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War Clouds in the East China Provokes Russia

China's seizure of the Chinese Eastern Railway in Manchuria, jointly owned by China and the Soviet Union, and the brutal arrest of Soviet citizens, mark a criminal attempt by the Chinese counter-revolution to provoke a war against the Workers' Republic.

The Soviet Union was the first country in the world to renounce all rights of extra-territoriality in China and to return all the concessions extorted by carism from the Chinese people — a step taken by none of the imperialist powers. In 1924, the two countries reached an amicable agreement on the joint control and administration of the Chinese Eastern Railway, built by czarist Russia. The movement for Chinese liberation from imperialism has always found the warmest response from the workers and peasants of Russia. Now, taking advantage of Russia's deliberate policy of peace, the Chinese government has taken this provocative step designed to outrage the Soviets and force them to war.

The seizure of the Chinese Eastern Railway is the logical outcome of the counterrevolutionary course pursued by Chiang Kai-Shek and the other leaders of the Kuo Min Tang. The Russian masses must now pay for the menshevik policy applied in the Chinese revolution of 1925-27 by the Stalin-Bucharin controlled Executive of the Comintern which served as a brake on the revolutionary movement of the workers and peasants, chained them and the Communist Party to the chariot of the bourgeois Kuo Min Tang, and facilitated the victory of Stalin's allies, the counter-revolutionary generals of Chiang Kai-Shek's stripe. The result of this policy — the setting back of the Chinese revolutionary movement for years, and the triumph of reaction — has made it possible for Chiang Kai-Shek to proceed against the Soviets with such brazen cynicism without encountering substantial resistance by the Chinese masses.

This resistance must be made to China's provocation by the workers of the entire world. The Soviet Union remains the fortress of the world revolution, a source of strength to labor everywhere, and the working class throughout the world must rally to its defense immediately. The workers must be on their guard against all possible developments on a larger scale. Up to the present time, there are few signs that the Chinese action is being supported by foreign imperialism. This is not because the imperialists love Russia more and Chiang Kai-Shek less. It is because they fear the establishment of a precedent that the present Chinese rulers would use against the concessions and extra-territoriality rights that England, France, Japan and others took from China by force. It is because the imperialist powers are now striving against each other for Russia's trade. Credits from Germany, coming recognition from England and the United States and similar signs, are all indicative of this. That explains the peculiar "neutrality" or Soviet "friendliness" of the world imperialist press. The Japanese press has condemned the action of the Chinese, because they fear similar action against their properties in Manchuria. The Daily Worker reports that the most influential German papers have attacked China. The French, and the American press, led by the New York Times, have adopted a "neutral" or "favorable" attitude. The leading organ of the British imperialism in China, the Peiping and Tientsin Times, regards the action as "a flagrant violation of a solemn international agreement" and warns China against attempts at war.

And both Secretary of State Stimson and the French foreign minister, Briand, are calling attention to both parties that they are joint signatories to the Kellogg Pact! Russia's signature of the Kellogg Pact, that smoke-screen for imperialist war preparation, is not standing it in very good stead, as we pointed out some time ago.

In spite of all this, the workers must bear in mind the possibility of a highly dangerous situation developing. The fundamental antagonism between the Soviet Union and world imperialism remains. Should the Chinese counter-revolutionists and the Russian White guards proceed to large-scale military attack, necessitating the withdrawal of Russian forces from the Western frontier, the Baltic tools of European imperialism, led by Pilsudski, may use the opportunity for a counter-revolutionary assault from the west. The imperialists want Russian trade, but if the possibility is given them, they want the complete overthrow of the proletarian dictatorship even more.

Every worker on guard! Now more than ever is the united strength of the working class imperative. Now more than ever must there be the unity and consolidation of Russia's revolutionary forces against the reactionary elements inside and outside the Soviet Union. Now more than ever is the return of the expelled and exiled Bolshevik-Leninists necessary for the Communist Party. Now more than ever is it necessary to recall L. D. Trotsky to his rightful place as leader of the invincible Red Army.

Long live victory of the Russian proletariat!
Down with the red-handed assassins of the people!

FIRST OF AUGUST!

What will "International Red Day" bring

(This document has been prepared and signed by the editors of the new international Magazine "Opposition" which is soon to appear.)

"The Western European Bureau of the Communist International" has summoned the workers of the whole world to demonstrate in the streets on the First of August. This demonstration has been appointed as an answer to the bloody repression by the German social democrats of the vanguard of the Berlin workers. That the historic crime perpetrated on the First of May cannot and will not remain unavenged — no revolutionist has any doubt of that. The only question is, when and how we can avenge ourselves on the social democracy and its bourgeois boss for the bloody attack upon the May day manifestation of the workers. The method chosen by the Comintern is wrong to the bottom. It is the mere preparation of a new defeat.

The May Day demonstration is a traditional demonstration of the proletariat appointed once and for all to take place upon a definite day of the year — independently of the course of the international and national life of the proletariat. But the whole history of the May Day celebration shows that it never hung suspended above the real course of the worker's movement, but was wholly determined by this movement and subordinate to it. In parties carrying on a peaceful reformist work it was transformed from the beginning into a peaceful manifestation and had lost before the war all its revolutionary feature. In countries where an energetic struggle was in progress for the universal franchise, the May Day celebration was transformed into a constituent part of this struggle. In Russia the May Day celebration was identified with the revolutionary struggle against Czarism and from 1905 on changed with all its changes: from stormy attack to complete quiescence. We saw the same thing in Germany after the war.

