
Memorial:

To the President and Congress of the United States from the NEC of the Socialist Party of America, February 1918.

Published in *The Eye Opener* (Chicago), v. 9, no. 30, whole no. 276 (Feb. 16, 1918), pg. 4.

The war frenzy which has gripped many nations, including our own, is waning. The Socialist Party, therefore, through its National Executive Committee, deems it to be its duty to state its views as to the best methods of obtaining a speedy, general, and democratic peace.

We endorse unreservedly the peace program of the Russian Socialist government based upon the demand for the evacuation of all territory occupied by hostile forces and its physical restoration from an international fund — the right of all nations and inhabitants of disputed territories to determine their own destinies — the unrestricted freedom of travel and transportation over land and sea — full equality of trade conditions among all nations — universal disarmament — open diplomacy — and an effective international organization to preserve peace, to protect the rights of the weaker peoples (including the natives in the colonies), and to insure the stability of international relations.

We are unalterably opposed to all annexationist and imperialistic designs, all plans of forced geographic and political readjustments, and all punitive measures included in the war aims of the contending ruling classes and their governments.

We emphatically deny that it is necessary for the people of the United States to spill their blood and waste their treasure, in order to rearrange the map of Europe. If rearrangement is necessary, it can be more speedily and more effectively accomplished by the peace conference.

The present situation demands more than the mere statement of war aims or peace terms. An agree-

ment to enter into peace negotiations is now imperative.

To agree upon the details of peace is impossible until the representatives of the belligerent nations meet one another in conference.

The statement of detailed conditions is futile. Such details are quite as likely to multiply the causes of disagreement, magnify the difficulties, and delay peace as they are to bring peace.

We earnestly urge you to recognize officially the present Russian government and to accept immediately its invitation to take part in the peace conference of the Russians and the Central Powers. We also urge you to make every effort to secure the participation of the allies in the conference.

A decision by our country and the allies to join in the conference will electrify the peoples of the world. It will taken the ground from under the crowned robbers of the Central Powers. It will deprive the autocrats of all arguments now used to deceive their people and maintain themselves in power.

This is the road to peace.

Morris Hillquit,
Victor L. Berger,
Anna A. Maley,
John M. Work,
Seymour Stedman,

National Executive Committee, and

Adolph Germer,
Secretary.

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