice in the fact that our great Motherland had reached the level of development whereby it has become possible, without weakening its defense capacity, to carry out a new, sizable reduction in the numerical strength of the army, air force, and navy. They take pride in this as a supreme victory of our socialist system. Each one understands that the party and government have undertaken this measure, not from a position of weakness, but of great strength.

"Among the troops of our district," said speaker TSEBENKO, "there have been numerous gatherings, a district aktiv of commissioned personnel, and meetings of the personnel of chasti and podrazdeleniya." Everywhere, servicemen have warmly interpreted the decision of the Supreme Soviet USSR as an urgent matter, necessitated by life.

It was stressed at the conference that there is now no more important work than the detailed and profound explanation to all personnel of the speech of comrade N. S. Khrushchev; the law on the new, sizable reduction of the armed forces; the decree of the Central Committee CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR "On Employment and Material Security for Servicemen Discharged from the Armed Forces"; and other materials. Explanatory work must be of a militant, forward nature, and must be conducted actively and with conviction, so that each serviceman realizes both in his mind

and heart the great importance of the measures undertaken by the party and the government in order that each person is instilled with the deep political, theoretical, economic, scientific, technical, and military argumentation brought forth in comrade N. S. Khrushchev's address.

In the important work ahead, there will be a need for an exceptionally high political purposefulness and operativeness, great organization, firm military discipline, strenuous work, an excellent knowledge of people and their moods, much individual work with each person, and more active political work as a whole. In talks with soldiers, sergeants, and officers who are to be discharged from the army, it should be stressed that it is their duty, above all, to go into the sphere of material production, and that work awaits them in industry, on new projects, in agriculture, in regions of the North, the Urals, Siberia, the Far East, and the Kazakh SSR, and in kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the virgin lands. In our midst, there can be no place for a scornful attitude toward so-called "lower" work, or for a one-sided aspiration toward office work or work of a similar type. In this connection there was talk at the conference about many people of great gusto, who have noble aspirations and who are proving to be models of Communist labor in the field of production. The names of V. GAGANOVA, reserve officers A. GORODINSKIY and A. FEDOROV, and others were given.

V. N. ALEKSEYEV, a conference delegate, spoke of experience in explaining decisions of the session.

"All the servicemen of our chasty," he said, "listened by radio to N. S. Khrushchev's address." In accordance with the address, political information sessions and talks were conducted in the podrazdeleniya. They were conducted by the leading workers of the staff and political section of the soyedineniye, and by our most experienced officer-Communists. Among the servicemen, socialist competition flared up with new force, and the servicemen undertook increased obligations.

Officer P. A. KRYMSKIY spoke of the new patriotic undertakings called for by the historical decisions of the Supreme Soviet. At the initiative of the Communists of the battalion commanded by Officer FESINSK, a movement has begun for complete interchangeability of crews and squads, and for outstanding podrazdeleniya.

Comrade KRYMSKIY declared that our soldiers, sergeants, and officers have taken upon themselves the socialist obligations of making the chasty an outstanding one by the end of the training year.

The delegates spoke of the necessity to develop broadly individual work, particularly with the officers and their families. The comrades of the political section of an unidentified soyedineniya acted correctly in organizing talks on interesting matters with officers after completion of their working day.

Of great advantage are the meetings of the servicemen with representatives of local party and soviet organizations, directors of enterprises and sovkhozes, chairmen of kolkhozes, and leading persons in industry and agriculture. Former officers, who were discharged to the reserves or who were retired and are now working successfully in the national economy, spoke at many garrisons.

Vigilance Does Not Retire to the Reserves

It was indicated at the conference that all explanatory, mass-political work in accordance with the materials of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet must be directed toward a further increase in the political consciousness of servicemen, a strengthening of military discipline, and outstandingly resolving of the tasks of combat training. The main task of Soviet servicemen has been and remains an improvement in combat training and vigilance which, according to an accurate expression of one of the conference delegates, can never retire to the reserves. Even the slightest occurrence of complacency and a demobilization frame of mind should be resolutely overcome, and they should be reacted upon in a correct and timely manner. Each person's case will be considered in good time by the command element in accordance with the interests of the people and our Motherland. Therefore, each and every one is to remain at his combat post in a determined, steadfast, and responsible manner. The slightest slackening of exactingness by commanders, political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations cannot be tolerated. On the contrary, we must raise still more our exactingness in all directions, and struggle resolutely for firm military order, for a strict training procedure, and for effort at work.

Comrades Ya. F. REPIN, F. P. DRANISHCHEV, and other conference delegates said that, in connection with the adopted resolution on the new, sizable reduction of the army and navy, they understand very well that those who remain in the armed forces will have still greater responsibility for maintaining the safety of our Motherland. We must bring the combat readiness and the military skill of all chasti and soyedineniya to an even higher level.

It was noted at the conference that the troops of the Leningrad Military District have recently done extensive work regarding their combat perfection. As one speaker declared, during the past training year, the number of outstanding servicemen in combat and political training has increased by 75 percent; the number of outstanding squads, teams, and crews, by 89 percent; the number of outstanding platoons, by 100 percent; and the number of batteries, by 4 times. Of the outstanding servicemen in combat and political training, 90 percent are Communists and Komsomol members.

Comrade V. V. MARKOV, secretary of the party bureau of a regiment, said that in the new training year, he has successfully promoted perfection of the combat training of the personnel. In the tank podrazdeleniya of this chasti, a movement has begun to train driving experts and to improve the rating of all tankmen and the interchangeability of the crews.

All the conference delegates spoke mostly, not about these successes, but about the shortcomings in training which are hindering achievement of a higher quality of combat training. This is all the more important, since in a number of chasti and soyedineniya of the district, there are many shortcomings in field training, particularly in the small podrazdeleniya. In tactical training, indulgences are frequently tolerated, and the personnel function in some instances without considering the application of modern means of fighting. At the conference, several chasti and podrazdeleniya were named in which party organizations did not delve deeply into questions of combat readiness. A feeling of dissatisfaction with the condition of party-political work on questions of combat training was expressed by political workers V. A. TYUKHYAYEV and T. M. STAREN'KIY and other delegates.

The participants in the conference discussed the intolerability of lagging or marking time, the harm of conceit, and the absence of a self-critical attitude toward shortcomings, the necessity of investigating new possibilities, the struggle against complacency, and the importance of resolutely striving for high qualitative showings in the combat training and combat readiness of the troops. In this connection, more attention must be given to the development of creative impulses and the initiative of the broad masses of personnel; socialist competition, particularly individual competition, must be guided in a more concrete and businesslike manner; the patriotic undertakings of the servicemen must be supported much more actively; and the work of training rated specialists and driving experts in tank chasti must be improved. In this matter, as experience proves, it is necessary to raise the role of the personal example of officers.

Combat readiness is impossible without strong military discipline. What has been done in this regard by the party organizations and Communists of the district? How have they struggled to fulfill strict military order and the regulations and instructions of the Soviet Army? In answering these questions, a speaker noted that discipline has strengthened in a number of chasti and soyedineniya.

However, the delegates expressed serious anxiety over the fact that in some chasti, the work of strengthening discipline is carried out unsatisfactorily, often hurriedly, and without a systematic analysis and a decisive elimination of the causes which lead to the incidents. Also, exactingness in some chasti is low and the organizational work of commanders and political workers in supporting

prescribed military order is weak. In many places, insufficient attention is given to individual work with various categories of servicemen. Cases have not been overcome whereby high exactingness is substituted by rudeness, and Soviet principles of disciplinary practice are perverted. The conference delegates sharply raised the question of intensifying exactingness, improving education, and increasing the role of the officers and soldiers in the struggle against shortcomings in discipline and cases of drunkenness and improper conduct by individual servicemen.

Discussed at the conference was the work of the party organizations in connection with the decree of the Central Committee CPSU "On the Tasks of Party Propaganda Under Contemporary Conditions." Comrades Ya. D. BASKO, V. I. BALAKIREV, and other speakers noted that in a number of chasti, ideological work is lagging behind the practical tasks resolved by the troops. The necessity was stressed for a very earnest improvement of organizational work in the field of propaganda and agitation. There are sectors of this work, including clubs, libraries, Leninist rooms, wall newspapers, scientific-atheistic propaganda, and self-initiated activities, the guidance of which is exercised poorly and loosely. Guidance of the Marxist-Leninist training of officers, as well as of political studies and party enlightenment, is in need of earnest improvement. Here and there, awkwardness and sluggishness are tolerated in explaining current political achievements. Some commanders, chiefs of political organs, deputy commanders for political affairs, and party bureaus do not elaborate about all this. The delegates concentrated special attention on the necessity to intensify propaganda of the policies of the Communist Party, the decisions of the party and government, the notable successes of the Soviet people in building Communism, and the remarkable scientific and technical achievements of our Motherland. It was mentioned at the conference that not one Communist can neglect this important matter.

Many of the speakers dwelt on questions of the style of work of the political sections and the Political Administration of the district with the idea of a more valuable and purposeful fulfillment by them of their role and responsibility as the guiding party organs in the field of party-political work in the armed forces. In particular, it was noted that political organs must liquidate serious shortcomings in the inner organization of their work, thoughtfully plan the work, pay much more attention to inner-party work, strengthen still more the business ties with the staffs and the chiefs of services and of troops, lean more freely upon the broad party aktiv in practical activities, render more practical assistance to commanders, political workers, and party and Komsomol organizations of chasti, and become closer to the masses.

A number of critical remarks, opinions, and wishes were rendered to the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy.

The terse report of the district Party Commission, given by Comrade V. P. MASLOVSKIY, was heard at the party conference, and the conference elected a new committee staff.

On the whole, the conference was well organized and on a high ideological and political level. The conference was prepared by the Political Administration, under the close attention of the Military Council of the district and in close contact with the staffs of the district and the administrations and chiefs of troops and services. The chiefs of political organs and oblast party committees were also consulted regarding the preparation.

Judging by the course of the conference, the Political Administration should have placed more concretely for examination by the conference the questions regarding party-organizational and ideological work. It should also be noted that in several speeches, there was not the necessary sharpness and businesslike character in criticizing shortcomings in military discipline and combat training. Unfortunately, the representatives of the lagging chasti did not speak at the conference.

Taking part in the conference were I. V. SPIRIDONOV, first secretary of the Leningradskaya Oblast Party Committee; N. I. SMIRNOV, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Leningrad City Soviet; and B. A. POPOV, secretary of the Leningrad City Party Committee.

Those who spoke at the committee included N. G. KORYTKOV, secretary of the Leningradskaya Oblast Party Committee; Gen. N. I. KRYLOV, commander of troops of the Leningrad Military District; and Gen. F. I. GOLIKOV, chief of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy.

VI. MOSCOW MILITARY DISTRICT

NEW CONDITIONS, NEW TANKS

Krasnaya zvezda, Vol. 37,
No. 24, 29 January 1960,
page 2

Col. A. NEDOSUGOV
Col. I. FEDOSEYEV

Communists of the Moscow Military District assembled for the 22nd time for their party conference in order to discuss in a businesslike manner the condition of party-political work and measures for its improvement in the light of the decisions of the 21st Party Congress, the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU, and the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR. Lt. Gen. N. V. YEGOROV, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Administration of the district, gave a terse address at the conference. An account of the work of the Party Committee was given by Col. N. G. MIKHAYLENKO.

A Language of Facts and Figures

Figures, percentages, and strict, impartial indexes confront you from stands, charts, and tables. They are mentioned from the rostrum, and you hear them mentioned in the intermission between sessions. In a scant, laconic language, they tell of the intense work of the people, of their energy and will, of the days spent in the field, in the tank parks, and on the firing range, and about everything that we call work, training, and services.

"Among the troops of the district," says one speaker, "in one year, the number of outstanding servicemen has increased by 1.5 times, and a large detachment of driving experts and rated specialists has been trained."

The delegates see in these figures an increase in the combat skill of the servicemen, as well as in their patriotic deeds. Take the case of Sgt. POPOV. In 18 months he mastered all the specialties of an artilleryman-gunner, and he rose from loader to deputy commander of a platoon. POPOV assisted four comrades to become outstanding servicemen. Recently the party organization accepted him as a candidate party member.

Delegate Ye. Ye. DUKHOVNIY presented interesting data. In the soyedeniya in which he serves, in just one year, the number of outstanding servicemen has increased threefold, the number of driving experts has doubled, and there have been many more outstanding companies and batteries. An unidentified tank chasti achieved especially great successes. Here, many outstanding servicemen in training and many military experts were produced. In the new

training year, 67 servicemen, including 24 officers, have already raised their ratings. All this was achieved because of the harmonious, joint work of the commander and the party organization.

It is remarkable that the party aktiv and the Communists of the unit are proving to be personal examples in combat training and in mastering technology. All the members of the bureau of the chasty, the secretaries of the party organizations, and the party organizers of the podrazdeleniya have mastered technology perfectly and have become class specialists. The podrazdeleniya commanded by officers who are party bureau members are outstanding.

How have the troops of the district achieved some successes? The answer to this question was given by one of the speakers. He noted that the standard of leadership by the officers over combat and political training has improved. Political organs and party organizations have begun to delve more deeply into all aspects of the life and activities of chasty and podrazdeleniya, the role of party-political work has increased earnestly, and its activities have grown.

The Campaign for Knowledge

The successes achieved in the district are indisputable. However, there are still many shortcomings in the guidance of combat training. Pointed out in particular was the necessity of a careful analysis of general information, and the fact that here and there, they are content with having a small number of outstanding servicemen among the Communists and Komsomol members. The following example was given: In the chasty in which comrade POLYANIN is party bureau secretary, the number of outstanding servicemen among the Communists consisted of only one fourth of the chasty by the end of the training year. There was a similar number among the Komsomol members.

It was noted at the conference that in the general indexes, the successes of some frequently concealed the inactivity or lagging of others. In the chasty in which comrade SHEVCHENKO is party bureau secretary, there were 10 driving experts by the end of the year, but seven of them were in the third company.

The name of Capt. SHABARDIN was mentioned several times at the conference. The company which he commands has come forward as an initiator of the struggle for mastering military-technical knowledge. The servicemen have undertaken the obligation of achieving within this year an interchangeability in all crews, raising the ratings of driver-mechanics by two steps, mastering perfectly their regulation weapons, and improving general military-technical culture. What are the means of fulfilling the obligations? First and foremost is a high quality of each study, daily assistance to the lagging servicemen, and the propaganda of advanced experiences.

Of great help to the servicemen in mastering the skills are the technical bulletins issued in the company, the technical circle headed by comrade FETISOV, the gunnery circle, and the company military-technical library.

Since the beginning of the new training year, five tank commanders and driver-mechanics have raised their ratings. Just recently, three more servicemen have applied for ratings.

"This is our party's gift to the district party conference," said comrade SHABARDIN, "but this is only the beginning."

Yes, only the beginning. Much remains to be done in order to explain and fulfill the law on the new, sizable reduction in the armed forces, which was adopted at the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR. The numerical forces of the army and navy are being greatly reduced. This obliges the servicemen to improve the quality of combat training and combat readiness, increase political vigilance, and raise the level of technical knowledge and culture.

One should study the military cause in a very earnest manner, so that our Motherland becomes stronger and more powerful and so that the combat might of the Soviet Armed Forces grows steadily. Under contemporary conditions, this is one of the main tasks. And is not that why the idea about further training, and about means to new heights of combat mastery stood out in the speeches of the conference delegates?

