

# World Socialism

## SOCIALIST YOUTH AND WAR

By HERBERT ZAM

Now that sanctions, which were to have "paralyzed" Italy's attempt to subjugate Ethiopia, are officially at an end, it will be possible for the working class to view the entire question more objectively, and in the light of the recent experiences. Even before the formal failure of the Support-Sanctions policy was evident, definite trends away from this policy were noticeable. The executive committee of the Socialist Youth International, for instance, issued a manifesto which was a welcome contrast to the statements issued by other sections of the labor movement. Discussing methods of struggle against aggression, it said:

"The Socialist Youth Leagues are called upon to support the sanctions which the Socialist International and the International Federation of Trade Unions apply against the fascist aggressors, such as boycotts, demonstrations, control over transportation."

Thus, it calls for independent working class action and not for support of capitalist actions.

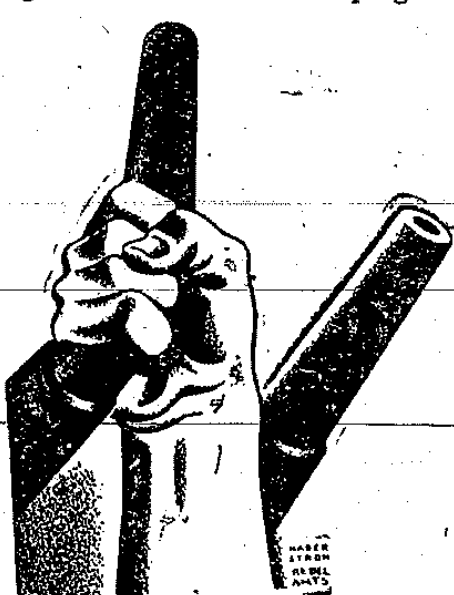
Rejecting the idea of a classless "youth generation," it said:

"The Socialist Youth International considers as the most effective form of struggle against war the close unity with the International Socialist Labor movement, in close cooperation between the old and new generations of the working class on the basis of international Socialism."

Above all, the Socialist Youth International refused to make the mistake of abstract demands for "peace." It refused to divide the capitalist countries into "pro-war" and "anti-war," and declared:

"The Socialist Youth movement is opposed to war. It will do everything to maintain peace. It knows, however, that the war danger in Europe will disappear only when the workers in the most important countries will seize power. The struggle for peace is therefore closely bound up with the struggle for political power for the working class."

These few quotations should make it clear that American Socialists are not alone in their fight for an anti-war program



which will be free of illusions about the League of Nations, sanctions, collective security; which will definitely point out that only through a vigorous fight for Socialism can fascism and war be defeated.

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The strong trend toward labor unity has been emphasized many times in the columns of *The CALL*. Several important recent events indicate that far from having become weaker, this trend is already assuming organization form and is finding expression nationally and internationally, both in the political field as well as in the organization field.

Politically, the most significant

utilities and of Cuba's finance. It is this clique, with the American government solemnly co-operating in its schemes, which did not hesitate to enslave a whole nation and to issue orders whereby was made possible the torturing of scores, the murder of hundreds and the imprisonment of thousands to the end that profits—sacred word—be not even momentarily curtailed.

development is the decision of the youth section of the Polish Bund (Jewish Socialists), *Zukunft* (The Future), to affiliate with the Socialist Youth International. The decision was made at the last Congress of the organization held in April at Warsaw. Like the Bund, the *Zukunft* had been independent for many years. Even after the Bund joined the LSI some two years ago, the youth remained aloof. Of course, this created an anomalous situation, and after a long and exhaustive discussion, affiliation was voted. This was not a mere mechanical decision, however, dictated by the Party. The vote at the Congress was 49 for affiliation, 31 opposed and one abstention—an indication of how serious the question was considered.

The minority accepted the decision and declared that it will work loyally inside the Socialist Youth International for revolutionary Socialism. The supporters of affiliation argued that national independence had had a bad effect upon the organization and had weakened its international character. They maintained that the developments of the last few years are in the direction of unity concentrated around the Socialist International. They furthermore pointed out that they are in complete agreement with the SYI in opposing the new communist theory of the youth generation and the proposal to set up a united youth league together with the bourgeois youth and thus to liquidate the independent class movement of the proletarian youth.

The entry of the *Zukunft* into the SYI will greatly strengthen the revolutionary forces in it, which already count the Belgian, Austrian, French and American sections, and thus strengthen the revolutionary character of the SYI as a whole.

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In the economic field, the unity trend was marked by the affiliation of three new sections to the International Federation of Trade Unions—from Norway, India and Argentina. The Norwegian unions had been independent ever since the split. They made several efforts to get the two Internationals together, and for a while formed a special committee with the Russian unions. All these temporary and partial measures only served to convince the Norwegian workers of the necessity of organic unity with the main body of international labor.

**Affiliation Permanent**

The Indian affiliation came after a two-year trial affiliation agreed upon in December, 1933, when the Indian National Trade Union Federation fused with the Railwaymen's Union. It was an experimental affiliation, as the Indian unions had heretofore been completely independent. The experiment has been entirely successful, however, and affiliation is now permanent. There are still some independent unions in India, but they will probably be absorbed into the united movement shortly.

The Argentinian National Trade Union Center was formed at the end of March in a unity congress in Buenos Ayres. Several previously independent unions from different trades merged their forces into what promises to develop into a powerful movement. Previously, only one of these groups had adhered to the IFTU. The unity congress voted to apply for affiliation, and this was granted at the session of the IFTU Executive held in Paris on May 20.