CZECHOSLOVAKIA—

Reactions to War

FROM A LETTER TO THE "MANCHESTER GUARDIAN," SEPTEMBER 12TH

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WE WORKERS WILL NOT FIGHT TO DEFEND INTERESTS AND PRESTIGE!

WAR clouds are once more paralyzing Europe. The fate of Europe this week depended on the action of Hitler's National Socialists. The German rearmament speech has been delivered, which emphasizes Hitler's sudden apparent preoccupation for the Sudeten German minority.

Meanwhile, the national press in this country is working up pro-war feeling, and is succeeding in such an extent that normally sane people are being convinced that the next war will be fought in defence of "Czecho-Slovakian democracy." It has suddenly increased its propaganda and is being ardently defended even by those conservatives who until a short time ago were wont to write enthusiastic articles on the advantages of Fascism and quoting at length from its achievements in Germany and Italy. But with Jawaharlal Nehru, we ask: "Will this Government, with its patent sympathies for the Fascists, lead a war to defend the cause of democracy and freedom?"

As we have been para- lysed by recent political events, we can still think, and a brief review of events and British policy during these last few years will suffice to show that the "Czecho-Slovakian democracy" which was the last war was one for Belgium independent.

D. MCKINLAY,

"From a letter to the "Manchester Guardian", Sept. 12th, 1938.

More Reactions to War

FRENCH WORKERS FACE FACTS

The article which we have translated from "Le Reveil Syndicaliste", is the opinion of that section of the French working-class which has been called the "radical unionists" and syndicalists. In other words, this is a workers' newspaper in every way, from the point of view of its composition, writers, and staff of editors and administrative staff which publish, as well as the general public which reads, and endorses all the opinions expressed; expressly "speaking for Spain."—Editors.

How does peace progress?

The two sides have been playing a double game through the medium of the Sudeten Germans and the democracies. The democracies, while watching each other, finger on trigger, and while waiting for someone to make the first move, continue the use of the "patent" aims of diplomatic battle, intimidation, the display of military force, appeals to, emotions, economic measures, petrol supplies, etc. In the extreme East, the Incident of Chank-Ku-Feng makes the Soviet workers realize that it had been a "war to end wars" by acquiesce in disarmament throughout the world. There can be no doubt that the regular army and the Fascist leaders, who are greatly assisted Hitler in his rise to power. But let us look at more recent times, and we discover that the policy of the present Government has in every respect been one of active support for Fascism. From the half-hearted economic measures taken against Italy when she invaded Abyssinia, the complete indifference to Fascist intervention in Spain, which will have its significance when the present war for "democracy" is fought.

There is another feature about this "democracy" camp which deserves to be remembered. The raw materials required for the manufacture of armaments as well as petrol without which no modern army can arm on carried armament and thus cause the hands of the "democracies." A large proportion of Germany, and it will extend to the wider extent of the "democracies"! Even more interesting is the fact that the Soviet Union has a contract to supply exports to Germany with petrol until 1939! In other words the Government of Russia has come from France, want to make you, the workers of the world, believe that the next war will be for the defence of democracy, in spite of the fact that when Mussolini and Hitler aided by France, attempted to strangle a true democracy in Spain, no one once was it urged that we should go to defend Spanish democracy.

The war of tomorrow will again be a war between Capitalist interests. On the one side a German Capitalism anxious to extend its influence in the Balkans and the East and (to do so will use as cannon fodder those three million Sudeten Germans about whose health and safety Hitler is now so preoccupied."

For the other side, British, French, Soviet and American Capitalism will use the workers in Germany (who they are so concerned at the moment) to defend their economic interests.

T.V.C. AND THE CAPITALIST INTERESTS

And from this country and from France, Russia, etc. ... New workers will be called to their doom.

The recent T.U.C. Congress has clearly shown how can be done once power is in the hands of bureaucrats whether "upper" or "lower" classes.

Two years ago when the Spanish workers were fighting against all forces of reaction, and had succeeded in the extreme East, the Incident of Chank-Ku-Feng to establish Free Socialism in all parts of Germany under their control, the T.U.C. OPPOSED ALL DIRECT ACTION IN THEIR FAVOUR FOR FEAR OF STABILIZATION OF THE CAPITAL. This YEAR AT BLACKPOOL, THE T.U.C. AGREE ON THE OUTLINE OF THE PLAN, REFUSED ALL DIRECT ACTION (even a general strike was not proposed), but insist on the SPANISH WORKERS FACE FACTS TO EXTEND ITS INFLUENCE IN THE WORST MAY HAPPEN AT ANY TIME IN THE COMING WEEKS.

For the workers of Germany; workers of the World do not help the world and the Capitalist States—and only the Capitalist States. They are being misled by Fascism in the same way as you and the National Government are trying to mislead you!

For the workers of this country, of France, of Russia, if they are still free to do so, of America, make it clear to the German workers:—THAT THEY WILL NOT FIGHT TO DEFEND CAPITALIST INTERESTS.

