

Oslo, July 1957.

Press Section

LANGE, HALVARD MANTHEY

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Mr. Lange was born September 16, 1902, in Oslo. His father, Mr. Chr. L. Lange, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1921, was Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The family moved to Brussels in 1910, but during the first World War the Union was transferred to Oslo, where the young Halvard attended the lower grammar school and secondary school.

In 1919 the family moved to Geneva. Mr. Lange became a student in 1920 and went to Italy the same year as a tutor in a Norwegian family.

In 1921 to 1922 he studied French and literature at the University of Geneva, and after his return to Norway in the autumn 1922, he passed an examination in French at Oslo University. The following year he was made assistant secretary of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation - a peace organisation in London, where he organised two international peace conferences in Denmark and Germany.

During these years Mr. Lange visited most of the countries of Europe and studied the minority problems in Poland. When in London, he attended Evening classes at the London School of Economics. In February 1925 he returned to Norway. University Exam in English 1926. Thereafter, from 1926 - 27 he studied economic history at the University of Geneva, where he had the opportunity of observing the work of the League of Nations, and in the spring 1927 he returned to the London School of Economics, where he studied political science under Professor Laski.

He returned to Norway in 1927, took his MA degree at Oslo University with History as his main subject.

During his first stay in London, Mr. Lange joined the Labour Movement and became a member of the Independent Labour Party in Britain. After his return to Oslo he joined the Social Democratic Youth Movement and became a member of its Central Committee. After he had joined the Labour Party he was from the ^{very} beginning a frequent lecturer at the Party's evening schools and study circles, and in this way, and also by his literary activity, he has played a great part in the Norwegian Labour Movement.

For a few years he was employed as teacher at the Commercial High School of Oslo.

In 1930 Mr. Lange was awarded a scholarship from the Chr. Michelsen Fund for the purpose of gathering material for a work on the origin and development of the party system in Norway. For four years he collected material and prepared it for later use. The German Gestapo, however, found the manuscript when Mr. Lange was arrested in 1940, and it has not been traced since - the work of four years irretrievably lost.

Mr. Lange became secretary to the Workers' Educational Association and was at the same time employed as a teacher and secretary to the Scandinavian High School in Geneva.

In 1937 he went to England as a lecturer for the British Workers' Educational Association, and in 1937 he worked for the Norwegian Federation of Trade Unions as leader of its school and of the Sörmarka High School, which is also run by the Trade Union Federation. In 1939 he was appointed Principal of this school.

The war interrupted his work. Mr. Lange went to Sweden in order to join the King and the Government in the North of Norway. He was ordered to remain in Stockholm to organize the passage northwards of volunteers and to keep in touch with movements in Norway. After the end of the campaign in the North in June 1940, he returned home, but the Gestapo had got wind of his activities and arrested him in August 1940. He was put in Möllergaten prison and was only released after one year. In 1942 he was arrested for a second time. After having spent 6 months in solitary confinement he was deported to Sachsenhausen concentration camp in Germany in February 1943. There he met, amongst others, some of his future Government colleagues.

He endured the life of German concentration camps for two whole years and was among the prisoners brought to Sweden by the Swedish Red Cross in April 1945.

Mr. Lange's literary production includes "The History of the Trade Union Movement in Norway" (1933), "The Nazis and Norway" (1934), "The Political Labour Internationals" (1935), "The History of the International Labour Movement" (1936 and 1937), and "The History of the Norwegian Labour Party" (1937 and 1939). The latter work was published in cooperation with Professor Arne Ordning.

Mr. Lange has served on a number of committees, especially in connection with his educational work. From 1932-34 he was a member of the Oslo City Council, and from 1931-39 he was a member of the Municipal School Board. Prior to the war he was a deputy member of the Labour Party's Central Committee and was elected a full member in 1945. He was a member of the Norwegian Nobel Peace Prize Committee in 1945-46. Since 1950 he has been a member of the Storting (Parliament).

Mr. Lange was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in February, 1946.
