

PEACE WILL PREVAIL.

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The scope of the world movement for a ban on atomic weapons is prompting reactionary politicians to make a special effort to mislead the public as to the nature of the problem involved. Their propaganda follows two distinct lines. On the one hand, it insistently seeks to instil the idea that nuclear weapons have made war so dangerous that there is no possible chance of it ever breaking out. On the other hand, it attempts to scare the world with the assertion that atomic war would inevitably lead to the destruction of humanity. Both lines have one object - to orient the peoples and thus make it easier for the imperialists to pursue their preparations for atomic war.

Since the Nato Council's decision to prepare for the waging of atomic war and the decision of the British government to produce the H-bomb in Britain, hardly a day passes without some prominent bourgeois politician coming out in public praise of atomic weapons as a guarantee of peace. The hydrogen bomb "is really a weapon of peace," Adenauer assures us. British Air Marshal Sir John Slessor asserts that the atom and hydrogen bombs have brought "a measure not of despair but of hope to the world." "The destructive power of the h-bomb is a safeguard of peace," claims the Giornale d'Italia, while the London Observer jubilantly proclaims that, thanks to nuclear weapons, "there is less expectation of war to day than there has been during most of the ten years since the last war."

The meaning and purport of all this propaganda may be summed up as follows: Why campaign for the banning of atomic weapons, for the destruction of existing stocks of these weapons, and for general disarmament, when the danger of war has been eliminated anyhow by the very fact that thermo-nuclear weapons are so destructive that nobody will dare resort to them? This is an attempt to demobilize the peoples to lull them into a false sense of security and thus enable the imperialists to prepare for atomic war without let or hindrance.

But the myth that thermo-nuclear weapons spell security is exposed by the imperialist politicians themselves, for they are constantly threatening to employ these weapons. Speaking in the House of Commons on March 1, in praise of the British government's decision to manufacture H-bombs, Sir Winston Churchill declared that "it would be folly to suppose they would not be used". He was backed by Clement Attlee, leader of the Labour Party, who told a meeting Oxford on March 4 that Britain must be prepared to employ nuclear weapons. All the evidence shows that bigger production of atomic weapons because they are planning to unleash atomic war. What value, then, can be placed in the official optimistic assertions that nuclear weapons are a guarantee of the world's peace and security?

The reactionary press harps with no less zeal on the second line of propaganda, namely, that thermo-nuclear warfare would bring about the destruction of mankind. The New York Daily Mirror for instance asserts that use of the H-bomb would result in "total devastation," while the New York Times, which is continually gloating over the horrors of atomic war, maintains that, in the event of such a war, "civilization could not be saved."

Such statements are obviously designed to paralyze the movement of the peoples against employment of atomic weapons, for that movement is a hindrance to the imperialists in their criminal preparation of atomic war. The war mongers would like nothing better than to demoralize the masses and induce them to abandon the effort for international peace and security. And the aim and purpose of all the predictions about the "end of civilization" is to instil the defeatist belief that the hand of the atomaniacs cannot be stayed.

But hundreds of millions have in our time reached such a level of political consciousness that nothing can break their determination to frustrate the criminal designs of the proponents of atomic war. Any attempt to unleash another world war is bound to end deplorably for the aggressor. As V.M. Molotov said in his report to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., "it is not 'world civilization' that will perish, however much it may suffer from such new aggression, but the decaying social system of which bloodthirsty imperialism is the core, and which is approaching the end of its day, condemned for its aggressiveness and rejected as a system based on exploitation of the working folk and the oppressed peoples."

The new world war the imperialists are working to unleash ~~will~~ would of course, cause great misery to the people, primarily in those countries where large populations and big industrial and cultural centres are concentrated in small areas. The dreadful experience of World War II is still fresh in the memory of the millions, prompting them to spare no effort to avert another world conflict and to secure prohibition of atomic weapons and a general reduction of armaments.

The Soviet Union is confident in its strength and able to stand up for its rights. But it wants to protect the peoples of all countries from the horrors of atomic war, and for that reason, in line with its unswerving policy of peace, is consistently striving for relaxation of international tension, prohibition of weapons of mass destruction and reduction of armaments. Cessation of arms drive and the banning of atomic and other mass destruction weapons were urged in the recent Declaration of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. This same policy is reflected in the proposals submitted by the Soviet government to the Sub-Committee of the U.N. Disarmament Commission now meeting in London. The Soviet people wholeheartedly support the Vienna Appeal of the World Peace Council urging the immediate banning of atomic weapons, and ardently welcome the decision of the Soviet Peace Committee to initiate the signature campaign in support of the Appeal on April 1.

The mass movement that has developed throughout the world in support of the Vienna Appeal is convincing proof that the people in every country are bent upon securing prohibition of nuclear weapons. In the score or so countries where the campaign has already begun, millions have expressed their firm determination to end the menace of atomic war and uphold the peace. In China alone some 109 million people signed the Appeal in the first twenty days. This noble movement has followers everywhere in all sections of society, among men and women of all walks of life, political beliefs and religious convictions. They are all moved by the common urge to frustrate the designs of the atomic warmongers.

"WE DECLARE THAT ANY GOVERNMENT THAT LETS LOOSE ATOMIC WAR WILL FORFEIT THE TRUST OF ITS PEOPLE AND FIND ITSELF CONDEMNED BY EVERY PEOPLE OF THE WORLD."

These words of the Vienna Appeal are now on the lips of millions upon millions of men and women. They are a formidable warning to those who might venture to ignore the will of the peoples. The militarists who are planning atomic war should bear in mind that no propaganda subtleties and devices will save them from answering for their deeds. The peoples are capable of curbing the warmongers. Peace will prevail.

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