

World Socialism

The Socialist International Brussels Resolution

—By HERBERT ZAM—

The Bureau of the Labor and Socialist International, meeting in Brussels, May 6 to 8, adopted a resolution on the present world situation and the danger of war.

There were present the officers, Chairman Louis de Brouckere, Secretary Friedrich Adler, Treasurer Joseph Van Roosbraeck, and the following delegates: Leon Blum, France; Otto Wels, Germany; Joseph Compton, William Gillies and Walter R. Smith, England; G. E. Modigliani, Italy; J. W. Albarda, Koos Vorrink, Holland; Theodor Dan, Russian SDLP; and Ricard Lindstrom, Sweden. Representatives were also present from Austria and Czechoslovakia.

After condemning the Nazi regime as the oppressor of the German people and the driving force for a new war, the resolution adopted welcomes the cooperation of the Western democracies with the Soviet Union to prevent war.

FOR ARMAMENT— ALSO FOR DISARMAMENT

The resolution reiterates the demand of the LSI for general disarmament, and it calls for the immediate resumption of its work by the International Disarmament Conference. At the same time, however, the resolution implicitly supports increased armaments when it declares:

"The danger of war in Europe will be averted only when it is known and understood that every act of aggression will be confronted by a collective strength powerful enough to overcome it and promptly to restore peace. To this end it is necessary for every member of the League to cooperate loyally and effectively, to an extent compatible with its MILITARY SITUATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, in support of the Covenant and in resistance to an act of aggression."

Here again is expressed the idea of "arming to preserve peace" which we criticized last week when propounded by Stalin and Pravda, and which must be criticized none the less severely when coming from the LSI.

WORKERS MUST ORGANIZE AGAINST WAR

The resolution is further weak in that it gives no lead to the masses for action against war. Not once is there a mention of the course the Socialist Parties or the trade unions must follow in the fight against war. Here and there we find an abstract mention of socialism—nothing more. On the other hand, all attention is directed toward the capitalist diplomatic maneuvers as the sole means of averting war.

"In order to prevent war, it is essential to restore faith in the sincerity of the declarations of the Briand-Kellogg Pact and in the reality of the Collective Peace System."

"It will be necessary within the framework of the system of regional pacts to guarantee peace in Central Europe. . . ."

"WE SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PREVENT WAR."

These quotations amply indicate the dangerous illusions contained in the resolution. The capitalist governments are no more trying to prevent war now than they did in 1913-14. They are maneuvering for advantageous positions. The working class cannot support them, but on the contrary must rely on its own powers to organize and fight against war, fascism and the capitalist system.

BRITISH LABOR PARTY OPPOSES WAR

Last week, the Labor Party delegation in the British Parliament voted against the Government's bill to increase the air forces by two-hundred per cent.

This vote is very significant,

coming on the heels of the above resolution and of the misleading advice emanating from the Russian Communist leaders. While there was considerable hesitation in the delegation, and some peculiar arguments given, the final decision is very welcome.

It will help destroy the suicidal notion that the workers should support the arming of a capitalist government as a means of fighting fascism. The only government which will really fight fascism is a workers' government.

ELECTIONS IN ALSACE

The election in Alsace presented a crazy-quilt of conflicting policies. Every important city had a different combination of forces.

The main point of interest was Strasbourg, where in the final election two blocs confronted each other: the "People's Front" made up of Independent Communists, Peasants Party and Autonomists and the "Bourgeois Block" made up of the bourgeois parties and the Socialists (!).

Because of the adherence of the Alsatian Peoples Party which had previously been in the Peoples Front, to the Bourgeois Block, a victory for the latter was foreseen, with the Peoples Front not obtaining a single seat. But the Peoples Front upset all predictions and scored a sensational victory, increasing its vote from 10,000 on the first ballot, to 16,000 on the second. Most of the gain came from the Socialist voters who refused to support the bourgeois block.

The municipal council stands as follows:

Table for Alsace—	
Independent Communists	10
Democrats	8
Alsatian Peoples	5
Socialists	5
Peasants	4
Autonomists	2
Miscellaneous	2

The Alsatian Peoples Party holds the balance of power. After the failure of its venture, it will very likely return to the Peoples Front. It is to be hoped that the Socialist Party will also break with its bourgeois allies, and in accordance with the wishes of the workers associate itself with the anti-imperialist, anti-fascist Peoples Front.

A noteworthy sidelight of the election was the support of the Peoples Front by the official Communists for the first time since 1928. In that year the Alsatian Communists were expelled from the Communist International for rejecting the slogan "class against class" and refusing to leave the Peoples Front. In 1934, Brandler and Lovestone expelled them from the International Communist Opposition for the same reason!

FASCISTS AGAIN IN DUTCH ELECTIONS

The municipal election in Holland showed the growth of the Fascist danger in that country.

The Fascists obtained 39 mandates against 0 in 1933.

The Socialists and Clericals held their own. The Liberal Party lost to the Fascists. The Communists increased from 9 to 12 and the new Party (Revolutionary Socialist Workers Party) secured 4 against 2 held previously. Its total vote decreased, however. In 1933 the two parties which later united obtained 70,000 votes together. This time the united party secured only 50,000 votes.