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The Events in Manchuria

Japanese Achieving Objectives

Kuo Min Tang Attacks Rising Workers' Movement

War in Manchuria have been rapid in the spite this, and the present bourgeois past week. The Japanese armies proceeded so swiftly to remove Chinese forces from any control of Manchurian Japanese. The Kuo Min Tang governsoil that the foreign powers, who had not even sharply reprimanded Japan's miltary aggressions before, called upon Japan to halt her advances. Great Britain and the United States particularly intervened when it appeared as if the Japanese would also seize the city of Chinchow, the last hold of China on policy of the Kuo Min Tang. Our read-Manchuria. U. S. Secretary of State ers in other columns of The Militant Stimson's alleged statement that "Japan can read the Fenprekor despatches which was running amuck in Manchuria" tend- give graphic first hand pictures and exed to bring diplomatic parleys, carried planations of the situation and actions in China and the Far East generally. on for the most part secretly, to a head. For the moment, at least, the Japanese march upon Chinchow has been halted.

But what is outstanding in the Manchurian situation is that the Japanese imperialists have achieved virtually all their objectives in Manchuria and are now in a position to make "concessions" to the "demands" of the United States by Chiang Kai-Shek and the Kuo Min and the imperialist powers associated Tang which was then fully supported in the League of Nations. Japan has cleared Manchuria of nearly all Chinese forces and influence for the time being, The so-called International Commission of Inquiry into affairs in Manchuria and China will, when it begins its tasks of legalizing the exploitation and dismem berment of Manchuria and China, have to do so while Japanese troops occupy Manchurian soil at all strategic points. Japan has virtually forced the other imperialist powers (bourgeois China herself invasion, and decries reliance upon the had little choice in the matter) to recognize the validity of her so-called treaty "rights" in Manchuria, rights obtained from a powerless China at the point of a gun.

The Chinese Bourgeoisle Capitulate Before the Imperialists

The Chinese bourgeois government of Chiang Kai-Shek has all but totally surrendered to the demands of the Japanese imperialists, as well as to the pressure of the capitalist powers led by the United States and Great Britain. After much bluster that the Chinese government would consider no negotiations between Japan and itself on disputed questions until Japanese military forces had evacuated Manchuria, the Nanking govern ment is now ready to concede that vital point and to place her reliance on the International Commission of Inquiry. A sad reed indeed to lean upon and which foreshadows greater miseries for the Chi-

Rarely has a government in all history been so suppine and groveling before its foreign imperialist masters,from Japan to Italy, Great Britain and the United States, as has been the capitalist government of Chiang Kai-Shek. The latter has not moved in reality one iota to resist the Japanese invasion, despite the strong and growing protest and demands of all elements in China, particularly the workers and poorer peasants. Chiang's boast that he would lead the military forces against Japan on the Manchurian front has proved to be an idle boast. He remains in Manking.

The Oppression Against the Chinese Masses

But if Chiang Kai-Shek and the rest of the bourgeoisie behind him have been wholly weak and lax in opposing the Japanese imperialists, they have been working overtime once again to smash the rising movement of the workers, peasants and students, whose wrath and demand for struggle against all forms of imperialism, foreign and native, has grown rapidly again in the past weeks. But Chiang denounces the demonstrators, not only against his bloody regime, but against Japan. The economic boycott against Japanese goods and its possibilities is frowned upon by the government, and efforts are made to make the boycott innocuous, colorless and merely



The New York "Dynamite Plot" Friday, December 4, 1931

Lecture by JAMES P. CANNON

Labor Temple

14th Street andd Second Avenue QUESTIONS and DISCUSSION ADMISSION: 25 Cents

Auspices: New York-Branch Communist ened for a grip on China. League of America (Opposition)

Developments in the Sino-Japanese gestures of defiance against Japan. De character, in the main, of the boycott. it has been a thorn in the side of the ment of Chiang Kai-Shek further proceeds against the working class. It has forbidden strikes and brands the suspension of work "as illegal in times of crisis". Suppression of workers' organizations and execution of labor militants and Communists continue as the

Relations With the Soviet Union

Despite these actions and policies of the Chinese Nationalists, there is considerable effort being exerted for the resumption of relations with the Soviet Union. It is sad to have to say that the Chinese Revolution of 1927 was destroyed and endorsed by Joseph Stalin and the Comintern over the protests of the Left Opposition. It is perhaps fitting that the hands of Chiang Kai-Shek should again seek to grasp those of Stalin whose policy leads everywhere to the destruction of international socialism and solidarity of the working masses.

