

TEN YEARS OF THE UN

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WHEN the United Nations was founded in San Francisco in the spring of 1945 it was freighted with the peace hopes of the great mass of humanity. The world's peoples, just ending the most



terrible war in all history, believed fervently that the new international organization then being formed would be the means to prevent the world from ever again being cursed with such an awful holocaust. But the representatives of Wall Street monopoly capital had quite a different idea. With their economic and political power greatly increased during the war, and with their fearsome atombomb in hand, they were already setting forth upon a path of world conquest, and in this plan they took it for granted that another world war was inevitable.

In 1947 American imperialism, with President Truman as its chief spokesman, launched the cold war with the Truman doctrine and the Marshall Plan. Pouring out billions under the latter plan, the United States soon had practically all the most important capitalist countries on its payroll. This gave the United States a degree of hegemony over the capitalist world never before exercised by any other

country. It also reflected itself in the United Nations, where the U.S. built up a strong domination, based primarily upon the Anglo-American alliance and the American control of many reactionary Latin-American governments.

AMERICAN control of the United Nations reached its zenith during the early stages of the Korean war, which began in June 1950. It was able to induce, or rather compel, that organization to give its support to the American war in Korea, and to denounce People's China as a war aggressor. The Wall Street warmongers were itching also to condemn the Soviet Union similarly, but they were not quite able to get away with it. Thus, under American pressure the United Nations was led to repudiate the cause it was founded to promote — world peace — and to transform itself into an instrument for waging imperialist war. That it had no taste for the war, however, was dramatically illustrated by the refusal of the UN countries to send troops to Korea. The Wall Street imperialists were able to force the United Nations to the water, but they could not make it drink.

This period of sharp domination of the United Nations by the United States was also a time of grave crisis to that organization and of very serious war danger. What directly saved

the situation in the UN was the resolute peace will of the people of the countries of Socialism and people's democracy. Had it not been that these countries, by the use of the veto, were able to restrain somewhat the hard-riding American-controlled majority, it is quite possible that the United Nations would have broken down.

Since the days of the Korean madness, however, a great change has come over the world, and, to a certain extent, also over the United Nations. Outraged and alarmed by the reckless war course of the American sabre-rattlers, who definitely tried to spread the Korean, Indo-Chinese, and Formosan Straits wars into general Asian conflagrations, as well as used every artifice to continue the manufacture and use of A- and H-bombs—the people's of the world have more and more let their indomitable peace-will come into play.

This peace-will has manifested itself in many ways—by their resolute insistence that the three conflicts above-mentioned be settled peaceably, by their signing in hundreds of millions the various peace petitions of the World Peace Council, by their outcries against the attempts of Truman and Eisenhower to use the A-bomb in the Korean and Indochinese wars, by the strong growth of "neutralist" (i.e. peace) sentiment in Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, and many other capitalist and

colonial countries, by the epoch-making Bandung conference of Asian and African countries, by the stronger peace stand now being taken by India and Yugoslavia, and by many other events of a similar trend.

TODAY the governments of at least three-fourths of the peoples of the world are in more or less open opposition to the warlike line of American imperialism. Especially they want the A- and H-bombs outlawed, they want People's China seated in the United Nations, they want Formosa returned to China, they want East-West trade opened up, they want present international tensions released on the basis of peaceful negotiations, they definitely want the policy of peaceful coexistence developed among the nations of the world—all of which is diametrically opposed to what warlike American big capital and its Washington agents want.

This drastic development of world mass sentiment more sharply towards peace necessarily has had no little influence upon the United Nations, despite all the efforts of the American moneybags and A-bomb brandishers to control that organization. As things now stand, Wall Street control of the UN has been very much weakened. More and more the Washington imperialists are being forced to carry on their pro-war activities outside of the UN. They are finding it increasingly difficult to use the UN as the direct in-

strument of their war policies. This is one of the most important peace developments in today's world.

The United Nations is crowded with reactionaries who in no sense represent the will or the interests of their respective peoples. Especially not with regard to peace. These reactionaries, upon whom Washington relies for putting across such of its policies as it can drive through the UN these days, are attempting to block the peace-will of the overwhelming majority of mankind. They are doing this while blathering all the while about democracy. To register the peace-will of the peoples, both within and without the United Nations, against the war-will of the warmongers — headquarters Wall Street who speak for only a small minority in the world—is the supreme political task of these years.

The peace pressure of the world's great masses has blunted the war teeth of the United Nations, which had been sharpened by the agents of American monopoly capital. These teeth can be pulled altogether and the United Nations transformed into the peace organization that it was supposed to be, if the world's peoples will continue and increase their present struggle for peace. To participate in this democratic peace fight is the great task confronting the world's peace forces as the United Nations celebrates its 10th anniversary.