

cry: "If you want peace, then fight for it," has been called magnanimously "a formulation of the essential task of humanity," in *Pravda*.

Behind this verbiage, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is busy on the home front with a campaign of elevating the role of the Party in key areas of Soviet society. Local Party organizations are under fire in the press for mucking around in procedural matters of management instead of providing theoretical leadership. The Party calls this "perfecting the Leninist style of Party work" (*Pravda*, July 30). But that phrase and the pretension to having an "overview" are a total fraud.

The Party actually is turning inwards, farther away from the kind of hubristic internationalism which would justify these claims.

The phony claim to historical wisdom is most magnified in *Red Star*, the newspaper of Grechko's Department of Defense, which all year has demonstrated

sober, if vague, awareness of at least military threats to the Soviet Union. Now *Red Star* pretends to draw on the lessons of history and editorializes: "*The experience of the past teaches that it is not enough to condemn the aggressor, that one must actively fight against him and be able to nip his expansionist plans in the bud...The peoples have already paid with million of lives for the fact that in the past reliable measures were not taken against the aggressor, against war...The lessons of the past, the lessons of two world wars unleashed by the imperialists teach the people vigilance and call for decisive battle against the aggressive imperialist circles.*"

This commitment is belied by every actual move of Soviet policy. The modern petty bureaucrats of today's Politburo are no better equipped than their immediate ancestor Stalin to forge a working-class battle for worldwide socialist power. They are reliving his pact with fascism, not as farce, but on a vaster, more criminal scale.

Inmates Support Guards' Strike in France

August 6 (IPS) — Following two weeks of riots, mutinies, sit-ins and other forms of protest by prison inmates all over France, the guards are conducting walk-outs, slow-downs and hunger strikes to dramatize their own plight. The French press August 5 reported that a solidarity movement between prisoners and guards is consolidating in several provincial jails and is threatening to spread to the rest of the country's houses of detention. In Nice and in the northern town of Arras, prisoners are reportedly sending petitions supporting the guards' wage demands to the Ministry of Justice, as well as carrying out hunger strikes along with the personnel.

This embryonic form of class solidarity obviously was not expected by President Giscard d'Estaing's government, which had hoped to use the prisoners' discontent

to draw the French population's attention away from the difficulties of the economy. In at least two prisons, the government mysteriously "failed to intervene" to calm rampaging inmates, thus guaranteeing the total destruction of the premises!

Under such circumstances, the guards are refusing to stay on the job. Accusing the government of "provocation" and of being "on the side of the rowdiest inmates," the guards' unions are now demanding to be treated "with respect," and asking to be paid the same wages as the police. The guards also denounced the government's attempt to introduce "autogestion" (local inmates' control) in the prisons.

After snubbing the guards contemptuously for two weeks, Minister of Justice Jean Lecanuet is now all ears.