The Power of Propaganda Is in Its Activities

Many of the speakers stressed the beneficial influence which concrete, purposeful ideological work has on the growth of combat training and on the strengthening of discipline. The figures which officer I. I. SHINKARENKO presented in his speech eloquently testify to the improvements which have taken place in this very important sector of the activities of the party organization.

He said that in the party organization in which comrade KURAKOV is secretary, 95 percent of the Communists have graduated from an evening university of Marxism-Leninism. They include the commander of the chasti, the chief of the staff, and the pilots. After graduating from the university, they became active propagandists and agitators. Well applied propaganda has helped us considerably to achieve successes.

In fulfilling the requirements of the party, many political organs and party organizations have become more concerned with improving the quality and the effectiveness of propaganda and using more broadly the new forms of educational work. Much is being done to explain to the personnel the decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR. However, pointed out at the conference

were instances whereby propaganda and agitation were separated from life, from the practice of building Communism, and from the tasks of the armed forces. Some political organs and party organizations are still judging the condition of political work, not by concrete results, but by the amount of lectures, reports, and talks given, and by the "envelopment" of people by various mass measures.

One of the speakers, comrade Ya. G. LOGUNOV, remarked with satisfaction that in their chasti, the political training of enlisted men and sergeants is evaluated highly. It would seem that this must also be said of the condition of combat training. But successes in combat training have proven to be much more frugal. It is clear that political work here has not been efficient enough.

It should be noted that many speakers, in discussing questions of ideological work, did not give a deep analysis of the activities of political organs and party organizations in light of the decision of the Central Committee CPSU "On the Tasks of Party Propaganda Under Contemporary Conditions," although a fair amount of time had passed since publication of this very important document. Serious shortcomings mentioned in the decree concern in general the party organizations of the district.

Never Be Content

A great deal of attention was given at the conference to questions of inner-party work. This is quite natural, for serious changes were made in inner-party work after the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU. The work was greatly activized, the Leninist norms of party life were observed more strictly, and exactingness toward Communists grew. Commanders are directing the activities of party organizations more skillfully, and are leaning upon them.

The work of party groups, which are now found in many companies and batteries, has become much more lively. The participants in the conference listened with great interest to the talk of F. P. KRAVTSOV, party organizer of a battery, concerning the work of the group led by him. Here the Communists have become reliable supporters of the commander, as well as a decisive power in the struggle for strong military discipline and for successes in training.

It was also noted at the conference that some chiefs are still not utilizing the growing activity of the Communists to improve sharply the cause in chasti and podrazdeleniya. This is particularly apparent in the condition of military discipline, where only small improvements have been achieved during the past year. Many commanders, political workers, and party bureaus have not yet fulfilled completely the requirement of the Central Committee CPSU concerning the strengthening of conscientious military discipline as the basis

of the combat readiness of the troops. Also, at the present time, they are not forestalling violations of discipline and military order, and they are not struggling uncompromisingly against amoral acts.

Violation of the norms of party life and even gross suppression of criticism have not yet been eliminated. For instance, after each party meeting, Maj. TERLETSKIY, military commissar of Salganskiy Rayon, Gor'kovskaya Oblast, summoned Capt. PELEGESHKO, secretary of the party organization, and struck from the report all criticism of himself.

In their speeches, some delegates sounded a serious warning: We cannot indulge in complacency or, particularly, in conceit. Comrade V. I. KOKASHINSKIY noted correctly that the activities of commanders and political workers must be evaluated more critically and with greater responsibility.

Marshal of the Soviet Union K. S. MOSKALENKO, commander of troops of the district, began his speech on this topic.

"Too much has been said here about achievements, and too little about the shortcomings and the negative aspects of our work," he said. Feeble criticism of the district staff was sounded, and there was practically no criticism of the Political Administration. Of course, much has been done, but complacency and self-satisfaction cannot be permitted.

Using examples and facts, comrade MOSKALENKO disclosed the reasons for the shortcomings in combat training and discipline and described measures which must be taken to eliminate these neglects.

In the opinion of delegate N. M. NAUMOV, there was insufficient criticism and self-criticism in the report of the Political Administration. He said that here, at the party conference, we must not only report on such favorable aspects as the transfer of the best experience, but we must also analyze critically the activities of political organs and party organizations.

Comrades NAUMOV and MARUSOV criticized the district Political Administration for an excessive predilection for papers, and for the fact that some workers of the administration, in checking the status of affairs in the chasti, have not yet given up completely the shameful principle of "arrive, collect, report." It was also pointed out at the conference that in most of the speeches, practically nothing was said about the work of the Political Administration and other administrations of the district, the shortcomings in their activities were not noticed, and no suggestions were given for improving the style of their work.

In general, the conference was conducted in an organized and active manner. The reports were discussed clearly. Twenty-one delegates spoke on the first question, and seven spoke on the second.

Those who spoke at the conference included Gen. A. S. ZHADOV, first deputy commander of the ground troops, and Gen. F. I. GOLIKOV, chief of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy.

Participating in the conference were Marshal of the Soviet Union I. Kh. BAGRAMYAN; Marshal of the Soviet Union S. M. BUDENNYI; Marshal of the Artillery S. S. VARENTSOV; P. N. DEMICHEV, first secretary of the Moscow Party Committee; A. A. KONDRASHOV, secretary of the Kalininskaya Oblast Party Committee; and others.

With great enthusiasm the conference delegates approved a salutatory letter to the Central Committee CPSU.

VII. NORTHERN CAUCASUS MILITARY DISTRICT

BEGINNING OF AN IMPORTANT MATTER

Krasnaya zvezda, Vol. 37,
No. 47, 26 February 1960,
page 3

Unsigned Article

The 22nd District Party Conference of the Northern Caucasus Military District was held under conditions of patriotic enthusiasm. In the address of Maj. Gen. P. V. VASHURA, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Administration of the District, and in the speeches of conference delegates, it was noted that the servicemen of the district are greeting enthusiastically the law "On the New, Sizable Reduction in the Armed Forces of the USSR."

The delegates noted that with promulgation of the decree of the Central Committee CPSU "On the Tasks of Party Propaganda Under Contemporary Conditions," ideological work among the troops has assumed a broad scope and has become more efficient and concrete, and party influence on the masses of servicemen has grown appreciably. However, this is only the beginning of an important matter.

Those who spoke at the conference included Col. Gen. of Tank Troops P. P. POLUBOYAROV, chief of Armored Troops of the Soviet Army; Lt. Gen. of Aviation A. G. RYTOV, deputy chief of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy; and Col. Gen. I. A. PLIYEV, commander of troops of the Northern Caucasus Military District. A. I. KIRICHENKO, first secretary of the Rostovskaya Oblast Party Committee, participated in the conference.

VIII. ODESSA MILITARY DISTRICT

CONCERN FOR THE MIGHT OF THE MOTHERLAND

Krasnaya zvezda, Vol. 37,
No. 37, 14 February 1960,
page 2

Lt. Col. Ya. ZAKHAROV

The concluded party conference of the Odessa Military District was held under the banner of the further strengthening of the monolithic unity of the Communist armies around the Leninist Party Central Committee. The main points, around which a principled, frank discussion was held at the conference, were questions on the further improvement of the combat readiness of the troops and the strengthening of military discipline on the basis of the activization of party-political work. This was discussed in detail by Lt. Gen. F. P. STEPCHENKO, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Administration of the district, who gave an address, and by conference delegates.

It was noted at the conference that, in putting into practice the historical decisions of the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU and the 21st Party Congress, the commanders, political organs, and party organizations have begun more deeply and purposefully to build up educational work with the personnel. Ideological work among the servicemen has become more lively and diverse, and its influence in all aspects of the life and activities of the troops has increased. The quality of political instruction and of the Marxist-Leninist training of officers has improved greatly, and the responsibility of party organizations for the condition of the combat and political training of servicemen has increased.

However, there are still shortcomings in the activities of political organs and party organizations. Delegates I. A. SHARYPKIN, A. P. VOLKOV, I. A. ZAKHAROV, F. P. SHTAN'KO, F. S. GET'MAN, and other speakers criticized sharply and in a principled manner the shortcomings which are hindering the combat perfection of the troops and preventing achievement of new successes in combat and political training.

Marshal of the Soviet Union A. A. GRECHKO, commander-in-chief of the Ground Forces, gave a long speech at the conference.

Participating in the district party conference were Marshal of Aviation S. I. RUDENKO, V. V. ZOLOTUKHIN, deputy chief of a section of the Central Committee CPSU, and representatives of the party organs of the republics and oblasts on whose territory the chasti of the district are located.

IX. TRANSBAYKAL MILITARY DISTRICT

UNDER CONDITIONS OF UNANIMITY

Krasnaya zvezda, Vol. 37,
No. 47, 26 February 1960,
page 3

Unsigned Article

The 11th Party Conference of the Transbaykal Military District has been held. Maj. Gen. A. K. PLOTNIKOV, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Administration of the district, and the delegates who spoke during the discussions unanimously noted the growing role of party organizations and their influence in all aspects of the life of the troops.

Many delegates, particularly comrades I. F. YAKOVLEV, V. G. SOKOLOV, and N. I. KOBYLINSKIY, spoke of the broadly expanding propaganda of materials of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR among the chasti and podrazdeleniya, and of the fact that this matter is now at the center of attention in the ideological work of party organizations.

Col. Gen. I. F. CHUKHNOV and Col. Gen. Ya. G. KREYZER, commander of troops of the district, also spoke at the conference.

A. I. KOZLOV, first secretary of the Chitinskaya Oblast Party Committee, and D. D. ERDYNEYEV, section chief of the Burystskaya Oblast Party Committee, participated in the conference.

X. TRANSCAUCASUS MILITARY DISTRICT

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Krasnaya zvezda, Vol. 37,
No. 26, 2 February 1960,
page 2

Col. S. ISACHENKO
Lt. Col. G. RUKAVISHNIKOV

We are living in marvelous, unforgettable times. It is the time of the great successes of our Motherland in all fields of economic and cultural development, when the historical decisions of the 21st Party Congress are being applied. Its significant signs are the unprecedented increase in the creative activity of the broadest masses and the steady movement for perfecting all forms and methods of work and for accelerating the pace of building Communism.

The entire life and training of the troops now goes on under the banner of these signs of the times. They were also vividly reflected at the recent 21st Party Conference of the Transcaucasus Military District. In the address of Lt. Gen. D. A. IVASHCHENKO, member of the Military Council and chief of the district Political Administration, and in the speeches of the delegates, it was noted that through fulfillment of the decisions of the 21st Party Conference and the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU, definite successes were achieved in combat and political training, and that recently there have been many new activities by political organs and party and Komsomol organizations.

The New Is Advancing on a Broad Front

During an intermission, we met a group of delegates in the foyer near the stand, "Originators of Glorious Patriotic Causes." They were representatives from the party organization of an unidentified garrison at which one of the chasti had started a movement for increasing the number of tank-driver experts. The initiators of this splendid undertaking were the tankmen of the company commanded by Capt. M. ABRAMENKOV.

The conversation changed to that topic which is thrilling to the servicemen, and about which every speaker mentioned at the conference: The growth of the creative activity of officers, sergeants, and soldiers, and the new, patriotic enthusiasm which has enveloped the chasti and podrazdeleniya of the district since the decision of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR. Sr. Lt. KUMARITOV mentioned how the personnel of his chasti, who greeted warmly the new, peaceable step of the Soviet government in reducing the armed forces, can see their duty in further improving combat readiness.

This is perhaps the main sign of our army activities at the present time. Therefore it has been the basis of much talk at the district party conference.

Socialist competition has taken a solid place in the life of chasti of the district, and has become the law of their life. Each day, it assumes new, more massive and efficient forms. Its fire has kindled the servicemen's hearts and has instilled within them a thirst for creative seekings.

I. R. KIRPAL', a conference delegate, said in his speech that very recently it was considered that a soldier could become a radioman or operator second and first class only during his first and second year, respectively, of service. This notion has been changed. During the past training year, in the podrazdeleniye commanded by Sr. Lt. I. KONOVALOV, young soldiers have undertaken the obligation to become operators first class by the end of their first year of service. Veteran servicemen and officers have come to their aid, and that which had previously seemed impossible was achieved. The young soldiers kept their word. During this training year, the experience of the podrazdeleniye commanded by Sr. Lt. KONOVALOV is being adopted by other podrazdeleniya and chasti.

The increased creative activity of soldiers, sergeants, and officers, the broad scope of socialist competition for new successes in combat training, the outstanding mastery of techniques, and the strengthening of military discipline are all the direct result of the appreciable enlivening of all party-political and inner-party work in the chasti after the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU. Party organizations are now delving more resolutely into the life and combat training of chasti and podrazdeleniya.

Of course, in the work of the district party organizations, there are still many shortcomings which were correctly subjected to sharp criticism at the conference. Not everywhere has the personal excellence of Communists been achieved in the struggle for high standards in combat training, for mastering technical skills, and for resolutely strengthening military discipline. In some podrazdeleniya, industrious work with people in organizing socialist competition is replaced by noisiness and showmanship. Those party organizations and Communists who year after year are satisfied with average, fair standards were severely criticized. Righteous indignation to such a situation was sounded in the speeches of A. P. DMITRIYEV and Gen. K. N. GALITSKIY, commander of troops of the district.

Comrade GALITSKIY said that we must now proceed, not from the successes achieved in the past, but from the constantly growing requirements and perspectives for the development of the military cause. We cannot be satisfied now with average, fair evaluations. Moreover, we have no right to rest content on good

standards. It is time to stop marking time. We must take a new and resolute step forward, and go on to new boundaries in combat perfection.

Reach the Heart and Mind of Each Serviceman!

In the phrase of profound meaning, "Now we cannot work in accordance with the old ways," which was uttered by a delegate, the main topic of the conference was expressed: The desire of the Communists to go steadily forward, to eliminate everything obsolete, to resolve questions in accordance with the new, and to use more fully the reserves in training and educating servicemen.

The ideological work of political organs and party organizations was examined from this standpoint at the conference. The communists stressed the great significance of the decree of the Central Committee CPSU "On the Tasks of Party Propaganda Under Contemporary Conditions," in which the program of ideological work is set forth.

In the address of comrade IVASHCHENKO, it was noted that after the decisions of the 21st Party Congress, political organs and party organizations of the district improved ideological work somewhat. It is particularly significant that in party-political and educational work, as well as in the life and activities of the troops, a new, responsible spirit of the times is emerging. Thus, schools of agitators have been broadly deployed, and universities and lecturing bureaus of culture, lecturing bureaus of science and technology, literary societies, amateur film studios, and studios of fine arts have sprung up. All these new things are justifying themselves.

However, in the education of servicemen and in party-political work, there are still many serious shortcomings which hinder successful fulfillment of the tasks which stand before the chasty and podrazdeleniya.

The most substantial shortcoming, as before, is the failure to surmount completely the separation of political propaganda from life and from the practical tasks of combat and political training. It is frequently of an abstract, purely instructive nature and lacks concreteness and purposefulness, and therefore its efficiency is very poor. Communist Yu. P. SOLODOV called attention to this shortcoming in his speech. He stressed that some propagandists forget the main aspect of propaganda -- its efficiency -- and they evaluate work generally on the number of measures taken, and not on their results. In the chasty in which A. VEDEN'YEV is party bureau secretary, dozens of lectures and reports are given each month, and talks and other measures are organized, but they are usually not linked directly with the tasks of the unit and therefore are of little influence in resolving them.

