

ONLY SOCIALISM BRINGS PEACE

A Call to Action Against War

WITH increasing force, as the days go by, this country is being driven into a new war, this time in the Far East. And an armed conflict breaking out in the Far East, with this country involved, will hardly remain localized for long; it will almost certainly become the prelude to another world war even more barbarous, disastrous and ruinously destructive than the last.

A virtual alliance, probably including a naval agreement, already exists between the United States and Great Britain, for joint action to protect the "interests" of both against Japanese aggression.

What are these "interests" in China to defend which we are called upon to go to war? They are the investments, commercial privileges and financial prospects of banking and big-business groups in this country, the "right" of these groups to coin profits out of the toil of the Chinese people undisturbed by Japanese competition. They are imperialistic interests of exploitation and oppression. They are the selfish interests of no more than a tiny handful of Americans, for what interests have the great masses of this country in China or anywhere else that require defense by armed force? Such is the American stake in the Far East.

Slogans Of War

Of course, we are not going to be asked to go out and get killed for the profits of big business, not even for the "open door" in China, which is the slogan under which American imperialism operates in

the Far East. We will be asked to fight to "uphold our national honor" and to "make the world safe for democracy" again; to "help the Chinese people" against the Japanese; by some, even to "defend the Soviet Union." They will seek to harness our idealism and hatred of fascism to the war machine, even more brazenly than President Wilson exploited similar sentiments in 1917.

But it will be the same bloody fraud, the same unscrupulous deception of the people. For the last thing American imperialism wants is freedom and democracy in China; that would mean an end to all foreign domination and exploitation, American included. The last thing American imperialism wants is to do anything to "defend the Soviet Union" which it hates and fears far more, as a socialist republic and a standing threat to capitalism, than it hates and fears Japan, which is merely an imperialist rival. Imagine, "making the world safe for democracy," hand in hand with Tory England, the attorney for Hitler and Mussolini!

Whatever may be the fine "democratic" phrases in which they are enveloped, the real aims of the American government in such a war will be: first, to protect and extend its own imperialistic interests against Japan; and, secondly, to ensure "order" and "security" in the Far East by suppressing any outbreaks of popular revolt that may occur and by undermining Soviet influence, perhaps even helping to organize and finance the forces of counter-revolution. Amer-

A "War for Democracy" Brings Fascism

Workers! Stop the Shipment of All Munitions and War Supplies to Japan!

ican troops sent to the Far East in the name of "democracy," would become the police force of reaction against the peoples of China, Japan and the Soviet Union. In such a crusade of reactionary repression, British and American imperialism could very easily find a common basis for accommodation with Japanese militarism, after the decisive test of war had readjusted the relation of imperialist forces in the Far East. Against the common foe—socialism and democracy—the victorious and the vanquished powers would readily unite to their mutual advantage.

The "war for democracy" would not only bring reaction and increased imperialist oppression to the Far East; it would also bring military dictatorship very like fascism at home. The Industrial Mobilization Plan and the Sheppard-Hill bill are a sign of what we may expect should America be plunged into another war.

Big Business The Only Gainer

In a word, American big business would be the only gainer in war; its coffers would be filled to overflowing with swollen war profits and its investments and business prospects would be secured against Japanese competition. But the great masses of the American working people would stand to lose everything—our blood, our liberties, our living standards, our great achievements in labor organization during recent years.

For this war that is being planned, the administration is now preparing. It has already launched a two-billion dollar rearmament program, the biggest peace-time armaments budget in history, and the indications are that additional billions will be added in time. This rearmament program not only reflects the increasingly aggressive

foreign policy of the administration; it also implies an increasingly reactionary course at home—abandonment of federal low-cost housing and other important public works; cuts in unemployment relief and retrenchment of social-welfare plans; governmental regulation of unions in order to keep them in line with the war program. Rearmament means reaction on every front!

