

Stalin's New Crop Of Scapegoats

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ROOSEVELT REFUSES TO LIST WAR AIMS

Far East Crisis Flares Up Again

Joint Anglo-U.S. Moves Seek To Checkmate
Japan; "Bluff" May Be Called Very Soon

By GEORGE STERN

The United States and Great Britain last week launched a maneuver on the grand scale in the Far East with the aim of checkmating in advance any fresh Japanese southward moves.

Amid a flood of inspired reports that the Japanese fleet was moving southward toward Singapore and the Indies, the British suddenly announced the arrival at that base of a large, fully-equipped Australian army.

Gen. Marshall, U. S. chief of staff, told a Congressional committee that the army's best and newest fighting planes were being turned over to the navy and moved out over the Pacific

to the United States fleet. This information was permitted to "leak" to the newspapers and a day later Roosevelt rebuked the papers for publishing it. The matter was made to look thoroughly serious. And it is serious. Army bombers are flying westward over the ocean from California, taking the route via Hawaii, Midway, and Guam to the scene of probable hostilities. Behind this "bluff" lies the real threat of war.

The Anglo-American moves brought a rash of protestations from Tokyo. Matsuoka, the Japanese foreign minister, deplored the "provocative" movements of planes and men and insisted upon Japan's peaceful intentions. The Japanese press accused the British and the U. S. of trying to encircle the Japanese.

JAPAN'S MOVE NOW

At the same time, however, Japanese forces moved into new bases in Southern Indo-China. The peace conference between Indo-China and Thailand, sponsored by the Japanese, hit a snag which obviously bore a Made-in-Britain label. The Australian forces landed at Singapore were moved up into Malaya to wait for any further Japanese move.

So far that move has not been forthcoming. For the Japanese have been told in the plain language of men, ships, planes, and guns, that further moves southward at this time means war with Britain and the U. S.

The sudden anti-Japanese truce

culence in London is undoubtedly based upon a definite understanding with the U. S., for the main element in a Pacific war would have to be the U. S. fleet. The British know it. The Japanese know it. And so, of course, does Washington.

U. S. COMMITTEE

Citing the sudden change in the British attitude, a New York Times dispatch from London on Feb. 22 said that "it is perhaps a reasonable deduction that 'parallel action'—that diplomatic euphemism for joint action—is functioning better than ever before. It is not believed that the British would present so strong a front against Japan unless they had good reason to believe the United States was behind them."

This "reasonable deduction" is amply supported by the developments of the past week—the Marshall testimony and the ferrying of army planes across the Pacific. The same deduction has evidently been made in Tokyo. The bluff is not to be called—not, at least, until Hitler actually unleashes his Spring offensive against Britain.

If at that time, Japan edges closer toward the jealously guarded wealth of the Indies, it will be time for all bluffs to be called. First American participation in actual hostilities in the present war may take place in the Southern Pacific—and it may take place soon.

Harvester Strikers Are Still Out

6,500 Men
Stand Firm
On Demands

Haymarket Martyr's
Widow, 82, Speaks
To Strike Pickets

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—Assembled in the biting wind before the gates of the strike-bound International Harvester Company here, CIO members and sympathizers today heard Mrs. Lucy Parsons, 82 year old widow of Albert Parsons, one of the Haymarket martyrs of 1886, urge on the striking workers to a finish fight with the giant International Harvester trust.

Mrs. Parsons reminded the strikers, who have kept the IHC tractor plant shut down tight for three weeks, that her own husband was framed-up and sent to the gallows along with four other working class leaders by interests close to the McCormicks, who still are linked with the International Harvester Company and the McCormick plant here.

The 1886 Haymarket meeting into whose ranks provocateurs threw a bomb which killed a number of people, and for which Albert Parsons was framed-up and hung, was a peaceable meeting called to find a remedy for the bad working conditions of that day, particularly at the McCormick Reaper Plant, Mrs. Parsons reminded the strikers. The crimes of the McCormicks against the workers have carried on for over 50 years, during which time the McCormick company and the International Harvester interests have never ceased their war on labor.