The Canton Government, of which Engene Chen is foreign minister, charges Nanking with failure to resist Japan's League of Nations. This bourgeois government which has fundamentally the same aims as Nanking, realizes that if the Chinese bourgeois is to develop as a power and be able also to resist the Chinese toilers, it will have to show at least some semblance of resistance to the invaders.

Arising out of the Manchurian situation, **Pravda**, Moscow, raises the ques tion of recognition of the Soviet Union by the United States as one means whereby confusion and understanding between the various countries may be alleviated or removed, citing the Sino-Russ Eastern Railway dispute as a point.

Winter will slow down military op erations in Manchuria. Meanwhile Japan remains intrenched in Manchuria and, on the whole, regards with equanimity, the forthcoming commission of inquiry, to be extended to five members to include a small power. Only the Chinese bourgeoisie have cause to tremble in their boots. Japan's capital investments of \$750,000,000 (figures of 1930, from World Almanac of 1931) appear indeed to be secure. Nor has it great qualms just now over its investments in China itself which, among others, include outright ownership of 43 cotton mills, with 1,397,

272 spindles and 13,981 looms. The Importance of Chinchow

Japan's hope to seize Chinchow, against which the other powers set up a screeching howl, is easy to understand. It was the last hold of China in Manchuria. Chinchow, says a report of the National Geographic Society, is the chief city of Southwest Manchuria; it is the center for Chinese trade. It is one of the most strategically located cities in the Far East and has the only railroad which links China and Manchuria. It is China's open "front door" to Manchuria which China must hold to have any say in Man-

Now there are discussions for the establishment of a "neutral zone" about Chinchow, and, further, December 15th is suggested for the withdrawal of troops from Manchuria. Negotiations are slow and, it is expected, will be long drawn out, during which time, nevertheless, fighting of one sort or another will con-Nanking government will accept whatists. The League of Nations is seeking for a "formula", not a solution, to the Manchurian problems.

Revive the Workers' Movement In China

The Communists and militants in Japan and China are increasing their activities. That is the best hope for a correct ultimate solution. In Japan there have been manifestations by the workers against the Japanese attack uopn Manchuria. In China, as has been pointed out, the working class is endeavoring to rebuild its economic and political organizations, and is arousing itself for struggle against the Chinese bourgeoisie and the Kuo Min Tang betrayers, against the militarists and landlords of north and south and the institutions of militarism and capitalism in China. The Chinese toilers are once again building for the future, for the only lasting solution, for a Soviet China. It is for the American workers to assist the Chinese masses by organizing their forces against the strongest of the imperialist powers, the Unemployed Workers Admitted Free United States, whose claws are sharp-

-MARTIN ABERN.

Marine Workers' Defense Is Organized

Militant Workers Rally to the Defense of Soderberg, Bunker and Trajer

Statement and Appeal of the Marine Workers' Defense Committee

To All Workers and all Workers' Organizations:

Comrades and Fellow-workers:

On Tuesday, November 17th, the New York newspapers carried sensational stories of the arrest of the secretary and four other members of the Independent Tidewater Boatmens' Union on charges that they had engaged in a plot for "the wholesale bombing of barges in New York Harbor". It was claimed that the guilt of the arrested union members was clearly established and admitted; that they had "confessed" to the crimes charged against them. The stage was all set for the breaking up of the union and the railroading of the arrested men to prison terms of twenty-five to forty years.

An investigation of the case by lead-Union and others soon put another face on the affair. As a result of this investigation we say now:

Workers, they are trying to put over another frame-up; pay no attention to anything they say in the capitalist press until you read the following statement of the case on behalf of the defendants:

tinues unabated d Nanking government fiance.

politico-military circles are being agitated

at the moment over the question of re-

suming relations with Soviet Russia.

