

Europe and the Soviet Union

by Jay Lovestone

THE main stream of history is now powerfully stirred by two clashing currents. First, the world system of capitalism is in its period of decline, the epoch of imperialism. At this particular moment, capitalism is in an especially acute crisis on an international scale. In striking contrast to this downward trend of the prevailing social order, stands the Soviet Union, the dawn, the beginning of the new Socialist order constantly rising, moving ever-upward in the construction of Socialism, concentrated and systematized under the Five-Year Plan. Two social systems are at war.

The growth of Socialism in the Soviet Union, at the same time that capitalism is in a severe crisis, is particularly disturbing to the imperialists. It has them terribly worried. They talk a lot about the "menace of Soviet competition", about the danger of "Soviet dumping". But it is not the competition of Soviet industries or the "dumping" of a particular product that they fear just now. Today, the capitalists the world-over fear most the inspiration of the victorious Russian workers to the exploited toiling masses and the op-

IN THE FASCIST CROSS



SOME OF THE ENEMIES OF THE SOVIET UNION:

Left to Right—Top: Hitler, German Fascist leader; Miller, Russian monarchist, head of White Guard forces in Paris; Bottom: Pilsudski, military dictator of Poland; Austen Chamberlain, British Tory leader. Center: Tardieu, reactionary French politician, organizer of intervention schemes against the U.S.S.R.

pressed colonial masses—an inspiration which is hastening the dumping of the whole capitalist system.

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THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION

"The Russian scheme is being carried out with consistency, perseverance and method. That is gradually impressing people with the idea that Soviet Russia is today the only part of the world in which there is order applied with intelligence and perseverance worthy of human beings, while the rest of the world is in a state of anarchy. This contrast between a scheme that is consistent and a complete lack of scheme is both a very disturbing and a very stimulating factor, and is, in my opinion, advancing the cause of Bolshevism in the world, which is being kept within bounds solely by the absurdity of its own propaganda."

Thus spoke the secretary of the Third Disarmament Commission of the League of Nations, Salvador de Madariaga. Here we have the most conscious capitalist attitude: recognition of the reality of the Soviet Socialist progress and of the plight of capitalism; dread of the resulting world-wide stimulus to Communism; inveterate hatred of Socialism as an economic, as a social system.

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WORKERS LOOK TO SOVIET UNION

Reality is stronger than false propaganda, slander and prejudice. The very fact that the Soviet system, in the face of a hostile world, is going up while capitalism is going down is a decisive argument even to the most politically undeveloped workers and colonial masses. That is why the Soviet Union and Communism, with their idea of fundamental revolutionary social change, are gaining tremendous influence and prestige in the ranks of the workers, the poorer peasant masses, and the lower strata of the middle class—the worst sufferers of capitalist "progress". This is true despite the fact that organizationally and politically, the official organized expression of Communism, the Comintern, is today weaker than it has been at any time in the last decade.

While in Berlin I put this question to some German workers:

"How did you vote in the last Reichstag elections? How do you vote in factory council elections?"

They answered as one:

"List No. 4, the C.P., was our choice in the Reichstag elections. We vote for the Free Trade Union and not the Red Opposition lists in the factory council elections. Communist union officials we will not elect either. When we vote for the Communist Party we do so because we are for Communism as against capitalism. We are voting for something tomorrow. We don't want to vote for Communists in our unions and factories because we don't agree with what they are doing and we don't trust their methods today. That's why we cannot put our everyday interests in their hands."

Yet, the objective conditions are so favorable for the revolutionary working class movement, that in every strike, in every struggle, in every test of strength between the bosses and workers, between capitalist government and oppressed masses, the Soviet Union, the ideas and ideals of Communism are not only the inspiring but sometimes even driving force. Had we been able to crystalize this splendid sentiment—and this could be done only thru correct Communist tactics—we could today deal mortal blows to capitalism and to its defenders, Social-democracy and Fascism.

