

International Women's Day--1952

By CLAUDIA JONES

IN THE heart of the deep South, on the 33rd Anniversary of International Woman's Day, comes the cry of a bereaved widowed wife and mother of a Korean jet ace. Mrs. Dorrie Davis, widow of the Air Force ace, who said that her husband had lost his life in a "senseless war without reason" received several hundred letters supporting her stand. Among these letters is one from the mother of Colin Kelly who died a hero in World War II. "One son, John," wrote Colin Kelly's mother "was killed in Korea. I am in great sympathy with you for I have lost a son in this seemingly needless war in Korea."

If mothers who lost their sons in this senseless war in Korea clasp hands in unity with workers and with the oppressed Negro people and other peace fighters; if a mother who willingly gave her son to fight in a just war makes a distinction over a son lost in an unjust war, then here is confirmation afresh of the continuing and rising vitality of U. S. women peace fighters. They not only express peace desires but are showing initiative in organizing a peace base and developing peace struggle. From here to Maine, from Tacoma to San Diego, on the fields of the violated citrus fruits of Mims and Groveland, Fla.—Southern earth, red with the blood-tarnishing of Mr. Harry and Harriet Moore, there is a new awareness and counter struggle by women peace forces for an end to this senseless war, for a Five Power Peace Pact, of which the masses of women show the foremost initiative as well.

The mothers and wives, Negro and white, Puerto Rican, Mexican, all other women, are merging their peace struggles with the heightened peace actions and struggles of mothers and wives over the globe.

It is not merely with satisfaction that this rising peace struggle must be estimated. For what of the colored women of Korea whose babes in arms were devastated by horrible atrocities, whose young lives were snuffed out? We have read the startling report on atrocities in Korea by the WIDF Commission of Women to Korea. Read it—and absorb it—again and again. We have heard the confirmation from the Catholic journalist Charles Favrel, who holds that the world views our country as a nation of "men without pity."

On this International Women's Day,

one thinks of the Chinese women. Twenty millions organized strong, for peace and consolidating their world asking freedom from feudal and foreign imperialist intervention, backing their brave volunteers in Korea who rally not to just a people of their own kin, in terms of nationality, although this is so, but who understand that the struggle for peace in Viet-Nam, in Iran, in Cairo, or in Latin America and the West Indies, is their struggle too.

Motherliness, wrote the great Lenin, in social life is the extension of the mother's desire to protect all children.

That the organized women's peace center, American Women For Peace, is convening on March 22 an Eastern Seaboard Conference on the crucial issue of peace and the Safeguarding of Children illustrates the growing recognition by women peace leaders and fighters of these vital consequences of the war program to the peace and life of our children. On a world scale as indicated in the forthcoming International Conference In Defense of Children to be held in Vienna, April 12-16 is confirmation too of this recognition of the prime initiative of the women of the world, organized over 100 million strong in the Women's International Democratic Federation.

Because the struggle for peace is a struggle for youth's future, concern exists also among women as to the growing evidence and growth in our land over the U. S. imperialist adapted Hitler decrees over home and family. Ponder the Jean Fields Case of California, in which kids were taken away from mother because of her political belief. The Donaldson case in Seattle! Rosa Lee Ingram's case illustrates this fact! A widowed mother is forcibly separated from her children, imprisoned with her two sons for over four years in a foul jimcrow jail, because she defends her dignity against a white supremacist. The U. S. adapted Hitler modern decrees over home and family separates Rosa Lee Ingram from her kids because of her fighting philosophy for freedom, for peace, for dignity against the would be junkers of the American gestapo who deny her equality. The children of Rosa Lee Ingram and her Negro sisters starve and suffer feudal-like economic deprivation.

Armed with determination to lead their sisters in the freedom movement of the Negro people in our own land, the Sojourners for Truth and Justice,



CLAUDIA JONES

now being organized in the South as well as throughout the nation is testament to the vitality and leadership of Negro women who are choosing to lead their workingclass Negro sisters. Thus they swell the growing hegemony of Negro workers in the Negro liberation movement, augmenting the women's peace movement, and the emerging anti-fascist anti-imperialist peoples peace coalition.

A toast to the Negro women and other women who in alliance with Negro women are proving in the crucible of struggle, how to overcome all obstacles, how, through this process to win equality as women, as Negroes and as workers, for themselves, their families, their people, their class!

