

The United States and the New International Situation

IN SEPTEMBER, at the time of the highest point of the crisis evoked by Hitler's threats of aggression against Czechoslovakia, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, twice intervened in the European conflict. His appeal for peace and his proposal to convene an international conference for settlement of the questions in dispute were a very important refutation of those who wish to make out that the United States will in all circumstances keep to its policy of isolation. It is also clear, however, that this intervention by President Roosevelt was determined not by general humanitarian or pacifist considerations, but above all by the interests of America and recognition of the fact that two oceans alone are not capable of protecting the United States of America from the expansionist designs of the fascist bloc.

As a matter of fact, as a result of the new reactionary bloc formed at Munich, which seriously changed the international situation, drawing into the anti-democratic, counter-revolutionary bloc the imperialist reactionary forces of Great Britain and France, the role of the United States and of the Americas becomes even more decisive. The Munich bloc, following the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia, is proceeding next to attempt to liquidate the Spanish republic.

At the same time the capitulation of the Western Powers to Hitler, the attempt of Chamberlain and Daladier to adapt Britain and France to the expansionist efforts of Hitler's "world political triangle," will unquestionably also strengthen the hands of the Japanese militarists in their drive for the

conquest of China and the Pacific. Thus the menace of fascism, hitherto considered by the United States as primarily a European problem, becomes world-wide and directly strikes against the national interests of the U.S.A. and against American democracy.

The fight between democracy and fascism for Spain has a far greater importance for the American continent than might seem at the first glance. Having closed the doors of Europe against the U.S.A., fascism hopes in Spain to secure the key to the great Latin American continent, which, with the collaboration or the neutrality of the British navy, it considers ripe for conquest, and with the strengthening of the hands of Japanese imperialism they hope to close the doors of the Pacific.

The third object of attack of the "world-political triangle" is Canada. The fascists hope, by means of the Empire connections to break Canada away from her orientation upon the U.S.A. and to incorporate her into the Chamberlain plan. The United States, thus encircled, is expected to be forced into submission to the Munich bloc and into the service of its plans for a world hegemony.

The democracy of the U.S.A. is faced with the necessity to choose its course, either of surrender or of struggle—a struggle in which victory is possible only on condition of close alliance with the forces of peace and democracy in all lands.

The question of the relationship between the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union becomes of first and most pressing importance. It is necessary to bring out clearly and to stress the many common interests of these two great lands, their many parallel characteristics, the common enemies of both. It is necessary more broadly and energetically to popularize the socialist construction in the U.S.S.R., its rapid cultural advance and its consistent peace policy, all of which have special appeal to the American toilers in the present conditions of economic crisis, cultural reaction and fascist menace of war.

In America itself the struggle for an active peace policy on the part of the U.S.A. and for the preservation of democracy requires for its success the unity of all democratic and progressive forces into a single front against reaction, against the fascists and war-makers. The keystone of the united democratic front is the unity of the working class, and its growing power. Thus the struggle for a positive peace policy is integrally bound up with the progressive and democratic platform on all domestic questions, and the working class struggle for better conditions of life.

It is now especially necessary to strengthen the ideological and political connections between the American democratic camp (especially of the working class) and its corresponding forces in other lands in Europe, in Asia, in South America, in Canada. Every opportunity must be seized for extending and strengthening these ties through international congresses, conferences and delegations of the trade unions, of the peace movement, of the youth, etc. Especially valuable will be the international gatherings held in the U.S.A. and the Pan-American Democratic Conference. The influence of the democratic and labor camps of the U.S.A. must be spread throughout the world, and in this process the movement of the U.S.A. must be confirmed, deepened and strengthened in its international outlook, understanding and organizational ties.

The means at the disposal of the United States for active participation in the fight for peace are numerous, as are also the tasks which confront the democratic and labor movement. It is necessary to win the country in its majority for the slogan "Food for Spain" and to realize it through government credits for the purchase of surplus wheat and cotton, now withheld from the market in enormous quantities to avert collapse of the agricultural prices. While strengthening the boycott of Japanese goods it is necessary to pass on with all forces to the

establishment of an embargo against all trade with Japan, thus ending the shameful situation in which Mussolini's press hack, Gayda, could answer the peaceful solicitation of the United States government with the jeering reminder that Japan's crimes in China are committed with the economic means purchased from the U.S.A. itself at the very moment when the U.S.A. is expressing its moral condemnation and abhorrence of these crimes.

Public collections for immediate direct aid to Spain in all forms must be pushed with vigor and made one of the chief vehicles for organizing mass pressure for governmental action. The projects under discussion in governmental circles for a large-scale industrialization loan to China must be popularized in their two-fold aspect, as measures of economic recovery at home, providing orders for American industries and jobs for American workers, as well as for halting the war-making aggressors in the Pacific, and strengthening the forces of international order and peace.

Hitler has long been fighting against America's influence in Latin America by means of economic and trade war. United States laws already provide weapons of economic self-defense against such aggression by means of raising customs duties or placing an embargo on trade with the offending nation. These laws have not been applied to Hitler Germany. A mass demand for an embargo against Hitler Germany must be raised, with motives of American self-defense pressed equally with those of solidarity with the victims of violent aggression.

The campaign against the aggressor governments of Germany, Italy and Japan and their new allies in the Munich Pact must be combined with encouragement to and friendship for the toiling peoples and intellectuals suffering under such governments. Fascist barbarism and bandit-aggression and the demagogic treason of their accomplices are not characteristic of

any of the peoples but only of a small ruling class representing monopoly capital and its underworld of degenerate and corrupt agents, whose overthrow is equally in the interest of the peoples governed by them as of the peoples threatened by them.

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