The recent May Day celebration naturally reflected those processes which have lately found their

expression in the life of the trade unions, in the municipal and parliamentary elections, especially in England and Belgium, and in many other more trivial manifestations of the life of the working class. The political stabilization of the bourgeoisie during the last six years has found its chief support in the policy of the Comintern, which has guaranteed the defeat of the proletariat in Germany, China, England, Poland, Bulgaria, a weakening of its position in the U. S. S. R., a consistent desintegration of the Comintern and a reviving of the social democracy. The political stabilization of the bourgeoisie has been the necessary premise of its economic stabilization which in turn has weakened the possibility of direct revolutionary activity.

COMINTERN POLICY IN ENGLAND

In its more concentrated form this whole situation has recently come before us in England, where only three years ago the proletariat passed through its revolutionary general strike. In a county where capitalism is suffering a gigantic crisis of decline, and where all the leaders of the workers' organizations have succeeded in disgracing themselves with an unheard of betrayal, the Communist Party has revealed itself at the polls as totally insignificant in size. For quite a number of years the Comintern and the Red International of Labor Unions have been announcing to the whole world that in the movement of the revolutionary minority of the trade unions there are about a million workers who follow the Communist banner. The unemployed together with the grown members of families would give us at least over two million voters. The miners, who have just come through an immense strike and are compelled to work under worsened conditions, would give all most as many. Out of this three or four million it would seem as if at least a decent share ought to have fallen to the lot of the Communist Party. And what happened? Nominating 27 candidates in the districts

CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVEN.

Gastonia in Danger England Bars Trotsky

As the day of the trial, July 29, approaches, it becomes increasingly clear that the southern Bourbons are determined to go through with their plans to "legally" murder the 15 strike leaders who have been indicted in Gastonia, North Carolina, for the major crime of arousing the serfs of the textile barons to struggle. The judicial henchmen of the southern lords want to execute at least some of the 15 workers who defended themselves against the murderous raid of the local fascists. By this punishment they intend to make an example of those workers who dared to challenge the might of their bosses, and particularly of the "Bolsheviks from the North" who organized and led them.

The southern reactionaries rightly see in the Communists the most militant fighters against exploitation, their most dangerous foes. They know that in the recent battles on the textile front in the South, the Communists have done more to arouse a spirit of resistance and independence among the violently suppressed southern workers than have the years of do-nothing "organization work" carried on by the American Federation of Labor payroll boys. That is why the lynching spirit aimed to cow the southern textile workers is aimed most directly at the Communists.

The 1922 raid of the Communists in Bridgeman was carried out by the reaction in order to strike a blow against the whole labor movement, against the fighting spirit of the steel, railroad, mine and textile workers. In the same sense, the lynching of the 15 strike militants-Communists and non-Party fighters — is being planned to intimidate the rising labor movement in the South which has broken out in three separate places in as many months: Gastonia, Elizabethton and New Orleans. The south is a huge reservoir of strength and fighting capacity for the whole labor movement of the United States. If the capitalist class succeeds in damning this reservoir and directing its flow into the channel of scabbery, the whole labor movement will suffer. The Gastonia trial is such an attempt.

That is why the American working class everywhere must rally swiftly to the defense of Gastonia it must march to its aid now, and not when it is too late. It cannot remain indifferent to the fate of its class brothers without endangering its own fate. It must march in united columns. Past experiences have shown the mortal blow that divided and sectarian action has delivered in similar instances. In the Sacco-Vanzetti case, the Boston Committee of socialists and anarchists attempted to mono-

One of the first acts of the new British Labor Government has been to deny the right of asylum to L. D. Trotsky, the exiled organizer of the Russian Revolution and the Red Army. Definite announcement of this decision was made in the House of Commons on July 11th according to a dispatch printed in the New York Times. The MacDonald Government, which has been issuing daily announcements that it intends to do nothing harmful to the capitalist system of exploitation, list no time in buttressing the promises with a concrete and significant deed.

MacDonald never tired of condemning the Proletarian Dictatorship, which Trotsky symbolizes, on the ground of its lack of "democracy." The exclusion of Trotsky illustrates again what these footmen of Imperialism mean by "democracy." In their subservience to the capitalist masters they cast aside the traditional right of asylum which England once gave to Marx and Mazzini.

The real masters of the British Empire are well pleased with this act of their "Labor" Minister. "Tories cheer Labor Minister's announcement in Commons" says the New York Times. And why shouldn't they cheer? The class conscious capitalists clearly understand what Trotsky represents. The Times editorial says: "Foreign Secretary Henderson definitely stated that before diplomatic relations with Soviet Russia are resumed definite pledges will be required that no Communist agitation in England is to be encouraged or permitted by the Moscow authorities. That is asking a good deal. If they give so much they will expect something in return. The exclusion of Trotsky from a refuge on British soil would be something."

The Times, which interprets the big capitalist point of view unerringly, remarks: "In all this Russian affair, as in others, Prime Minister MacDonald is proceeding with notable and praiseworthy caution." What is needed now is an editorial from the New Leader, explaining how the barring of Trotsky from England proves the superiority of bourgeois democracy over workers dictatorship as a form of government. And — to round out the affair with the unanimous and harmonious agreement of all parties, we need an editorial from the Daily Worker on the subject, applauding the exclusion of Trotsky as a at the counter-revolution. These editorials are

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