Many shortcomings in ideological work are explained by the fact that the district Political Administration, particularly its Agitprop Section, is poorly guiding this important sector of party activities. P. I. USACHEV, a conference delegate, sharply criticized the Agitprop Section because its workers are seldom found in the chasti and podrazdeleniya and they organize few lectures on theoretical questions. It should be noted that in comrade IVASHCHENKO'S address, the ideological work of the political organs and the party organizations of the district was analyzed quite deeply. The tasks in this field are now particularly great and responsible.

Speaking at the conference were S. A. TOVMASYAN, first secretary of the Party Central Committee Armenian SSR, and Col. Gen. P. I. YEFIMOV, first deputy chief of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy.

Those who participated in the conference included G. I. KADAGIDZE and F. D. DUMBADZE, secretaries of the Party Central Committee Georgian SSR; A. S. BAYRAMOV, secretary of the Party Central Committee Azerbaijan SSR; G. S. DZOTSENIDZE, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet Georgian SSR; Ye. A. KOCHINYAN, chairman of the Council of Ministers Armenian SSR; and Marshal of Artillery V. I. KAZAKOV.

XI. TURKESTAN MILITARY DISTRICT

CONFIDENCE

Krasnaya zvezda, Vol. 37,
No. 31, 7 February 1960,
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Col. V. STARITSYN
Lt. Col. P. KUDINOV

The conference is convened in strict solemnity. The restrained hum of voices subsides. The faces of the delegates are serious, concentrated. The tan of many of them has not been removed by the winter. The sun and the wind on the sandy hills and the mountain slopes are doing their work.

Communists from troops defending the southern boundaries of the Motherland have gathered here, at the district Officer's Club. Their business and thoughts are imbued with the great patriotic feeling of tireless concern for the Motherland. In the address of Lt. Gen. Ye. Ye. MAL'TSEV, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Administration of the Turkestan Military District, and in speeches of participants in the discussion, shortcomings were sharply criticized, weaknesses were evaluated in a principled manner, and experience was examined in detail. In all the speeches, the thought which stood out was that of increased sharpening of vigilance and higher combat readiness of the troops.

In discussing the condition of party-political work in the light of the decisions of the 21st Party Conference, the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU, and the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, the delegates paid particular attention to the tasks of the troops in connection with the new, sizable reduction of the Soviet armed forces. They expressed a deep understanding of the importance and necessity of the decisions made by the party and government, and voiced the feelings and sentiments of all our servicemen.

A Test for Firmness

Life teaches us that the more difficult the circumstances, the more completely are the qualities of the man disclosed. Persons who are weak by nature and without firm moral principles become flustered and shirk difficulties. No matter what shrouds they use to disguise themselves, or how they try to give an appearance, an encounter with serious tests inevitably discloses their spineless nature and quickly indicates their worthless value. But persons who are steadfast by nature, firm in their convictions, and pure in their intentions, no matter how unassuming and ordinary they are in their everyday existence, when encountered by tests of life display the virtues of character which are the true beauties of man.

This was the case at the front, and it is the case during peaceful times.

A major with the blue collar tabs of an airman took the rostrum at the conference. He spoke sparingly and discretely, but he received friendly applause. The delegates felt that here was a strong man.

Nikolay Vasil'yevich GLAZOV had entered the army during World War II. He became a fighter pilot, and was a flight commander during engagements in the Kursk salient. But later, serious wounds compelled him to transfer to transport aviation. In 1946, due to his health, Sr. Lt. GLAZOV, commander of a detachment of transport aviation, was discharged to the reserves.

The question arose as to where and with whom to go. A serious crisis entered GLAZOV'S life, for he had no specialty other than flying. After discussing the situation with his wife, he went to a plant in search of a job. He stated to the personnel department that he had been a pilot, but that he had also become accustomed to technology. He asked to be taught to operate a machine-tool.

Thus the commander of an air detachment became a student machinist, later a machinist, and still later, as a result of persistent labor and an honorable attitude toward the cause, GLAZOV quickly acquired the prestige of an advanced producer. After a short time, he was promoted to the position of chief of the plant's mechanical shop.

One day in 1952, GLAZOV was called in to the military commissariat, and the subsequent conversation stirred him greatly. The medical commission had concluded that his health had been completely restored, and they offered to return him to military aviation.

What should he do? Aviation had been out of his life for 6 years.

GLAZOV'S wife, Vera Aleksandrovna, a former parachute packer and now a linotypist, knew her husband well enough to foresee the only possible decision for him. She therefore suggested that he go, that he was capable of doing it. GLAZOV was thankful for this.

And so GLAZOV was again outfitted in an air force uniform. The Communist-serviceman set out as a pilot to learn to fly jet aircraft. His military path apparently began from the beginning, but it only seemed like this from outer appearances. His experience at the front, his labor skills, and his ability to organize collectives quickly spoke for themselves. The Communists soon elected GLAZOV secretary of the squadron party organization. He later became the squadron's deputy commander for political affairs. In 1957, he was promoted to commander of the podrazdeleniye.

GLAZOV commanded the squadron for 3 years, during which the podrazdeleniye was outstanding. As an advanced commander-Communist, he was sent as a delegate to the district party conference.

He now stands at the conference rostrum and leisurely talks about the intense labor of the airmen, the education of youthful pilots, and about comrades BOYKO, TIMONIN, KORZH, and SIMONOV, the best officers of the squadron. People advance fast, and GLAZOV is advancing with everyone else. He wears on his chest the badge of pilot first class.

"We are always ready to fulfill our military duty," he says. "And if we, the pilots, are requested to master rocket techniques, we try to cope with this task honorably. And if it becomes necessary to send us into industry, we will also be able to conduct ourselves in a worthy manner."

We can be confident that persons such as Maj. GLAZOV will endure any test for firmness.

What of the Youth?

Many delegates spoke of the great patriotic enthusiasm engendered in the chasti by the decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR. An overwhelming mass of servicemen understand correctly that there must not be the slightest slackening of efforts or abatement of attention to the cause entrusted to them, or the slightest underestimation of the significance and importance of military service.

Delegate V. I. SEMIN reported at the conference that, in answer to the decision of the session, the personnel of an unidentified chasti undertook the obligation of making the chasti outstanding by the end of 1960. We were interested in the details. We learned that Sgt. SAYUNGARAYEV, secretary of the company party organization, an outstanding serviceman, and squad commander, had made this suggestion at a meeting. Sr. Lt. DONSKOV, a Communist and platoon commander, supported him, and the suggestion was met with warm response. The battery began to undertake increased obligations, and the movement which was conceived by the mass of servicemen is already showing noticeably in all matters.

"Our chasti is now located at a training center," said delegate D. G. BOL'SHAKOV. "We came directly from there, and can assure the conference that the servicemen understood correctly their tasks in connection with the decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR. They are successfully carrying out their firing."

In noting the patriotic enthusiasm engendered by the session among the soldiers, sergeants, and officers, delegates N. A. IVANOV, Yu. V. VOTINTSEV, and V. A. TYUREV spoke of the new demands made by life as regards party-political work and the practice of educating servicemen.

Special attention must be given to young officers and to an individual approach to them. There are cases in which some young officers are not capable of understanding circumstances which arise, do not understand correctly their perspectives, and lose interest in military service. It is very important to give them assistance in time, dissuade them from their mistaken views, caution them against disloyal steps, and point out worthy examples to them.

One does not have to go far for such examples, they are everywhere. At a meeting of the aktiv of commissioned personnel, Sr. Lt. El'gizar SAFIULIN, commander of a tank platoon and a Communist, spoke. He said: "I am 23 years old and have served in the army for a short time. But I love the strict and precise military service, and I find my romance and beauty in it. I devote all my strength to the platoon which I command, and I am very pleased that the soldiers and sergeants meet me halfway with open hearts. We have made our platoon outstanding with friendly efforts. I certify that the aktiv will be outstanding henceforth. But if the Motherland and the party demand that I retire to the reserves, I will go to the virgin lands and will work honorably as a mechanic."

Sr. Lt. El'gizar SAFIULIN is a worthy representative of the officer youth of the Soviet Army.

A Proper Frame of Mind

It was noted at the conference that by studying the materials of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, the servicemen are strengthening still more their ties with the workers.

Delegates D. G. BOL'SHAKOV, V. Kh. LAPIN, and N. BAYKENOV correctly indicated that these ties must be expanded, and that they must stress the blood relationship between the army and the people and inspire the servicemen to outstanding service for the Motherland.

A speaker gave the experience of the Tashkent Tank School a positive evaluation. We visited the school and were told of a great number of interesting meetings.

The company of students commanded by Maj. FOMICHEV visited the cotton growers at the Kolkhoz imeni N. S. KHRUSHCHEV. Maj. FOMICHEV unexpectedly met Ziyamat IRMATOV, with whom he had graduated from school during World War II. Reserve officer IRMATOV is now working at the kolkhoz.

The friends embraced one another and began reminiscing and asking questions. The students and kolkhoz members who were standing around them in a close circle could not restrain pleased smiles. Influenced by this meeting, the conversation in the club was especially cordial. They spoke not only about cotton, but also

about the combat valor of the participants in World War II. In speaking about former campaigns, the veterans called on the youth to love the Motherland ardently and to guard it vigilantly against the enemies.

A direct encounter with life at plants and kolkhozes promotes the condition whereby students study with great confidence in their own destiny. We asked Vladimir ZAMULENKO, a student in the final course, about his frame of mind. ZAMULENKO, an outstanding serviceman in his studies and secretary of the company Komsomol organization, stated that he was in a proper frame of mind. When asked about his comrades, he stated that they also were in the proper frame of mind and that they were all trying to be good officers.

In asking about the frame of mind of the students, we learned of one instance which eloquently speaks for itself.

Shortly after publication of the materials of the session, three students were called before the school council. One of them was not sufficiently disciplined, and the other two had no time for their studies. All three were asked whether they wished to leave the school.

Their countenances changed, and each of them asked to be permitted to continue his studies and to become officers. The council believed in the sincerity of their assertions, the students were retained in school, and assistance was provided for those who have difficulties in their studies.

The students and future officers are filled with youthful enthusiasm and cheerfulness. They are ready to stand at their combat post as long as necessary for the Motherland.

The Best Sign

Other questions arising in connection with the sizable reduction in the Soviet armed forces were discussed at the conference. Delegates P. I. ZALIZYUK and P. K. ZIMIN spoke of measures which must provide for organization in discharge to the reserves and in retirement. Delegates K. KARIMOV and M. A. SADYROV dwelt on the work of military commissariats.

The tasks which evolved from the decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR were discussed in the speeches of Gen. I. I. FEDYUNINSKIY, commander of troops of the district; and Maj. Gen. I. F. KHALIPOV, deputy chief of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy.

At the concluding session, the delegates approved with great enthusiasm the text of the salutatory letter to the Central Committee CPSU.

The conference was concluded. Participating in it were Sh. R. RASHIDOV, first secretary of the Party Central Committee Uzbek SSR; F. Ye. TITOV, second secretary of the Central Committee

Uzbek SSR; A. ALIMOV, chairman of the Council of Minister Uzbek SSR; and representatives of party organs of the Kazakh, Tadzhik, Turkman, and Kirghiz SSRs.

The delegates are departing, and we are headed for one of the soyedineniya. Here, as everywhere, intense military life goes on.

A tank platoon commanded by Lt. PUGACHEV, a young Communist, has just returned from the firing ground. All the planned firing was completed in an outstanding manner by the platoon crews and by Nikolay PUGACHEV himself.

A motorized infantry company commanded by Capt. PINCHUK, a Communist, arrived from the training center. The company had also been outstanding.

The officers are preoccupied with their work, and their energy is growing. This is the best sign of a good frame of mind and of the firm confidence of the people.

XII. URAL MILITARY DISTRICT

DEVOTE PRIMARY ATTENTION TO UNFULFILLED TASKS:

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Col. B. DRUZHININ

The 11th Party Conference of the Ural Military District has completed its work. Lt. Gen. V. R. BOYKO, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Administration, gave an address at the conference.

BOYKO, delegates A. I. KOL'TSOV, Ye. V. KORSHUNOV, A. P. KHRUSHCHEV, A. I. DMITRIYEV, I. F. KURILOV, and others spoke of the fact that in the past, commanders, political organs, and party organizations have improved their work by means of the ideological education of servicemen and by improving their combat skill and the organization of socialist competition.

Besides exchanging their leading experience, the delegates of party organizations concentrated their main attention on unresolved questions and criticized shortcomings in work. Serious anxiety was caused by the fact that in the district, there are podrazdeleniya in which the standard of combat training is characterized only by satisfactory evaluations. The work of strengthening military discipline is conducted poorly in a number of construction detachments.

Conference delegates also spoke of the vital necessity to pay great attention to the education of Communists in such party qualities as principle, modesty, and exactingness for themselves and their subordinates.

Speaking at the conference were A. P. KIRILENKO, a candidate member of the Presidium of the Central Committee CPSU and first secretary of the Sverdlovskaya Oblast Party Committee; Marshal of Artillery S. S. VARENTISOV; Gen D. D. LELYUSHENKO, commander of troops of the district; and Lt. Gen. M. Kh. KALASHNIK, deputy chief of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy.

Also participating in the conference were A. F. YESHTOKIN, secretary of the Sverdlovskaya Oblast Party Committee; A. M. GOLOVACHEV, secretary of the Permskaya Oblast Party Committee; and V. A. MOSKVIN, secretary of the Kurganskaya Oblast Party Committee.

XIII. GROUP OF SOVIET FORCES IN GERMANY

VIGILANCE IS OUR WEAPON

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page 2

Lt. Col. M. YERZUNOV
Lt. Col. A. KOTENEV

The 5th Party Conference was a great event in the life of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany. It was similar in nature to the crowded meeting of persons who had arrived from various sectors of the broad front in order to discuss the tasks of the further improvement of the combat efficiency of the troops. Although these people wore no green field shoulder straps, and the bright floodlights which illuminated the portrait of the great Lenin in the spacious hall had not been present at the front, there was nevertheless a resemblance. The resemblance was also felt in the nature of the speeches and the anxiety which is seen expressed on the faces of persons who have just returned from fulfilling a responsible mission.

Here is the boundary which separates the old world from the new. On the land where the swastika once ruled lies the main line of defense of the socialist camp. Soviet servicemen stationed here can sense it every day and every hour.

Each of them feels more sharply the necessity of keeping their powder dry and of always being on the alert. It is no accident that the thoughts expressed at the conference concerning a further increase in revolutionary vigilance and combat readiness were completely understood and supported by the delegates. The delegates gave stormy applause to the address by Col. Gen. S. P. VASYAGIN, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Administration of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, who said:

"Let us assure our Leninist Central Committee and its first secretary, Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev, that under the new conditions and at the new stage of the building of the armed forces, the Communists and the entire personnel of the chasty and soyedineniya of the Group of Forces will raise more persistently the combat readiness of the troops and will guard more vigilantly the state interests of our great socialist Motherland and its loyal friends."

