After the Pan-American Conference at Lima

Official Statements Hide Defeat of U.S. Imperialism

By ELLEN WARD

NOW that the blare of trumpets and the fanfare have died down and the smoke has somewhat cleared, it is easier to see what actually happened at the conference in Lima. As one runs thru the proceedings of the sessions and compares their content with the hopes and plans and aspirations of American imperialism, one cannot be surprised at its keen disappointment.

WHAT DID THE U.S.A. WANT AT LIMA?

What did the United States want at Lima? It wanted two things especially. First to forge an American League of Nations under the aegis of the United States in preparation for the coming war. Second, to take stock, to tie together all the loose commercial ends, and to stiffen its aggressive salesmanship in Latin-American markets; to strengthen its competition against the inroads being made by Nazi commodities.

That the world is creeping closer and closer to the precipice of war is now a generally accepted axiom. Only a few days ago, Senator Nye told us that the United States is today closer to war than it was in 1916, and, apropos of Latin America, Harold Hinton, discussing the war situation, reminds us that "if there is any major lesson for us to learn from what happened in Spain, it is the comforting one that the advantage in war lies eventually with those who have an assured food supply. During the last war, Latin America was the bread-basket of the world, and it is to secure this valuable source of food and war materials that the United States fought so desparately at Lima. The fight was made even more difficult by the slowly rising forces of fascist opposition who are fighting for the same things in the western world."

LATIN AMERICAN REACTION

What was the reaction of Latin America to the American attitude? In this connection, we ought to bear in mind that, despite the fact that most of Latin America still lives under a semi-feudal economy, it boasts the most astute politicians in the entire world. It is not easy to lead them around by the nose unless they are willing to follow—and they will follow only if the pay is considerable. No Latin American at Lima was deceived for a single moment by the everlasting repetitions about saving the western world for democracy. They have listened to such speeches often and they have learned their lessons. They know what the world really looks like at the other end of the rainbow, and for once the strongest voices of Latin America spoke out sharply, clearly, and frankly against America's imperialist designs.

Cantilo, speaking for the River Plate countries, Argentina and Uruguay and their satellites, said:

"We want continental solidarity but we insist on individual policy. . . . These two terms are not irreconcilable. . . . The interests that the River Plate countries have in European markets weigh on their national and international policies. But these economic reasons are not the only ones; in fact, they may not be the most important ones in determining the direction of Argentina's international policy.

"We feel ourselves closely associated by the immigration we have received from her, by European capital which has developed our livestock and our agriculture, our railways and other industries. . . . French culture has contributed largely to the formation of our intellectual life, while Italy and Germany have contributed to important aspects of our evolution. European influence predominates in our education just as European methods predominate in our schools."

> **"A FAVORITE New Deal inner-circle conundrum just now is this: 'When is a dictatorship not a dictatorship?' The answer, over which the New Dealers laugh, is this: 'When it's in Latin America.' Great official mirth is stirred by White House and other references to the 'democracies' of Latin America, most of which are ruled by dictators."** — United States News, Dec. 19, 1938.

This extraordinary frankness struck a discordant note at Lima, which started out by being such a warm, gala celebration. Cantilo, for once, threw all diplomatic caution to the four winds and the vigor and challenge in his speech lined up a number of countries on the side of Argentina, and the Hull formula was doomed from that moment.

It is interesting to note that, in this connection, Cantilo does not mention Great Britain by name, altho Great Britain is still the closest, keenest and most ruthless economic competitor of the U. S. A. in Argentina and just as anxious as the fascists for an Argentina independent of United States influence.

Latin-American opposition to American imperialism was carried on on two fronts, at Lima and back home in each country. While Cantilo was speaking at Lima, the River Plate press carried on a steady campaign of opposition, nourished not only by old memories of American misdeeds but, of course, by active fascist influence. The press poked fun at "Hull's fantasies of a German or an Italian army disembarking on Western shores." They characterized such fears as the sheerest nonsense. The press was almost unanimous in vigorously opposing any sort of contributions towards the building up of any defense against such "imaginary attacks." "If the United States wanted a navy large enough to defend both oceans, let her pay for it herself. We won't be a part to any military alliance, especially after what happened to Czechoslovakia. We won't be the victims of another Munich."

Does all this mean that there is really no fascist danger in Latin America? Not, not in the slightest. The above press releases are a cleverly combined synthesis of fascist opinion and Latin American dreams of economic independence. The Nazi and fascist elements, with the active aid of the Catholic Church and the large landowners, are determined to secure the almost limitless Latin American resources for their side in the coming struggle; but failing this, they hope to continue building and strengthening their propaganda against the "Colossus of the North," in an attempt to at least neutralize the countries of Central and South America in the coming war.

Every bit of American clumsiness in its policy toward Latin America is grist in the fascist mill and has enabled it to spread its influence and ideology at a very much accelerated rate during the past three years. This effort has now reached such a height that the Nazis have dared to order all important Latin-American business houses to discharge all Jewish employees or they would get no more German business. This order is not confined to German Jews but includes Jews born in the Latin-American countries as well.

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Martin Forces Make New Gains in the U.A.W.

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anti-Martin elements in the plant to participate in negotiations with the management, Leo LaMotte, former local president recently ousted by the membership, demanded that the management grant his clique sole-

In a radio address on February 21 over a hook-up covering the Detroit, Cleveland and Chicago areas, Homer Martin charged the existence of a "conspiracy to destroy the United Automobile Workers of America,"