Relations were broken off in 1929 by the

U. S. S. R., as a conquance of Chinese

raids on the Peking and Harbin con-

sulates during the Sino-Soviet dispute

over the Chinese Eastern Railway in July

The current agitation for diplomatic

resumption is a direct outgrowth of the

Japanese imperialist invasion of Man-

churia. A large bloc of Chinese politico

military opinion is convinced that only

through cooperation with the Soviet can

China effectively block Japan. The ful-

fillment of their dearest wishes would be

realized if the Soviet Union were to take

up the cudgels against Japan in the pre-

As delegates from Nanking and Can-

ton met here this week to attempt a

rapprochement and redivision of the

spoils, reports began emanating from

authoritative sources that negotiations

for resuming relations with Soviet Rus-

sia would soon be tentatively begun. The

issue has been given additional impetus

by the patent failure of the League of

Nations to handle the Manchurian situa-

tion and the expectation that the League

will be forced to recede before Japan,

of the year.

News from the Far East

China Seeks to Renew Soviet Relations

SHANGHAI-Nov. 1, 1931. Far East- whose firm stand with regard to her

ern Press Correspondence-(Fenprecor) position in Mauchuria, far from weak-

-While the terror against Communists ening in the face of rival imperialist

and revolutionaries of every shade con- opposition, has stiffened into blunt de-

point the defendants have made the following statement in a letter to the defense committee:

"We want to make it clear to all those concerned that not one of us, the undersigned, is guilty of any part of the crimes charged against us and have contended so throughout the whole case, no matter what the daily press may have said to the contrary. We are framed and accused by one William Hoyle, a member of the union whom the police are using against us. Our stand has been, is now, and always will be, one of not guilty. Our only crime has been that of organizing workers in an industry where exploitation has reached its very limit, If this is a crime, then we will continue to be criminals, but we most emphatically ing members of the Tidewater Boatmen's deny guilt of the matter charged against us by the police."

3. The role of an agent provocateur. The case against the accused union workers consists of the statements of one man who has undertaken to furnish the necessary "evidence" to send them to prison for the rest of their lives, as so many police perjurers have been will-1. They have not "confessed". The ing to do in the well-known labor cases only confession the police have obtained of the past. It is sufficient only to reis the "confession" of their own stool- call the Mooney base, the Sacco-Vanzetti

Urgent requests for resumption of re-

lations with the Soviet began pouring

down from the Northeastern provinces

shortly after the Japanese occupation,

which began on September 19. Public

type, chamber of commerce, merchants'

guilds, etc., kept the wires hot for weeks

Demand For Renewed Relations Increases

To these petitions was added on Oct-

ober 17 the voice of Noh Teh-hui, chief

Chinese delegate to the Moscow confer-

ence on the Chinese Eastern Railway dis-

ing any progress, wired Marshal Changi

Hsueh-Liang, deposed Manchurian war-

lord,d to urge the Nationalist Govern-

ment to undertake resumption of rela-

tions "with a view to securing Moscow's

help in the solution of the Manchurian

crisis" says a dispatch to the China

Generally influential opinion in the

north among the bourgeois merchants and

military whose economic positions have

been jeopardidzed by the Japanese oc-

cupation soon crystallized into what has

became a persistent demand for resuming

relations with China's northern neigh-

Coincident with this agitation comes

a report from Harbin that distinct

changes have already taken place in

Sino-Soviet relationships up there in the

last two weeks. The press in Harbin

has suddenly been given permission to

freely publish news from Russian

sources. Chinese river craft are now per-

mitted to carry grain through to Soviet

tugs towing grain barges had been per-

mouth of the Sungari River, where the

On the 28th and 29th of October alarm-

ingly worded reports were circulated in

China from Japanese sources "disclosing

heavy movements of Soviet troops on the

Manchurian border. Tokyo's foreign

minister, Baron Shidehara, forthwith

instructed the Japanese ambassador at

Moscow to "express" Japan's concern at

the reports . . . and to ask the Soviet

Government to refrain from activities

which are liable to arouse military ap-

prehensions". When Karakhun retorted

he characterized as "provocative", Jap-

official relief, and declared they had

known all along the rumors were

A transparent plan on the part of the

scarcely credible.

Press of Shanghai,

with burning petitions on the subject.

up game.

The flimsiness of the present case was given a striking illustration already at the preliminary hearing set for Tuesday, November 24. Fearing to trust the agent provocateur to cross-examination by the defense attorney at an open court hearing, the prosecution rushed through a secret indictment by the Grand Jury the night before in order to avoid the hearing. And they have already been obliged to dismiss the charges against Reilly, one of the original defendants.

