

Hull Note Masks New Imperialist Threat by Roosevelt

U. S. Starts Fight Against Mexican Oil Expropriation

Agrarian Claims Serve As Pretext for Establishing Precedent Against Right of Expropriation

In a long and provocative communication to the Mexican ambassador, promptly seconded by a public statement from Senator Key Pittman, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary of State Cordell Hull last week expounded the real meaning of the Roosevelt "good neighbor policy" and the general Roosevelt conception of "international law and equity."

Secretary Hull's note dealt nominally with the Mexican expropriations, from August 30, 1927, of moderate-sized agrarian properties owned by American nationals. Figured even at the sum claimed by the former owners, the total value of these properties comes only to \$10,132,388. It was obvious to all observers that the real, though unexpressed, subject of the note was the recent expropriation of the oil companies.

Demand Arbitration

With the customary hypocrisy which is the notorious and ever-present characteristic of American diplomacy, Hull modestly asks only that the agrarian claims should be submitted to arbitration in accordance with "the universally accepted principle of international law, based as it is on reason, equity and justice." Reasonable enough, it would seem on the surface.

But a study of Hull's note shows that acceptance by the Mexican Government of arbitration of the agrarian claims is made to imply acceptance by it of the general principle that no expropriation can be undertaken without "full and adequate compensation"; and that, furthermore, the amount of compensation is to be determined not by the government and people who decide that expropriation is necessary for their own well-being (the only proper and rightful judges), but by an international commission, that is, by a body dominated by "experts" committed to the views of imperialism on the question of expropriations.

Bankers' Hatcher Man



CORDELL HULL

JAPAN RETREATS IN BORDER CLASH

(Continued from page 1)

Soviet cutter passing the island was fired on and an exchange of bullets followed. The Japanese came out at the shorter end of this encounter with two of their soldiers wounded and one machine-gun, five rifles and a quantity of ammunition seized by the Soviets.

Tokio Forced To Retreat

This test apparently settled the question. The Tokio government retreated from its arrogant threats with a "loss of face," the first of its kind in recent years. Nippon thus proved that it was obviously in no position to tackle the Red Army.

The explanation for this humiliating retreat is not hard to find. Japan has lost more than soldiers and equipment in the Chinese bogs. She has lost the freedom of action necessary to the maintenance of her claim as a fighting power. But more than that, the Chinese invasion has been disastrous from the point of view of her already tottering economy.

Japan Faces Crisis

"While the program of her Minister of Finance," says a Times commentator, "provided for the maintenance of the gold reserve held by the Bank of Japan, it has now become necessary to ship three-fifths of that reserve, in order to purchase raw materials vital to military requirements." In other words, the continued sinking of resources into the Chinese adventures of her militarists is fast bringing on the total collapse of Japanese currency, and with it, of her whole economic structure.

The incident of the hill near Lake Khasan thus throws a piercing light on the state of Japan's resources. Her position appears to be even weaker than suspected. Soviets In Fortunate Position. Insofar as the Soviets are concerned, the stand of the Far Eastern army must be taken not so much as a sign of inherent strength as of an advantageous position brought about by the harassing of their foes on other fronts. With Hitler preoccupied in the West due to the strengthening of the Anglo-French entente and of the position taken by these two powers recently on the question of the Sudeten German problem in Czechoslovakia; and with the Japanese up to their necks in Chinese bogs, the Soviet forces have been able to move with greater freedom and the Foreign Office to act with greater dignity.

According to late dispatches, Domei, the official Japanese news agency, announces that Tokio may now propose the establishment of an "international committee among Japan, Manchukuo and Soviet Russia" to settle not only the latest incidents but all border disputes of the past and present. In other words, Nippon is ready to eat crow.

