

WASHINGTON PLAYS A WAR GAME

(Editorial, reprinted from Daily Worker, December 2, 1939)

What is the REAL reason for the deep involvement of the Roosevelt government and Wall Street in the affairs of the reactionaries at Helsinki?

The country is being deluged with hypocrisies on a vast scale.

No thinking person will be deceived by this performance. The common sense of the American people will tell them that the gentlemen of Washington and Wall Street do not assume public sponsorship for people like Baron Von Mannerheim, marshal of the Finnish Army, without very good material reasons.

Around the Finnish ruling cliques a vast game of world imperialist politics is being played. The United States has been taken into it hook, line and sinker by the Roosevelt administration.

Finland is only one part of the rapidly unfolding world-wide foreign policy of President Roosevelt. The other part is on the other side of the world, in the Far East, in China and the Pacific Ocean and the Soviet Union's relation to Japan.

World imperialist politics, with profits, markets, and Wall Street empire at stake--these are the real reasons for Roosevelt's deep involvement in the affairs of the Finnish rulers.

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It had been the London-Washington plan to use the Finnish rulers as the provocateurs who would solve the problems of the present Anglo-German imperialist war. Washington and London had put a pistol into the hands of Baron Von Mannerheim, ex-Czarist general, who heads the armed forces of the Finnish bourgeoisie.

With this pistol, Baron Von Mannerheim was supposed to have started the anti-Soviet war in the Baltic. With this pistol, Baron Von Mannerheim was supposed to have turned the present Anglo-German imperialist war into a united imperialist war against the Soviet Union.

But the Soviet Union knocked the pistol out of the hand of the Finnish capitalists and their ex-Czarist general. Hence, the fury of the imperialists in London and Washington.

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Roosevelt last night issued his official statement on the Finnish situation in which he expresses his "profound shock."

Thoughtful Americans will get a better understanding of the imperialist politics behind this utterance when they recall that Roosevelt for three years turned a deaf ear to the prayers of Republican Spain when it was trying to save its independence from Fascist invasion and Chamberlain "non-intervention."

The latest events help to explain to America why Roosevelt would not take any action to save Republican Spain. The conquest of Spain was planned by British imperialism as necessary for the unleashing of the world war against the Soviet Union. Roosevelt acquiesced in this plan. Roosevelt's indifference to Republican Spain, and his sponsorship of the ex-Czarist Baron Von Mannerheim today, make it clear that the foreign policy of the Roosevelt Administration is geared toward the spread of the imperialist war.

It helps to explain why the Roosevelt government made no effective move to oppose Chamberlain's policy of nourishing and financing German fascism throughout its aggressions in Europe against Czechoslovakia, Spain and Austria.

Today Roosevelt is concerned with Finland because he is bent on reconstructing the imperialist war front against the Soviet Union. He is deteriorating American relations with the Soviet Union in Europe, with Finland as the excuse because he is desirous of leading the anti-Soviet front in the Far East together with Japanese militarism.

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Mr. Raymond Clapper noted this truth as far back as November 4, when he wrote:

"It is possible that one thought behind the sudden American interest in Russia has to do not primarily with Europe but with the Pacific....The Washington government is criticizing Russian policies to an extent that cannot be entirely accounted for on the basis of European affairs. Washington is reacting to Moscow with more vigor and heat than to Berlin."

Two days ago, on Thursday morning, Walter Lippmann gave this tip-off even more concrete meaning in his column. He suggests to Japan an American agreement for the dismemberment of China provided Japan agrees to spread war against the Soviet Union. "Japan will

find in this

find that this country will meet them halfway in establishing a new order in Asia," he wrote. He warned that "if the Japanese make a pact with Russia" they will face "an American fleet in Hawaii" collaborating with "the eventual return of the British fleet to Singapore."

These are the deeper imperialist realities behind the Roosevelt sponsorship of the Finnish provocations against the Soviet Union in Europe.

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Roosevelt cannot have any illusions about his remarks that Finland "has had a long, honorable and wholly peaceful record." If Roosevelt will but read the official files of the U. S. State Department for 1918-20 he will find that the very same Baron Von Mannerheim who today is being embraced as an innocent pacifist was collaborating with General Yudenich in a war of invasion against the young Soviet Republic. Roosevelt cannot but know that American money in 1919 was going to Finland's rulers to finance their raids against the Soviet Union precisely because Finland, then as today, is a geographic open door to Leningrad.

The well-publicized American "war debts" of Finland's rulers were, in fact, subsidies to a small but greedy Finnish ruling class which, according to the abundant files in the State Department, acted as mercenaries for Allied imperialism in the hope of seizing Soviet Karelia, the Kola Peninsula, and the entire Leningrad Province. The "prompt Finnish payments" were wrung from the Finnish people to pay for an aggressive war against a neighbor with whom they had no quarrel.

It is with these mercenaries that Washington is involving America's future peace and safety.

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The Finnish people, it goes without saying, are not being consulted in this gambling with their fate. They have not forgotten that Baron Von Mannerheim, aided by Allied bayonets, massacred 30,000 Finnish men, women and children in crushing an uprising for a truly democratic Finland. The Finnish Parliament at Helsinki did not dare present its anti-Soviet war policy to the Finnish people; the Finnish press which called for peace was suppressed.

Neither London nor Washington nor Wall Street desires the genuine independence of the Finnish masses. On the contrary, Finland's independence can be assured only when the hands of the imperialist capitals and the ex-Czarist militarists are removed from the throats of the Finnish people. The Finnish people cannot enjoy democratic liberty while their rulers take war instructions from the imperialists of London and Washington.

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The United Press reported last night that the newly appointed Helsinki puppet, Mr. Risto Ryti, "has close connections with leading American and British banking circles, including Montagu Norman, head of the Bank of England, and has been a frequent visitor to the United States." The imperialist financial links between Helsinki and Wall Street are no longer a secret even in the press.

These are grave questions. Do the American people desire to sacrifice their safety and peace to Washington's imperialist politics behind which are only the plans of conquest in the Far East against the Soviet Union? The feelings of the American people are being pawned to Finnish exploiters and generals who have never given their own people any democratic liberty. The American people are subjected to moral hypocrisies over Finland's rulers to groom them for the betrayal of the Chinese people.

They are being pushed ever closer to an anti-Soviet war, the dream of the worst reactionaries in every country.

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Is this their desire? We believe that they will firmly demonstrate that their wish is for peace, not imperialist war.

We believe that the American people will lose no time in making it plain that the unfolding Roosevelt plan for war in the Far East against the Soviet Union is not their plan, and will not have their support.

DEAN OF CANTERBURY SUPPORTS SOVIET ACTION

The Dean of Canterbury, one of the outstanding leaders of the Church of England, has taken a stand in support of Soviet action in Finland. "It would have been wisdom and kindness on our part," he said, "if we had urged Finland to meet Russia's desire to remove the possibility of guns placed only 20 miles away from the heart of the area which possesses a quarter of her industrial activities....Russia feared with reason a united Western attack...."