Concerning the stool-pigeon Hoyle and his role, John G. Soderberg, secretary of the Independent Tidewater Boatmen's Union and one of the defendants, writes in a letter from jail:

"Who is this Hoyle? What is his record? A conviction in Providence for larceny. Fired off his last three jobs, not for organization activities but on account of drunkenness. Unable to get a job in the harbor he hit on the idea of making easy money by trying to involve his own union comrades in some taugle . . . He went to Hickey (manager of the O'Boyle Towing Co. and complainant in the case) in open court (at the arraignment) in front of us all, asked for and received \$10 or account for sending four men up the river for 40 years or more"

Perjurers, stool-pigeons and agents provecateur have played their perfidious role in every conspiracy against militant labor leaders.

No intelligent worker who knows the history of labor and the frame-up system would convict anyone on such testi-

Union. The Independent Tidewater Boat- son. And when, on top of that, it is men's Union is the real target of the con- taken into consideration that even this spiracy of which the defendants are the torture could not exort immediate victims. This is clearly! the presumption of innocence on the part shown by the whole procedure during and of the defendants becomes overwhelmafter the arrests. The police did not ing. simply arrest the defendants as would be done in an ordinary criminal case. They raided the union hall and drove everybody out. They tore the telephone organizations of the most reactionary from the wall and smashed the furniture. They carried away the books and records of solidarity to the defendants. Dynamof the union. Then they put a police ite plants and dynamite plots are a compadlock on the hall and barred the members from admittance. And they didn't stop there. In the days following the arrests and the sensational stor- in the history of the labor movement in ies in the press, police and detectives went onto the boats, where the members pute. Noh, who has been languishing in of the union were working, and warn Moscow since last March without mak- ed them that if they did not tear up their union books they would run the risk of being involved in the case. All these facts are testified to by officers and leading members of the union.

What is the reason for this campaign

of terrorism? If the case against the

accused men is an ordinary criminal case, if they are interested only in apprehending criminals, why is such an assault made against the union? These are questions which every worker must ask. The answer is simple enough. The union, to which the defendants belong. organizes the harbor boatmen and fights for a minimum wage standard for them. In the recent period sweeping wage cuts against these workers have been made by various companies in the harbor. The union fought this wage cutting campaign. It upheld the standards on the boats under its control while the unorganized boatmen had to submit to heavy reductions. The Tidewater Boatmen's Union holds a position of gerat strategic importance in the organization of all workers in the New York Harbor. It has been established and functioning for a period of more than ten years and has built up a stable group of union fighters. John G. Soderberg, as secretary of the union, was one of the leading spirits in the struggle. The other defendants-Thomas Bunker and William Trajer- were active workers for the union. Therein lies the explanation why they were selected as the victims, and ber 5th, 1931, beginning at 8 P. M., at why their arrest was ony a cover for the headquarters of the New York a terroistic assault against the union.

fliction of "cruel and unusual" punish- ments will be served,

pigeon and agent provocateur, a police | case and the case of Moyer and Haywood | ment on convicted criminals in prison. character who has undertaken the role for an intelligent worker to be on his But the New York police are not in the of a modern Harry Orchard. On this guard against this factor in the frame- least restrained by this prohibition in their treatment of prisoners whose guilt remains to be proven. Their brutal maltreatment of helpless prisoners who fall into their hands is as notorious as their graft, as their framing of women and their support of the bosses in every labor struggle. In the case of the accused marine workers they have outdone themselves. In their efforts to compel the defenseless prisoners to "confess" they have resorted to bestial and inhuman torture. Read the statement of one of the prisoners.

> "Half an hour later I was arrested, and in less than an hour Trajer (a boy of 20) was brought in and shown to me just long enough for me to see his swollen and blood-smeared face (which was shown me for effect)."

> "The police were beating me unconscious in their endeavor to force me to plead guilty. All known tortures were used by the police (beating of testicles with blackjacks, punching and squeezing of same, etc."

> They talk about crime? What crime can be more terrible, what greater offensive against humanity can there be than the torture, by these methods of the dark ages, of helpless prisoners in the dark corners of their jail? Yes, crime has been committed; but it is you, police guardians of property, who are the criminals!

