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3/22/1938

STOP FASCIST



ASSASSINS!

Act Now! . . . Save World Peace!

AN OPEN LETTER TO EVERY NEW YORK STUDENT

DEAR CLASSMATE:

It is difficult to write calmly about war and peace today. We, the post-war generation, first learned about war from text-books . . . then the pulp-magazines, then Hollywood. Today, we learn about it from the front-page of every newspaper, from the conversation on everyone's lips, from the air we breathe.

We've often wondered about war, haven't we? Was it really something to fear . . . or was Hollywood's glamour more impelling?

We don't wonder any longer. It's too real, too close.

Italian Capronis bank over an Ethiopian village; says young Mussolini, "It was really glorious to see the men and women fall and the grass shacks go up in flames" . . . Japanese planes reducing American-sponsored Nankai University to melted steel and charred brick . . . over 1,000,000 killed in China, thus far . . . one million people, humanity, the good earth . . . Again Capronis and Heinkels over Madrid, Guernica, Barcelona . . . time-fuse bombs sinking through seven stories of an office building, a nursery school, then shattering outwards . . . Nazi artillery shedding Spanish blood, terrorizing Austria out of existence, forcing the "liberated" to suicide . . . menacing Czechoslovakia, and the world . . .

Behind it all, the triple alliance of terror, the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo axis, the swastika, the fasces, the skull-and-bones . . . marching, bombing, destroying human life, human happiness, liberty, culture, religious freedom, world peace. The unholy three . . . with faces east . . . and west and north and south. Fascism against world peace.

"If those things come to pass in other parts of the world, let no one imagine that America will escape, that it may expect mercy, that this Western hemisphere will not be attacked and that it will continue tranquilly and peacefully to carry on the ethics and the arts of civilization."*

We've made up our minds. We hate war.

But war cannot be hated in many ways. It can be hated in only one way . . . that way is to stop it!

For all its bluster, for all its swagger, for all the

might of its military machine which we in our blind idiocy are providing, fascism and death are always weaker than democracy and the will to live. This is fact. Spain and China. China and Spain. These two nations, with the will to live in freedom their fundamental weapon, are triumphantly holding off the combined attack of Germany, Italy and Japan. Deserted by all the nations, except the Soviet Union and Mexico and the international brigaders, they are doing this. If the democratic nations had collectively embargoed the aggressors and continued normal relations with Spain and China, these wars would be over today. If today the shameful desertion were ended, democracy and peace would be victorious tomorrow.

The betrayal of peace continues, however. Hitler seizes Austria.

The betrayal must be ended, now! Hitler must not take Czechoslovakia.

Concerted action means peace. Concerted action is the free and open collaboration by all the non-fascist nations, acting voluntarily or under pressure of their united, aroused populations, to

throw the decisive weight of their overwhelming moral, political and economic power against the fascist aggressors and for peace, to cause the defeat of fascism in Spain and China and Austria, to guarantee the safety of the threatened nations, to re-establish world peace.

Does this lead to war? No. Its opposite, the drifting policy, the see-nothing, hear-nothing, do-nothing policy . . . each day increases the danger of world war, and American involvement in that war. Does it lead to peace? Yes. It removes from the reach of fascism the essentials for war-making.

We have kept our heads buried in the sand through five invasions. But the fascist dust-storm itself, and the rising peace movement, have swept that sand away. We cannot now refuse to face reality.

And so today, the New York students demonstrate their determination to face that reality. Today we begin preparations for a gigantic National Peace Strike on April 27. Today we mobilize for a series of emergency actions to meet the emergency situation. Through

the stoppage of classes, campus demonstrations, picketing the fascist consulates, we demand:

That the United States put into practice the policies enumerated by President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull by a favorable reply to the Soviet Union's call for a world conference of democratic nations to stop fascist aggression. That the O'Connell Peace Act be passed.

That the embargo on the recognized, republican government of Spain be lifted; that the fascist aggressors be quarantined by economic embargo; that the terroristic bombing of Spain's people be stopped, and that we ourselves increase our aid to Spain.

That Hitler's troops be removed from Austria; that the persecution of Catholics, Jews, scientists, liberals be halted; that we recall our Ambassador from Hitler's Germany. That the independence of Czechoslovakia be protected.

That our government make the boycott on Japanese goods a national policy.