It was difficult for the speakers to keep within the strict 15-minute time limit in telling of their work experiences and of the patriotic aspirations of the servicemen to serve the Motherland with all their efforts. A driver-mechanic discharged to the reserves asked his commander to retain him for 2 more weeks in the regiment, so that he could drive his tank during winter operations. Later, he went home with a clear conscience. A sergeant broke out of the hospital in order not to let his squad down, and to help

the company to become outstanding. Can one enumerate all the examples of the high conscientiousness and selflessness of the troops, which are growing each day in army life? Commanders, political organs, and party organizations of chastis and podrazdeleniya are skillfully directing the patriotic gusto of the servicemen in the necessary channels. Just as drops flow into brooks and brooks into rivers, so the patriotic aspirations of individuals are transformed into an appreciable force. In the group of forces, the numbers of rated specialists and outstanding servicemen in training are steadily growing, and the number of outstanding podrazdeleniya and chastis is increasing.

But these successes, great as they are, did not arouse complete satisfaction at the conference. The unwritten law of the Communist is to work better now than yesterday, and tomorrow better than today. This is why the speeches of I. Ye. BOGDANOV, A. G. RYASKOV, A. F. MARCHENKO, and many other delegates were imbued with the task of new successes in combat and political training. An appeal for new successes in perfecting combat skills was made in the speech of Marshal of the Soviet Union M. V. ZAKHAROV, commander-in-chief of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany. In analyzing the condition of party-political work, the delegates discussed broadly what must be done, and which forms and methods of party influence are to be used in order to raise still higher the status of combat training of the troops and to guard reliably the state interests of the Motherland.

As was stressed at the conference, the most effective results were achieved by those party organizations which show urgency and boldness in formulating questions, and which actively delve into the thick of regimental life. Characteristic in this regard are the activities of the party organization of the best chastis in the Group of Forces, of which Maj. Ya. VLASOV is secretary. It delves deeply and actively into all aspects of the training and education process. Once, in one of the companies, a tank and infantry training operation was held on a low methodical level. This immediately alarmed the party organization, and members of the party bureau who were qualified officers-methodologists visited the company. They thoroughly delved into the reasons for the lagging and gave the inexperienced officers on-the-spot assistance.

There is another typical example. One year ago, at the previous party conference, several correct, critical remarks were made in this hall concerning the Communists of the party organization of one of the soyedineniya. Although training conditions were poor here, and there were serious indulgences and simplifications in combat training, the Communists accepted this situation and did not act as genuine organizers of the masses. Now, this soyedineniye is again being discussed, but this time from a different aspect.

After the correct criticism at the conference, the Communists reorganized matters. The party aktiv and the entire party organization were alerted. The Communists began resolving the task of improving the quality of combat training, not, as before, by appeals and discussions on the importance of field training, but by painstaking work directly within the chasty and podrazdeleniya. They concentrated their efforts on conducting each training activity in an instructive and organized manner, so that there would not be the least indulgence in training, and so that not one minute of precious training time would be wasted. Speeches by the best methodologists-gunners were organized, firing conferences were held, and the experiences of outstanding servicemen in training were broadly popularized. Thus, the soyedeniye had overcome its lagging and become an advanced unit.

The conference speakers noted that not all party organizations are really delving into the combat training of troops. Some party heads think that delving into questions of combat training consists in discussing them at bureau meetings. For instance, try to accuse the party bureau of an unidentified chasty of allowing some matter involving combat training to escape their control. Comrade KRUTYAKOV, the party bureau secretary, will show you reports which verify that the bureau has discussed field training, preparation fire, and physical hardening. But the matter went no further than this. It is no accident that the training standards are lower here than in neighboring units.

Individual commanders are also guilty of the fact that some party organizations do not delve deeply into the combat training of servicemen. They do not always direct the party organizations toward solving the tasks which stand before the chasty. Moreover, some commanders painfully grasp criticism of shortcomings in the organization of combat training, fearing that this criticism could "undermine" their authority. For instance, after a meeting at which the Communists disclosed serious shortcomings in combat training, Lt. Col. VALEYEV, commander of the podrazdeleniye, declared:

"I am the master in the podrazdeleniye, and nobody has the right to criticize my service activities."

Frequently, as several conference delegates indicated in their speeches, commanders and political workers are separated by papers from lively army activities. Paper leadership sometimes simply assumes an anecdotic character. Maj. PANOV, secretary of the party organization of a chasty, and Sr. Lt. YEPISHKIN, secretary of the Komsomol organization, work in the same office. A letter arrives from the political organ, located nearby, for the party bureau secretary. It contains the decision of a meeting of the Komsomol aktiv and the instructions to "fulfill and report." The party bureau secretary writes on the paper, "to comrade YEPISHKIN for fulfillment." However, YEPISHKIN, imitating his senior, also could not resist the temptation to put his handwriting on the paper,

and he wrote on a corner: "Taken into consideration." He then locked the paper in a box and went on leave, and the decision was not fulfilled. This is the result of a lack of organizational work among the masses, and its replacement by the paper method of leadership.

Much was mentioned at the conference about ideological work among the troops and about how better to fulfill the decree of the Central Committee CPSU "On the Tasks of Party Propaganda Under Contemporary Conditions." The speakers stressed that the propaganda of Marxist-Leninist ideology among the troops of the Group of Forces has acquired a more lively, direct character. Sunday readings, universities and lecturing bureaus on culture, agitators' schools, question-and-answer evenings, youth debates, oral newspapers, and amateur film studios have been broadly used in mass-political work. The matter of educating servicemen in the spirit of friendship with the workers of East Germany has improved. Loyal to the principle of socialist internationalism, the servicemen value Soviet-German friendship and hold highly the honor and dignity of a Soviet citizen.

Gratifyingly, it was noted at the conference that a large number of senior officers were included in the ideological work. These consisted of commanders of chastis and soyedineniya and staff workers, including the Field Administration of the Group of Forces. However, there are still officers and generals who merely give instructions on the development of ideological work but do not participate in it themselves.

"Many examiners have come to our chastis, but not one of them has given a lecture or a report," said Capt. N. I. VORONTSOV.

The separation of ideological work from life and from the tasks resolved by the troops has not yet been overcome.

Delegates V. S. ZHABIN, N. S. KONCHIS, and M. A. BELOUSOV spoke of intensifying individual work with the servicemen. There are still officers who are poorly studying their subordinates and who at times do not have a rudimentary picture of them. Such a fact was presented at the conference. Recently, at a report and elections meeting, G. YELISEYEV, a political worker, nominated an officer for the party bureau staff who turned out to be a party candidate. When he realized his mistake, YELISEYEV, in the form of a "correction," nominated a second person, this time a non-party company commander.

Maj. Gen. V. A. GREKOV, chief of the Party Organization Administration of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy, devoted his speech to pertinent questions of party work in the light of current requirements for the armed forces.

Marshal of the Soviet Union R. Ya. MALINOVSKIY, Minister of Defense USSR, gave a long speech at the conference. He spoke about the urgent tasks which stand before the Communists of the Group of Forces; improvement in the level of party-political work; development

in every way possible of criticism and self-criticism, which must serve the purpose of strengthening the Armed Forces; and education of the servicemen in the spirit of revolutionary vigilance, constant combat readiness, and boundless devotion to our beloved Motherland.

The conference accepted with enthusiasm a letter to the Central Committee CPSU, in which the delegates, in the name of the servicemen of the Group of Forces, assured the party that they, who are in the front line of defense of the socialist camp, are fulfilling with honor the tasks laid upon them.

XIV. NORTHERN GROUP OF FORCES

COMPETITION IS A GREAT FORCE

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page 2

Lt. Col. A. DENYUSHKIN
Maj. P. OSADCHENKO

The party conference of the Northern Group of Forces lasted 2 days. It was held under conditions of high political activity, for the purpose of further rallying the army Communists around the Leninist Central Committee CPSU and increasing the vigilance and combat readiness of the troops.

Col. Gen. F. F. KUZNETSOV, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Administration, and conference delegates noted that during the period which has lapsed since the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU and the 21st Party Conference, the political organs and party organizations have had increased influence in resolving tasks of combat training and military discipline. Commanders, staffs, political organs, and party organizations are now working in closer contact and are directing their combined forces toward successful fulfillment of worthwhile tasks.

Many speakers stressed that the achievement of successes in training greatly promotes a broadly developed socialist competition in the chastí and podrazdeleniya. The battalion commanded by Lt. Col. KUCHER was cited as one of the best. During the past training year, the personnel of this battalion made outstanding showings in combat and political training. The battalion produced many specialists first-class, rated sportsmen, and true experts in military matters. Communists invariably play a leading role in training, service, and discipline. They are the true leaders of the soldier's masses, and initiators of all the best undertakings.

In speaking at the party conference, Communist KUCHER indicated that questions of competition are always at the center of attention of party organizations. Communists broadly publicize the achievements of leading persons, and they popularize and spread their experiences.

The name of Capt. RYAZANOV is known widely among the chastí of the Group of Forces. The company which he commands was an initiator of socialist competition for outstanding podrazdeleniya. The personnel undertook the obligation of training 5-6 tank-driver experts. The servicemen of other podrazdeleniya have undertaken this patriotic initiative.

The wave of competition has also caught the airmen. Following the example of the tankmen, in the squadron commanded by Maj. SAKOV, they resolved that all pilots, navigators, technicians, and radio gunners are to become rated specialists, and those who are specialists

are to raise themselves one step. The airmen were obliged to fulfill all flight missions with the rating of "outstanding" or "good," take an active part in innovation and inventiveness, struggle for economy of materials, and master contiguous specialties.

Along with the favorable features in organizing and developing socialist competition, the conference delegates noted serious shortcomings. Officer DEMIDENKO, secretary of the party organization, correctly criticized in his speech the Communists of one squadron who, after undertaking their socialist obligations, did not achieve their practical fulfillment. Comrade DEMIDENKO stressed that in the squadron they had forgotten the basic principle of competition: "The promise has been given -- keep it!"

Brought up at the conference was the fact that some Communists of the party organization in which Comrade Zimovtsev is party bureau secretary had inexcusably neglected preparation fire and had not attached sufficient importance to the training of gunners and loaders. Only through the active intervention of the commander and the party bureau of the chasty was this abnormal condition corrected.

The conference delegates criticized sharply and in a principled manner the shortcomings in ideological work and in the ideological content of political instruction, party enlightenment, and the Marxist-Leninist training of officers. For example, Lt. MILEKHIN, in political instruction with the servicemen on the topic, "Always Be in Combat Readiness," spent 2 hours talking in detail about the origin of the imperialist blocs, and there was no time left for the group head to explain the concrete tasks of the personnel.

This and other examples indicate that the separation of ideological work from life and from the training of the servicemen has not yet been overcome. It was also pointed out that mass agitation measures do not envelop the entire personnel. The soldiers and sergeants of small podrazdeleniya, supply services, and other services frequently are excluded from daily ideological-political education.

Party organizations have begun to develop more concretely the rank and file of the party, and to educate young Communists. Last year, the number of party groups in companies, squadrons, and their equivalents increased somewhat. An example of this is the battery in which comrade SHADRIN serves, and in which the party group consists of ten Communists. They are all outstanding in combat and political training, and are among the leading servicemen in socialist competition. The Communists are conducting great educational work among the soldiers and sergeants, and one fourth of them have been elected to the Komsomol bureau.

At the same time, in some party organizations, there is not sufficient concern over the development of the rank and file in the party. Among the troops, there are many podrazdeleniya which have no party groups.

The delegates correctly criticized the work style of the Political Administration of the Group of Forces.

"Workers of the Political Administration," said comrade TIMOSHUK, a delegate, "are doing a poor job of teaching work practice with people to the local party and Komsomol aktiv. This has a negative influence on the activities of young secretaries of party and Komsomol organizations."

The delegates gave a great deal of attention to questions of educating the servicemen in the sense of international duty, fraternal friendship, and combat comradeship. It was noted that among the troops, lectures and reports on Polish-Soviet friendship are read systematically; Komsomol-youth evenings and meetings with servicemen of the Polish troops and with workers of the republic are being organized; and trips to historical places, factories and plants, and agricultural cooperatives are being undertaken. The delegates stressed the necessity to strengthen henceforth the international ties between the Soviet and Polish servicemen, who are guarding the safety of the peoples of the socialist camp.

Speaking at the conference were Col. Gen. G. I. KHETAGUROV, commander of the Northern Group of Forces; P. A. ABRASIMOV, USSR Ambassador Extraordinary to the Polish People's Republic; and Gen. F. I. GOLIKOV, chief of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy.

XV. SOUTHERN GROUP OF FORCES

ALL FORCES SERVE THE MOTHERLAND

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No. 29, 5 February 1960,
page 3

Lt. Col. G. SUSLIN

The party conference of the Southern Group of Forces has been held. It was conducted in an organized, highly businesslike manner, and was dedicated to Bolshevik criticism and self-criticism of shortcomings. The conference demonstrated the indissoluble solidarity of the army Communists who are serving across the border of our Motherland and around the Communist Party and its Leninist Central Committee. The conference delegates discussed the address of Maj. Gen. G. Ya. MARCHENKO, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Administration, concerning the condition of party-political work and measures for its further improvement in the light of the decisions of the 21st Party Conference, the October Plenum of the Party Central Committee, and the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR. A report on the work of the group Party Commission was given by Col. G. A. ANTONOV. Thirty delegates spoke during discussion of the reports. The conference delegates centered their attention on questions of the work of commanders, political organs, and party organizations in further improving the quality of combat training and intensifying combat readiness.

The personnel of the Group of Forces are fulfilling their military duties with honor and dignity. The speakers noted that in 1959, many chasti rose to a new level in their combat perfection. The number of outstanding servicemen in combat and political training increased almost twofold, the number of expert drivers increased threefold, and a large group of rated specialists and sportsmen was created.

The delegates listened with great interest to the speech of comrade V. I. IVANOV, party bureau secretary of an unidentified tank chasti. Last year, this chasti earned the right to be called outstanding, and it was awarded the challenge Red Banner of the Military Council of the Group of Forces. The successes of the tankmen did not come of their own accord. They were the result of the persistent work of the commanders, political workers, and the party organization.

In a businesslike manner and in accordance with the state, the participants at the conference evaluated the results obtained in the light of the new requirements, and spoke with party concern about the tasks before them. Unanimously approving the historical decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, they

expressed their resoluteness to improve constantly the combat readiness of the troops and to resolve in a more creative manner the tasks of combat perfection.

This is all the more important, since in the new training year, shortcomings in field training, tactical training, and preparation fire have already been disclosed in a number of chastis. Some officers are carried away with class studies and make poor preparations for departure to the field. At some tank podrazdeleniya, the struggle for improving ratings and creating driving experts is poorly conducted.

Delegate I. P. SUBBOTIN said in his speech that none of us can be satisfied with average results. Our duty is to consolidate and extend the successes of outstanding chastis and podrazdeleniya, to take a firm step forward, and to take new lines. The achievements of some must not serve to conceal the inactivity of others.