No only do they condemn themselves before humanity by these tortures; they also refute their own accusations against the prisoners. If they have proof of their guilt, then why did they resort to torture to compel "confessions"? This is the question which will logically arise 3. They want to destroy the Boatmen's in the mind of every unprejudiced per-

> 5. Our Duty of Solidarity. From all that has been said it seems to us perfectly clear that this case has a vital interest for all workers' organizations, and that all workers owe an obligation mon menace to all. We have seen enough of this game in our own experience; we have read enough about it earlier generations. We dare not turn aside and let the arrested marine workers fight alone. If the movement can be terrorized by the cry of dynamite, if everyone turns away the minute the police announce the "discovery" of bombs, then no organization, and no active worker in the labor cause is secure from attack. They can plant a bomb in any office, produce a stool-pigeon to testify and railroad anyone they please. They have done it many times before and they will do it again if we do not investigate and expose every case and come to the aid of the intended victims.

The duty of all class conscious workers is clear. Soderberg, Bunker and Trajer must be provided with competent legal defense. The labor movement must be informed of the facts in the case and the issues involved. Searching investigations must be condudcted to unsover the whole conspiracy and bring every thing out into the light of day.

For these purposes, and at the urgent request of the defendants, the under-(Continued on Page 4)

Entertainment for «El Soviet»

NEW YORK ENTERTAINMENT ON SATURDAY

An affair for the benefit of El Soviet, official organ of the Left Opposition of Spain will be held on Saturday, Decem-Branch of the Communist League (Op-4. Bestial Third Degree Torture. The position), 84 East 10th Street. Workers laws of all the states prohibit the in- are cordidally invited to attend. Refresh-

Swabeck National Tour Well Under Way

with a sharp denial of the rumors, which anese official circles officially expressed of America (Opposition) in connection rade Swabeck's schedule follows: with various activities, among them trade Chicago. Ill. Dec. 8, 9, 10. union work, the I. L. D., etc.

From Boston comrade Swabeck was Springfield, Ill. Dec. 14. scheduled to continue on to Toronto, St. Louis, Mo...... Dec. 15, 16. Canada and thence to Detroit, and then Kansas City, Mo. Dec. 18, 19, 20. will be held open forum lectures, a mass Chicago, Ill. Dec. 31 and Although the Nanking Government is meeting and Branch gatherings. Detailtant.

The National Tour of comrade Arne; All the branches have written in to Swabeck opened in Boston with a mass the National Office of the Communist meeting on November 27th. Sessions League of America, expressing great were also held by Swabeck with the satisfaction that the national tour has Boston Branch of the Communist League been arranged. The remainder of com-

Philadelphia, Pa. January 10.

Militant Situation is Critical

The critical financial situation of The Militant makes it necessary to continue our appeal for financial assistance for the paper. There is no other way to ports on the Amur River. Previously make certain the appearance of the Weekly Militant but to ask our support- mitted to proceed only as far as the ers and readers to help financially. Evtinue, and working class victims of cap- ery reader of The Milltant, we feel sure, barges were taken over by Soviet steamitalist militarism will be killed. The will do everything possible to assure its ers. Now they are pushing right through continuance, We now ask for immedi- to Habarovsk. ever is handed to them by the imperial- ate aid; it is the only way out of our present difficulty, and to enable us to build more solidly for the future.

Our organization, the Communist League of America, takes pride in the international character of The Militant, an outsanding feature which is not even remotely approached by any other paper of the Communist movement. With this issue, still another development in this respect is recorded; namely, the utilization of the press service, Fenprecor, which will enable us to furnish our readers with accurate, detailed and comprehensive data on the situation in the Far East. So long as The Militant is able financially to do so, it will continue this press service.

Our situation remains precarious; our financial weakness hinders the development of many of our other projects. We call upon all our readers to help The Militant NOW Make a donation TODAY. And better yet, decide to make a weekly contribution for the sustenance of the Weekly Militant.

New York, N. Y.

nd all money immediately. THE MILITANT 84 East 10th Street,

Japanese was seen in the exchange to help justify before the world their failure to withdraw from Manchurian soil before the date set by the League of Nations resolution, which has already for a stay of 6 days in Chicago, com- Minneapolis, Minn. Dec. 24, 25, 26, been repudiated and characterized in its mencing on December 8th, where there true dimensions by Japan.

sued a statement on the 30th that no re- ed reports on comrade Swabeck's tour Youngstown, Ohio January 3 quest has even been made to Soviet Rus- will begin in the next issue of The Mill- Cleveland, Ohio January 4, 5. (Continued on Page 2)