We do not despair of peace. We of the American Student Union call upon you all to unite for peace, to join us in making the voice of undergraduate America, acting with our trade union brothers and all other sections of the population desiring peace, heard in Washington, heard 'round the world, to make America a positive force for peace.

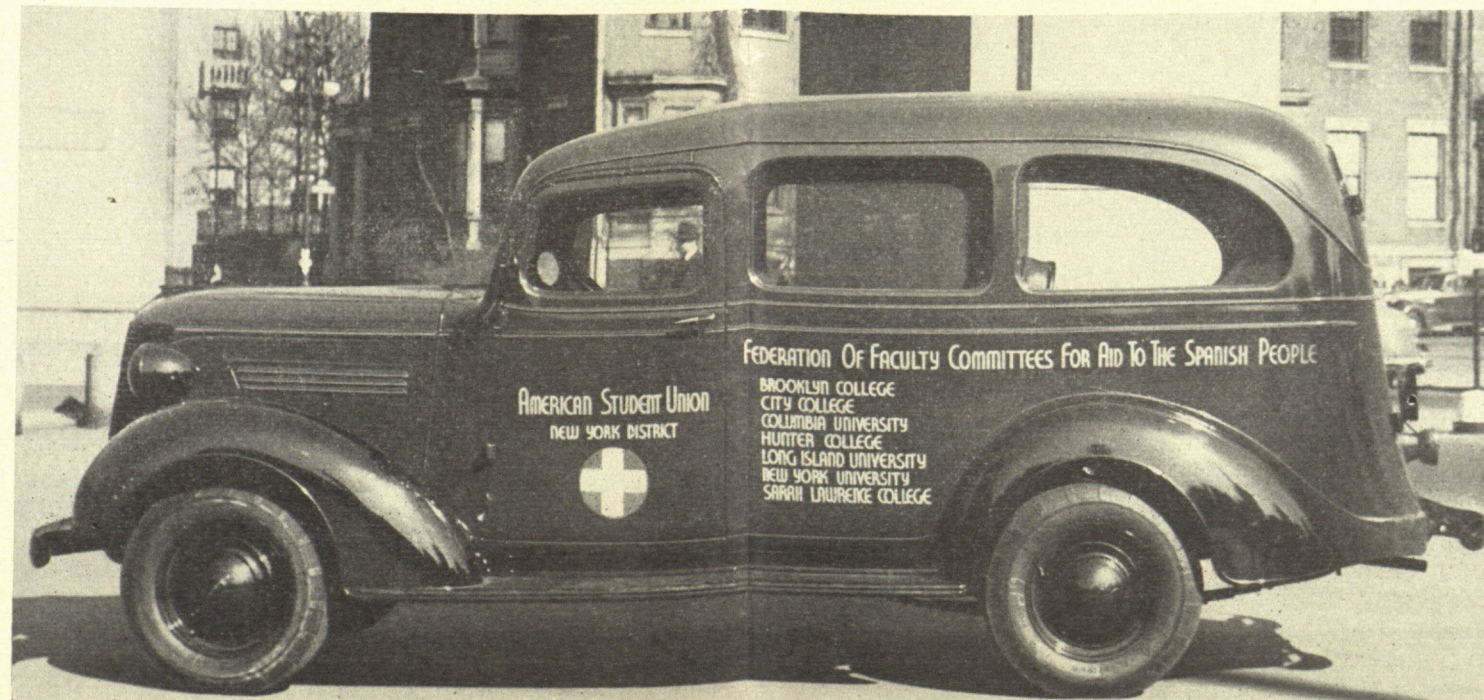
Collegians! Join your campus demonstration today. High school students! Throw your picket lines around the fascist consulates.

College and high school students . . . Join the American Student Union.

We are a post-war generation. We are determined not to be a war generation.

Very sincerely yours,

HERBERT WITT,
Executive Secretary
American Student Union
New York District



Contributed by the New York students and faculty. This ambulance sailed for Spain last week. The ASU urges you to answer the urgent calls from the Spanish government for much-needed medical aid. Give! Up to the limit and beyond.

*President Roosevelt.

C'mon, Kid!

You've been sitting on the bench a long time . . . *Get in the game and play for all you're worth.* We are playing for big stakes . . . *Your life and ours.* We're playing to win! . . . *How about you?*

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