

## The Allies in Siberia

**A**LMOST a year has passed since your governments have taken it upon themselves to control the destinies of Revolutionary Russia through armed meddling, diplomatically called intervention. At the outset the attitude of these rulers toward the Russian people was concealed by declarations of friendship and benevolence, by solemn promises not to interfere in our internal affairs, by the oft repeated assurances that the Allies had not the slightest intention of violating our national rights and independence, and by hypocritical statements to the effect that their sole aim was to "assist" Russia.

When, immediately after these declarations and assurances active forces of Japanese, English, French, Italian and Canadian troops were concentrated on our territory, with their several military staff members, military missions, and kindred agencies utilizing our railroads, requisitioning our buildings, and generally acting in the same manner as they would in their respective home countries; we were told that the Allies were preparing to transport troops and munitions to European Russia through Siberia in order to reconstruct the Russian western front against Germany. According to another version of the story we were told that the object of the Allied troops in Siberia was to protect the Czecho-Slovak army, which was at that time moving along the Siberian railroad, presumably on the way towards France, and whose security, we were informed, was menaced by armed hosts of Austro-Hungarian war prisoners.

Shortly afterward it was revealed that the contemplated battlefield was situated, not in Germany, but in the peaceful cities and villages of Siberia. The cannons of our "Allies" were directed against the Siberian workers and peasants and not against German, Austrian or Hungarian war prisoners, whose reported menacing of the Czecho-Slovaks was nothing but a convenient subterfuge.

In short, it was soon brought to light that the Allied expedition in Siberia was directed not against militaristic Germany but against revolutionary Russia, that the combined armies of the Allies aimed to strike not Germany, but

*An appeal to the liberal and radical citizens of the Allied countries by the Workers and Peasants of Siberia and the Russian Far East.*

the self-ruling Workers' and Peasants' Councils or Soviets—the most democratic form of government the world has ever seen. The Allied forces were massed to destroy the Soviets, this real government of the people, by the people, for the people which sprang into being during the tempest of the great Russian revolution out of the genius of the Russian workers and peasants.

It has now been established beyond the shadow of doubt that the Czecho-Slovaks had not the slightest ground for hostility toward the Siberian Soviets, and that they betrayed the hospitality and confidence bestowed on them by these same Soviets, under pressure of the French General Staff and the urgent request of the French diplomats, who promised them the recognition of Czecho-Slovakia as the price of these treacherous and bloody deeds. It is also now well-known that Semenov and Kornilov, the two Cossack chiefs, who so zealously prosecuted war against their own countrymen, were financed, equipped and supported—the former by Great Britain, the latter by Japan.

Thus due to the united force of these powers and their abettors, and due also to the treachery of single individuals the Soviets were overthrown all through Siberia. Unprepared, poorly equipped, and surprised to such an extent that they had not sufficient time to mobilize the people or even communicate with each other, the various local Soviets were suddenly confronted with the might of the Allied armies joined by Cossack bands, adherents of the old order and all foes of the revolution and the common people.

The government power was thus snatched away by force from the people and placed in the bloody bands of Kalmikov, Semenov, Gamov and similar small tyrants, who divided Siberia among themselves. Under the protection of the Allied bayonets these rulers began a campaign of terror against the common people, to club, martyr, shoot and hang with-

out mercy. Subsequently Horvath and then Kolchak alternately declared themselves rulers of the Russian people.

During all this time the peasants and workers of Siberia groan under the yoke of this regime, which in brutality and cruelty excels the darkest days of Czardom. All trace of freedom is obliterated. The active factors of Siberian life today are the Cossacks, the nagaika (Cossack's whip), the prison cells and the bullets of the executioners. All the Siberian civil and military prisons are filled to such an extent that they have become pest-holes of epidemic diseases. The powers that be have taken upon themselves the vain and cruel task of exterminating Bolshevik ideas and sympathies by the annihilation of the population. The Japanese troops have introduced the terrible practice of bombarding villages without any warning or reducing them to ashes by fire in order to stamp out the "nests of Bolshevism." The villages of Sakharino and Ivanovka, near Blagoveschensk, were laid waste in this fashion a short time ago.

While these conditions prevail in Siberia; the common people are steadfastly convinced that all their misfortunes are but the direct sequel of this cursed foreign intervention, which demoralizes, brutalizes and tyrannizes the country. We are certain that all these Semenovs, Kalmikovs, Kolchaks could not exercise their criminal power a single day, if your troops did not protect them, and if they were not supported by your governments by supplies of gold, munitions and equipment.

We cannot presume that all this could occur with the knowledge and sanction of the liberal and radical citizens of the Allied countries. We are certain, that the treacherous and bloody role which your governments play in Russia today would outrage your sense of justice.

We, therefore, beseech you, we implore you, we demand of you in the name of justice and freedom, in the name of humanity, in the name of brotherly love, and in the name of the great Russian revolution, not to stand calmly by while your governments strangle revolutionary Russia.

## Soviet Hungary and the Allies

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are we, comrades, and then is the Proletarian Revolution, saved. Then we will have time to await the International Proletarian Revolution, and if we should fall, then we will fall in such a manner that the International Proletarian Revolution will not be hurt by our misfortune.

I have never considered the matter from the point of view of the Hungarian proletariat. I do not consider the matter from the point of view of the proletariat of any land. There is only one point of view: the point of view of the International Proletarian Revolution. (That's so, that's so!)

We are only building a small part of this International Proletarian Revolution. If there should come a time when we must go down in defeat then the International Proletarian Revolution will still live, and will again awaken us to new life (great applause).

I have described the situation—coldly, carefully, just as it is. I will now add to that, what is happening to the proletariat of all lands. You are acquainted with the situ-

ation in Vienna, you know that there the proletariat is armed to fight for Dictatorship (applause). You know that the troops of the Russian Soviet Republic have crossed the border of East Galicia (continued applause). You know that a part of these troops is advancing on Czernovitz. That is help, which still lies in the distance. I emphasize again, that we must depend in the first place on our own strength — upon the revolutionary strength of the Hungarian proletariat till the time when the proletariat of the surrounding lands will hasten actively to our aid. To arouse this revolutionary force, the organization, utilization, and enlarging of this force, that is your task (that's so). Act, act and then again act!

Do you want the Proletarian Dictatorship, do you want the working masses to govern themselves? Do you wish the possibility of action? We want all these things. The time is here, the moment is deadly serious, we

must act, act and again act (continued applause and assents).

I repeat: I do not desire to indulge in oratory or fine phrases. Let the proletariat of Budapest, whose representatives you are, speak now, let *them* say what they want; new bourgeois Capitalism (cries: never), exploitation by the bourgeoisie, or Socialism, Communism? (Stormy applause.) Penetrating all hells, enduring all sacrifices! (That's so, that's so!) And after they have spoken, may the proletariat of Budapest also act (thunderous hurrahs and continued applause).

(At the close of the meeting, after Joseph Pogany had spoken (we shall publish his address in our next issue) the following resolution was adopted amid tremendous applause: "The Budapest Revolutionary Workers' Council resolves, at its meeting held April 19, 1919, that half the members of the Soviet Government and of the Workers' Council, as well as half of the general workers, shall go to the front. The Soviet Government is entrusted with the carrying out of this resolution.")