Menace Of "Collective Security"

That is the fate towards which we are being rapidly driven by the war-mongers. Of course, they operate in the name of "peace." So did Woodrow Wilson when he steered this country into the World War. Then, the slogan was a "concert of free nations against autocracy"; today, it is "collective security of the great democracies against fascism." This slogan of "collective security" is both a fraud and a menace. It is a fraud because there is not and can never be a common front of the "great democracies" simply out of "ideological" solidarity; the diplomatic friendships and hostilities of these powers are determined by their imperialistic interests not by their alleged "democratic ideals." Look at England, that greatest of "great democracies," crawling before Mussolini and Hitler! The "collective security" idea is a menace because it serves as the cover under which military alliances are being secretly prepared. Behind the cloud of phrases about "quarantining" the "aggressor nations," the Rooseveltian version of "collective security," a naval understanding has been reached with Great Britain for war in the Far East. "Collective security" is utterly meaningless unless it is implemented by military pacts; once implemented with such pacts, it is a

deadly trap for the masses, binding them hand and foot to the imperialistic war machine.

American People Want Peace

The American people, in its great mass, wants peace. Above all, the American laboring masses want peace. They have shown it by their support of the LaFollette-Ludlow Amendment. They have shown it by their demand for the withdrawal of American warships and Marines from the Far East. They have shown it by their cold reception of the attempts of the administration to stir up a jingoistic frenzy in connection with the Panay incident. They have shown it, above all, by the widespread popular hostility that greeted the President's feeler towards "collective security" in his Chicago address, everywhere correctly interpreted as a move towards an English alliance. The masses of the people want peace and are deeply aroused at the course the administration is steering towards war.

Behind the administration, there is rallying a "national front" for war, stretching all the way from Alf. M. Landon, the Liberty Leaguer, to Earl Browder, the Stalinite, all united on the slogan of the "concerted action" of the "great democracies." Against this "national front" for war, we must build up the broadest possible common front against war, embracing all sections of the people who desire peace and are ready to unite their efforts for it. In this movement, as in all forward movements in present-day society, labor is the most powerful and dependable force. Naturally, other groups, such as the farmers and the middle classes, are vital for any real anti-war struggle but they can achieve their full effectiveness only by allying themselves with the labor

movement under its leadership. On the other hand, if labor fights hard for peace, it will surely win the support of all those who hate war and would most suffer from it should it come.

Our struggle against war must also be a fight against war-making imperialism and all its works, at home and abroad. We must come to the aid of the Chinese people resisting Japanese aggression and to the aid of the Spanish people heroically fighting against Franco's fascist band and its foreign backers. How can we do this? Most effectively of all, by stopping the shipment of munitions and war materials to Japan, thru independent labor action and pressure on the government, and by forcing open the markets of this country to China and the Spanish Loyalist government. While the employing-class press screams its head off about Japan, American banks lend it money and American business men sell it all sorts of war materials. The same is true of the capitalists of other countries, Great Britain above all. Only the working-class movement can stop this shameless assistance to Japanese aggression. Only international working-class action can stop Japanese militarism!

As against the "cooperative action" of the imperialist "democracies," preached by the jingo champions of "collective security," we urge the cooperative action of the labor movements of the United States, Great Britain, France and other countries to prevent, by strike action, if necessary, the shipment of war materials of any sort to the Japanese militarists!

Socialism The Only Road

We, too, are alarmed at the "state of international anarchy." But we propose to meet it not by

Fight for Socialism—Join the Independent Communist Labor League

a military alliance of "democratic" robber-states but by a united international front of the workers and laboring masses the world over against predatory and war-like imperialism, whether "democratic" or fascist. Because this "international anarchy" stems from the antagonisms and conflicts inherent in capitalistic imperialism, we are convinced that the only way to eliminate it is to eliminate the

system of capitalism itself. We may throw obstacles in the way of the war-makers and postpone or head off the war that is now being prepared. But, in the long run, war will continue to face us as an imminent danger just as long as capitalism continues to exist. Fundamentally, the only answer to war is socialism—for only socialism can bring peace!

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