

some members of the 'free world' protested and refused to be accomplices. As an afterthought, the counsel for the defence added that acts like (his would not be repeated in future. Abruptly he remarked that the case of the prosecution was unreasonable and invalid.

At this juncture, two important witnesses were summoned to the court. The most reliable ally of the

accused took the stand sombrely. During cross-examination, it came out that the act in question, that is to say, espionage was very unpleasant. But the witness added philosophically: one has to live with many unpleasant realities in international life. Towards the close of the proceedings, the last witness came forward. His elegant manner and alert disposition evoked much admira-

tion among the spectators. The witness maintained the most effective diplomatic silence. He answered all the leading questions in, monosyllables. In the final stage of the case, a tremor of fear ran through the court room.

The judge may have summoned up the evidence. But the jury must carefully assess the facts before venturing to give the final verdict.

Letter from Moscow

The Sverdorsk Spirit

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May 21

THE spy plane that wrecked the Summit was brought down near Sverdorsk in the Urals. In reply to the American adventure, the workers of the Sverdorsk region have decided to fulfil the Seven Year Plan in five years. This, they declare, will be a rebuff to the American militarists. It is after quite a long time that the Russians have again begun to speak of the rule of monopolists and war-mongers in the U.S.A. But there is no scare. On the contrary, after the Paris fiasco, the emphasis on peaceful construction is more urgent than ever. In fact, some people think that it was good in a way that the Summit never met. It was doomed to failure and the failure might have had incalculable consequences. An air of unreality had been created about the Summit, an air of great expectations.

Now people know where they stand and who's who. The German question will await a more auspicious atmosphere,

This does not mean that Khrushchev was not keen on the Summit. He had laboured long for it. But, being astute, he read the straws in the wind. He knew that the Camp David spirit had deserted President Eisenhower. He still thinks that Eisenhower himself seeks peace and favours a relaxation of tension. But he has played into the hands of the Pentagon. Khrushchev is bitter about the whole business, about the structure of the U.S. Administration, about personalities, about the rock 'n' roll between the Pentagon and the armament manufacturers. Russia, of course, will not do anything out of bitterness. She will be alert, that's all.

People may argue that Khrushchev overdid it in Paris, that he

should have attended the Summit. He was rather rattled when de Gaulle and Macmillan failed to bring any pressure on Eisenhower. Did he bank on a split in the Western Camp? Did he miscalculate? Time will tell. But one thing is clear—the Summit would not have achieved anything, thanks to the calculated, aggressive moves of the Americans. And in not attending the Summit when the atmosphere was charged with bitterness and anger, Khrushchev was right.

At the moment, the 'foremost people in the competition for the right to the title of Communist Labour Teams and Shock-workers of Communist Labour' are meeting in Moscow. They are inspired by what may be called the Sverdorsk spirit, i.e., by the desire to overfulfil the Plan. Among the participants are many Heroes of Socialist Labour, scientists and engineers. Khrushchev said, these people will prove to the world that the Seven Year Plan is not a myth, it is a living reality. Call upon these people to do anything, and they will do it: when the chiefs of staff were worried by the flights of U.S. planes at such heights that Soviet fighter planes could not track them, they appealed to scientists, engineers and workers for means to stop intruders. And they evolved suitable rockets. Now it is clear, says Khrushchev, that U.S. bombers, flying at a height of 12 to 14,000 metres will not be able to do much harm—the Sverdorsk rocket brought down the U-2 plane from 20,000 metres.

What steps the Russians will take against spy sputniks is not yet known.

In the meantime, the ferment in U.S. bastions is quite welcome. Events in Turkey and Japan are given detailed coverage. There is no comment yet on the Turkish *coup*. It is hoped the new Government will take a saner attitude towards Soviet Russia. The Russians will watch and wait.

Summer has at last come. School-children are going to Pioneer Camps, many families to country cottages, others to holiday resorts. A little later, many grown-up students will go out to till virgin land.

A festival of Moldavian art and literature' has opened in Moscow.

The Kuibyshev Ballet and Opera Theatre is presenting Tagore's 'Chitrangada' on May 19 in Kuibyshev.

In Moscow, there are plans for a 'Shakuntala' ballet. Indian talent here has been asked to advise on the production of 'Nala Damayanti'

Rourkela Pipe Plant

The pipe plant being set up for the production of steel pipes by the electric resistance welded process at Rourkela will produce 8,600 to 31,000 tons per month depending upon the size and specifications of pipes ---8-3/4" to 20".

The plant will meet the immediate requirements of oil pipelines of the country and cater to future demands for pipes.

Rourkela was selected for the location of the plant as strips required for pipe manufacture could be rolled at the strip mill of the steel plant. The plant, which is estimated to cost Rs 4 crores, is expected to be in commission by September 1960.