

STUDENT SOCIALIST

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EDITORIAL:

Socialism or Doom!

An "entirely new war," to underscore MacArthur's statement, confronts the American armed forces in Korea. But the same old irresponsibility and military bungling brought it to being.

After the American reconquest of Seoul the Chinese foreign minister warned the world that crossing the 38th parallel would be viewed as a hostile act. To the High Command this meant only bluff, so it proceeded. Later the American drive through Northern Korea stalled when it encountered an alleged 60,000 Chinese soldiers. MacArthur's imperious disdain prompted him to toss caution over his right shoulder, and he launched the November 24 offensive into the teeth of a massive opposition. Seated comfortably in Tokyo, he pronounced the battlecry, "Home by Christmas!" But the ranks, spread thin across snow-swept Korea, cynically replied, "We'll trim the tree in '53!"

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Thirty-six hours afterward the Americans were hurled back in the most disastrous retreat since Bull Run. Weasel words like "calculated risk" and "necessary gamble" poured off apologetic typewriters in MacArthur's information office, and each day for over a week the Chinese army was upped a cool 100,000 until a cold million was reached. Against this formidable array America's War Lord of the Orient had pitted 120,000 ill-equipped U. S. forces, a meager 20,000 U. N. effectives and 100,000 bedraggled ROK soldiers. How many of these will come out alive is still a heart-breaking question. When they do, it will be interesting to hear their crackling comments to the Hearst description of MacArthur as "the greatest living military strategist." The term "butcher" has hitherto been reserved for German, French and Russian generals.

Truman was not to be outdone by MacArthur's blunders. On November 30 he struck an even higher note of irresponsibility with his press statement about the Atom bomb. Shock and alarm reverberated through the world. As the great fear subsided, he and the other political pigmies in Washington opened a Munich vs. Dunkirk controversy. Either appeasement with a looming Third World War in the immediate future, or a retreat with the reopening of new offensives on a larger scale as soon as possible!

The Truman-Attlee agreement merely modifies the Dunkirk perspective slightly. No permanent peace is projected, only emergencies, total war mobilizations and the preparations for the immolation of mankind in Atomic destruction.

Socialists stand constantly accused of utopianism. Yet what is more utopian today than to lean upon the

hollow reeds of capitalism and Stalinism as supports for world peace? The Trumans and the MacArthurs are now revealed in their naked disregard for their people and their soldiery.

Yesterday's hope today offers the only solution. What presents a better answer to the greatest crisis in civilization than revolutionary socialism with its program to wipe out imperialism, capitalist war profits, the exploitation of man by man, and the complete totalitarianization of society?

THE EDITORS

TO THE POUM AND THE UPA

Dear Comrades:

The Berkeley Socialist Youth League wishes to express solidarity with you in your Third Camp position on war.

We held a party on December 9 to raise funds for your anti-Franco and anti-Stalin socialist underground movements and are forwarding \$10 to each of your groups (the Workers Party of Marxian Unification and the Ukrainian Peoples Army).

At our party, attended by 80 people, we showed an anti-segregation film and another film against war. Copies of your newspapers, La Batalla and Vpered, were displayed together with anti-totalitarian literature of the last two decades. A speaker briefly described your organizations and activities, while another told of the popular Indian Socialist Party and its Third Camp position.

We look with you toward international revolutionary socialism as the only way out of this era of war and totalitarianism, and like you reject American capitalism and Stalinist slavery.#

Notes on Our Times

Drew Pearson on December 10 reported from Washington that the Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon Building had another bombing scare. A radar screen on the Canadian-Maine border picked up an unidentified plane. Immediately some officers excitedly called home to their wives "to take the kids and go down in the basement."

The same day the U.P. reported from Connecticut that the president of the National Council of Churches of Christ, "a kind fatherly looking man with gray hair," said "moral circumstances" may justify the use of the atomic bomb. He added that war could be reconciled with Christian principles and pacifists who oppose war see only "one side" of Christ. "I am not sure it's right for the church to bless war, though we must face reality."

Headlines in the Oakland Tribune of December 11:

"NOT PEACE, SAYS MAC ARTHUR"

"30 PCT. LOSS FOR MARINES"

"TANKS ESCAPE RED TRAP AT BETTER PRICE"

A war too is raging in American Universities between Thought Control and Academic Freedom. Read a front line report:

COLD WAR ON THE CAMPUS

by Bob Martinson

A Berkeley SYL pamphlet available for five cents at the U.C. Corner.

WEST COAST CONFERENCE

DRAFTS ANTI-WAR DECLARATION

Marking the first move in two decades toward unified action among American socialists, a West Coast anti-war conference was held in Berkeley Thanksgiving week end. Attended by young socialists from three organizations, the Young Peoples Socialist League, the Libertarian Socialist League and the SYL, the conference gathered representatives from the University of Washington, Oregon State College, Stanford, U.C., UCLA, and Los Angeles City College.

