FROM OUR MAIL-BOX

Special Message: — TO COMRADES AND PARTIES IN ALL LANDS. THE DELEGATES, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN ASSEMBLED IN LONDON FOR THEIR 45th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, SEND FRATERNAL GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESS TO ALL YOUR FUTURE EFFORTS.

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OVERSEAS SECRETARY, S.P.G.B. — LONDON: **"This was our greatest Conference to date. The level of discussion was high and centred around the problems that arise from an increased membership and the keen desire to expand our activities in all directions. A full report of the Conference will be sent to you as soon as it can be prepared."**

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PERKASIE, PA.: — **"I am enclosing my application for membership in the World Socialist Party. I have decided that despite the rather gloomy and pessimistic outlook on any hopes for an early conversion of the mass of the working class to socialism, my proper place is in the socialist movement. Even if the movement was not worthwhile for any other reason than this; —that it gives one a purpose in life and an opportunity to strive for a meaningful objective — this would still be incentive enough to be a socialist."**

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DETROIT, MICH.: **"Enclosed is a short squib from REPORTER ABOUT TOWN in Detroit News, April 21: 'The chief cause of absence from school is poverty, reports Archie Hennigar, director of school attendance and census in Detroit. Inadequate clothing and shoes during the inclement weather kept 29,000 kids home in the last school year' ".**

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PARIS, FRANCE: **"I am in Europe for a few weeks and visiting my socialist friends. I am extremely anxious that my best friend at Versailles get THE WESTERN SOCIALIST regularly. He is a socialist and ready to write for the paper. Please send him a number of back issues."**

MALDEN, MASS.: **"I think the readers of the WS would be interested in reading this rather remarkable editorial which appeared in the BOSTON GLOBE on April 4th:**

OIL AND POLICY

"Down in Venezuela last Fall a newly seated democratic government came to grief. Elected by the overwhelming majority of the voters, supporting a party dedicated to resistance to Communism and enlightened social reform, the Venezuelan regime was toppled by an army coup. By odd coincidence, it fell shortly after announcing that it proposed to finance health and educational reforms by asking higher royalties from foreign-owned oil companies operating on its territory.

"Over in Syria, last week-end, an army coup suddenly toppled the government of that country. The ousted government, doubtless by pure coincidence, had looked with disfavor on terms of an agreement, proposed to it by American oil interests, for running a pipe line through its territory. The new military dictator announced within 24 hours of his coup that he looks with favor on this $200,000,000 project.

"The reader will have to deduce what he can from all this. Perhaps he will not be far wrong if he surmises that there may be possible affinity between what happens in small countries in Latin America and small states in the Middle East, when oil, outside concessionaires, huge American credits, and aspiring local generals mingle in the field of policy."

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Despite widespread superstition, says Dr. Gerald Wendt, editorial director of *Science Illustrated,* there is no difference whatever in the blood of persons of different races. The four types into which blood is classified, as ascertained by laboratory tests, occur in all races. The blood itself performs functions having nothing to do with influencing the body appearance or mind. There is no foundation to the belief that blood conveys family resemblances and hereditary traits.

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THE NORTH ATLANTIC PACT

Representatives of eleven debt-ridden, satellite nations met in the front office of their mortgage-holder in Washington, D. C. With ceremonies befitting the historic occasion, a military agreement, called the North Atlantic Pact was signed on April 4, 1949, and although ratification by the respective parliaments and the U. S. Senate is still necessary, the Western alliance for the third world war is a fact, at least on paper.

Under the terms of the Pact, the twelve signatory countries are supposed to mutually aid one another in the event any of their respective borders are invaded by any other nation, (read U.S.S.R. and its satellites). Besides this, Article 4 states quite plainly that a political revolution within any of the member nations would call for action by the other members. The article reads:

> "The parties will consult together whenever, in the opinion of any of them, the territorial integrity, **political independence, or security** of any of the parties is threatened (Our bold face)."

Aside from this obvious threat against State Capitalist Russia and to the revolutionary minded workers within the borders of the member nations there are some amusing features to this Western alliance, as for instance, the magic by which the Italian peninsula managed to float from the soft breezes of the Mediterranean into the stormy North Atlantic. Then there is the spectacle of such "nations" as Luxemburg, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, etc. solemnly affixing their signatures to a document which could compel them to rush to the aid of the U. S. A. in case this country is attacked!

SOME ATTITUDES

The general public has by this time been hit by a veritable flood of analyses and arguments on the Pact, both pro and con. We are informed, on the one hand, that it is a means of preserving "peace" and a warning to the Soviet Union to lay off the Atlantic members. The increased flow of military weapons that will pour into Western Europe from America will, according to this school of thought, act as a sure deterrent to Russian belligerency. These peace-loving advocates of "democracy" consist in the main of the so-called socialist regimes and organizations* of the Western nations who argue that they need time and peace to construct their "socialist" systems; the

*As of the time this article was written, a discussion of the Pact and the position to be taken on it was still going on in the Socialist Party of America. The organization that supported the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan still has not made up its mind as to what to do about the North Atlantic Pact. This is of course a typical ailment of groups that concern themselves with capitalist politics. There can never be harmony and agreement over policies and procedure of how to best operate capitalism.