

The Formosa War Provocation

by William Z. Foster

WHAT THE EISENHOWER Administration is trying to do by its maneuvering around Formosa is to set the stage for an eventual war against People's

China. This is the true meaning of the threatening speeches of President Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles, which, as usual, are covered with a thick veneer of peace dem-



agogy. Their belligerent attitude is fully in line with Wall Street's program to strive for world domination by whatever means, including a third world war. To the warmongers and sabre-rattlers of Washington, Formosa offers a likely opportunity to promote their plans. The Formosa situation, so far as they are concerned, is just as cynical and brutal as that.

The warmongers have not had much success so far in the post-World War II period in developing the aggressive war that they want so much. They fell flat in their attempts to develop the Korean slaughter into such a war. It is now a matter of common knowledge that the State Department puppet Syngman Rhee started the Korean war. The militarists, of whom MacArthur was the most active spokesman, did their best to develop it into an atomic war against People's China, but the pressure of American and foreign peace forces compelled them to withhold their atomic bombs. Indeed, despite their most scandalous efforts to keep that war going, they eventually were forced to sign an armistice.

The atomaniacs had no better success with the war in Indochina. Washington simply muscled into that dirty affair, and

when the militarists saw that the French imperialists, thoroughly licked in the war, were ready to patch up a peace, they tried desperately to expand the whole affair explosively into a great war. They had the American fleet and airforce fully mobilized and were all set to go, as the bourgeois papers later freely admitted.

But Britain and France vetoed the proposed deadly general war, and it had to be abandoned almost at the last minute. The establishment of the armistice at Geneva was a major reverse for Wall Street imperialism.

DEFEATED thus in Korea and Indochina in its war plans, the Eisenhower Administration is now having another war try in Formosa. The big brass are sparing no effort to increase international tension over this situation, in the hope that it can be made to eventuate into a war. They have already informed the world that if such a war comes they intend to use their most lethal weapons—atomic and hydrogen bombs and all. This is the plain English of the Formosa situation.

What has been happening in and around Formosa has been unbelievably arrogant. The conflict between People's China and the forces of the bandit Chiang Kai-shek is the tail-end of the great civil war that resulted in Chiang's being chased out of mainland China. But now the U.S., in the self-appointed role of world master, has stepped into this civil war and arbitrarily threatened the Chinese People's Government that if it dares to re-occupy the Chinese island of Formosa it will therewith find itself in an atomic war with the United States. To this war end, the U.S. has militarily occupied Formosa, taking Chiang under its armed protection, and is carrying out various hostile naval

and air maneuvers against People's China. To all intents and purposes, the U.S. has joined in the Chinese civil war.

ONE OF THE MOST sinister aspects of the highly dangerous Formosa situation is the hocus pocus carried on by the United States as to whether or not it intends to defend Quemoy and other Chinese offshore islands. Eisenhower and Dulles have been purposely obscure on this vital matter. By this trickery they are trying to hide their real war purposes from the American, British, and other peoples, and they also hope to lure the Chinese people into a major war.

The most monstrous feature of the whole incredible situation is that such an unheard-of aggression is being carried out under the absurd pretext that the U.S. is acting in its own national interest and in that of preserving world peace. In the future the American people will wonder how so many of them ever allowed themselves to be taken in by such fantastic war propaganda.

The Formosa situation is obviously pregnant with serious war danger. If the Washington warmongers are to be restrained from eventually throwing into action the gigantic military machine they have for several years been building up all the world, the American people must need let its peace-voice be heard. The workers and others should insist that all American armed forces get out of Formosa and the neighboring waters. The Chinese civil war is none of this country's affairs. If this is not recognized, this country will live in the shadow of a threatening war which could be utterly catastrophic for the American people.

Hands off Formosa! Withdraw all American troops from Asia! Let us mind our own national business for a change!