The coming Third World War, the most salient factor in world politics today, has crystallized in the broad socialist movement three basic attitudes. A major portion of socialists, representing two of these tendencies, flock to the camp of one or the other of the great imperialist powers, Russia or the U.S. There these apologists function as critical but captive left wings.

Another section of the socialist movement, realizing the futility of supporting either side in the war, stands firm on international socialist principles. It knows that victory for either imperial power will bring reactionary and destructive consequences to mankind. It therefore offers socialism as the solution.

A historic parallel to the Thanksgiving conference occurred during the First World War. A regrouping in the socialist and labor movements took place among those who refused to support their respective "fatherlands" against the brotherhood of mankind. First manifested in small conferences, it later encompassed

large, sweeping movements. Had these completely succeeded, the peoples would not have been subjected to the tragedy of the Second World War, nor would they be trembling at the prospect of still another holocaust.

Agreement on a socialist perspective in a period of reaction and wars made possible the fruitful results of the young socialist conference last month. Its most immediate achievement was the drafting and endorsing of a joint anti-war declaration. This declaration emphatically rejected America's drive toward the Garrison State and the preparations for war in the name of a spurious democracy. It repudiated with equal vigor Russia's totalitarian dictatorship which cloaks its aggression with the words of peace and socialism. The declaration further exposed the Korean War as a test of strength between the imperialist antagonists. Finally it called out to "support the third force--democratic socialism--as the only alternative to exploitation and war: **AGAINST BOTH IMPERIALIST CAMPS.**"

As additional evidence of the unity established by the conference the three organizations pooled their experiences in campus work, planned joint activities for the distribution of the anti-war declaration, set up an information exchange procedure and projected another West Coast conference for spring.

Although American socialism has been decimated by the attacks of reaction and Stalinism, the significance of this conference carries greater specific weight than the numbers represented indicate. It demonstrates the first practical step in the building of a Third Camp movement in America. It presages an extension of local unified action to regional and national proportions.

Here lies a new challenge to those who oppose war but find themselves helpless and confused before the juggernauts of imperialism. In such humble beginnings can world transforming events be rooted.#

OASIS IN A POLITICAL DESERT

Among an audience of over 250 students which overflowed the Y-Cottage on November 27 for the Shachtman-Landauer debate, one response was unanimous: "We want more!" Everyone felt that "big questions" could still be discussed in an intelligent and forthright fashion despite the University atmosphere of repression.

The question for debate focused on the U.N.: Is it a viable force for world peace? Carl Landauer, former German social democrat, professor of economics and supporter of ADA, defended the U.N., although pointing to its structural imperfections. Max Shachtman, national chairman of the Independent Socialist League, editor and translator of Leon Trotsky's works, rebuked the U.N. as completely undemocratic and impotent to resolve the crisis between the U.S. and Russia.

Landauer's general thesis called for the support of the U.N. as one of the last remaining hopes for world peace. He identified the policy of the U.N. with that of America, and thereafter defended the U.S. State Department for its non-imperialist approach. Only over aid to Franco did he criticize the Fair Deal.

Shachtman revealed that one-third of the earth's population remained outside the U.N., that of the delegates seated nearly one-half represented totalitarian powers, and that therefore the term "United Nations" was a ridiculous misnomer. The U.N., he showed, served

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merely as an arena used by the big powers to fight out their battles. Even worse, the U.N. had recently been turned into a pro-war organization, exploited by the American bloc to prolong its tenuous hold upon Asia.

The Berkeley Socialist Youth League and the Students for Democratic Action co-sponsored the debate and contributed cooperatively to its success. In a community oppressed by loyalty oaths and firings, both organizations saw the need for discussion and debate to allow students to express themselves on current political questions. That U.C. students respond avidly to politics was further evidenced by the huge audience attending Meicklejohn's subsequent defense of academic freedom in Wheeler Auditorium.

The Shachtman-Landauer debate and its wholesome reception demonstrate once again the application of the united front as a means of bringing politics to the campus. For the second time in two semesters the SYL called upon other political tendencies to partake in common action. Previously it had initiated the UACAF in the struggle for academic freedom. Now the SYL proposes to continue debates of this character through joint political action. Moreover, why not a symposium sponsored by the Young Republicans, the Young Democrats, the SDA and the SYL in Wheeler Auditorium on a pressing topic? Here would be an inter-political council which could have the privileges the inter-faith council had when it subverted Rule 17 on Activities Day.#

Season's Greetings -

At the risk of endangering the SYL's position under the McCarran Act we would like to remind Western Civilization with its Christian tradition that the slogan with the most venerable history reads:

peace on earth
good will toward men.