

THE CEASE-FIRE IN INDOCHINA

By WILLIAM FOSTER

THE ACHIEVEMENT of a cease-fire agreement in Indochina is a tremendous victory for the peace and democratic forces of the world. It is one more heavy reverse for the war policy of Wall Street imperialism, which is more and more being rendered bankrupt. It is also a powerful blow against tottering colonialism in Asia.



The cease-fire makes things vastly more difficult for those big businessmen and their political agents (headquarters, Wall Street) who during the past several years have been trying to tinker together a great capitalist anti-Soviet war alliance and to organize another great war in order to make themselves (they insanely hope) masters of the world. The agreement is a great object lesson of the feasibility of peaceful co-existence between the socialist and capitalist states. The general result will be a further relaxation of the dangerous international tension, for which the working masses of the world will be grateful.

President Eisenhower, Secretary Dulles, Senator Knowland, and other political leaders for Wall Street did their utmost to continue and expand the Indochina war. They gave the war-making French imperialists over two billion dollars to use against the Indochino people; they sent in American technicians to service the French airfleet; they tried to prevent the Geneva conference from being held, and once it was scheduled in spite of them, they sought to kill it off by organizing a united front military offensive in Indochina—a project which fell dead in their hands; they also delegated a third line official to the Geneva conference to signalize this country's opposition to the whole proceedings, and now in the same spirit of sabotage and war-mongering, they have refused to sign the cease-fire agreement.

THE WALL STREET war-makers, in their attempts to make Indochina the starting point for a great war, ran into powerful peace forces that were too much for them. First of all, the gallant defense of the heroic Indochinese people. French imperialism, after eight years of fruitless struggle against them, was thoroughly licked and wanted no more of the

hopeless fight. In unmistakable terms, the French people let it be known that they wanted the "dirty" war stopped forthwith. Nor could all the threats and ultimatums of Dulles budge them from this peace position. Thus Wall Street lost its main ally and base of operations in Indochina, French imperialism.

Together with this disaster, Dulles and his co-conspirators ran head on into a tremendous rising mass peace spirit all over the world, which insisted categorically that the Indochina war be halted. This mass pressure explains why such imperialist figures as Winston Churchill gave such lukewarm support to the Dulles spread-the-war policy. Huge as was the demand of the world's peoples to end the Korea war, it was even greater to halt the war in Indochina. Wall Street simply could not successfully counter this broad peace.

NOT THE LEAST effective segment of this great world peace movement was the peace attitude of the American people. If they despised and opposed the Korean war, they hated even more the war in Indochina. They would not tolerate the idea of their sons dying in the rice paddies and

jungles of that country for the the world and blocking every dis-glory and profit of the big capitalist warmongers. Truman, for time-being at least, got away with shoving the American people, willy nilly, into the Korean slaughter, but Eisenhower was obviously afraid to try the same trick regarding Indochina.

The Administration got a frightening indication of the anti-war spirit of the American people when it had the ultra-reactionary Nixon broadcast the fact that the government was contemplating the sending of American foot soldiers into Indochina. The response of the people was a real shock to the warmakers. So much so that immediately afterward Eisenhower announced that his administration would not send ground troops into Indochina without first getting the sanction of Congress—a real victory for the peace-loving American people.

ANOTHER tremendous and decisive factor in balking Wall Street's war plans and in securing the cease-fire agreement for Indochina, was the firm peace policy of the Soviet Union and People's China. Acting in harmony with the peace wishes of the peoples of

ruptive move of Dulles and Eisenhower. Foreign Ministers Molotov and Chou En-lai led the Geneva conference straight to its decision for peace. This was an accomplishment of world importance. All this was most galling to the Wall Street warmongers because it smashed their big lie by proving conclusively that "one can do business with the Russians and Chinese." It was a sweeping victory for the world decisive policy of peaceful co-existence between the socialist and capitalist states of the world.

The peoples of the world, including ours, may well rejoice at the cease-fire in Indochina. But they must be on guard against hasty conclusions that therefore all danger of war has vanished. While policy for the U. S. government, with all its wealth, armament and industrial resources, continues to be made by such imperialist reactionaries as now dominate our country, there will continue to be a serious danger of war. As the Communist Party's splendid program indicates, the peace victories in Korea and Indochina should spur the peace forces on to still greater efforts, until the danger of war is eliminated altogether and the world is orientating upon the basis of the peaceful co-existence of all states.