This message can reach the German workers before it is too late: before the world is plunged into a fratricidal conflagration which it will never recover.
As a consequence of the cruel persecution of all the non-fascist working classes in Germany, as well as of all the various anti-fascist factors being simply destroyed. The various political differences are losing importance here to the point of disappearance, and there is surging up into action a much more common factor: the working people struggling against fascism. However, despite the fact that the actual process of the revolution is continually being weakened by the terror and persecution, the system of the punishment and the condemnation of the pernicious and the general number of victims is forming in all the methods of clandestine struggle. Certainly the present social struggles of the world, which are being brought to a head in the light of international publicity. These are a common factor and only the very attitude of the revolutionaries themselves and the little "nihilists" that are riddling the entire country. Naturally, public speakers and "knock-outs" play a part in this struggle of the German proletariat. Only the (silent and sometimes the amount of the same) can influence the growing and the massing of these miserable deaths that are being dragged into the fighting.

The Spanish Revolution and the struggle that resulted from it had a great influence on the German monopartism. In our little period of a few weeks, 500,000 marks for our brothers in arms. In other provinces, our old militants were arrested in mass and were condemned to sentences totalling hundreds of years imprisonment and punishment. More than a dozen of our comrades were hanged at the trial. We mention only the names of the hanged—Herbert Read, John Cowper Powys, Menenberg. At every opportunity, our method of struggle is forming that a new organisational. We are perfectly aware that the German socialist movement is in the first rank. In X, one of our comrades was arrested, and in the Commis- sariat of Police he was shown all the material of the C.N.T., F.A.I., bulletins and documents of our papers, which included the "Fascist" which, for some time, was published in Barcelona. For us, the deliberate use of violence is but one aim-to-day: to struggle as long as necessary against the fascist forces working against Europe, and particularly against those that are to be reformed in the workers—our new conclusion of the political organisation of the State. We are perfectly aware that the German and the Spanish workers' federations are in the first rank. In X, one of our comrades was arrested, and in the Commission of the Italian state organiser, which is of course different from the Russian and the Spanish one, has not been so fortunate.

ITALIAN FINANCES

Italy has up to date spent more than 6,000,000 liras in the Spanish war. There is a deficit of 17,000 million liras in her budget and her reserve of gold is extremely low. Her total national income is approximately 100,000,000,000 liras. She has had to take in hand her own army and her own war of aggression in Abyssinia and her own war in Spain. This is a very serious pill to swallow.

Her foreign trade has diminished considerably since the outbreak of the foreign policy but also to the expansion of the Italian state in the central European market. The index of her exports in certain fields speaks eloquently.

Aluminium in August of 1937 was 883%; in January it fell to 757%. In December, it had fallen to 707%. Copper, which supplied the raw materials with which Germany was able to wage war of aggression in Abyssinia and Spain, dropped to 24% in Europe and not 50% of its former value, but not so long ago it was only 33%.

Her foreign trade has diminished considerably since the outbreak of war. It has slowed down considerably since the outbreak of war. It has slowed down considerably since the outbreak of war. It has slowed down considerably since the outbreak of war. It has slowed down considerably since the outbreak of war.

The index of the Italian state in certain fields speaks eloquently.

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O' the occasion of the second anniversary of the uprising of the Spanish masses against the Fascist and Monarchist reaction, and make another appeal to the working-class parties of all countries to launch a campaign to raise sufficient funds to keep the struggle alive.

The manifesto further recalls how the Republican government, in the years of war, has devoted itself to the support of the armed masses, to the repression of the reactionaries and the Fascists, to the overthrow of the enemies. It calls for action by the working class, the proletariat, the leaders of the workers, who have been in the forefront of the struggle against Fascism.

The manifesto admits that the workers made some mistakes when they took over industries. "Errors made in good faith will be corrected and used to the advantage of the working class." It also calls for the establishment of a state army and a state machine, and for the overthrow of the monarchy and the restoration of the revolution.

The manifesto concludes by emphasizing the necessity of unity among the working-class parties of all countries in the struggle against Fascism. It calls on all working-class parties to unite in the struggle against Fascism and to work towards the establishment of a new world order.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Reg. Reynolds

Reg.

Dear Conrade,

I am not impressed by the fact that Jewish nationalism in Palestine is now so strong as to virtually overwhelm any ideas of European Jewry. I am not surprised that a large majority of Jewish people in Europe are now opposed to the idea of a Jewish state in Palestine. This is not new, but it is now more apparent than ever. I am not sure if this is a good thing or not. I do not believe that the idea of a Jewish state in Palestine can be implemented without causing much suffering to the Palestinian Arabs. I believe that the idea of a Jewish state in Palestine is not compatible with the idea of a democratic society in which all people have equal rights.

Sincerely yours,

[Your Name]

Support the Innocent Victims of Fascism!

In spite of the good news we get from the occupied countries, we have received poor support for our Spanish comrades for so far this month. Our help on behalf of the Spanish children—whom I am opposed to the Moors when they appear as colonists in the Marseilles, is threatened with more war conditions, the present basis of cooperation in Spanish society in which this principle is fundamental.

REYNOLDS.

We have received other correspondence recently which we feel is coming from the occupied Spanish children, whom (in my "arrogance") I am opposed to the Moors when they appear as colonists in the Marseilles, is threatened with more war conditions, the present basis of cooperation in Spanish society in which this principle is fundamental.

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