Leading French Scientists Protest Law On Asylum

Committee Denounces Decree as 'Inhuman and Illegal'; Trade Union Officials Join in Protest

A distinguished group of leading French trade unionists, scientists, scholars and intellectuals have vigorously protested against the infamous decree laws promulgated by the Daladier government on May 23rd of this year. These laws impose severe penalties upon French citizens aiding exiles and further abridge the already restricted rights of asylum under the "Popular Front" regime.

Among the signers are the Noble Prize winners, the famous physicists, Marie Joliot-Curie and her husband, Frederick Joliot. They have not only demanded that the right of asylum be protected, but they proclaim that they will defy the law and refuse to abide by it. Their militant stand has been backed up by many militants in the trade unions.

Vicious Decree Law

The complete statement follows: "On May 2, 1938, the government issued a decree law containing the following paragraph: 'Article 3—The foreigner who, without valid excuse, omits within the legally fixed time limit to ask for a card of identity, will be liable, without prejudice to fiscal fines, to a fine of from 100 to 1,000 francs and imprisonment of from one month to one year.'

"Article 4—Any person who directly or indirectly facilitates or tries to facilitate the entry, the movements or the irregular sojourn of a foreigner will be punished by the penalties provided in the preceding article."

Declare Decree Illegal

"This decree law is purely and simply illegal because it bears no relation to the purposes of the decree laws agreed to by Parliament. 'By virtue of a law for financial readjustment' of April 13, 1938, the government was authorized to take 'such measures as it deems indispensable to meet expenses required for the national defense and to readjust the finances and economy of the nation.'

"The decree law on foreigners has no connection with expenditures for the national defense, nor with the finances or economy of the nation.' Otherwise any fascist measure could be adopted under the same pretext. The government could just as well suppress, for example, freedom of the press."

Denouncing as 'Inhuman'

"The decree punishing all aid extended to foreigners in an irregular situation is not only illegal, it is also immoral and inhuman. 'Since morals have existed, humanity has glorified aid to the proscribed. This aid is today in certain cases proclaimed

to be criminal and punishable. 'France did itself the honor under all previous regimes to offer unreserved hospitality to political emigrants. Today it is the government described as democratic which condemns the aid given in certain circumstances to these refugees. 'In May, 1937, Belgium forbade entry to the 'Communards': 'Victor Hugo, who had not approved of the Commune, and who lived at the time in Brussels, refused to bow before such a decree. In a letter to the 'Independence Belge' on May 26, 1871, he wrote: 'Asylum is an old right, the holy right of the unfortunate... the asylum which the Belgian government refuses to the vanquished, I offer... I offer asylum in Brussels.' 'Faithful to this example, the undersigned declare that they will personally take no cognizance whatever of an illegal inhuman decree law, which is contrary to the noblest traditions of our country.'"

Noted Figures Sign

Among the other signers of the statement are: Bouville, Secretary of the Bakers of the Seine; Digap, Secretary of the Agents of the Posts, Telephones and Telegraphs; Fourebeval, Secretary of the Lock-makers of the Seine; Roger Hagauer, Secretary of Education of the Seine; Gerard Rosenthal, labor attorney; Marcel Roy, Secretary of the Metal Federation and numerous others.

This statement, reprinted from La Revolution Proletarienne of June 10th, eloquently points out the terrible plight of the antifascist exiles in Europe. Here are the wolves' teeth that snap at the political refugees and their friends in France and elsewhere while the representatives of the Popular Front regime display smiling faces at Evian.

Nationalist Feeling Flares As Attempt Is Made On Puerto Rican Governor

(Continued from page 1)

Seven Nationalists, including their leader, Albizu Campos, were arrested after the murder of Riggs, but as no connection with the murder could be established, they were charged with sedition or treason. They were convicted and are now serving long terms in the Federal Prison at Atlanta.

The following year, on March 21, 1937, the Nationalists had a permit to parade at Ponce. Just as the parade was about to start, the permit was withdrawn by the Chief of Police after a conference with Governor Winship. The Nationalists attempted to parade despite the orders, and the police opened fire on the unarmed demonstrators.