The rally at which Mrs. Parsons spoke was called in support of the strike of 6,500 IHC tractor plant workers, organized by the Farm Equipment Workers Organizing Committee (CIO).

PICKETS IN FORCE

Strong picket lines have prevented the plant from operating since the strike started. All gates are covered. Only five maintenance men are permitted to enter the plant, and the superintendent must report once each hour to the pickets.

As a precaution against an attempted back-to-work maneuver of the company, the strikers are now doing six-hour picket shift duty instead of the former three-hour stretch. Directly in front of each plant gate are heated shacks where the pickets can take shelter.

Other union speakers at today's rally described the status of the strike thus far. Clarence Stoeker, president of the striking local, reported on developments in the McCormick plant of the IHC, where the workers have just voted 3,057 to 418 to join the strike.

The union has had to fight a vicious company union set-up in this plant for the past two years. Two weeks ago the NLRB ordered the company to disband this fake outfit.

Stoeker informed the mass meeting that the union has presented the McCormick management with demands for union recognition, elimination of piece work, and a 75 cent hourly minimum wage. He urged all McCormick workers to stand by ready for strike if the company does not accept the union's terms.

Bill Mooney, Packinghouse Workers Union representative, spoke and told of the negotiations now in progress at the Armour Company. He brought the greetings of the Armour workers and said "your victory will help us."



Wives of International Harvester Company workers on strike in Chicago are shown unloading a bread truck at the strike kitchen. The walk-out was called by the Farm Equipment Workers Organizing Committee (CIO).

Strike Vote Carries At Bethlehem Steel Plant

Lackawanna Plant Men Vote Six To One For Strike After Over
A Thousand Men Are Suspended Or Discharge By Company

BUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 24.—After 60 hours of secret balloting, the workers of the Bethlehem Steel Company's Lackawanna plant here voted in favor of a strike. Lorne H. Nelles, SWOC-CIO international representative, announced that strike action has been authorized by a vote of 6,411 to 1,001.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 23.—13,000 members of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee employed in the huge Lackawanna plant of the Bethlehem Steel Company here are balloting in a strike vote. The voting began last Friday noon.

The decision to take the strike vote came after over 600 workers in the coke-oven and blast furnace departments were given an "indefinite suspension" by the company for participating in recent short work stoppages in an effort to get the company to meet with the workers' committees and negotiate grievances. 400 more men have since been dropped.

On February 9, the workers of the Coke-oven department laid down their tools after the management had refused to meet with their committee and discuss settlement of 122 grievances from this department alone. The committee was told that the company did not intend to change the rules under which it had been operating for over 50 years.

This short stoppage was followed by several others in the course of the next ten days. Other departments began to line up behind the militant coke-oven workers.

SOLIDARITY SHOWN

When workers from the yard department were fooled by the management into entering the coke-oven department under the pretext that they were supposed to do some repair work, and they learned that they were supposed to replace the coke-oven men, these workers, including a large percentage of Negro workers, refused to do any work.

The action of the coke-oven workers forced the management to receive a committee of 32 men on February 13. The conference was held with Chauncey L. Baker, company personnel director. After hearing the list of grievances, including a demand for a 25 per cent pay raise for the coke-oven department, Baker gave the committee a complete turn-down.

When the 150 workers of the 7 A. M. shift of the coke-oven department started to enter the plant on last Wednesday about 50

materials for use in the national defense program.

The "respective employment agreements" referred to in this notice is news to the workers, but it means that the company claims an individual yellow-dog contract with every unorganized worker was implied when he was hired. The "contracts for materials" are over \$1,200,000,000 in war orders given to Bethlehem Steel despite the fact that it has been repeatedly ruled a labor law violator by the NLRB.