PREPARING THE WAR AGAINST THE WORKERS REPUBLIC

The total national income of the Soviet Union will reach 50 billion rubles this year, an increase of 35% within a year. Capital investments in electrification in 1929-30 were 800 million rubles or double those of 1927-28 and eight times the figure for 1925-26. With vaulting energy our Russian brothers are driving ahead overcoming obstacles appearing almost insuperable. This progress is all the more significant because it comes without long-term credits by the capitalists. The U. S. S. R. doesn't even get long-term merchandise credit. The only outside help is that of several hundred foreign engineers. Whatever trade the capitalists have with the Soviet Union they consider only a hateful necessity. They all need business and need it badly.

In the Soviet Union the masses, led by the Communist Party, are fully aware of the fact that their speediest building up of heavy industry and the collectivization of agriculture are all the more urgently demanded now for military reasons. The Soviet workers and peasants understand and feel that the imperialists are sharpening their weapons for an onslaught on the Soviet Republic. For the world exploiters such an attack is a matter of life and death. It is inevitable. Only the question of *when* is to be answered concretely. The imperialists feel that if they could crush the U. S. S. R., then China, India, the entire Orient and all the colonies would be "stabilized" and put in their place and thus new giant markets would be opened up for the products which their workers at home have produced but are not allowed to consume. Very properly the Russian masses are utilizing to the limit and with a vigorous tempo the present extremely difficult moment for the bourgeoisie—the intense antagonisms among themselves and their present desperate economic crisis.

The two systems cannot live for long side by side in peace. Our Russian comrades are fortunately making the most of the "Peredyshka", the breathing-spell. The recent trial of the counter-revolutionists in Moscow didn't begin to tell the extent and the depth of the world-wide imperialist plot against the Soviet Union. Had French and British imperialism not known that the U. S. S. R. knows even more than revealed at the trial, the Paris and London governments would never for a moment have replied so feebly to the grave accusations made at the trial.

Only the other day there was appointed head of the French army, General Weygand, the organizer of the Polish drive against Soviet Russia which culminated in the infamous Peace of Riga. Thus, for the first time in the history of the French Republic a monarchist is commander-in-chief of its military forces. Add to this

IN THE LAND OF THE TOILERS



Seed-sorting Machine At Work on the Petukhovskiy State Farm in the Urals.

the fact that on French soil and with French governmental support there is being maintained and drilled an army of 100,000 monarchist Russian troops eagerly awaiting for a chance to leap at the Soviet Union. Last September the White commander-in-chief Miller paraded some of his troops around the Arc de Triomphe in the heart of Paris. The connection here is of sinister significance. The cornerstone of the plan prepared by Count d'Ormesson to revise reparations and debts and to bring about a Franco-German military and economic alliance is a united onslaught against the Soviet Union. Then, Herr Romberg, one of Hitler's Fascist lieutenants in the Reichstag, has just boldly proclaimed that "Britain's duty is to protect the white race in Africa and Asia and that Germany must stem the Mongolian tide from Russia." In his biography, *Mein Kampf*, Hitler pours fire and brimstone against Bolshevism and proclaims it as the historic mission of a Fascist Germany to wipe out Socialist Russia. A day does not pass without the world's most influential newspaper, the *London Times*, laying down an infernal barrage against the U. S. S. R. Typical of the bitterness and fury of British imperialism against the Soviet Union is the following from the poison pen of the notorious Tory, A. A. Baumann, in the *Evening Standard*:

"Some kind of moral myopia seems to afflict our politicians whenever Russia is on the carpet. For to me it seems that morally we might just as well conclude a trading agreement with the Chicago crowd of gangsters as with the Russian Soviets. As an ethical animal I can see no difference between Stalin and Scarface Al Capone. Indeed, I prefer Scarface, for he, at least, makes no pretense of any other object than lining his pockets; whereas Stalin bumps off his countrymen and robs foreigners under the blasphemous plea of regenerating mankind."

Fortunately for the Soviet Union, the imperialist powers have so far been unable to get together against their common enemy—the Workers and Farmers' Soviet Republic. Then, they fear their own working classes. But even this is no absolute guarantee for preventing or defeating an imperialist world war against the Soviet Union. There is but one such guarantee which can inspire and organize the workers of the world for victory. This guarantee is the rebuilding of the Communist International into a powerful world party of Communism—a mighty united, disciplined, vanguard of the international working class.

Just how can this guarantee be achieved? This is the question of the hour facing the working class of every country.