



Half the World

by Claudia Jones

WHO CAN LOOK at the picture *Woman Today* prints on this page—and not feel the revulsion that every mother, every woman, man and child, must feel at glancing at it?

The titles to the picture which appear in every capitalist newspaper in the land, tell their own tale. Some said, "Taking All the Necessary Precautions" (N.Y. Times). Others said "Mascots" being searched—an animal-like term, from those that pretend that the term "gook" was too "obviously racist." As the *Daily News* captioned this frisking of Korean children (and, by implication, their killing)—"A Small Problem."



Not a pleasant tale, even to write of it. A horrid tale. A shameful tale. A tale of responsibility of American women, mothers, daughters and sisters—whose sons, husbands and brothers are the instrument of policy in an unjust war in which Korean women and children are being bombed by our guns, our mortars, our shells, our our B-29's.

It might be my child that will be frisked, you say to yourself, if a third world war occurs—and, by the same forces who initiated this unjust war, masked under the United Nations flag and the generalship of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who views the Asiatic people as having a peculiar "Oriental mind"—in other words, according to him, "inferior."

But that was the Hitler idea in which a generation of youth were reared, in which German youth who died in the snows of Stalingrad, choked on the song, *Tomorrow the World*. These political forces who are committing these horrors against humanity, and who itch to use the atom bomb in Korea and elsewhere, say the women of the world, in their historic letter printed here, are the executors of the American imperialist bi-partisan war policy led by the Trumans, Dulles, Deweys and MacArthurs. It is a policy which is bringing sorrow to our American families, to the menfolk and kids of Korean women, who mourn likewise for their murdered dead.

Yes—the picture printed in the American press cries out to us—**WE MUST STOP THIS NOW!**

American women from Maine to San Diego undoubtedly share with Marie-Claude Vaillant-Couturier her profound conviction that we women love peace, as women do the world over. By signing the World Peace Appeal to ban atomic war, and in other actions, peace delegations, etc., have shown their courage and desire for peace. But it is yet not enough!

Around the issue of peaceful mediation of the Korean conflict, the broad peace movement and particularly the labor-peace movement are circulating polls urging peaceful solutions by a full Security Council of this conflict now. One of the most significant is the peace poll of the newly established **American Women for Peace**, which has issued, as a public service, a ballot urging mediation of the Korean war now and the banning of all atomic warfare by all nations. Other women's peace groups are working to celebrate UN day, October 24, in the spirit of restoring the UN to its original purpose of the settlement of disputes peacefully between nations. Still others are fighting against the jimcrow abuses to the sons of Negro mothers in the so-called war for "Korean freedom." These and other activities should be unified around the prime issue of stopping the war now, lest it spread over Korea and elsewhere.

Only we, labor-progressive women, women from churches, Negro, Jewish, trade union American women can fulfill this basic responsibility to our sisters and to our own families.

Your sons, to whom you gave life, whom you nourished and taught to be gentle and to love their country—have been led to commit these terrible deeds. And thousands of them have lost their own lives and become mutilated in this war.

But before they died, the American soldiers discovered that almost the whole Korean people were united against them.

"White - clad peasants who waved at us by day, became guerillas and shot at us by night." Most of the South Korean army deserted in the first week, says Hanson Baldwin. (*New York Times*, July 1). Even children are considered enemies. John Osborne reports (*Life Magazine*, July 21) hearing an officer, telephoning from a command post, remonstrating with another officer: "My God, John!

replica of the regime of Chiang Kai-shek." The South Koreans refuse to fight brothers of the North because they want to be free of the "democracy" imposed on them by the corrupt bloody regime of Syngman Rhee.

MANY OF your own correspondents have told the truth about this regime. . . .

Even greater massacres have been since carried on from the air.

Your papers have often reported hundreds of tons of bombs being dropped by radar through heavy clouds and rain, or from great heights. This means that it was impossible to choose military targets. In Seoul, for instance, in a part of the

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TAKING ALL THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS



A military policeman of the U. S. Twenty-fourth Division searching a youngster along Nakdong River bank after he was brought from western shore with hundreds of North Korean prisoners and refugees, following successful Allied river crossing west of Taegu.

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