CIO director Cowan answered this company threat by demanding the reinstatement of the 150 fired men, and warning that the union would take action if this demand were not fulfilled.

The company answered the SWOC demand by proceeding to lock out a total of 500 men from the coke-oven department and an additional 100 men from the blast furnace division.

UNION DEMANDS

The union demands a straight 25 per cent increase in wages, establishment of seniority rights and no discrimination on job ratings.

This last demand applies particularly on behalf of the many Negro workers employed in the Lackawanna plant. They are given the worst and heaviest jobs and lowest pay.

NEGRO MILITANTS

The Negro workers have joined the union in large numbers and have displayed great militancy. During the stoppages preceding the lock-out, the influence of the Negro workers was felt in the songs sung by the striking workers of the coke-oven department. The bosses tried to pull a red-herring across the stoppage by yelling that the workers were singing "communist" songs—meaning hymns and Negro spirituals, including "That Old Time Religion," "The Walls of Jericho Fell" and "We Shall Not be Moved!"

No less than 13,000 of the 14,000 Lackawanna workers support the union.

Lines Up With British Tories

His Stand Helps Extreme Right Wing in
England Against the Widespread Demand
For A Concrete Statement of War Aims.

President Roosevelt openly aligned himself Tuesday with the most reactionary wing of Britain's war machine, when he brushed aside all discussion of war aims.

What are the worker-soldiers fighting and dying for? What kind of world-order will the victorious Anglo-U.S. war lords establish? What do they propose to do to avert another repetition of world war as the aftermath of their "peace," as happened with the Versailles "peace"? The people cannot be satisfied this time with vague promises of "war to end war," "war for democracy,"—they got all that talk in 1914-18 and won't be put off

now with a repetition of these empty formulas. They want to know precisely what the war aims of the "democracies" are.

But Roosevelt refuses to answer. Asked at his Tuesday press conference whether John G. Winant, Ambassador to Great Britain, would take over proposals regarding lasting peace after the war, "Mr. Roosevelt replied that the first thing was to win the war, making clear that peace proposals and an outline of the basis of peace must come after victory." (New York Times, Feb. 26.)

ISSUE IN BRITAIN

In Britain, after eighteen months of war, nobody except the Colonel Blimps and the most bull-headed Tories dare to use the language employed by Roosevelt in opposition to formulation of war aims. There the question of stating war aims is well-nigh the major issue of the political arena. Not only the scattered anti-war forces, but also big sections of the officials of the Labor Party have come out for a statement of war aims by the government,

so great is the mass pressure on them for this.

Among others, The Tribune, pro-war organ of the group of Labor Members of Parliament associated with Aneurin Bevan, insists that victory is impossible without a specific formulation of war aims.

So great has the pressure for formulation of war aims become that even the most powerful organ of the British ruling class, The Times of London, has had to give lip-service to the proposal.

In its leading editorial, January 9, 1941, The Times of London declared:

"It is a dangerous illusion that Hitler's propaganda can be adequately countered with the old-time slogans of freedom and independence. Only a positive and constructive programme can rally the European peoples by convincing them that there is a living alternative to Hitler and despair."

FOR COLONIAL FREEDOM
Labor Party Members of Parliament have often pointed out in parliamentary discussion that, without a statement of war aims which gives freedom to the 375 million people of India and to the other colonies subjugated by Britain, it is impossible to counteract Hitler's influence.

But it is precisely to avoid any commitments, no matter how mild, to the colonial peoples, to the British people, or to the peoples of Europe, that Britain's rulers resist to the death the rising tide of demands for a statement of war aims.

In this situation, Roosevelt's Tuesday statement is a deliberate blow struck against the British and colonial masses and the most powerful support that the most reactionary elements in Britain could have hoped for.

WHAT THIS MEANS
"Never mind about war aims. It's none of your business. Just go on fighting and dying—that's your task." This is what Roosevelt is saying to the armed forces

Home Guards Used For First Time— Against Strikers

Call it the Home Guard or the National Guard, it's still the same old armed force of strike-breakers which the employers and government have always maintained to smash organized labor struggles.

