

Negro Reaction to Churchill: 'NO'

By CLAUDIA JONES

WINSTON C H U R -
chill's speech certainly made no hit with the Negro people—or its press. He chose Jimcrow Fulton, Mo., and its backward Westminster College, which bars Negro girls and boys from its portals, to rattle his sabre for war.

It was a fitting setting to put forth his unsavory Anglo-Saxon military alliance for the "chosen people" — the English-speaking peoples. But Negro Americans have instinctively recognized the similarity of such a proposal to the Hitler myth of "aryan supremacy." They know what Churchill urges Britons and Americans to do is exactly what Hitler's Germans were supposed to do.

Such is the tenor of the overwhelming majority of editorials and comment by Negro leaders in their press this past week. The unanimity of rejection of the Churchill speech by the Negro people, is unparalleled in any other section of the population. They all held that Churchill's speech was a "smokescreen" to cover the "real resolves" of British domination of colonial peoples. They took a forthright stand against Churchill's cry that Russia threatens world peace through an "expansionism of Communism."

Defender Calls On Negroes to Protest

They commented widely on the accepted fact that the Soviet Union is a proven friend of millions of black and brown colonial peoples. Many called on Americans to "indignantly rise up" to use the words of the *Chicago Defender* "and force our government to reject Churchill's insane proposal."

It must be noted, of course, that few recognized that the real piper of disaster is American imperialism and its drive for world domination. But it is significant that their vigorous opposition to the Churchill anti-Soviet war mongering was based on their recognition that here is a desperate plea by British imperialism for American help in crushing the colonial millions, who are in motion, demanding the freedom which is justly theirs.

It is not accidental that the Ne-

gro press so widely commented on this phase of Churchill's speech. The connection lies in their inherent recognition that it is the Soviet Union to whom the colonial peoples — and increasingly they—look to as a beacon light example of the dignity of human freedom and equality of all peoples.

Negro People Vital Ally Against War Drive

What then, is the over-all meaning of this reaction among the Negro people? It means, in my opinion, that 1) the Negro people are voicing the aspirations and determination of all mankind to live in peace and security; 2) they therefore represent one of the strongest allies of the American working class in its pursuit of security and peace; and 3) that important conclusions should follow these observations.

Mind you, such a reaction occurs in the midst of the most unprecedented wholesale attack against the economic, political and social standards of the Negro people. Growing lynch terror in Tennessee, and Freeport, L. I., following the defeat of the Senate FEPC bill, has served to sharpen the recognition of the Negro people and the nation as a whole, that bitter struggles will be needed to maintain their war time gains.

The Negro people are alert to these developments and are showing a temper and spirit that is

best expressed in the words of the Columbia, Tenn., frame up victims: "We are not backing up one inch." Negro veterans are organizing to gain their just desserts and to stop the terror directed against their kin by the Southern Bourbons and Big Monopolists, who fear their anti-fascist militancy.

It would appear that, above all, what is needed to strengthen this fight is 1) a response in volume a thousand fold its present size by labor in support of the struggles of the Negro people. This will serve to strengthen the front for peace, the alliance of the Negro people and labor.

Secondly, the opportunity exists as never before for the greatest unity against the war danger, and the growing lynch terror by the Negro people themselves. With such a wide unanimity of thinking on international and domestic problems there is no reason why this should not be done.

This is the way to isolate misleaders among the Negro people who fail to see this. Such is the way to strengthen the inner unity of the Negro people, and in turn, to bring a greater strength to their common allies at home and abroad.

Such thinking would be, it seems to me, a major conclusion from the reaction of the Negro people to Churchill's war mongering speeches and to the growing lynch terror in the U.S.

Worth Repeating

Describing the disappearance of classes following the proletarian revolution Marx and Engels wrote: "When in the course of development, class distinctions have disappeared, and all production has been concentrated in the hands of a vast association of the whole nation, the public power will lose its political character. Political power, properly so called, is merely the organized power of one class for oppressing another. If the proletariat during its contest with the bourgeoisie is compelled, by force of circumstances to organize itself as a class; if, by means of a revolution, it makes itself a ruling class, and, as such sweeps by force the old conditions of production, then it will, along with these conditions, have swept away the conditions for the existence of class antagonisms, and of classes generally." *The Communist Manifesto*. P. 31.