Twenty persons, including passers-by, were killed or died of wounds, and between 100 and 150 injured by bullets or clubs. Eleven Nationalists were tried for the death of a policeman in the massacre—he was probably killed by a police bullet. The first trial, after dragging out three months, ended in suspension owing to the illness of a juror, and the second trial resulted in acquittal. The police received neither punishment nor official censure.

Terrorists Seek Revenge

The Ponce massacre and the systematic repression that followed it have engendered great bitterness. That the Nationalists should seek revenge—a theory that has been advanced with regard to the attempt on the Governor—is understandable. Certainly, a celebration of the anniversary of American rule in Ponce was a provocative move in itself.

After the shooting was over and the Nationalists duly arrested, Governor Winship proceeded to read his previously prepared address. It contained what the New York Times called "a def-

BRANCHES ACTIVE IN FUND DRIVE FOR REFUGEES

Money Rolls to Committee from All Sections of the Country

The initial response to the appeal of the American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees for funds to aid the militant labor refugees from Fascism has been extremely encouraging, reports George Novack, secretary of the American Fund. Four hundred dollars have already been collected in the first few weeks of its campaign.

First honors belong to the local Cleveland Committee, which quickly lifted its initial pledge of \$15 to \$50, and is now heading towards a quota of \$85. Cleveland

Aid Given Five Refugees

The secretary reports that money already on hand has enabled the Committee to give immediate relief to five urgent cases: Two German refugees and an Italian exile in France, one political prisoner in Spain and a German refugee now seeking asylum.

found house-to-house canvassing a most effective method of raising money. Two members collected \$10 on two blocks during the first tag day.

Tag Days Effective

A tag day in Minneapolis raised \$51 for the Fund, while Philadelphia ran it a close second with a contribution of \$50. The Detroit local is off to a fine start with \$24.35, and plans are being made to extend its contribution and activities beginning with a garden party.

The New York local thus far raised \$44.74 and is planning a tag day which it expects will put it at the top of the list.

Southern Unionists Give

Collection lists are bringing in a steady stream of contributions to swell the total. One dollar bill has been received from "twenty industrial unionists of the South," with the inscription: "Wish we could contribute more than one nickel apiece! Best wishes to our friends, the working heroes and fighters—our militant brothers and sisters in Europe."

The news of the American Fund's formation has brought numerous requests for aid from individuals and organizations. The secretary requests that collections be speeded up and all money now available be promptly forwarded to the committee so that it can continue its work without difficulties and delay.

NEED FUNDS FOR FRED BEAL FIGHT

Redoubled efforts have been made to obtain the liberation of Fred E. Beal, framed-up leader of the militant Gastonia textile strike, who is now serving a 17 to 20 year jail sentence in North Carolina.

Beal was sentenced in 1929 to serve a living death behind bars because he dared to organize a group of the most exploited negro and white workers in the heart of the South. He was incarcerated several months ago after evading capitalist "justice" for nine years.

Committee Asks For Funds

An emergency appeal has just been issued by Margaret De Silver, treasurer of the Non-Partisan Committee for the Defense of Fred Beal. She reports that the attorneys for the class war prisoner are enthused about the possibilities of obtaining a pardon.

Her message read: "It cannot happen automatically. There are important steps to be taken, and they cost money. Beal is behind bars because he organized American workers. We must and can obtain his release. The need for funds is of an emergency nature."

'Left Socialist' Convention

The Communist Party, of which Beal was a member at the time of the Gastonia strike, has refused him aid. Beal fled to the Soviet Union in 1929, rather than hand his life over to the Southern capitalist class. In 1933, he left the Soviet Union, disgusted with the Stalinist bureaucracy and returned to the United States where he voluntarily surrendered to North Carolina authorities several months ago.

Although the Stalinists refuse to aid this innocent victim of the capitalist class, the real labor movement cannot forget Beal's service to its cause. We urge all readers to speed the liberation of Fred Beal by sending contribution, immediately to the Non-Partisan Committee for the Defense of Fred Beal, Rm. 610, 19 West 44 St., New York City.