The first reported active use of a Home Guard force occurred on February 24, at Aniston, Alabama, against a strike at the Utica Knitting Company.

An AFL picket line was dispersed by Home Guardsmen, ordered out by Governor Frank Dixon, with tear gas bombs.

The Home Guards have been ballyhooed as an armed body of trained civilians intended to aid in the repulsion of "invaders." The first "invaders," of course, turn out to be union pickets.

es of the British Empire—and to the millions of American workers who will shortly be sent into actual warfare.

You want to know why you're fighting and dying? "We'll tell you after the war is over," says Roosevelt.

You want to be sure you're not being used to lay the basis for another Versailles peace? "We'll think about that after the war," says Roosevelt.

What about the freedom of the hundreds upon hundreds of millions of colonial slaves? "That's got nothing to do with the war," say the Tories—and Roosevelt backs them up.

Roosevelt, in other words, is demanding that the American working class and farmers go through this war as unthinking robots, as silent tools of the American and British plutocracy.

Roosevelt's stand on this fundamental question should serve to open the eyes of many who hitherto were inclined to let him have his way. It is clear that he cannot be trusted with the lives of the armed forces of the United States—neither he, nor the Republicans, nor any of the capitalists and their political agents.

OUR PROGRAM

That is why our party has put forward from the first a program for putting control of the armed forces of the country into the hands of those who must do the fighting and dying—the workers.

That is why we demand:

Military training of workers, financed by the government, under control of the trade unions!

The establishment of special officers' training camps, financed by the government and controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers.

An end to secret diplomacy!
A people's referendum on any and all wars!

ON THE WAR FRONTS

by GEORGE STERN

The time draws close to Spring—that season when people used to talk about young men's fancies and the things they turned to. This time an entire planet awaits the coming season of rebirth with fear and foreboding. It is to be the season of titanic battles and great decisions. Hitler boasts openly of his coming offensive against Britain, by sea, by air, and on the land of the British Isles themselves. Mussolini, reduced to a ridiculous tenor accompaniment, tells the strangled people of Italy that Hitler is strong and that "Spring will come."

The Balkans await in total uncertainty the coming explosion. The Turks have denied that their new pact with Bulgaria means Turkish consent to German occupation of Bulgarian soil. Anthony Eden and Sir John Dill, the British chief of staff, flew out to the Near East. London put in circulation reports that the Army of the Nile was being readied for a dash across the Eastern Mediterranean to Salonika.

The British appear determined to open a Balkan front of sufficient width and depth to engage large German forces, diverting them thereby from the forces already gathered for the assault on Britain. What the Turks will do nobody now seems to know. The chances are that in Ankara itself there is indecision.

Only the Nazis appear to be

moving with that cold certainty that characterizes their offensive action. The familiar advance guard in mufti has already "infiltrated" into Bulgaria. The Bulgars themselves expect a full-sized army of occupation within a few days or weeks. Berlin continues to predict with confidence that the Greeks will soon be compelled to sue their defeated Italian adversary for peace. Berlin appears equally confident that the Turks have been neutralized, at least for the projected actions of the coming months.

London dispatches appear to indicate that the British will chance even a small-scale offensive action of their own to prevent any such "bloodless" blitzkrieg. The British advance toward Tripoli has ceased for the moment and British North African forces seem to be available if a Balkan front is to be opened.

Meanwhile the "third front"—the Far East—produces signs of becoming no less active in the period immediately ahead. Japan awaits Hitler's moves. Britain and the U.S., working closely together, have made an advance effort to call the Japanese bluff. The Japanese, in their turn, are marking time. This front is discussed in more detail elsewhere in this issue.

It may be a beautiful spring in this 1941—but more violets than ever will bloom this year unseen.