In sharing these thoughts, Communists A. N. BYKOV, Ye. V. KOLESSA, G. G. ZAYTSEV, A. N. STEPANYUK, and others spoke of the fact that all the conditions and possibilities are available to put an end to irregularities in the combat training of chastis. The one thing necessary for this is the ability to mobilize the personnel in struggling for high standards in training, to bring the slackers up to the level of the leaders, to guide concretely socialist competition, to support mass patriotic undertakings, and to struggle persistently to improve the ratings of the servicemen, including the commanders and political workers.

High combat readiness is impossible without firm military discipline. The speakers noted that the condition of military discipline among the personnel has improved. It was stressed at the conference that the struggle for the further strengthening of military discipline and the single command must henceforth be the topic of unabated attention of all commanders, political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations. It can be achieved by increasing exactingness, improving work with people, strengthening the ties of the commanders, political workers, and party organizations with the personnel, increasing the role of the public, and strictly observing the principles of disciplinary practice.

In the address and many of the speeches, the thought which stood out was that of the necessity to improve the ideological work of party organizations in the light of the decisions of the 21st Party Congress and the decree of the Central Committee CPSU "On the Tasks of Party Propaganda Under Contemporary Conditions." I. N. TARNA, K. D. LAPTEV, and V. P. SOSNYUK shared valuable experience in explaining decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR.

But, as many delegates noted quite correctly, in conducting propaganda and agitation in some chastis, initiative and operativeness are lacking, particularly regarding questions of current political

life, and there is a separation from present-day requirements and from the practical tasks resolved by the servicemen. Some leading Communists, engineers, and technicians are still barely participating in ideological work. Many important sectors of the ideological front, such as clubs, Lenin rooms, and libraries are frequently without the necessary leadership of the commanders, political organs, and party bureaus. The conference delegates expressed a great deal of valuable advice, wishes, and recommendations for the improvement of the Marxist-Leninist training of officers, political studies with soldiers and sergeants, and party enlightenment.

Questions of inner-party work held an important spot at the conference. The delegates spoke of the importance of creating a party group in each company and battery, improving leadership over them, and increasing the responsibility of the party bureaus for educating the young Communists.

The delegates sharply raised questions on improving party leadership of the Komsomol. Delegate G. K. SMESHKOV convincingly pointed out how much Komsomol members can do if the party organization gives them daily guidance. It is significant that in this chasti, many communists are guiding Komsomol work in the capacity of secretaries of Komsomol organizations, members of the Komsomol bureau, and Komsomol organizers. The delegates stressed that the key to improving party leadership of the Komsomol is the strengthening of its party nucleus.

The delegates also concentrated much attention on the necessity to intensify the education of servicemen in the spirit of proletarian internationalism and to strengthen friendship with the workers of the Hungarian People's Republic and the servicemen of the Hungarian People's Army. The delegates noted with a feeling of gratitude that members of the bureau of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Worker's Party, heads of enterprises, scholars, and writers were appearing before the Soviet servicemen. After completion of the 7th Congress of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, delegates and participants in the congress spoke at all the posts.

Soviet servicemen are carrying highly the honor and dignity of defenders of the Motherland across the border, and are strengthening the ties of friendship with the Hungarian people. Delegate A. I. PUSHKIN told the participants in the conference about the noble deed of Capt. IVASHKIN, a pilot. One day recently, he quickly flew a helicopter to an ill Hungarian citizen and took him to the hospital, thereby saving his life.

This is not the only case. During just the past year, Soviet servicemen have done dozens of noble deeds in saving the lives of Hungarian citizens and the property of enterprises, state farms, and cooperatives threatened by fire and natural calamities.

The delegates noted that the education of the servicemen in the spirit of proletarian internationalism, friendship, and the brotherhood of peoples is one of the paramount tasks. Of great importance in this matter is the reading of lectures and reports on the successes of the Hungarian people in building socialism, and the study of the rich culture of the Hungarian People's Republic.

Speaking at the conference were P. N. ALEKSANDROV, an instructor for the Central Committee CPSU; Gen. M. I. KAZAKOV, commander of the Southern Group of Forces; and Gen. F. I. GOLIKOV, chief of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy.

Participating in the work of the conference were M. A. POPOV, temporary USSR charge d'affaires in Hungary; Marshal of Armored Troops M. Ye. KATUKOV; and Col. Gen. of Aviation F. A. AGAL'TSOV.

XVI. BAKU PVO DISTRICT

ALWAYS BE ON THE ALERT!

Krasnaya zvezda, Vol. 37,
No. 35, 12 February 1960,
page 2

Capt. A. Kulakov

At the center of attention of the party conference of the Baku PVO District were questions on the further improvement of the combat readiness of chasti and podrazdeleniya. In the address of Col. Gen. A. F. SHCHEGLOV, commander of troops of the district, and in the speeches of the delegates, a deep analysis was given of the activities of commanders, political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations, and shortcomings and omissions were subjected to sharp criticism.

Delegate I. D. SAAKOV, who serves in a leading chasti which was recently given the challenge Red Banner of the district Military Council, said in his speech, "Daily explanatory and organizational work and the personal example of Communists have played an important role in achieving successes. The overwhelming majority of our party and candidate party members are outstanding in combat and political training."

Be always on the alert and vigilantly guard the northern borders of the Motherland! This thought stood out in the speech of delegates Yu. V. KOROTKOV, V. P. KAZANTSER, V. I. BOCHENKOV, and others.

Also speaking at the conference were Col. Gen. of Aviation Ye. Ya. SAVITSKIY, Maj. Gen. of Aviation N. V. PETUKHOV, and V. Ye. SEMICHASTNYY, secretary of the Party Central Committee Azerbaijan SSR.

The conference delegates outlined measures for the improvement of party-political work among the troops of the district.

XVII. MOSCOW PVO DISTRICT

THE CENTRAL TASK IS COMBAT READINESS

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page 2

Lt. Col. N BORANENKOV
Lt. Col. Ye. SMOTRITSKIY

The 7th Party Conference of the Moscow PVO District has been concluded. While attending it, we recollected the previous, 6th Conference. We remembered many names, faces, names of chasti, and the emotional speeches of delegates.

Many complementary words had been spoken about the initiative and the fine undertakings of Communists YASHIN, SHASHANOV, SERGICHEV, ZAMOGIL'NYY, POLUEKTOV, and others.

Two years later, these representatives of party organizations again gathered at a district conference. Among them, we met many acquaintances, both those who had been praised and those who had been named among the lagging.

What did the past 2 years bring them? Did the former succeed in consolidating their successes, and did the latter overcome their shortcomings? And what of those who were mentioned neither among the leading nor among the lagging?

The answer to these questions was given in the address of Lt. Gen. of Aviation N. D. ANTONOV, member of the Military Council and Chief of the district Political Administration, and in the speeches of the delegates.

Service among the troops of the PVO is not easy. Both day and night, the servicemen diligently protect the spaciousness of their native sky. Difficult as it may be, they know that it is necessary, that the party and the Motherland demand it, and that constant, high combat readiness is the point of their work.

ANTONOV said that in fulfilling the instructions of the Communist Party and Soviet Government, the servicemen of our district are constantly perfecting their military and political knowledge, strengthening discipline, and increasing from day to day the combat readiness of chasti and podrazdeleniya.

Inspired by the decisions of the December Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU and the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, they are making great efforts to resolve with honor the new tasks which stand before the Soviet armed forces.

Facts and figures serve as persuasive confirmation of these words. During the past year, the number of outstanding podrazdeleniya in the district increased 43 percent, there were 1.5 times more outstanding chasti, and the number of rated specialists increased, so that 44 percent of them are first and second class specialists.

The servicemen of the Moscow PVO District spoke as originators of many patriotic causes. Through their initiative, in particular, a struggle developed to detect radar stations of air targets at distances exceeding the norms, to improve the technical knowledge of flight personnel, and to pass exams for first-class ratings during the first year of service.

The struggle for reducing the periods for combat readiness was expanded especially broadly in a number of chasti. In some of the chasti, they learned twice as fast as the period established by the norms to apply the technique of the firing position.

However, as many delegates stated in their speeches, this is not the limit. There is every possibility to achieve even better results.

The creative searches, the courageous daring, and the painstaking work of the commanders, political organs, Communists, and Komsomols have been crowned with success. This year, the troops of the district have completely fulfilled their plan of combat and political training.

Among the best persons of the district who have skillfully organized the training and education of servicemen, we shall again hear the names of comrades YASHIN, SHASHANOV, and POLUEKTOV. They have again fulfilled their obligations with honor.

Several new names have also appeared among those of the leading servicemen. For instance, at the previous party conference, Communists KARPUSHKIN and VLASOV had been sharply criticized for shortcomings in increasing combat readiness. They promised to reorganize their work and, it must be said, they kept their word. These commanders are leaning on the party aktiv and are skillfully directing it in resolving practical tasks. Among the podrazdeleniya, the propaganda of technical knowledge has improved notably, and the role of the engineers and technicians in educating the personnel has been raised.

There are many examples in the district of the party attitude toward criticism and a genuine reorganization of the work style. At the same time, the party conference indicated that many important questions on which the further improvement of combat readiness depends have not yet been resolved.

Sr. Lt. GUSEV, a pilot, ascended into the sky. His time, flight course, and procedure for fulfilling his exercise had been established. However, officer GUSEV violated discipline and did not control the fuel consumption, and he suddenly discovered that the tanks were empty. He had to make a forced landing.

"Fortunately, both the pilot and the plans were unharmed," said delegate N. A. KOZLOV, "but it could have been worse." Each undisciplined act is harmful to combat readiness.

This thought was expressed many times by speakers at the party conference. Communists V. I. BYCHENKO, I. P. MIKHALEVICH, I. P. PAKHOMOV, and others spoke of the fact that some servicemen are violating regulations, are conducting themselves in an unworthy manner, and are negligent in fulfilling their service responsibilities.

This happens most often where educational work is poor and exactingness is low, and where liberalism and connivance have not been eliminated. Such a case was presented at the party conference. Last year, in the party organization of an unidentified chasti headed by comrade TKACHENKO, questions on strengthening discipline and combatting drunkenness were not discussed at all. Therefore, it is no accident that a large number of Communists and Komsomol members were included here among the violators of discipline.

"There is an entirely different picture," said delegate V. M. KRASKEVICH, "in those party organizations where the struggle for a leading role by all Communists is conducted in accordance with present circumstances, and where high demands are made of each of them. An example of this is the chasti in which comrade SAVVIN is party bureau secretary. Here, each Communist serves as a model in his conduct, and is a rated specialist.

The delegates noted that low military discipline is explained to a considerable degree by shortcomings in ideological work. It sometimes happens that a chasti of servicemen falls out completely from under the political influence of commanders and political workers.

The struggle for strengthening military discipline has not yet become a vital matter and an urgent necessity for each Communist.

"It must be confessed," said delegate V. I. BYCHENKO, "that there are comrades among us who, when in the chasti, limit their activities to a narrow circle of special matters. They delve into these matters very deeply. However, they do not consider it their obligation to talk with people and to learn of their thoughts and interests.

"A national work of wisdom reads, 'do not build a lock out of words,' and 'do not dam the river with words.' However, there are still workers who are ready not only to make dams with words, but to roll any living matter into them."

At this party conference, just as at the previous one, a serious conversation was held concerning those who love to speak and those who substitute organizational work with festive clattering, glorification, and paper work.

Each year, some commanders and political workers undertake high obligations with unusual ease and arrive at meetings, gatherings, and aktivs with wonderful assertions, and each year,

they fail to fulfill them. From year to year they promise to raise the level of organizational work and to raise sharply the combat readiness of the troops, and each year they fail to do this.

Delegate P. A. DOLGOPOLOV pointed out such a shortcoming in his speech. "The work of staff officers," he said, "must be perfected." Some comrades are so involved in their paper work that they cannot tear themselves away from their chairs and cannot find the time to acquaint themselves with the life of the troops. Is it not time to do away with such a style of leadership?

An aspiration to substitute a concrete, businesslike discussion of vivid, topical questions with glorification was detected in the speeches of some of the delegates. Some of them disclosed shortcomings superficially and made few suggestions. It must be regretted that in discussing the first address at the party conference, only one party bureau secretary spoke.

Speaking at the conference were Marshal of the Soviet Union S. S. BIRYUZOV, commander-in-chief of the PVO Troops of the USSR; and Maj. Gen. I. F. KHALIPOV, chief of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy. Participating in the work of the conference were Marshal of Artillery N. D. YAKOVLEV, first deputy Commander-in-Chief of the PVO Troops of the USSR; and S. M. BUTUSOV, secretary of the Moscow City Party Committee.

XVIII. BALTIC FLEET

MOST VITAL AND URGENT!

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page 2

Col. V. KHOVRIN
Col. V. MAKSYUK
Capt.-Lt. N. TROITSKIY

Under modern conditions, the impregnability of our western sea borders must be ensured more reliably. This thought penetrated all the work of the recently concluded party conference of the Red Banner Baltic Fleet.

The conference indicated that the fleet Communists understand correctly and profoundly their tasks under the conditions of the sizable reduction in our armed forces. This was vividly displayed during discussion of the address by Vice-Adm. Ya. G. POCHUPAYLO, member of the Military Council and chief of the fleet Political Administration, concerning conditions and measures for improving party-political work in the light of the decisions of the 21st Party Conference, the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU, and the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, and also during discussion of the account of the fleet Party Commission, rendered by Capt. 1st Rank I. P. SALTYKOV.

The delegates declared that the decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR have provoked within the ships and the chasti great patriotic enthusiasm and a growth of activity by the seamen in combat and political training.

Questions concerning the explanation and fulfillment of measures in the reduction of the armed forces are at the center of attention of commanders, political organs, and party organizations of the fleet. In resolving these questions, they constantly enjoy the active assistance of party and soviet organizations and all the workers of the Baltic republics and Kaliningradskaya Oblast. The fleet's strong ties with the people and the local population, which became more profound and varied after the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU, were reflected in the work of the party conference. Speakers at the conference, L. N. LENTSMAN, secretary of the Party Central Committee Estonian SSR; M. Yu. SHUMAUSKAS, chairman of the Council of Ministers Lithuanian SSR; and F. B. MARKOV, first secretary of the Kaliningradskaya Oblast Party Committee, disclosed to the seamen the very broad perspectives of economic development, particularly of the growth of the ship-building industry and the fishing fleet in the Baltics, and they spoke about what is being done by the local organizations to arrange for work and living accommodations for those servicemen discharged to the reserves.

Concern rang out with particular force in the address and speeches over the fact that the reduction in personnel of the fleet might result in carelessness and a slackening of vigilance and intensity of training among the seamen of some chasti. There are no such sentiments, nor can there be any where the commanders, political organs, and party organizations clearly understand their duties and responsibilities in the present situation and conduct their work in the spirit of the requirements of the Central Committee CPSU, by mobilizing all the personnel in successfully resolving the immediate tasks of combat and political training.

Party Influence Is Growing

The speakers presented many facts which convincingly testify to the fact that party organizations have begun to delve more deeply into all aspects of combat training and to render great help to commanders in mobilizing the personnel in fulfilling each training task with high standards. An important aspect of their activities is the generalization and expansion of the work of outstanding servicemen and rated specialists. The party organization of the submarine in which comrade BORZENKOV is party bureau secretary has accumulated many favorable results in this matter. Here, speeches were organized in which rated specialists speak to young seamen about their experiences in servicing mechanisms; and technical conferences and seminars on equipment of the ship, technical facilities, and weapons are held systematically. As a result, the number of first- and second-class specialists on the ship has recently increased more than twofold.

