

**press
review****RELIGION —
CLOSE COLLABORATOR OF THE SOVIET REVISIONISTS**

«BASHKIMI»

Some time ago, «Politizdat», the publishing house of political literature of the Soviet Union, published a voluminous book written by the chairman of one of the state committees of the Council of Ministers, a certain Kuroyedov. According to «Pravda» which reviewed the book, it is specifically written for the «Soviet working people, for the propaganda workers and teachers of the higher schools». On account of the high functions filled by this Soviet official, one would be left into thinking that this book should

serve atheistic propaganda. Nothing of the sort. The author solemnly declares that the committee he chairs «does not engage in atheistic propaganda, because such a thing does not fall within its competences.» According to «Pravda», the author has set out to tell his readers, at home and abroad, that the priests and their followers are well off in the Soviet Union, that they «take an active part in the construction of communism,» and that the Church in the Soviet Union «is active in the defence of peace in the world.»

This anti-Marxist stand of the Soviet social-imperialists towards religion and its representatives is part of their all-round bourgeois degeneration. The chiefs of Moscow have harnessed the Church to their social-imperialist ambitions and use according to the various internal and external political circumstances. Religious propaganda is spreading, the number of churches and priests is increasing, and reactionary and obscurantist mediaeval concepts are being revived.

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the production of cult objects was inaugurated with great pomp and ceremony not very long ago. New churches have been built and old ones are being reconstructed all over the country. Every year the top personalities of the Soviet Union send messages of greetings to the patriarch of Moscow and all Russia. According to «Pravda», in the recent years «hundreds of large mosques and thousands of village mosques have been built or reconstructed» in the Soviet Union. The Church published its own newspapers, reviews and calendars in millions of copies, religious icons and postcards have wide circulation, the Quran and the Gospel have gone through many publications. Internally, the chiefs of the Kremlin want the Church to put people in a state of apathy, to educate them in the spirit of submission and meekness, according to the sayings of the Bible: «Whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also,» or «Blessed are the poor for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,» so

that people do not oppose the fascist dictatorship, do not make demands for a better life without oppression and exploitation, and work as much as possible for the new Soviet bourgeoisie, part of which is the clergy with its great privileges.

Externally, the present rulers of the Soviet Union want the Church to give its «blessing» to their expansionist policy and their penetration into different regions of the world. They organize «word» conferences and congresses of religious representatives in support of their policy. The synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, for example, approved the Soviet fascist aggression against Afghanistan, and the patriarch Pimen, soon after this declaration, was awarded the order of the «Peoples' Friendship» for his «patriotic activity and defence of peace», as Kuznetsov's message of greetings puts it in a cynical manner. The Soviet aggression against Afghanistan was approved by an Islamic conference organized in Tashkent.

Besides their «world» and regional conferences, meetings and congresses of religious personalities, the Soviet social-imperialists have set up specialized religious institutions for the co-ordination of the activity of the Soviet clergy with the clergy of other countries. They openly praise not only their Orthodox Church but also the Catholic and other churches. According to the Soviet press reports, «the Catholic Church has undergone an historical change and is fighting for peace,» etc.

The yearly meetings between the «Marxists and the Christians,» as the chiefs of Moscow describe such meetings, have become a revisionist-Christian institution. In the last such meeting which was held in Madrid, the Soviets had taken along not only the so-called Marxists from their vassal countries of Europe, but also bishop Pitirim. At the press conference after the meeting the Soviet representatives declared that they had reached common views with the Christians of the West on many points.