Labor Militancy Rises Anew in France; Progressives Gain Strength in Unions

Reject People's Frontism at Left Socialist Convention; New Awakening Seen in Political Trends

By TERENCE PHELAN

PARIS, July 19.—While bourgeois Paris gawks at the dummy sovereigns of England amid expensive decorations whose principal motif is the fasces, and whose featured entertainment is the display at Versailles of French imperialism's armed might, proletarian Paris wonders rather what were the exact contents of the "letters" exchanged between the French and British premiers on the eve of the visit, unconfirmedly rumored to be the final sealing of the Franco-British alliance.

For the French working class is justifiably jumpy. In recent weeks it has seen Daladier-la-Guerre's Radical-Socialist government release the last of the fascist "cagoulauds," while at the same time imposing crushing jail sentences on the aroused workers and students of Tunisia, France's martial-law colony in North Africa—200 years of prison sentences in one month. (So severe is the repression that even the reformist-socialist newspapers have been suppressed—and Blum & Co., heretofore deaf to the appeals of the miserably exploited worker natives, suddenly howl to high heaven themselves.)

Franco Welcomes Doriot

The French worker has just read of Franco's triumphant reception of the renegade communist Doriot, most dangerous of French fascist leaders, while the Stalinists push ahead for unity with anyone, including fascists, who will help them build up France's imperialist war-machine.

Bosses simply scorn the decisions of governmental arbitrators when not overwhelmingly in their favor; they snipe off any militant who protests; and they proceed, with the help of the "explanations" of Stalinist intermediaries, to the most bare-faced sabotage of the hard-won 40-hour week. And the cost of living inexorably rises.

Strikes Increasing

But the workers begin to grow not only jumpy but angry. And impatient. Strikes (characteristically sit-downs that the union leaders are hard put to turn into evacuations) again increase: the whole building-trades in the Isere; 700 metal-workers at Marseilles; other strikes in Guingamp, Venissieux, Prouvy—significantly including war industries, which infuriates the war-mongering Stalinist Humanite. Equally infuriated is the big-bourgeois Temps, at the Marseilles dock workers, who have found their own way to enforce the 40-hour week, i. e. to work 40 hours and then go home, leaving Le Temps to tear its hair all it wants to.

It is still a long way from June, 1936, yet workers' militancy seems to have passed the low ebb. In June the conference of trade union minorities issued a powerful appeal throughout the national trade union federation, the C.G.T. Its program, condemning the fatal class-collaboration policies of the Popular Front, calling for a return to the class-struggle policies of 1936, met an immediate response, spread rapidly through the C.G.T., and continues to win increasingly impressive support. The bureaucrats at the top are feeling the pressure, are being driven to the left.

Statement Causes Furor

On July 17, Leon Jouhaux, reformist head of the C.G.T., announced that the interrupted reforms must be completed. "And that day," he added, "may be near: October or November may call us to action. We are prepared for it. The fascists will not pass in October 1938 any more than they passed in February, 1934."

Le Temps immediately threw front-page fits: this was not the language it had expected from the tame Green-like Jouhaux—especially since as recently as June 25, when at the Rassemblement du Front Populaire the Radical-Socialists, by flinging back in their faces the Socialist and Communist propositions, had proved the political death of the Popular Front. Le Temps had permitted itself some pompous gloating over the "impotence" of the Left. Jouhaux is certainly no firebrand, and if he speaks as above, the rank-and-file must be putting some uncomfortable iron in his soul.

Also significant are some of the decisions of the constitutional convention of the new "left socialist" party, the P.S.O.P., on July 16-18. It is still ideologically a muddled grouping (e.g. in one committee of 12, there were five distinct and warring tendencies); yet although it refused to receive a delegation from the revolutionary socialist party, the P.O.I., and mildly condemned the Fourth International as having insufficient internal democracy (this from some of the bureaucratic ex-wheel-horses of the Socialist Party!), yet many of its positions were progressive.