The growing role and influence of party organizations in all aspects of combat training are shown in the active struggle to ensure accident-free sailings and flights. An example of this are the activities of the party bureau of the air chasti in which comrade KORSHUNOV is secretary. After carefully studying the shortcomings acquired in the past, the party bureau helped the commander to improve organization of the flight and tactical training of the airmen. One of the squadrons was admitted to competitions for the prize of the Order of the Red Banner of the Baltic Fleet, and it took first place in torpedo releasing and second place in mine laying.

Under the new conditions, it is necessary to show still more party concern over improving combat readiness and increasing the number of outstanding ships, podrazdeleniya, servicemen, and rated specialists. Meanwhile, as was noted in the address and in the speeches of delegates, not all political organs and party organizations are conducting purposeful work directed toward improving the quality of combat training. For instance, two helicopter podrazdeleniya are under exactly the same conditions.

In one of them, all the tasks are fulfilled with high evaluations, and there have been no gross offenses for a long time. However, in the other one, in which comrade MORZHAKOV serves, there are many shortcomings in pilot training and violations of military discipline.

How can one explain that from year to year, some podrazdeleniya and ships achieve high standards in combat training, and others are lagging? In answering this question, the delegates stressed correctly that the main cause of lagging by some flights is the low level of organizational work of some commanders, political organs, and party organizations. Only because of a lack of the necessary organizational work and a formal attitude toward competition can it be explained that the obligations undertaken by some submarine crews have not been fulfilled.

An important condition for the further improvement of the combat readiness of ships and chastis is clear planning. However, there is still much serious negligence in this matter. One of the delegate-submariners said that a mass of supplementary instructions are attached to the established plan for combat readiness from the higher staffs. Consequently, time periods are broken and work regularity is violated, thereby leading to a poor quality of combat training.

Elimination of shortcomings in combat training is inseparably linked with the further strengthening of military discipline. The special importance of resolving this task for the Baltic Communists was forcefully stressed at the conference.

The delegates noted that political organs and party organizations do not always display a genuine, militant intolerance toward cases of laxity and violation of regulations, and in a number of instances they do not struggle resolutely against such evils as drunkenness. The party organization headed by comrade VENTSULIS displayed such a lack of concern.

The public of the fleet is playing a large role in strengthening military discipline. Facts were brought forth at the conference which testify to the favorable influence of strict censure by the collective over undisciplined servicemen. An absolute majority of servicemen who were re-educated through the active participation of the public have ceased to commit disciplinary violations, and regard conscientiously the fulfillment of their service responsibilities.

The delegates stressed the necessity to combine the high exactingness of commanders and political workers with an improvement in the political and military education of persons and with the powerful force of collective influence over violators of discipline.

The Force of Ideological Work Is in Its Ties With Life

Without an improvement in the quality of the ideological-political education of officers and the entire personnel, it is impossible to organize correctly training and service and constantly strengthen discipline and organization in the ships and chastis. Some leading workers of the Red Banner Baltic Fleet forget this indisputable truth.

Of course, since the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU, much has been done and is being done to raise the ideological level of political studies with seamen and petty officers, the Marxist-Leninist training of officers, and party enlightenment, and to improve mass agitation work. But on the whole, as was acknowledged in the address, the ideological work in the fleet does not yet meet the requirements of the 21st Party Conference and the decree of the Central Committee CPSU "On the Tasks of Party Propaganda Under Contemporary Conditions." Even at the conference itself, many vital questions of party propaganda, political enlightenment, and the education of seamen remained unanswered or were touched upon casually.

Until now, there have been commanders and political workers in the fleet who seldom gave lectures and reports to the seamen. Officers and communists AKIMOV, PROZOROV, and KUZ'MIN were criticized at the conference for not participating personally in educational work. The main shortcoming of party propaganda -- its separation from life and from the practice of combat and political training -- is slowly being overcome.

The delegates presented facts which testify to the poor efficiency of ideological work. Political organs and party organizations frequently procrastinate in reacting to the unworthy conduct of individual officers. The amoral conduct of Communist LEUT went unnoticed for a long time. One of the staff party organizations accepted the political immaturity of officer-Communist GORBACHEV, who finally lost his party qualities.

Delegate MOZGOV spoke of the necessity to educate tirelessly the seamen in the spirit of high political vigilance. Comrade STEPANOV, secretary of the trade-union committee of the fleet, noted in his speech the special importance of well-applied political-educational work among the workers.

The conference required that ideological work be improved in every way possible, and that all its forms be used broadly for mobilizing the seamen in further increasing vigilance and combat readiness.

Be Combat Organizers!

In discussing the practical tasks emanating from the decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, the delegates gave much attention to questions of further improving organizational and inner-party work. The beneficial influence of the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU was felt in all the activities of commanders, political workers, and party organizations.

Besides generalizing favorable experiences at the conference, a critical analysis was made of many serious shortcomings in the activities of political organs and party organizations. Formalism has not yet been completely eliminated in party work, and it is often poorly linked with the concrete tasks of training and educating the personnel.

The delegates noted a weakness in inner-party work in a number of staff and administrative party organizations, and they spoke of how vivid organizational activities are sometimes substituted by paper work, particularly in the administration in which comrade KALDYKIN is a political worker.

Reorganization of the work of the party organizations of an unidentified chast is going very slowly. In one of the podrazdeleniya, there have been no party meetings for 3-4 months. What can the militancy of a party organization be under such a situation? The work style of the officers of this political organ, particularly that of comrade LOBANOV, were sharply criticized at the conference.

Attempts by heads to administer individually have not yet been eliminated. Delegate ARVANOV presented one such outstanding case. Once, his chief, comrade MIROLYUBOV, called him by phone and ordered that comrade SHAPROV be dismissed from his responsibilities as secretary of the party organization. When ARVANOV declared that SHAPROV had been elected by the party collective, the administrator became enraged and repeated his order. The intervention of the Political Administration of the fleet was required to abate the domineering ardour of comrade MIROLYUBOV.

One of the serious shortcomings of inner-party work is the fact that in a number of soyedineniya and chast, party groups are created slowly on small ships and in podrazdeleniya and posts.

It must be said that, until recently, the Political Administration of the fleet paid little attention to this important aspect of party life.

Serious critical remarks were made at the conference concerning the staff and the Political Administration of the fleet. Delegate SLIVIN noted that the Political Administration was poorly engaged in generalizing and expanding experiences of party-political work. Delegate MATVEYEV criticized workers of the Political Administration for not delving deeply into matters while in the soyedineniye.

In thoroughly analyzing the activities of commanders, political organs, and party organizations, the delegates gave practical suggestions for eliminating shortcomings and for the further improvement of party-political work.

Speaking at the conference were N. R. MIRONOV, chief of a department of the Central Committee CPSU; Vice-Adm. V. M. GRISHANOV, deputy chief of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy; Vice-Adm. A. Ye. OREL, commander of the Red Banner Baltic Fleet; and Lt. Gen. N. S. DEMIN, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Administration of the Baltic Military District.

The conference delegates approved with great enthusiasm the salutatory letter to the Central Committee CPSU.

XIX. NORTHERN FLEET

NEW CONDITIONS, NEW REQUIREMENTS

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page 2

Lt. Col. N. FEDOTOV
Capt. 2nd Rank S. KHARLAMPIYEV
Capt. 3rd Rank P. PETRUKHIN

The northern seamen came to their party conference closely united around the Communist Party and its Leninist Central Committee. Confronted with the new tasks emanating from the decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, the fleet Communists are mobilizing the servicemen for increasing diligence in every way possible, and strengthening discipline and combat readiness. This was pointed out thoroughly in the address on the condition of party-political work and measures for its further improvement in the light of the decisions of the 21st Party Congress, the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU, and the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR. The address was given at the conference by Rear Adm. S. I. AVERCHUK, member of the Military Council and chief of the fleet Political Administration.

For High Combat Readiness

The decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, as noted at the conference, signify a new stage in the building of the armed forces. The firepower of the army and navy, consisting of the latest in science and technology, is growing. Under these conditions, the role of the person who uses combat technology and weapons is increasing still more. This is why commanders, political organs, and party organizations are actively and purposefully conducting party-political work among the servicemen, closely linking it with life and with the new tasks, and are educating the personnel in the spirit of unlimited loyalty to their Motherland, the Communist Party, and the Soviet Government.

This work results in numerous patriotic undertakings by the personnel.

The speakers pointed out that commanders, political organs, and party organizations of the fleet are directing the growing activity of the seamen toward ensuring the high combat readiness of ships and chasti, studying and mastering new technology in an outstanding manner, and strengthening organization and order. In summing up the totals of the 2 years which have passed since the last party conference, the delegates stressed with all their force the favorable influence of the decisions of the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU on the general status of affairs in the fleet. In being guided by these decisions and by the requirements of the Instructions to Party Organizations in the Soviet Army and

Navy and the Regulations on Political Organs and Party Organizations, the political sections of soyedemeniya have begun to delve actively into all aspects of the life and training of the personnel, and to struggle resolutely against shortcomings which hinder improvement of combat readiness by ships and chasty. The importance of party-political work has grown, and the ties of the ships and units with local party, soviet, and Komsomol organizations have strengthened. All this has guaranteed successful fulfillment of the plans of combat training in the fleet. Submariners, airmen, and servicemen of other soyedineniya have achieved appreciable successes. The number of outstanding ships, chasty, and podrazdeleniya has increased. Six navy prizes were won for leading types of firing and tactical training.

After the 21st Party Congress and the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU, the activities of the Communists increased considerably. In the address, an example was made of the party organization of the submarine in which comrade KORYAKOVTSSEV is secretary. Here there are Communists in each compartment. They render constant party influence on the personnel, serve as examples in training and discipline, and show implacability toward shortcomings. The friendly, combined work of the commander and all the Communists has ensured high results in combat and political training.

Many party organizations of air chasty and podrazdeleniya are working actively and in a combat mood. Comrade KORZUNOV spoke about this in his speech. He noted that, in comparison with 1958, the general flight time for each plane has increased, and a new, more progressive organization of the air engineer service has been introduced. These are the great services of the Communists.

There are many such positive examples. They testify to the fact that many political organs have improved their leadership of the party organizations of ships and chasty, and that the leadership has become more qualified and concrete. Workers for political organs are now found more frequently on the spot, where they help the party aktiv to conduct efficient political-educational work. It was stressed at the conference that such high standards in training and service can be achieved by all ships and chasty. In this connection, the delegates pointed out the important significance of further developing socialist competition, generalizing and expanding the leading experiences in party-political work, and training all commanders, political workers, and party organization secretaries on the basis of this experience. Leading experiences help to eliminate shortcomings quickly.

Unfortunately, there are still many of these shortcomings in the fleet. The speakers discussed them in full voice. In some ships and chasty which have achieved positive results, there is no effort to strengthen the successes achieved. For example, the

rating of outstanding was taken from the ship in which officer KLIMOV serves. The Communists-leaders of this ship had become conceited and ceased to regard their work critically. The results of this were soon apparent.

Sharp criticism was directed at the conference toward those commanders, political organs, and party organizations which have slackened their attention toward questions on the special training of seamen and the study of modern techniques.

A. T. CHABANENKO, the fleet commander, stressed in his speech that in the work of party organizations and, above all, of the staffs, more attention must be given to questions involving the study and mastery of combat techniques and weapons. The Communists of staffs must be personal examples in the outstanding study of techniques, and must give efficient assistance to all officers of ships and chasti in this very important matter.

Unfortunately, some staff workers are very lax in carrying it out. In particular, little attention is still being given to the training rooms, some of which still have old equipment. Serious complaints were brought against the Communists of the fleet staff, particularly against comrade CHUBAROV, for overestimating the results of work performed, for improperly organizing matters directly in the soyedineniya and chasti, and for keeping within their offices.

Much attention was given at the conference to questions involving the improvement of party-political work, directed toward a further improvement in the combat and political training of submariners. Conference delegates KUDRYASHOV, DANILKO, YUSHIN, and others spoke about this in detail.

Conscientious Discipline Is the Basis of Success

A further increase in the combat readiness of ships and chasti depends directly on the condition of military discipline. Much attention was given to this in the address and the speeches. Many examples were given where, as a result of concrete and purposeful work by commanders, political workers, and party organizations on some ships, strong discipline and a high degree of organization were achieved. However, at the same time, there was self-criticism about the fact that until now, some seamen have been drinking and committing gross violations of military discipline, and at some places, collective responsibility and unworthy conduct of veteran servicemen with respect to young seamen have not been overcome. Unfortunately, there have been some Communists and Komsomols among the violators of the regulations. Named in particular was officer SAVCHENKO, a Communist, who drank regularly, but who was treated with incomprehensible lenience and liberalism.

It was noted at the conference that the main causes of violations of discipline are poor educational work, low exactingness of the commanders toward their subordinates, a lack of attention to questions of life, and lack of normal concern for people.

It was stressed at the conference that well-applied ideological-educational work among the personnel and the use of the power of the public by commanders are decisively important in strengthening conscientious military discipline. However, some commanders and political workers sometimes forget about this and attempt to "implant" discipline only through administrative measures and by inflicting disciplinary penalties. Officers SHAMRAY and TRAPEZNIKOV in particular are acting in this manner,

The delegates spoke of the necessity to improve the propaganda of combat tradition and to popularize examples of conscientious service and patriotic fulfillment of military duty. Many of the speakers touched on this. Comrade LIVSHITS spoke about this in particular. He noted that in some military construction detachments, educational work with people is neglected. However, comrade LIVSHITS did not attempt to disclose the reasons for this negligence, and was not self-critical. The facts prove that both he and some of the officers subordinate to him are not close to the people and show little concern for their well-being.

The delegates spoke of the necessity to educate the officers more persistently in political consciousness, principle, and irreconcilability toward shortcomings, and to teach them to practice political-educational work with their subordinates.

Improve Inner-Party Work!

The power of the party organization and its militancy are found in the activities of all Communists and in their personal examples in training and service.

However, it was pointed out at the conference that party organizations have not yet resolved one of the fundamental questions of inner-party work; they have not secured a leading role for all party members and candidates in discipline and in fulfilling their service duty.

The delegates gave much attention to analysis of the work of party organizations in increasing the ranks of the party and educating young Communists. During the past year, considerably more people were accepted as candidate party members than were accepted in 1958. This made it possible to create full-fledged party organizations in submarines and air squadrons, as well as party groups in many small ships, combat chasti, and flights. Comrade CHAPAYEV spoke about this in his speech.

Nevertheless, it was noted that insufficient attention is given to the creation of party groups in the fleet. In a number of submarines, party organizations have not yet reached

the stage where there is a Communist in each compartment. The education of those newly accepted into the party leaves much to be desired. After their acceptance into the party, persons are frequently left on their own. As a result, some of them do not feel party responsibility, and they violate discipline and have a negligent attitude toward their service responsibilities.

Questions concerning the further improvement of the party leadership of the Komsomol occupied an important spot in the work of the conference. They were covered in detail in the address and the speeches, which described the positive experiences accumulated by political organs and party organizations in the high-principled education of the young people, disclosed shortcomings, and made suggestions for improvement of the party leadership of the Komsomol.

