

4/22/37

25

HOW

1 HOW DOES SPAIN AFFECT YOU ?

2 CAN AMERICA KEEP OUT OF WAR ?

3 HOW CAN STUDENTS CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE ?

SUPPOSE THE FASCISTS WON IN SPAIN?

Forget for a minute the brutal suppression of everything progressive in Spanish life. Forget the modern version of the Inquisition which would ensue.

Just consider this question: What would a fascist victory mean for the rest of the world? What would it mean for us?

The war in Spain is by no means a civil war. It is a war of invasion in which German and Italian fascism are supplying the military, political and economic backing for a small clique of Spanish fascists. It is Hitler's war. It is a war against the Spanish people and their democratic government. It is Mussolini's war.

First we had Japan's seizure of Manchuria. Then Italy's conquest of Ethiopia. Now Spain. What next?

A fascist victory in Spain would mean fascist rebellions in France, Czechoslovakia, in other countries, instigated by the same offenders and characterized by the same intervention. Aided by their new war in the Mediterranean, aided by strengthened pro-war forces in all countries, the fascist powers would speed up their drive to world war.

From beginning to end, we can see that the fascist policy is directed toward unrestrained military aggression; to permit this aggression to continue means to court world war.

CAN WE KEEP THE PEACE?

Can the United States remain on the sidelines in a world war?

Even Secretary of State Hull has his doubts. Speaking at Buenos Aires, he stated that no matter how ardent a peace-loving nation we may be, war in any part of the world threatens to involve us. Certainly it is clear that American investments in all parts of the world have made the United States an integral part of world economy, have made the United States a leading factor in world politics . . . and consequently have made it impossible for this country to remain unaffected by any major war. The example of April, 1917, alone, proves that the fate of America is inextricably bound up with the fate of Europe.

How can we prevent a repetition of 1917?

The present neutrality policy of the United States government is by no means a guarantee of peace. In its specific application it has resulted in an embargo against the Spanish government, but not against the two powers invading Spain. Thus, in effect, it has served to encourage the most warlike and aggressive countries in the continuance of their military provocations. But, assuming that American neutrality were extended to result in complete isolation, would that better the situation in any way? Not

at all. Neutrality followed to its natural conclusion means the end of international law and the collapse of diplomacy. It is wind in the sails of the aggressors. Hitler and Mussolini advocate neutrality because it will permit them to extend their military operations to even wider fields. And some Americans advocate neutrality because they do not understand this.

The only way to keep America out of war is to help keep war out of the world. The independent action of labor and the peace movement should strive to achieve this end. *Revision*

In practical terms, this means that the United States must cooperate with every nation interested, for one reason or another, in preserving peace at present. This is by no means foreign to American peace policy. America played an important role in establishing the Kellogg Peace Pact which renounces war as a means of settling disputes among nations and provides for international cooperation in dealing with violators of this pact. An effective peace program embodying the principle of collective security against the aggressor can and must be worked out on the basis of the Kellogg Pact. This would mean that the signatories would withhold assistance of any sort from any aggressor nation, and would utilize moral and economic pressure to halt this aggression.

In the present situation, the American government should lift the embargo against the friendly, democratic government of Spain, and should place an embargo on all transactions with the guilty powers, Germany and Italy, until aggression is stopped. It is clear that the ending of the conflict in Spain with the victory of the Spanish people's front government is the single most important contribution to world peace at the present time.

WHERE WE STAND

In addition, we must call a halt to American military preparations. It is in this sense that we support the Oxford Pledge as an instrument of pressure against the government's war machine on the campus and off the campus. We recognize that the fight for a real American peace policy in the world is directed against the same reactionary interests which sponsor war preparations at home.

In the long run, of course, the world will have to face an even more momentous question, that of removing once and for all the basic cause of war, the economic tangles of modern capitalist society. The change to a socialist order, accomplished already in the Soviet Union, is the final guarantee of future world peace. We communist students do not, however, subscribe to the theory that only the overthrow of capitalism can prevent war at the present moment. This defeatist idea leads in practice to abandoning daily work for a collective peace front which could indefinitely

postpone and even prevent impending war. Such a policy gives objective aid to the followers of Leon Trotsky who not only disrupt the struggle for peace but who, as proven by the Moscow trials, also actively cooperate with Japanese and German fascists in preparing an attack on the Soviet Union, an attack through which the Trotskyites hope to seize power. We must reject these enemies of the peace movement and their influence, as we build a powerful anti-war front in collaboration with labor and other progressive forces. We declare that every human being devoted to the maintenance of peace, whatever his disagreements with our stand, belongs in that peace front.

WHAT PART CAN WE STUDENTS PLAY?

We can:

Forge the unity of the student peace movement, through permanent councils!

Make the schools centers for peace . . . drive militarism from the campus!

Build the American Student Union as the major progressive student organization!

Press the government for a policy of international collaboration to maintain peace!

Give concrete aid to the Spanish government!

STRIKE AGAINST WAR, APRIL 22, AT 11 A. M.

**NATIONAL STUDENT COMMITTEE
YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE**

The fight for peace requires people who are equipped with a scientific understanding of world problems and with a scientific method of coping with them. Through the study of the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, the Young Communist League furnishes young people with these instruments. It provides understanding and guidance for the great social movements of our time. For education, activity and comradeship, join the Young Communist League!

I want to join the Young Communist League.....

I want more information about the Y. C. L.

Name

Address

School

Send this blank to: **National Student Committee, Young Communist League**
P. O. Box 28, Station D, New York City