

ROUND THE WORLD

BELGIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (M-L)

National Congress

The National Congress of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Belgium was held recently. The Belgian weekly *Clarte et l'Exploite* in its November 13-19 issue reported on this and carried the congress' document entitled "The Proletarian Revolution — a Struggle Against the Two Superpowers, for National Independence and the Forming of a United Front."

The document said: "The present international situation is one characterized by great and growing disorder on the earth."

"U.S. imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism," it noted, "are the biggest oppressors and exploiters in the world today. Their contention for world hegemony is getting more and more intense. They are increasing armaments on a large scale. There is no detente in the world, but prolonged confrontation between the two superpowers."

"Lenin pointed out that where there is imperialism, there are imperialist wars. This is independent of man's will. The fierce rivalry between the two superpowers is bound to lead to a third world war and we must get prepared," it continued.

"Europe is the focus of the contention between the two superpowers. It is a piece of meat coveted by both." It pointed out: U.S. imperialism is on the decline. "Of course, it can still do many more evil things, but its decline is beyond remedy." Russian social-imperialism is a new and rising imperialism which wants to supplant U.S. imperialism everywhere. It is madly expanding armaments that are used basically to cope with Western Europe. Three-quarters of the Soviet armed forces are directed at Western Europe. The Soviet fleet in the Mediterranean has surpassed that of the United States. The naval base in the Kola Peninsula, the most important base in the world, enables the Russian social-imperialists to control the whole of

the North Atlantic, the Norwegian Sea and the Barents Sea. Russian submarines with nuclear missiles in the Atlantic constitute a screen extending from North Cape to the Moroccan shore. In Europe, the balance of military strength is highly favourable to the Soviet Union."

The document continued: "In a word, Soviet military strength is treble that of NATO. The Soviet general staff can gain control of the Ruhr basin in 48 to 72 hours, and from there to the Belgian hinterland and the northern part of France. Obviously, we shall face an aggressor army of the Hitler style."

"Russian social-imperialist aggression is the main danger to the European people today."

"The main obstacles to the world proletarian revolution," it pointed out, "are the two superpowers." "Our revolutionary struggle will undergo a stage of struggle for national independence, and we should fight to form the broadest united front which will include some sections of the bourgeoisie. The most pressing need at present is to work out a correct policy on the united front for national independence."

The document called on Marxist-Leninists of all countries to work firmly and unyieldingly to form a world united front against the superpowers. "That means that we support the West European people and countries in getting united to oppose the two superpowers; we support any progress against the two superpowers in the political, economic and military integration of Europe." "We will also wage an unremitting struggle against the monopoly capitalists who might use the unification to further exploit the labouring people."

It went on to say: "To form a world united front against the superpowers means that the people of all countries in Western Europe must unite with the countries and people in the third world which are the motive force of history." "Such a unity requires a persisting and large-

scale struggle against the trend of colonialism and neo-colonialism and against the trend of exploiting the third world. These trends exist in the bourgeoisie of the West European countries, including Belgium."

"Our struggle is a political struggle of leading the masses of the people in the fight to form a united front against the two superpowers' hegemonism," the document emphasized. "Our united front policy is not contradictory to the proletarian revolutionary struggle. On the contrary, it is part of the struggle."

NATO

Maintaining Strong Defence

Defence ministers of the NATO countries met in Brussels on December 9 and 10. A communique issued after the meeting said that in view of stepped-up Warsaw Pact and Soviet arms expansion and war preparations, NATO should "maintain strong forces for deterrence and defence."

"Ministers expressed their grave concern at current trends which are altering the relative military strengths of NATO and the Warsaw Pact," the communique said. It noted the increasing fire power, mobility and armoured strength of the Warsaw Pact forces, "the growth and worldwide deployment of the Soviet navy, including the introduction into service of large numbers of nuclear-propelled attack and missile carrying submarines, and the change in emphasis from air defence to offensive operations in Warsaw Pact air forces." It reaffirmed the need for NATO to maintain strong forces which should possess a complete range of capabilities necessary for implementing the strategy of flexibility in response.

Addressing the meeting on December 9, Britain's Admiral of the Fleet Sir Peter Hill-Norton, Chairman of NATO's Military Committee, said that the Warsaw Pact showed "a steady and continuous improvement in both quality and quantity of weapons, equipment and training, with growing emphasis on offensive capability" which posed a threat to the security of the NATO countries. Past years have seen striking development by the Soviet navy, he noted.