In the address and during discussion, much attention was given to the ideological-political education of personnel, and to application of the historical decisions of the 21st Party Conference on Communist education and the decree of the Central Committee CPSU "On the Tasks of Party Propaganda Under Present Conditions."

Ideological-political work has acquired a more vivid and diverse character and has improved its efficiency and its role in organization and mobilization. Various forms of the ideological education of persons are being used more fully and broadly. Now, in connection with the 90th anniversary of V. I. LENIN'S birthday, propaganda of the great theoretical legacy of the leader has increased even more. Leninist readings, lectures, reports, and talks are being given in the ships and the chasti.

The report of the Party Commission under the fleet Political Administration, which was given by Capt. 1st Rank V. M. LAKOMOV, was discussed in a businesslike manner.

Participating in the work of the party conference were Gen. F. I. GOLIKOV, chief of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy; Adm A. G. GOLOVKO, first deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Navy; G. Ya. DENISOV, first secretary of the Murmanskaya Oblast Party Committee; N. A. KONOVALOV, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Murmanskaya Oblast Soviet; and a number of other workers for local party and soviet organizations.

The party conference was held on a high ideological and organizational level. Its decisions are mobilizing commanders, political organs, party organizations, and all Communists in the further improvement of party-political work and a better quality of combat training in ships and chasti of the fleet. In a greeting adopted at the conference to the Central Committee CPSU, the delegates gave assurances that the seamen of the Northern Fleet will vigilantly safeguard the Soviet Arctic area.

[Translator's note: A photograph which accompanies the article has the following caption:]

A group of delegates to the party conference during an intermission between sessions. From left to right, they are Petty Officer 1st Class A. BESCHEREVNYI, commander of a squad of gunlayers; Petty Officer 1st Class G. LEDOVSKOY, chief petty officer of a crew of radiotelegraph operators; Col. V. SKUGAR', Hero of the Soviet Union; and Capt.-Lt. A. MADENOV, deputy commander for political affairs of a ship.

XX. PACIFIC FLEET

VIGILANTLY GUARD THE FAR EASTERN SHORES OF THE MOTHERLAND!

Sovetskiy flot, Vol. 23,
No. 38, 14 February 1960,
page 2

Capt. 1st Rank N. LANIN
Lt. Col. Ye. KAMENETSKIY
Lt. Col. V. RABICHEV
Capt. 3rd Rank L. PROZUMENSH-
CHIKOV

The seamen of the Pacific Fleet, just as all Soviet servicemen, have responded ardently to the decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, which signify a new stage in the development of the Armed Forces of our Motherland. Unanimously approving these wise decisions, the personnel of ships and chasti are answering them with glorious patriotic deeds and new political enthusiasm.

The party conference of the Pacific Fleet was held under the banner of this enthusiasm and in circumstances of enormous political activity by the seamen. In an exacting and self-critical manner, the participants in the conference discussed the condition of party-political work and measures for its further improvement in the light of the decisions of the 21st Party Conference, the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU, and the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR.

Questions concerning the new, sizable reduction in the armed forces and the tasks emanating from this were highlighted in the address of Rear Adm. M. N. ZAKHAROV, member of the Military Council and chief of the fleet Political Administration, and in speeches by the delegates.

The seamen of many ships and chasti have responded to decisions of the session with new patriotic undertakings. Everywhere in the fleet, they are accepting more socialist obligations for increasing the number of outstanding servicemen and rated specialists and for mastering more quickly all means of modern combat technology.

"In reply to the decisions of the session of the Supreme Soviet USSR," said officer KAPRANOV, a submariner, in his speech, "we will strengthen the combat readiness of the Pacific Fleet with trebled energy."

The delegates listened with great interest to the speech of comrade V. Ye. CHERNYSHEV, first secretary of the Primorskiy Kray Party Committee, who spoke of the remarkable perspectives for developing the kray and of the fact that many people can be accepted in industry and agriculture in the area.

The New Tasks Are Binding

The seamen of the Pacific Fleet have come to their party conference with definite successes in combat and political training and in strengthening discipline and the prescribed order. Knowledge and experience have enriched the officers, and the skill of the seamen and petty officers has improved. The ships of the fleet sail confidently throughout the whole year under any meteorological conditions.

All these successes, achieved through difficult military labor, cannot help but cause joy. However, as was stressed in the speeches of the participants in the conference, faced with the new, responsible tasks, the slightest easing of that which has been achieved is particularly intolerable.

Adm. V. A. FOKIN, commander of the Pacific Fleet, said that "in strengthening the level achieved, we are obliged to direct resolutely the forces of the personnel toward fulfillment of the new tasks specified by the plan of combat training, utilizing in the best possible way for this the enthusiasm which has enveloped the seamen."

With a feeling of party responsibility for their own fleet, the delegates urged that the situation not be tolerated in which some ships and podrazdeleniya linger for years on an "average" level, while others, under similar circumstances, have high results. Appreciable achievements in the training and education of personnel and in resolving training tasks are evident where commanders, political organs, and party organizations struggle persistently and in close cooperation for an improved quality of combat and political training.

For example, it was in just this manner in which the successes of submariners of an unidentified podrazdeleniye have been achieved. Here, questions of combat training are discussed regularly at party and Komsomol meetings and at bureau meetings, and the officers of the staff and the political section devote most of their time to organizational work directly on the submarines. Here, leading experiences are discussed broadly.

Many leading ships and podrazdeleniya were named at the conference, and their numbers are growing steadily. However, there are still party organizations, including some on submarines, which do not handle questions of combat training concretely enough. It was also noted that some political organs have not taken efficient measures to improve the role of party organizations in resolving practical tasks of combat training. This is particularly true of the political section of the fleet air force.

Socialist competition is a tested expedient in mobilizing the creative energy of the servicemen for perfecting combat skills. It has been used widely among the Pacific seamen, and is giving

good results. However, there is still much formalism in the leadership of the competition. Sometimes, after undertaking obligations, a subsequent persistent struggle for their fulfillment is not organized.

In many places, officers are not participating in competition. Noting these shortcomings in the organization and leadership of competition, the speakers pointed out that now, at a time when it is especially important to struggle persistently for a further increase in the numbers of outstanding servicemen and rated specialists and for outstanding podrazdeleniya and ships, it is vitally necessary that all commanders and all party organizations objectively handle questions of competition.

In the course of combat training, many new ideas are springing up, and both the methods of using weapons and the methods of completing training tasks are being steadily perfected. These new ideas can be found among the submariners, the surface ships, and the fleet airmen. For instance, the creative initiative and organizational energy of the Communists has permitted the planning and formation of training in a number of naval crews in such a manner that they have already achieved a great deal in the first months of the new training year. Dwelling on similar examples, delegates KHURDENKO, GONTAYEV, BERNER, and others spoke about the importance of intent party attention to leading experiences and to everything on which a faster mastery of weapons and technology depends.

In a number of speeches, it was noted in this connection that modern requirements of life are not met by the work methods of some officers of staffs and administrations of the fleet who delve weakly into the process of combat training on the spot, and who seldom engage in organizational activities on ships and in units. Such criticism was made convincingly of Communist AMEL'KO, a leading staff worker, whom the submariners and pilots seldom see; and Communists SUTYAGIN and DONETS, chiefs in the fleet's Rear Services, who understand little of the needs of the submariners. The work methods of Communist SKABLOV, a chief in the Rear Services of the air fleet, were sharply criticized. In explaining these methods, it is sufficient to say that the answers to just one of the papers sent by him to the unit constituted 17 volumes.

It was noted correctly at the conference that the interests of combat readiness in the fleet require a display of high party principle in the selection of command cadre and in their distribution and advancement. One instructive incident provided grounds for discussion of this: Recently, officer SLEZKIN lost his rights to operate a ship independently after it was discovered that he did not know how to apply safety regulations for sailing. Not long before this, SLEZKIN had been given an assignment to a more responsible position. Is this what a lack of knowledge by people leads to?

There are now more ships and chastis in the Pacific Fleet in which there are no gross disciplinary violations. This is the result of the purposeful work of commanders, political organs, and party organizations. However, in many places, the struggle for strong discipline is not given the attention which it requires. In the address and the speeches, many examples were given which confirm that disruption of discipline is caused by negligence in educational work.

In the podrazdeleniye commanded by officer YERSHOV, educational work is conducted in a manner in which objective people here do not advocate. It is not surprising that here, they cannot boast of exemplary discipline. In some other podrazdeleniya, there are many speeches about the importance of individual educational work, but it is carried out poorly, thereby hindering the forestalling of "unexpected" violations of military order. In some chastis, liberalism and connivance toward drunkards have not yet been eliminated. An example of this is officer ROGOV, against whom decisive measures have just been taken, despite the fact that his chiefs and the party organization had been aware for a long time of his unworthy conduct.

These and other shortcomings in the work of strengthening discipline were the subjects of long principled conversations at the conference. This conversation must be followed by a more persistent, uncompromising struggle by all Communists for exemplary discipline on each ship and in each unit.

Pay Constant Attention to Ideological Work!

Great attention was paid at the conference to questions of the ideological education of the seamen. The delegates noted that ideological work is now more closely coordinated with the tasks being resolved on the ships and in the chastis, and that forms of agitation and propaganda have become more diverse. Forms of ideological work which have become broadly expanded include Leninist readings, schools of agitators, universities and lecturing bureaus on culture, supernumerary party schools, and the folk theatre. Preparation for the 90th anniversary of the birthday of Vladimir Il'ich Lenin is being expanded.

Comrade PAVLOVSKIY, BORISOV, and others dwelt in their speeches on an important phenomenon in fleet life: a noticeably increased participation of leading officers in propaganda work.

However, agitprop work in the Pacific Fleet has many shortcomings, as noted in the decree of the Central Committee CPSU "On the Tasks of Party Propaganda Under Present Conditions." Political organs and party organizations have not yet been able to overcome completely the separation of propaganda and agitation from life and the concrete tasks of combat training and military

education. In a number of chasti, there has been a slackening in the propaganda of requirements of regulations and the oath of enlistment, as well as a slackening in the work of educating all categories of the personnel in the spirit of high vigilance and conscientious discipline. Here and there, active, persistent work directed against drunkenness, mutual guarantees, and amoral acts committed by seamen is substituted by abstract enlightenment. Facts were also brought forth at the conference which testify to a lack of understanding by some Communists of their role in the ideological education of seamen and of their responsibility for this. In answering the question as to why he does not conduct educational work with his subordinates, officer NAUMENKO stated: "My task is to teach people to turn screws." It is no wonder that in the podrazdeleniye headed by this Communist, the education of the servicemen is neglected, and there are blunders in the organization of service.

A number of delegates expressed anxiety over the fact that in some chasti there are serious shortcomings in the organization of the Marxist-Leninist training of officers and in political studies.

Serious remarks were made at the conference concerning those political organs which do not give party organizations efficient assistance in improving the ideological education of the personnel. Sharp criticism in this connection was directed toward comrade AGAFONOV, a political worker, who permits formalism in educational work, has not provided practical assistance to party organizations of the podrazdeleniya, and has not given lectures and reports. Speaking of the necessity of personal participation by political workers in party propaganda, comrade FORIN, a delegate, said:

"One cannot say that officers of the fleet Political Administration are not among us in the chasti. But I cannot remember when any of them has given us a lecture or report. This would really be of genuine, concrete assistance to the party collective of the chasti in the activization of propaganda."

It should be noted that, unfortunately, the practice of party organizational work was not sufficiently elucidated at the conference. Both in the address and in the speeches, little was mentioned about it, and what was mentioned lacked concreteness, depth in analysis of occurrences, and sharpness in criticism of shortcomings. The necessity of serious conversation on this topic was apparent. For example, in some speeches, casual mention was made of the fact that in many small ships and in small podrazdeleniya, party groups have not yet been created. However, the delegates did not hear a serious analysis of the causes of such a situation. Questions of party leadership of the Komsomol were not considered as main points.

Comrade IVANOV gave a report on the activities of the Party Commission under the fleet Political Administration. In discussing the report, the delegates declared that the work of the Party Commission was satisfactory, and they elected its new staff.

Adm. S. G. GORSHKOV, commander-in-chief of the Navy, gave a speech dedicated to the historical decision of the Supreme Soviet USSR on the new, sizable reduction in the armed forces, and to the practical tasks emanating from this decision.

Participating in the work of the conference were P. A. ANTOKHIN, G. N. BALAKIN, and A. F. OSIPOV, secretaries of the Primorskiy Kray Party Committee; A. S. BIRYUKOV, chairman of the Primorskiy Kray Executive Committee; M. F. LARIOSHIN, a sovnarkhoz chairman; and Rear Adm. F. Ya. SIZOV, a representative of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy.

The Party conference of the Pacific Fleet resolved to mobilize Communists for further improvement in party work, strengthening its influence in all aspects of fleet life, and ensuring a vigilant and reliable defense of the far-eastern boundaries of the motherland.

XXI. CASPIAN FLOTILLA

HIGHER VIGILANCE AND COMBAT READINESS

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No. 33, 9 February 1960,
page 3

Col. V. YURZANOV

For the 20th time, the military seamen-Communists of the Red Banner Caspian Flotilla, the oldest in the USSR, have assembled at their party conference. Just before the opening of the conference, some ships returned from heavy storm navigation. The Caspian is severe and wayward in the winter.

During this time, the wind force on the sea reached 10-11 points, and the crews had to pass a difficult test. Many delegates, including comrades STERYADKIN, PAYLOV, LEV, and others could report with satisfaction that the seamen of their podrazdeleniya, inspired by the decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, had taken one more step toward the perfection of combat skills.

In the address of Rear Adm. V. I. OBIDIN, chief of the flotilla Political Section and member of the Military Council, and in the speeches of Rear Adm. A. V. KUZ'MIN, commander of the flotilla, and comrades YELIZAROV, ZBRITSKIY, KLIMENCHENKO, and other delegates, much thought was given to questions of improving the quality of combat training and party-political work in the light of the requirements emanating from the decisions of the 21st Party Congress, the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU, and the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR.

Communists, Komsomol members and the entire personnel of the flotilla have achieved appreciable successes. Ships have navigated under complex conditions. Their crews have learned how better to use weapons and combat techniques. The number of outstanding ships, combat chasti, sections, and posts has grown.

The podrazdeleniye in which officer KRAMARSKIY is deputy commander for political affairs has won the challenge banner of the Azerbaijan Party Central Committee. The ship commanded by officer ZHIBAREV has become the best in the flotilla. Here, the commander, comrade YELEVICH, his deputy for political affairs, and comrade LYCHEV, secretary of the party organization, are showing an example of friendly, joint work. They have done well in training and educating the seamen. Thanks to the best officers, chief petty officers, and seamen, a combat-ready party organization, which delves deeply into all aspects of the training and life of the personnel, has been developed on the ship.

The example of this ship shows how much can be done by a solid collective under the skillful leadership of the commander and party organization. The last sea exercise again verified the high combat readiness and state of training of the crew.

An analysis of the condition of party-political work held an important spot at the conference. The delegates showed an understanding of high responsibility for a further increase in vigilance and combat readiness in ships, chasty, and podrazdeleniya. The delegates declared that under the new conditions, it is necessary to master military skills still better and to raise the level of all work involving the training and education of the personnel.

