

World Socialism

DECISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL

By HERBERT ZAM

An important session of the Executive Committee of the Labor and Socialist International was held May 16-18 in Brussels, Belgium. Numerous members of the Executive were unable to be present either because of pressing work in their own countries, or because of distance. The questions under consideration were: The international situation, the boycott against the fascists, reports from countries and organizational questions.

The representative of the Spanish Party, Fernando de los Rios, gave an extensive report on the situation in Spain and the work of the Socialists there. The Secretary, Adler, reported on the situation in the American Socialist Party, and this report was supplemented by Dallas of Great Britain. It was unanimously decided to send the following cable to the Cleveland convention of the Party:

The Executive of the LSI is filled with deep anxiety by the difficulties within the Socialist Party of the United States and it expresses the hope that at the National Convention both sides will make every effort to maintain the unity of the Party, which is the first condition for the creation of a great mass Party of the American workers.
On behalf of the Executive,
DE BROUCKERE, President
ADLER, Secretary

The French Party had previously placed on the agenda the question of "Unity of Action in the International Sphere" and Zyromski reported on this point, especially on the developments in France. A lengthy discussion took place but no definite action was taken.

The following delegates were appointed to attend the International Trade Union Congress which will take place in London in July: the Chairman and Secretary of the LSI, De Brouckere and Adler, and the two British members of the Executive, Compton and Gillies. Bouchery of Belgium and Hedtoft-Hansen of Denmark were added to the Bureau of the Executive.

Anti-Nazi Activities

The relations of the LSI with the Socialist Youth International, the Socialist Educational International and the Socialist Sport International were reported on. It was decided to render financial aid for the rebuilding of the Socialist Educational International. The plans for the holding of the Workers' Olympiad in Antwerp, Belgium, in 1937 were aping of the Workersetaoinshrdl proved. The LSI and the International Federation of Trade Unions, as well as the Sport International, are supporting this Olympiad.

In considering the question of the boycott against Nazi Germany, the Executive found that "important economic and political reasons have on various occasions compelled states and organizations of every kind to neglect the boycott of Nazi Germany, or at least to break through it in places, in consideration of their own interests." This seems to be a reference to the so-called "transfer agreement" entered into between Zionist organizations and the Nazi government, which has been under continual fire. The Executive found, however, that "in spite of all its defects the boycott movement has been a factor in the struggle against Hitlerism, and it must therefore be continued with every energy as far as circumstances will permit." The boycott of the Olympic games in Germany was therefore approved.

The Problems Of Fighting War

The most serious problem before the Executive was the international situation, in view of

the formal annexation and military occupation of Ethiopia by Italy, and in view of the recent occupation of the Rhineland by Hitler. The Executive met at a time when sanctions as a means of stopping Mussolini had proven completely futile in practice and movement.

It was to be expected that un-a snare for the working class der these circumstances the Executive, would have something new to say to the workers of the world, that it would take steps to inaugurate a real campaign against war based upon the independent activity of the labor movement and not upon capitalist governments. But what did the Executive do? It reaffirmed its faith in the League of Nations, in imperialist France and Britain, in "collective security" and sanctions—in short, in all of those instruments which had failed miserably in the recent past.

The resolution which was adopted points out that while the LSI has "always demanded the consistent and energetic application of the Covenant of the League of Nations against those who make or threaten war," this was not done by the various governments because their policies were "dictated by their immediate special interests." In other words, even the carrying out of their own treaties was prevented by imperialist contradictions. The only conclusion to be drawn from this is that no reliance can be placed upon treaties among imperialist governments, no matter how high sounding they may be. Instead, the Executive draws the conclusion that "it has been shown once again that peace can only be saved by the energetic application of the Covenant of the League of Nations" and that "sanctions must be maintained until the authority of the League is vindicated."

The Outlook Is Not Bright

To say that Socialists will be keenly disappointed at this head-in-the-sand attitude of the Executive, is putting the case mildly. If at the present time, the body which represents the international labor movement can find no other lead to give the workers than to keep them tied to the apron strings of the League of Nations, it is necessary for the individual Socialist parties to take the initiative and undertake anti-war action on a working class foundation.

What does the Executive propose for the future? The following:

"A combination of the forces of all the States which oppose war, and in particular a close coordination of the policy of Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union, is required in order to prevent any act of aggression or treaty violation which might endanger peace in any part of Europe."

Dismal indeed is the outlook for peace if we have to depend upon imperialist Britain and imperialist France to preserve it. Far from being "practical" such a policy will lead directly to war by assuring the imperialists of working class support in their ventures. When even a pacifist like John Haynes Holmes says,

Illinois Party Opens Campaign

CHICAGO — Illinois Socialists will launch their section of the national campaign Sunday, June 14th, at the annual picnic of the Cook County Socialist party at Riverview Park, Western Avenue and Belmont. Heading the list of speakers at the Park will be John Fisher, Gillespie miner, Socialist candidate for Governor; Joseph Goldman of Local 152 Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Socialist candidate for Lieutenant-Governor; and probably Julius Hochman of New York, Vice-President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers.

The picnic, which is expected to draw several thousand people, will open the drive in Illinois for signatures to put the Socialist ticket on the ballot under the drastic new election laws enacted by the last legislature. In addition to the speaking program, there will be two baseball matches between lodges of the SNPJ and between the Young Peoples Socialist League and the Chicago section of the Young Circle group; also races and other athletic events. There will be dancing in the main pavillion from seven until midnight.

Tickets are on sale at the Socialist party office and at party newspapers and labor offices throughout Chicago.

BARGAINS!

NEW YORK—A feast for bargain hunters will be provided at the Bronx Labor Center Bazaar, with prices well inside the range of the proletariat. The admission is only ten cents.

A record crowd of New York Socialists is expected to jam the Bronx Labor Center. Everybody will be there, not only to snatch up the extraordinary bargains that will be on sale but to lend all possible moral and financial aid to the Center in its struggle to maintain its existence.

Get yourself a bargain and help the Bronx Socialists continue their splendid work.

Remember the nights: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 12, 13, 14. Bargains, entertainment and dancing await you.

"Just as long as we have capitalism we are going to have war," it is time for the Executive of the LSI to stop issuing resolutions in defense of the League of Nations.

Not the resolution of the Executive of the LSI but the ringing anti-war resolution adopted at Cleveland, the continuation of the fine traditions of the St. Louis declaration, provide the basis for a real working class struggle against war, against capitalism, for peace, for Socialism.

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MASS MEETING WHY WE ARE JOINING THE SOCIALIST PARTY

The Workers Party Has Decided to Dissolve as a Separate Organization and to Call Upon All Its Members and Sympathizers to Enter the Ranks of the Socialist Party.

COME AND HEAR THIS POSITION EXPLAINED BY:

J. P. CANNON - A. J. MUSTE

Chairman, MAX SHACHTMAN

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 3 P. M.

IRVING PLAZA HALL

Auspices Workers Party

Fifteenth St. and Irving Pl.

Admission 25c