

Communism Is on the March in China

By CYRIL BRIGGS

SHANGHAI dispatches of March 11 report that the Japanese are now threatening the revolutionary masses of Hankow with a blood bath. Notice to this effect was given by the Japanese Consul at Hankow who threatened the masses with "similar action as at Shanghai." At Shanghai, tens of thousands of unarmed workers and babies were butchered by the Japanese invaders who rained death by bombing planes and artillery on the densely populated proletarian district of Chapel. As the flames spread, Japanese planes swooped low and raked with machine gun bullets the workers trying to escape from their burning huts. The Hankow workers are now informed they must stop their angry protests against the bestial crimes of Japanese imperialism or face a similar massacre.

Hakow is the most important industrial city of Central China. It is near the Chinese Soviet districts. Imperialist gunboats and troops are there now helping the Kuomintang to hold the city against its revolutionary working-class population and the Chinese Red Armies which are

the houses of the bourgeoisie, hotels, YMCA, YWCA, etc., from the use of the unemployed. To turn all war funds for unemployed. To unite the struggles against hunger and war.

This movement must penetrate into the factories, winning part time employed and employed workers who, in this period, are working under most severe exploitation, speed-up and wage cuts, and simultaneously develop a mass movement in the factories and in struggle against speed-up, lay-offs, wage cuts, for 7 hour day in all the factories and 6 hour day in railroads without reduction in wages, building factory branches of the TUUL unions. It is necessary to penetrate into the local unions of the American Federation of Labor with a campaign for the Unemployment Insurance Bill. Our movement must broaden itself among all the categories of the workers, especially among the Negroes, women, youth and children, so we can have on our side the decisive section of the working-class. It can be accomplished if we will overcome some of the narrow sectarian outlook in our work and broadening in activity, engaging thousands of active workers in every day work and struggle. And bring to the ranks of the Communist Party thousands of workers.

Above all we must reach the workers in the shops. This is our weakest link. We are making progress in this respect at a snail's tempo. The main reason for it is that we did not reach the workers with demands and slogans as practical and concrete as we did with our unemployed work, and also, in many cases it appears that our Party has become a Party of unemployed workers only. At one of the meetings of the unemployed, a Party member made a speech to the workers showing that it is our Party that leads them in struggle. There were at this meeting also employed workers, and after the meeting was over an unemployed worker came to the speaker and asked the question: "Does the Communist Party admit to its ranks also employed workers?" The question put in such a sharp manner may be exaggerated to some extent, but the Party in Chicago district must fully realize the danger that exists if we don't penetrate into the factories and unite the struggle of the employed and unemployed as one in the common front against the boss class. The difficulties that exist in shop work we can overcome by giving the most detailed attention to the problems of the workers in each shop, and if we are not able to overcome them, it shows that we are not real bolsheviks. There are no difficulties which the bolsheviks cannot overcome.

While we must increase our activity among the unemployed masses tenfold, it must be brought to the forefront to the Communist Party, TUUL, and the whole revolutionary movement in Chicago and throughout District 8 that our main task is to penetrate into the factories and mass organizations of the working-class and particularly the local unions of the American Federation of Labor. These are our immediate tasks, which must be linked up and carried to further victories in struggle against capitalism, the system of war and hunger for the masses

steadily tightening their net around it. Several weeks ago, martial law was declared against the masses and followed by a savage terror aimed at suppressing the mass anti-imperialist, anti-Kuomintang movement in the city. The terror has failed of its purpose. The revolutionary movement continues to spread and grow. The Japanese now plan an attempt to drown the revolutionary movement in blood.

These preparations for new bloody attacks against the revolutionary Chinese masses are explained by the terror of the imperialists at the tempestuous upsurge of the national revolutionary movement, the growing influence of the Chinese Communist Party, the growth of the Chinese Soviet districts. Admission to this effect has been made repeatedly in the imperialist press and is contained in a recent dispatch to the Hearst newspapers by Karl H. von Wiegand, Hearst newspaper correspondent at Shanghai. The dispatch states:

"China will be the second Soviet nation in the world. It may at first be only Southern China and a part of the Yangtze valley which will become sovietized, but that is on the way with big strides."

"One of the keenest and most deliberate diplomatic observers in China made this statement to me in Peiping the other day—a man who weighs carefully what he says and doesn't say it until he knows what he is talking about.

"Red China" looming on the horizon—a China with 500,000,000 people, almost one-sixth of the population of the earth, alongside and adjoining Red Russia!

"That startles you," said my friend. "I wish it would startle the world to a realization of what is going on in China these days, and especially in those regions more or less remote from communications and transportation.

"I am no prophet, but I have studied the march of Communism in China these days, and have come to the conclusion that it is a far greater menace than the world knows. When you go to Nanking and to Shanghai, look into it, and I shall be surprised if you do not come to similar conclusions."

