

THE Overseas Services of the BBC presented last year a series of talks under the general heading, *Communism in Practice*. The series gave a survey of the problem of Communism in its many aspects and ramifications—Russian Communism with its orthodox rigidity, the still somewhat “moderate” Communism of the satellite countries which is quickly approaching the Russian pattern, and International Communism operating in many parts of the free world and struggling for power. There was an explanation of the working of the collective farms, the essence of the Five-Year Plan, the true meaning of the Russian Revolution and what the régime meant to the farmer, the worker and the individual and its effects on human and property rights.

A little later in the year in its *Focus* series the BBC set out to give the massive audience which favours the *Light Programme* a clear objective picture of Communism. In two programmes, which will be broadcast on transcriptions from four NZBS stations in the next fortnight, there is a search for answers to a number of questions asked today in New Zealand as well as the rest of the free world about Communism. For instance, what causes it? What sort of people are Communists? What do they want? What

BBC FOCUS ON COMMUNISM

are they trying to do? What makes countries go Communist, and what are they like when they do it?

Maurice Gorham and Hugh Seton-Watson, who collaborated on the scripts, shaped their programmes, each lasting half an hour, as discussions, with some

dramatised illustrations between an authoritative narrator, a knowledgeable man and a woman, uninformed, but with an inquiring mind. The first part describes the birth of Communism and its basic tenets as propounded by Karl Marx. It examines the means by which

it established itself in power in Russia under the leadership of Lenin, its growth inside the Soviet Union, and the emergence of Stalin as the unchallenged ruler of the U.S.S.R. after Lenin's death.

“Without Propaganda or Hysteria”

The second part traces the progress of Communism throughout the world since the Revolution of 1917, and discusses the relationship between Russian expansionism and the international Communist movement. They have tried, the authors say, to tell the story fairly, without propaganda or hysteria. The programme has been described by an English radio critic as one of the most ambitious and determined efforts on the *Light Programme* to rouse the public mind, and the script as a cool, factual assessment of the origins of Marxist doctrine—as “a tight-rope demonstration of absolute and confident balance.”

The first broadcast of *Focus on Communism* will be by 1YC on Tuesday, August 21, at 9.30 p.m., and the second half of the programme will be heard at the same time on Tuesday, August 23. Dates for broadcasting by other stations are: 2YA, 8.30 p.m., Friday, August 24, and August 31; 3YC, 9.30 p.m., Sunday, August 26, and Monday, August 27; and 4YA, 4.0 p.m., August 26, and September 2.

D. G. Bridson, the producer of *Focus on Communism*, went into business after leaving school, but, after seven years trying to like it, gave up the struggle and started out as a free-lance poet. Eventually he became a regular feature writer in the BBC's North Region, and then joined the staff as a producer. He wrote and produced the first radio verse play, *March of the '45*, which was specially broadcast to America as representative of the more ambitious work of the BBC. He produced many of the *Window on Europe* survey programmes, and visited South Africa, Canada, Australia and New Zealand in search of material for programmes on life in the Dominions. Maurice Gorham has been with the BBC since 1926. He was for periods on the staff of the *Weekly Westminster* and the *Westminster Gazette*. He has travelled extensively, is a boxing fan and amateur criminologist.

Light on Yugoslavia

Another BBC programme somewhat similar to *Focus on Communism* is *Window on Yugoslavia*, which will be broadcast by 2YA at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, August 26. For 1500 years invasion and conquest have been the uninterrupted lot of the nation that became Yugoslavia in the post-war settlement of 1919. Today Yugoslavia is once more a potential trouble spot, governed by a Communist regime that has been banished by the Cominform for heresy against the true faith as propounded by the Kremlin. During the autumn of last year W. Farquharson Small of the BBC, and Matthew Halton, Canadian commentator and writer, travelled through Yugoslavia collecting material for *Window on Yugoslavia*. They were given interpreters, so that they could talk to people in their homes and they say they found everyone extremely frank, from Marshal Tito downwards. No attempt is made in this programme to judge the way of living in this land of contrasts and contradictions; it presents facts as Small and Halton found them.



BBC photograph



Spencer Digby photograph

MAURICE GORHAM (left), co-author with Hugh Seton-Watson of the BBC programme “Focus on Communism,” and D. G. Bridson, who produced it

★ CHORAL CONCERT BY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS ★



MUSIC making in New Zealand schools has progressed by leaps and bounds in the last few years, and today makes a valuable contribution to the pattern of education throughout the Dominion. In this field, the Christchurch Boys' High School Choir, under the direction of Clifton Cook, has won high praise. When he was in Christchurch in November, Graham Carritt, examiner for the Royal Schools of Music, was greatly impressed by the quality of its work, and the Governor-General, Lord Freyberg, paid a special visit to the school to hear the choir. On a recent Saturday evening when the choir gave its second annual public concert, 400 boys (some of whom are shown above at rehearsal) took their places on the stage of the Civic Theatre. Among the choristers are 60 from Form VI., and most of the members of the 1st XV., the Senior XI. and the school's hockey and boxing teams. Clifton Cook, the choir's musical director, is the first full-time music master at the Christchurch Boys' High School. In addition, he conducts the Canterbury College Choral Society, and is honorary deputy conductor of the Christchurch Harmonic Society. The recent concert included works by Handel, Purcell, Benjamin Britten, Quilter, German and Ferriers. New Zealand composers were represented in compositions and arrangements by Dr. V. E. Galway, Dr. Vernon Griffiths (who played the organ accompaniments for the choir on this occasion), and John Ritchie. A group of French songs, arranged by Mr. Cook, was sung by the Special Trebles, accompanied by Dr. L. J. Moffatt. Some of these items will form part of a half-hour programme, recorded at the concert, which will be heard from 3YA at 8.6 p.m. on August 22.