

# The Fight on A-Weapons

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

DURING the past five years or so, there has been building up an enormous mass peace movement and protest against the use of atomic weapons in war. Involving im m e n s e masses of people all over the world, this great crusade against atomic war has succeeded, upon several occasions, in balk-



ing the warlike aggressions of Wall Street imperialism. Among these defeats of the warmongers may be noted the futile attempts of Presidents Truman and Eisenhower to use the atomic bomb in the Korean war, the present Administration's unsuccessful efforts to block truces in the Korean and Indochina wars, and its frustrated plot to transform the fight over the offshore islands of Quemoy and Matsu into a great Asian war.

This vast mass movement is often called "neutralism"; actually it is fundamentally a peace movement. Its basic orientation in this respect goes in the same direction as that of the countries of Socialism and People's Democracy. That is why it is so deeply feared and hated by the warmakers.

DECISIVE in mobilizing this active world peace sentiment is the peace policy of the USSR, People's China, and the people's democracies of Europe and Asia. This is the heart center of the

ever-rising popular tide against the atomic war now being plotted and instigated by the Washington minions of big capital.

Decisive also in developing the current vast protest against imperialist war is the World Peace Council. Formed in 1949, and with its Vienna Congress of 1952 directly representing at least 700,000,000 people all over the world, the World Peace Council has been carrying on a tremendous campaign for peace. Participating in this campaign are people's organizations of every kind and in nearly every country.

Among the innumerable methods of peace work of the World Peace Council has been the circulation of mass petitions against various aspects of the war program and for definite peace moves. Two of the most significant of these monster petitions were the Stockholm Peace Pledge, put out in March 1950, which amassed about 500,000,000 signatures, and the petition for a Five-Power Peace Pact of February 1951, which 610,000,000 people signed. The educational mass work connected with gathering these gigantic lists of signatures has had a profound effect in awakening the peoples of the world, including many millions in the capitalist countries, to the reality of the war danger and the urgent need to combat it.

AT PRESENT, the World Peace Council is circulating a third giant petition, which promises to surpass all those that have preceded it. This is the Appeal to Ban Atomic Weapons.

The number of signatures in both the capitalist and Socialist worlds, are snowballing according to the latest figures. Thus, while Italy has produced 7,653,328 signatures, the amount of signers in People's China has soared to 400,505,997. Undoubtedly an overwhelming majority of the people of the entire world are in basic sympathy with the purpose of the World Peace Council's petition to Ban Atomic Weapons. The petition assumes all the greater importance in view of the approaching meeting of the Big Four, where the question of atomic weapons will surely be discussed.

This month marks the 10th Anniversary of the UN. Preparations for this event are taking place from California to New York. Many peace forces are preparing to submit petitions that call for the outlawing of the H-bomb. These activities take on a new meaning in view of the great news of the coming Big Four Conference. Demands of all peace groups should express the many issues before the Big Four as they sit down to negotiate. Such issues are: outlawing the A- and H-bomb as part of a world disarmament program; for a neutral Germany; recognition of China, and a policy of peaceful coexistence. American workers who contributed to world peace by their pressures for ending the Korean war and against American involvement in Indochina, Quemoy and Matsu, can now register a powerful impact on the new international developments with the meeting at the summit.