Communism, which is liberating the oppressed Chinese masses and raising their material and cultural conditions, is not considered by these masses as a menace. They know that the real menace to the tolling masses of the whole world is NOT COMMUNISM, BUT IM-

PERIALISM! In every section of China, the masses are rallying to the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, to the support of the Chinese Soviet districts and the Chinese Red Army. Von Wiegand and his diplomat informant are not the first to admit this. In his dispatch von Wiegand further admits:

"Misgovernment, official graft and extortion, hopelessness grown out of years of economic misery and social distress, prepared the way for the Soviet idea."

What he does not admit, however, is that the foreign imperialists are as much responsible for these conditions of mass misery as are their Kuomintang tools. Von Wiegand further states that he "investigated" the growth of Communism in China and fully agrees with his diplomat friend:

"I agree with my diplomatist friend in Peiping. Communism today IS a menace in large sections of China. The fact alone, as I found in one of the government reports, that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek last summer sent thirty divisions of troops into Kiangsi province, under the personal command of the Minister of War himself, General Ho Ying-Ching, to eradicate the Red forces, and failed at that, established beyond doubt that Communism has again become a menace in China.

"When an army of more than 300,000 troops is considered necessary against an enemy, as in that campaign, the enemy must indeed be formidable."

What von Wiegand omits to state is that those of the Nanking troops willing to fight had to fight the entire population of the districts they invaded. Men, women and children defended their liberties against the Nanking butchers.

The Nanking generals themselves were forced admit this to be the main reason of their failure to "eradicate" the powerful Chinese Red Army. In addition, tens of thousands of the Nanking troops deserted to the Red Army.

Today, again, the Chinese Soviet districts are being attacked by the armies of the Kuomintang, this time aided by the troops and warships of the Japanese and other imperialist powers.

Workers of America! Rally to the defense of Soviet China! Defend this rising, flourishing world against the aggressions of the dying world of capitalism, which is trying to solve its crisis at the expense of the life blood of the tolling masses of the world, at the expense of the re-conquest of the Chinese Soviet districts, at the expense of the Chinese Revolution and armed intervention against the Soviet Union. Ring the Soviet world with an iron defense. It is your world, Negro and white workers! Your hope of the future! Your road of escape out of the misery and oppression of capitalism!

Win Masses for Defense Struggles

By J. LOUIS ENGBAHL

In order to build to a much higher level the struggles to free the nine Scottsboro Negro boys, against the massacre of the Ford Hunger marchers and for the defeat of the boss manhunt to secure the release of Tom Mooney, the victims of the bloody terror in Kentucky, Tampa, Imperial Valley and all the class war prisoners, to fight against lynchings and deportations, it is necessary to bring forward very sharply some of the glaring weaknesses of this campaign.

The sharpening of the bloody attacks organized against the workers, especially the jobless, as in Dearborn, the private city of Henry Ford, emphasizes the necessity of rapidly overcoming these weaknesses. The most outstanding of these are the following:

1. Insufficient penetration of organizations on the basis of the United Front from below; in the Scottsboro case, the numerous Negro organizations, and in developing the Mooney, Ford, Kentucky campaigns, the struggle against the labor bureaucracy in the local unions of the American Federation of Labor. Especially in the Scottsboro case, too much reliance on the Negro misleaders and too much orientation toward the churches.

2. Very slow progress in linking up local issues with the Scottsboro and the Mooney issues. Even where there have been outstanding persecutions of Negro workers, the resistance to these has not been united with the Scottsboro struggle sufficiently.

3. Many weaknesses in our efforts to link up

the Scottsboro campaign with our struggles against lynching and Jim Crowism, the chain gang system, various forms of forced labor, and other persecutions of Negroes. Insufficient struggle against white chauvinism.

4. Failure to break completely with the dependence upon legalism which has been inherent in appeal actions, carried through to higher courts. Bad practices in the Gastonia appeal, as well as in many local appeals, was repeated in the absence of sufficient mass protest during the week of the Scottsboro Appeal.

5. Not sufficient raising of the Scottsboro, Mooney, Kentucky, Tampa issues during the Unemployed demonstrations, February Fourth. Dramatization of these issues in the February Fourth Demonstrations through effective spectacular pageants was not done sufficiently. There is still too much satisfaction merely with raising a few slogans or carrying a few placards. This is not enough.

6. The failure to develop the mass character of the Scottsboro, Mooney, Kentucky, Tampa campaigns is reflected in the narrowness of the conferences called on these issues; coupled with the tendency to allow these narrow conferences to evaporate immediately after they are called together, rather than seeking energetically to develop and strengthen them through widening the base.

7. These shortcomings are also reflected in the great lack of organizational results and the failure to connect up the raising of the necessary funds with these campaigns