Delegate NIKITIN said that part of the seamen will retire to the reserves in order to take an active part in the building of Communism and, above all, in the sphere of material production. However, high combat readiness and political vigilance will not retire to the reserves. They will be raised to greater height by the servicemen.

This thought stood out in many speeches.

The delegates paid much attention to questions on the profound propaganda of the historical decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, and on making each seaman conscious of the great importance of those decisions, so that each seaman, petty officer, and officer understands them wholeheartedly and tries to fulfill them in the best way. Participants in the conference criticized the slowness of some commanders and political workers in developing broad and detailed work in the propaganda of decisions of the Supreme Soviet session. The delegates spoke sharply against instances of a backward frame of mind, complacency, and unscrupulousness.

About 30 commanders, political workers, secretaries, and members of bureaus of party and Komsomol organizations spoke at the conference. They generalized the vast experience of the activities of Communists in educating seamen in the spirit of high discipline and conscientiousness, and sharply criticized some party members and candidates who do not fulfill their party and military duty, and who violate discipline. Such instances have not yet been overcome. Examples of this are the cases of drunkenness of officer FROLOV and Chief Petty Officer SOLOV'YEV, and the unworthy conduct of officer LUKOVKIN.

Much attention was properly given in the address and speeches to an analysis of the work of Komsomol organizations and to the party leadership of them. Comrades PATRAKOV, AKHRIMENYA, and SHEMPELEV used examples to point out how an attentive and sensitive attitude toward the education of young people results in an increased combat readiness of ships and podrazdeleniya. Comrade SEREDKINA spoke of the necessity of improving work with servicemen's families.

Comrade SHEVCHENKO raised an important question on the role of the public in the education of people and in the elimination of law violations.

The Caspian seamen are linked with the workers of Azerbaijan and other Caspian republics and oblasts with strong ties of friendship. Much was said at the conference about this friendship. Local party and Soviet organs are showing much concern for the servicemen. The Caspian Steamship Line, an oil tanker administration, the "Stalinnft'" society, and other enterprises have already suggested to the command and the political organs that officers, warrant officers, and seamen discharged to the reserves be sent to work for them. Reserve officers and delegates KULINICHEV and ZAYATS told at the conference how warmly many Baku enterprises had accepted seamen, and how outstandingly former servicemen are working here. These servicemen include, among others, comrade BESSONOV, who has become the best electric welder, and comrade BELYY, who came from the fleet to a plant.

A. P. KURMANAYEV, secretary of the Baku City Party Committee, and K. K. DADASHEV and L. M. TROFIMOYA, secretaries of the Stalinskiy Rayon Party Committee, certified in talks with delegates at the conference that Baku citizens are gladly accepting seamen discharged to the reserves, and are helping them to participate quickly in labor activities.

Shortcomings in the work of Communists of the staff and political section were criticized at the conference, and their lack of sufficient assistance to a number of podrazdeleniya was discussed. Delegates NIKITIN and ALEKSASHIN correctly noted the gross negligence of the staff and political organ in leading some chasti and party organizations. Delegates PITSENKO presented a number of examples which show procrastination in introducing suggestions for rationalization of the work process.

Nevertheless, there was obviously little criticism at the conference. Some delegates, such as comrade TOMILIN, gave a hostile reception to justified criticism of them, particularly criticism of an unnormal attitude toward complaints in the press. The flotilla Political Section and the party organization of the rear services in which TOMILIN works apparently have not implanted in him a respectful attitude toward critical remarks. There are also other heads who have not made the necessary conclusions from the decisions of the October Plenum of the Party Central Committee.

The delegates actively discussed the detailed report of the Party Commission, which was given by comrade REZEPOV. They noted the great work of the party organizations and the Party Commission in the struggle for cleaning the ranks of the party and selecting the best seamen into the party. As a result of the growth in the party ranks, there are possibilities for creating

party groups and party organizations on ships, including small ships. For example, delegate KLIMENCHENKO declared that on an unidentified ship, half of the crew consists of Communists. They have made the ship outstanding. There are still a certain number of ships where party groups have not yet been created.

The work of the Party Commission was declared to be satisfactory. Its new staff, consisting of 11 persons, has been elected. The delegates noted the fruitful activities of officer REZEPOV, secretary of the Party Commission, who is now being discharged to the reserves, and wished him success in his labor for the good of the motherland.

Many delegates, particularly comrades FROLOV and CHECHKO, spoke of the practice of propaganda and agitation. However, questions of ideological work, in the light of the decree of the Central Committee CPSU "On the Tasks of Party Propaganda Under Contemporary Conditions," were not discussed profoundly and throughout the conference.

A. S. BAYRAMOV, secretary of the Azerbaijan Party Central Committee, and Rear Adm. V. A. LIZARSKIY, a representative of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy, spoke at the conference. Proper decisions were made in accordance with the reports, the main requirement of which is the struggle by Communists for exemplary fulfillment of the decisions of the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR concerning the increased combat readiness of ships and chasti.

XIII. Leningrad Naval District

BUSINESSLIKE, PRINCIPLED DISCUSSION

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No. 41, 18 February 1960,
page 2

Col. M. ZIMENKOV
Capt. 2nd Rank N. BADEYEV

On 15-16 February, the party conference of the Leningrad Naval District was held. Adm. I. I. BAYKOV, commander of the district, gave an address on the condition of party-political work and the tasks of party organizations in improving it in the light of the decisions of the 21st Party Conference, the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU, and the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR. BAYKOV and others spoke of the great unanimity with which the personnel met the law "On the New, Sizable Reduction in the Soviet Armed Forces." On the ships and in the chasti, everything is being done under the new conditions to protect more vigilantly and reliably the great, conscientious labor of the people who are building Communism.

Success Is Determined by Organizational Work

Last year, the ships and chasti of the Leningrad Military District completely fulfilled their tasks of combat training. The quality of the specialist training of seamen, petty officers, and officers has improved.

How is this success explained? Above all, the speakers noted, by an improvement in the organizational activities of commanders, political organs, and party organizations. In fulfilling the decisions of the 21st Party Congress and October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU, the political organs and party organizations have become more active and have delved more deeply into all aspects of combat training.

In this respect, the political section and the staff of an unidentified chasti were mentioned as examples. Comrades SOKOLOV, KAPLUNOV, and other officers of this staff and political section are spending a large portion of their service time on ships and at sea during sailing times, where they give concrete assistance to commanders and party and Komsomol organizations in resolving tasks and in educating seamen. In particular, they have done much in conducting technical conferences, seminars, and question-and-answer evenings on the ships. The commanders and workers of the staff and political section are giving much attention to generalizing and expanding the experience of leading officers, seamen, and petty officers. Concrete organizational work ensures success: seventy percent of the seamen and petty officers are outstanding.

In the address, the experience of the party organization of the submarine in which comrade ZAKHAR'IN is secretary was discussed. Directed by the commander, the party organization is expanding broadly the experience of leading servicemen and struggling to eliminate the existence of backward servicemen along with outstanding servicemen. Much has already been achieved, and 95 percent of the seamen and petty officers of the ship are outstanding servicemen and rated specialists.

Noting these positive aspects in combat training, which are the result of the skillful organizational activities of commanders, political organs, and party organizations, the speeches also criticized shortcomings. In the last training year, a number of tasks were fulfilled very late and poorly by some chasti and ships. There are still many shortcomings in the specialized and operational-tactical training of officers.

In a number of podrazdeleniya, they are poorly prepared for the new training year. During the hours of specialized training, many of the personnel are away on various administrative jobs. As was noted in the address, the staff and political section of the district are guilty of this to a large extent. They do not always delve deeply into the status of affairs on ships and in chasti.

Serious shortcomings in socialist competition were criticized at the conference. Competition in some ships and units is summed up irregularly. On the ship commanded by comrade GONCHARUK, there was no competition for a period of many months.

A case of distortion of the very essence of competition was cited. Officers CHILEK and SOSNIN wrote "typical obligations" on the blackboard and forced their subordinates to rewrite them and turn them in to a political worker. Is this not an example of a bureaucratic approach to competition?

"At the Kronstadt fortress," said comrade KUZNETSOV, "competition among the officers is organized poorly. As of now, there has only been talk about which points in which to compete, but nothing has been done yet about it."

The October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU stressed the importance of friendly, joint work by the commanders, political workers, and all Communists. This requirement of the plenum, just as all its decisions, has promoted a further improvement in the quality of training and education of the personnel, as well as a heightening of party work. Now, cases are seldom encountered where a commander or political worker does not understand his task, or where attempts are made to dominate a party organization, to violate its rights, or to oppose the collective. Nevertheless, strange as it may seem, such a case occurred in the Leningrad Naval District.

In a report on the work of the Party Commission under the district Political Section, given by G. M. MALAKHOVSKIY, and in the speeches of some delegates, criticism was directed toward comrade BOGDENKO, former chief of the Higher Naval School imeni M. V. FRUNZE. In opposition to the political organ, he had created conditions of squabbling at the school, and he persecuted Communists who criticized him. When the question arose of making him answerable to the party, he did not appear at the meeting of the Party Commission. The commission notified comrade BOGDENKO six times of the examination of his personal case, and he always found an excuse not to appear. Apparently he had forgotten that there are not two disciplines in the party, and that party discipline is obligatory for all Communists. The commission was forced to examine BOGDENKO'S personal case in absentia, and they gave him a stiff penalty.

In connection with BOGDENKO'S case, S. G. KUCHEROV was criticized at the conference. Comrade ARTAMONOV, deputy chief of the district Political Section, declared in his speech that comrade KUCHEROV had taken an erroneous position regarding BOGDENKO.

In speaking at the conference, comrade KUCHEROV did not give a principled evaluation of his conduct in this case, but did acknowledge that he was unable to prevent the situation of squabbling at the school.

Improve the Training of Officers!

Much attention was given at the conference to the activities of naval educational institutions and their political organs and party organizations. The speakers noted that recently, collectives of schools have achieved notable successes in improving the quality of the training process and the progress of the students. Last year, for instance, the majority of students graduated from school with good and outstanding evaluations. Among the graduates for 1959, 65 percent are Communists who received outstanding and good evaluations for minor exceptions in state examinations and in defense of their papers.

Much more attention has been given to the practical training of future officers. Many students are taking examinations for ratings during on-the-job training, and are obtaining production categories. Political organs and party organizations have begun to delve more deeply into the training process, and to devote themselves more concretely to scientific-research work and an increase in the pedagogical skills of the teachers.

The political section of the Underwater Navigation School imeni Leninskiy Komsomol is skillfully delving into the training process. Its workers have made the companies and classes the

center of their activities, and have concentrated their attention on giving practical assistance to party and Komsomol organizations.

Delegate M. A. KRUPSKIY spoke of interesting experiences in party work at the school.

He said that the Communists of the party organization of one of the chairs made a number of serious critical remarks concerning training programs and plans. These remarks assisted the command of the school in eliminating serious flaws in the training process. Two years ago, a party organization was created for the first time in a student company at the school, and now there are several of them in both senior and junior courses. The growth of party organizations, thanks to the best students, has made it possible to create party groups in a number of classes. Their power lies in their influence on each student.

The chief of the political section of the Higher Naval Engineering School imeni F. E. DZERZHINSKIY devoted his speech to the activities of party organizations in improving the quality of the training process. Here, party organizations have been created in all student companies, and there are party groups in the majority of classes. At the initiative of the party organizations at the school, a number of laboratories, which are very important in improving the practical training of students, were created and put into operation before the scheduled time. The interesting work experience of the party organization of a company was described by its secretary, comrade PAVLYUCHENKOV.

However, there are still considerable shortcomings in the activities of political organs and party organizations of schools. Some of them delve superficially into the training process, and have not responded to serious negligence in educational work. The teaching in the schools is frequently conducted on a low scientific-technical and systematic level. Frequently, lectures and practical studies are separated from life and from the practical tasks of the fleet. Insufficient attention is given to the study of new technology, and few fleet officers are called on to give speeches to the students.

Shortcomings in the training process and educational work at the Higher Naval Technical School were severely criticized. From year to year, the number of outstanding servicemen has decreased at the school, and during the past 2 years, not one graduate was awarded a gold medal.

Facts were presented at the conference which showed that in some places, exactingness toward the students is decreased in favor of a quantity of outstanding servicemen. At the Higher Naval Communications School imeni A. S. POPOV, it was decided, without sufficient basis, to re-examine many students in order to receive a higher evaluation.

Many delegates, particularly comrades MOLCHANOV, GULYAKOV, and others, spoke of the necessity to implant better the skills of educational work within the students.

In connection with the tasks of improving the training of the fleet cadre, the conference brought out the necessity of raising the level of the leadership of schools from the standpoint of directing the naval educational institutions.

High Efficiency in Ideological Work

The conditions of ideological work on ships, in chasti, and in schools was thoroughly analyzed in the speeches. It was noted that after the 21st Party Congress and the October Plenum of the Central Committee CPSU, the ideological-political education of the personnel increased considerably.

In general, political studies and the Marxist-Leninist training of officers are carried out in an organized manner. Mass agitation work is acquiring a broader scope. The leadership here is participating directly in agitation work.

Called at the conference were the names of comrades MOROZOV, SOKOLOV, ARZHAVKIN, and others, whose appearance before the seamen was vitally necessary.

Nevertheless, as the delegates pointed out, ideological work still does not nearly meet the requirements of the decree of the Central Committee CPSU "On the Tasks of Party Propaganda Under Present Conditions." At times, it does not grasp the main point: close ties with life and with the practical tasks of the seamen; and a fighting, militant spirit. At the conference, an example was made of the chasti in which comrade BUSHIN is a political worker. In one year, 580 lectures and reports were given here, and many other mass measures were taken. But the trouble is that in the majority of cases, they resulted in abstract enlightenment. How else can one explain the fact that disciplinary offenses are not being overcome here?

Considerable shortcomings were noted in the activities of the chair of social sciences in naval schools. Many lectures are given on a low ideological-theoretical level, and in a number of cases, the activities of students in seminars are low.

Shortcomings in ideological work and in the political and military education of the personnel are results of the fact that in some chasti, gross disciplinary offenses, extraordinary accidents, and such shameful phenomena as drunkenness have not been overcome. What is particularly intolerable is the fact that drunkenness and other amoral acts are committed by some Communists and Komsomol members.

In speaking of improvement in ideological work, the delegates raised the question of the further strengthening of propaganda of the Leninist ideological legacy and the most important decisions of the party and government. Comrade SHANGIN in particular dwelt on the necessity of a profound understanding of the theoretical positions put forth in the address of comrade N. S. Khrushchev at the 4th Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR. In this connection, he spoke of shortcomings in military-theoretical journals and newspapers.

Much attention was given at the conference to questions of inner-party work: An increase in the numbers of party organizations, the education of young Communists, and the activities of party groups. The condition of party leadership of the Komsomol was discussed thoroughly in the address. Unfortunately, this question was not given the necessary attention during discussions. Another shortcoming at the conference is the fact that little was said about the work style of the district Political Section.

Participating in the work of the party conference were I. V. SPIRIDONOV, first secretary of the Leningradskaya Oblast Party Committee; Vice-Adm. V. M. GRISHANOV, deputy chief of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy; and G. I. POPOV and S. M. BERIZHNIKOV, secretaries of the Leningrad City Party Committee.

The participants approved with great enthusiasm a salutatory letter to the Central Committee CPSU.

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