

IMPERIALIST OR WORKING CLASS SANCTIONS?

Oct 1935?

THE SLID STAND

WHY DEFEND ETHIOPIA?

Mussolini seeks a solution in open imperialist aggression against the last independent nation of Africa. The reduction of Ethiopia to colonial status would strengthen the Italian bourgeoisie by means offering further means for exploitation and for greater repression of its own working class.

A defeat for Italian imperialism would weaken the fascists and would help the Italian masses to overthrow Italian capitalism. It would aid the liberation of colonial peoples and strike a death blow at imperialism. This would accelerate the world wide fight for Socialism.

ROLE OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The League of Nations was established by the victorious powers of the last war to maintain their imperialist gains. France and England resent the threat of this growing imperialist rival, Italy. Italian control of Ethiopia will endanger the life line of the British Empire. The Status quo established at Versailles would be violently disturbed. If France supports England now, England will support France when Germany attempts the redivision of Europe. In either case, both will hide their designs by means of the League, which they control. The "neutrality" of the League was well evinced in the silence which these powers maintained when Japan invaded Manchuria and during the Gran-Chaco.

WORKING CLASS OR IMPERIALIST SANCTIONS?

Economic sanctions by imperialists will inevitably lead to war. To be effective, economic acts must be backed by military acts. England and France have learned that Mussolini's bombast is in earnest. "We will answer in kind. To acts of war we will answer with acts of war."

Workers have no interests in fighting the battles of their imperialist masters. They must not be led to another World War. We must not permit Ethiopia to be the "raped" Belgium of 1935. We are for the defence of Ethiopia, but we refuse to place this defence in the hands of the imperialists. The independent sanctions of the working class - boycott, strikes, mass demonstrations - can aid the Ethiopian people, not the sanctions of financial capital. Let the workers refuse to transport all goods to Italy and the war will be checked. The defeat of Italian Fascism by the international working class will be a signal for the revolt of the Italian masses. At the same time, independent action of the working class of France, England and the United States will draw a clear line between their own and their ruler's interests. The class struggle will not be obliterated; it will be sharpened.

The SLIP is for working class sanctions **AGAINST IMPERIALIST SANCTIONS**. We reject the position of the NSL and other communist organizations. They would lead the workers to a new war, they would suspend the class struggle and identify the worker's interest with that of "good" capitalist states as opposed to "bad" fascist states. They would repeat the blunders of the social-patriots of 1914.

FOR THE DEFENCE OF ETHIOPIA: WORKING CLASS SANCTIONS ONLY: AGAINST IMPERIALIST SANCTIONS AND IMPERIALIST WAR!