Its supposed ideological leader, Marceau Pivert was so soundly trounced on a motion to affiliate with the Popular Front that he thought it prudent not even to bring up his pet project of affil-

tached. It sent a strong protest to the Spanish Loyalist Government for its suspicious imprisonment of P.O.U.M.ists and other militants; and protested equally strongly to its own government against the savage repressions in all French colonies. The party rejecting the term "revolutionary defeatism," it nevertheless called for revolutionary defeatism in other terms. And lastly, significant in view of Pivert's notorious affiliations, it sent to referendum a vote to expel all Freemasons, a politically active and class-collaborationist fraternal organization in France.

Party Direction Undecided. Those whom the fatal role of the P.O.U.M., which herded into a suicidal centrist the left-moving workers, has made, with much justification, suspicious, warn that the P.S.O.P. gives birth to a similar danger, especially should the Pivert group retain complete control. To them it can be recalled that the P.O.U.M. was a left-wing organization that moved right, whereas the P.S.O.P. is a right-wing organization moving left. There are furthermore signs that the maneuvering Pivertists are unsteady in the saddle. It is not yet excluded that the pressure of rank-and-file militants, pushing the party policies from the centre to the left, may make it true revolutionary party.

Meanwhile the Fourth internationalists give it their friendly criticism, and make every effort to establish with it united fronts—against capitalism and its social lackeys, for the workers' revolution.

Telegraphists Present Demands

A series of demands affecting hours and working conditions were adopted for presentation to the Postal Telegraph and Cable Company by the convention of the American Communications Association, C.I.O. Negotiations for a new contract with the company will begin late in October. The present contract expires in December.

The demands call for a forty-four-hour week instead of forty-eight, without decrease in pay; elimination of certain technicalities in the present agreement; a closed shop and clarification of classifications and rates of pay to provide for the transfer of employees from one classification to another.



EDOUARD DALADIER

Daily Worker Exposed

By GUSTAV MULFINGER. Through a notice in the Daily Worker of July 20, entitled "Workers' Enemies Exposed," I was informed of my expulsion from the ranks of the Communist Party. Declaring that I am "politically irresponsible" and have failed to attend meetings or pay dues, the official organ of the Stalinist party solemnly "exposes" me as "an enemy of the working class."

Unless one has a blind belief in headlines I am at a loss to understand why I have "forfeited the confidence of all workers and working-class organizations." Is it because I have stopped paying dues and no longer attend party meetings? Or is it because, well aware of slander campaigns against former party members, I have, through my attorney, warned them not to attempt such tactics against me?

In 1935, as an official of the C. P.-controlled Uptown Press, I reported certain financial irregularities and demanded a clean-up. The thieving functionary involved was protected by party "tops" and I was forced to bring the affair to the Board of Directors and call in an outside accountant to clean up the mess.

For this "political irresponsibility and disruption" I was severely reprimanded by the Central Committee for removing their trusted henchman and eventually forced to reinstate him. He, by his own admission, had misappropriated hundreds of dollars for his own personal benefit.

In 1937 this protégé of the C.P. leaders again misappropriated funds to the amount of \$430.00. When this case reached the Central Control Committee the question of corruption in the party did not come up, but, by lies and frame-up, Mulfinger was again attacked. As for the second case against their thieving protégé, I have heard of no decision. He has not, however, been "exposed as an enemy of the working class."

As for me, I did not wait for a decision. Without words, ashamed of the party I had done my best to build for ten years, I left. Ten months later, but only one week after I had begun to print the Socialist Appeal in the printing shop I am connected with, these gentlemen have the effrontery to designate me as an enemy of the working class in their slander sheet, the Daily Worker!

NOT GUILTY
REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE CHARGES MADE AGAINST LEON TROTSKY IN THE MOSCOW TRIALS
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