





Where Is The Soviet Union Going?

The Policy Of The "Strategic Bulwark"

By Ernest Germain

On the morrow of the second world war, the dominant fact concerning the Soviet Union's situation is the imperialist encirclement that is being completed.



STALIN

The creation of the "strategic bulwark" appeared as the immediate aim of Stalin's foreign policy at the time of the Teheran Conference, that is to say, at a time when Hitler's defeat seemed certain and when the conquerors were discussing division of the spoils.

Knowing that the Red Army was bearing the main brunt of the German armies and conscious of the progressive encirclement of the USSR in the course of the prolonged warfare, the English and American imperialists postponed their settling of accounts with the bureaucracy until after the war with Germany and Japan.

Having abandoned the revolutionary methods of defense of the USSR, Stalin is forced to borrow his entire policy from the infernal arsenal of imperialism. Instead of creating on the periphery of the Soviet Union sister soviet republics supported by the enthusiasm and devotion of the toiling masses, Stalin surrounds it with a group of police buffer states where large layers of the population, starving and desperate, are turning again to imperialism.

While we condemn the bureaucratic expansionism as a reactionary policy, we do not grant to the imperialists the right to shed crocodile tears over the fate of the "poor little oppressed peoples."

At the moment when the Red Army entered these countries, broad revolutionary movements appeared. The workers seized the factories and established a network of all-powerful factory

Workers Killed Through Greed Of Mine Owners

(Special to The Militant) CHARLEROI, Belgium, May 15—A recent mining catastrophe in the "Sacree Francais" pit in the Charleroi region caused the death of 16 miners, among whom were seven German prisoners.

At the burial of the victims an immense crowd of more than 10,000 people assembled. It became known that the German prisoners were to be buried apart from the Belgian miners.

Immediately delegates of the Belgian miners went to the prisoners' barracks, succeeded by a trick in releasing a large number of the prisoners, and went with them to the edge of the graves of their German comrades.

CHICAGO Forum - Open House Saturday, June 22 Prominent Speaker On 'What Is Happening In Europe—The Recent Elections'

No Decisive Changes Achieved As Result Of June 2 French Elections

Belgian Miners Give Militant Strong Support

(Special to The Militant) BRUSSELS, May 19—One of the outstanding Trotskyist militants, Victor Bougard, member of the Central Committee of the Internationalist Communist Party (PCI), Belgian section of the Fourth International, is the principal delegate of the miners of the village of Anderlues, in the center industrial region.

Famine Victims In China



A mother and her child in China are two among hundreds of millions of workers and peasants doomed to starvation as famine sweeps the Far East and all of Europe.

Radicalization Of Masses Still Dominant Fact

(Special to The Militant) PARIS, June 7—"The elections of June 2 have generally confirmed the view that the French situation has been characterized by a marking of time for several months in spite of a growth in general discontent," according to the post-election statement of the Political Bureau of the Internationalist Communist Party (PCI), French section of the Fourth International.

Big Step Forward Seen In Trotskyist Campaign Vote

(Special to The Militant) PARIS, June 7—In the 11 districts in which the Internationalist Communist Party (PCI) ran candidates on June 2, it achieved the magnificent total of 44,915 votes.

The Vatican--A Powerhouse Of World Political Reaction

By Joseph Hansen

The Vatican is becoming increasingly active in political affairs. The Pope made headlines throughout the world with his direct intervention in the Italian and French elections of June 2.

The Catholic hierarchy intervenes in politics under guise of defending "religion" from attack. This subterfuge is false to the core. The question of a man's own views on the nature of the universe, etc., has not been made a political issue by any of the working class parties.

In France the Catholic hierarchy is up to its neck in the Popular Republican Movement (MRP), a political party organized against the working class. The MRP is fighting tooth and nail to save the capitalist system which plunged France into the Second World War and continues to chain the people in misery.

U. S. Non-Intervention Pledge Violated In China Civil War

(Continued from Page 1) China theater, gave an assurance that the U. S. Army in China would be sent home by May 1. Two months later, on June 4, Lt.-Gen. Alvin C. Gillen, also of the U. S. Army, declared that the China theater would not be deactivated and that American troops might remain until the end of 1946.

insurgent nation from settling scores with the regime of reaction and oppression. The imperialist policy-makers in Washington are fully aware of the rottenness of the Kuomintang government. But they know, too, that a popular revolution which swept it away would also spike their plans to convert China into a colony of the Wall Street plutocrats and a base for war against the Soviet Union.

Also in violation of China's supposed sovereignty and all their protestations of their love of peace, the U. S. imperialists are building up a gigantic military base in North China for the war which they plan to launch on the Soviet Union. This base, complete with everything in the way of modern military equipment, including a strategic air force with all ground facilities, already covers a huge area on the outskirts of Peiping and is growing from day to day.

TENDENCIES EVIDENT

Analyzing these results, the statement appearing in today's La Verite, weekly paper of the PCI, demonstrates the following tendencies that have become evident.

The Stalinists held their own by and large, losing votes in the workers' districts (in the Seine, which includes Paris and the famous "Red Belt" of workers' suburbs; the Seine-et-Oise; in two election districts of the mining region in the Nord, at Lyons, in the Loire; in the Bouches-du-Rhone district, etc.).

BACKS FASCIST

In the United States, Father Coughlin, the "radio priest" enjoyed wide support among the hierarchy. Before the war Coughlin set out to organize a native fascist movement in America patterned on the movements of Hitler and Mussolini.

SP LOSSES HEAVY

The reformists of the Socialist Party were the heavy losers. This fact is universally ascribed to their assuming formal responsibility for the government of the SP-CP-MRP coalition.

In the capitalist camp the most striking features are the considerable growth of the MRP and the failure of the PRL to register any real progress (except in the Paris region, where it did gain even at the expense of the MRP).

San Francisco Italian Dinner SATURDAY, JUNE 29 Dancing . . . Auction Proceeds to American Comm. For European Workers Relief

COMING STRUGGLES

By their change of position, the Stalinists may well have lifted the lid on a veritable explosion of extra-parliamentary class struggles, which will not be quelled so easily for them to control.

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Indian Congress Balks At Fake 'Independence' Plan

By Larissa Reed

The Indian National Congress, after weeks of intense negotiations, has rejected the British Cabinet mission's plans for an "interim government" in India.

These plans, outlined in a White Paper issued on May 16 to the Indian people and read in the British House of Commons by Laborite Prime Minister Attlee, were rejected however, only "in their present form."

In the capitalist camp the most striking features are the considerable growth of the MRP and the failure of the PRL to register any real progress (except in the Paris region, where it did gain even at the expense of the MRP).

Also provided for is the continued dismemberment and cleavage between the Indian sections by the creation of two separate groups of provinces, each with its own executive and legislative organs.

The White Paper provides for a central legislature with tax-