All these toasts in the first place, are inspired by the Soviet women who, because of their great love of mankind, of country, of children, of all peoples, demonstrate the guarantee of equality in their own Socialist country, in all spheres. Children be they dark or fair, are regarded as mankind's future in the USSR where race discrimination is a crime punishable by law.

The battle for our children, for our youth is the essence of the battle for peace. Witness the shaking off of the neutrality to the youth question by numerous forces among religious farm, trade union, Negro liberals, etc., reflected in the breadth of opposition to ram the UMT program down the throats of the people. The youth themselves are the most active in their opposition to being a generation in arms in a bi-partisan "holy crusade" against colonial and peace loving peoples who

are rising and throwing out feudal rulers and foreign interventionists. Mothers and wives, young women, Negro and white, to whom life and the future of our children and the nation's youth is greater because they know youth represents the seed of the future, the seed of all social progress. The mothers and women know that neither shielding our kids nor protecting them other than through peace struggle is real protection.

Most crucial is the evidence on the International Women's Day of the new growth in participation and leadership being manifested by the great mass of working women in our country—19 millions of whom are now in industry. In such unions as electrical, auto and pack-inthouse, greater attention to the special problems of women workers are being manifested.

The working women who suffer the same pay cuts with men, carry equal responsibilities in millions of cases as breadwinners. They are destroying the capitalist shibboleth of economic dependence on men—basis of women's inferior status in society—which, tied to the fight to make rearing and care of children a social responsibility is the twin guarantee of women's equality under socialism.

Important to be added, is the war consequences to the million of farm women, who second only to working class families are experiencing severe economic conditions. The prior depletion of farm, sons and husbands for war, now presumably to be worsened if the additional two million farm sons and husbands are drafted in Truman's criminal crusade, unless routed, even greater hardships will occur. Aroused farm women among whom are Italians, Mexican, Slavic and Negro women in every rural community are showing their peace desires, and readiness for peace organization and struggle.

It is the mothers and wives of the 51 Smith Act victims and particularly the 11 convicted Communist leaders, who illustrate far more than any other section of the masses of women, the fighting will and peace strivings of Negro and white women. The fight for amnesty for Gene Dennis, Gus Hall, Ben Davis and the others in jail and under indictment is a fight which is, of

(Continued from Magazine Page 6)

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY—1952

(Continued from Magazine Page 2)

course, the essence of the peace struggle. To win a victory for Kathy Jackson in a nursery school, is to prove that the victims, in the first place the Communists, are with the stream—that millions are in motion in new appreciation of the basic relationship of the fight of peace and freedom, of peace and democratic liberties, of war and fascism.

Reaction is organized on all fronts in desperate effort to make as their allies the masses of women. Through international conferences, Modern "Defense Decade" Conferences, women's manifestos, emissaries such as Mrs. FDR and Edith Sampson, who refuse to assail genocide against the Negro people, etc., in the heart of '52 pre-election maneuvers and appeals to women, in the arrogant denial of a parole to Mrs. Ingram, in the continued FBI surveillance over mothers and children of Smith Act victims, etc., is to be seen in their vain strivings.

All this—and particularly the **counter-struggle** of the masses of women should be the occasion for a new appreciation—and a much needed one at that—that the masses of women are our powerful allies in peace struggle. This struggle presupposes a struggle against all alien ideologies relative to the woman question of which male supremacy is the chief harmful one which does great harm to the full potential of women as

they move in independent peace struggle. A counter ideology to male supremacy is bourgeois feminism, which equally harms women's struggle for full equality, based as it is on the wrong "battle of the sexes" approach. Male supremacy aids reaction and does not release the full talents of progressive women who are everywhere proudly showing that they are part of the mass movements of women. Let IWD be the occasion for heightening the ideological understanding of the movement of women in our country. The ingredients of further success if added, namely personnels in every sphere of labor progressive activity of women in peace struggle should be based on the understanding that women are capable of leading themselves and based on the masses of working women. If the ingredients of further united front developments so rewarding to the whole struggle for peace and freedom are added, then, all the piety and wit of reaction will not be able to cancel out a line of the growing achievements of the masses of women in our country as corded on this IWD. Nor will reaction's hypocritical tears for the "ladies" wash out a word of their feudal estimate of "women's place" which the masses of women are showing is in the fight for peace and life for their children, for security equality and social progress!