

Sycophant Gets Syndicated

"Has World War III already begun?" This line appeared in the beginning of a star-spangled article on the events in Afghanistan printed in *The Call*, newspaper of the "Communist Party Marxist-Leninist." Had it, we wondered in the January 11 issue of the *RW*, been written especially for *Time* magazine by its author, David Kline? The answer came shortly as a couple weeks later we were leafing through the pages not of *The Call*, but of another publication and came across the headline: "Has World War III Begun?" Was it *Time*? Was it *Newsweek*? Not quite, or more accurately—not yet! It was the *Chicago Tribune*. Yes sir, there was Kline's article under his by-line, in slightly altered form, covered with the same foul-smelling aroma of social-chauvinism which only a week or so before had emanated from the pages of *The Call*.

It seems that Kline's piece cheering on the U.S. imperialists and singling out the Soviets as the villains responsible for developments toward world war did not go unnoticed by the ruling class. It achieved such high standards of bourgeois journalistic excellence that it was picked up by none other than the syndicated New York Times Special Features service, a prestigious subsidiary of the capitalists' number one propaganda mill, the *New York Times*.

Within the space of a few days, his article was feverishly distributed to the capitalist's news media nationwide and reprinted by *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *Louisville Times*, *The Atlanta Constitution* (front page) and *The Los Angeles Herald*, just to name a few.

The Times Special Features service has lifted Kline's article practically verbatim from the pages of *The Call*. But of course the CPML/David Kline *did* make some changes in the article with an eye to its republication in the bourgeois press. Whereas in the original

Call article there was at least a standard mention of U.S. imperialism, now any such references have been mysteriously penciled out! Thus the sentence "Moscow is in a state of competition with the U.S. imperialists for control of markets, resources and spheres of influence" becomes "Moscow is competing with *Washington* for control of markets. . .", etc. This little bit of prostrate bootlicking was absolutely necessary, no doubt. The U.S. imperialists are understandably hesitant to print articles, however favorable to *them*, in which they are labeled as, of all things, imperialists!

There are also other barely discernable, but nevertheless slick, changes made by Kline designed to subtly heighten our perception of the "Soviet menace." For example, the phrase "In only the last five years, the Soviets have garnered a string of pressure points. . ." has been amended to read "In the incredibly swift span of less than five years, the Soviets have gained a string of pressure points. . ." Clearly, in the incredibly swift span of the blink of an eye, Kline has sunk from CPML social-chauvinist hack to straight out yellow journalist for the bourgeoisie.

In Kline's syndicated version of the *Call* article, the CPML's scathing criticism of the U.S. rulers for being limp-wristed "appeasers" of Soviet aggression has been toned down a bit. Why needlessly bite the hand that feeds? However, Kline still cannot resist mildly chiding the U.S. for not being belligerent enough: "Washington's few countermeasures are not likely to prove an effective response." "This doesn't mean, of course, that Washington should re-embark on its own expansionism in Asia by, say, dispatching troops to the region," adds Kline quickly with the usual CPML-style disclaimer to cover their increasingly shrill war cries. "But," he continues, "actions

such as directly aiding the Afghan rebels, providing China with sophisticated arms for self-defense, and strictly embargoing *all* strategic-materials trade with the Russians could have been a stronger response"!

CPML Frustrated

There is little doubt about the frustration of the CPML with the attitude of the U.S. rulers. One gets an even better glimpse of this by looking over some of the more recent issues of *The Call*. "Can Carter's Moves Stop Soviet War Machine?" inquires a front page headline in the January 14 issue. While to our knowledge, this article has not yet been reprinted in any major newspaper—at least under Kline's by-line—we urge our readers to keep an eye out for it in the near future. Here we are reminded that the likes of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Defense Secretary Harold Brown typify "the policy of appeasing Soviet expansionism."

And, CPML whines, "continuing compromise and vacillation of the U.S. imperialists in response to Soviet expansionism was apparent in what Carter could have, but did not do, following the invasion"!. While one would think that the task of communists in a country like the U.S. is to resolutely *oppose* any war preparations by their own government, it is clear that the CPML's only opposition is to the allegedly slow-moving response of the U.S. imperialists' military machine.

But the capper to the CPML's lick-spittle analysis is a rather thinly disguised call for increased U.S. military involvement in the Middle East and Asia. We are set up for this with strange statements like, "To be sure, Asian and other third world nations are certainly not in favor of the U.S. re-embarking on its own expansionism in Asia. Few would welcome the dispatch of U.S.

troops to the region, observers have pointed out."

Then, as we are scratching our heads trying to figure out just which few nations *would*, in fact, welcome the dispatch of U.S. troops to overrun and enslave their countries, CPML lowers the boom. "There is widespread recognition that America's foreign policy is also one of aggression and domination, just like the Kremlin's," we are comfortingly assured. "But at this juncture in world history, when the Soviet juggernaut is steamrolling across Asia and Africa, a *limited, restricted U.S. role* in helping nations stand up to Russian expansionism—as well as a halt to U.S. aid to Moscow—can be in the interests of the world's people." (Emphasis added—*RW*.)

These contortions, rivaling only those of Plastic Man, ramble on ad infinitum: "Naturally, any increased U.S. role in Asia carries with it serious dangers to the people of that region. *But* continued appeasement at this time is even more dangerous to world peace."

With "analysis" like this, it is no wonder that the bourgeoisie is considering running a regular column from *The Call*. In fact, when world war breaks out it would not be in the least surprising to see a front page article in the *New York Times* with David Kline's by-line exhorting the people of this country to march off and play a "limited and restricted role" in defending the fatherland. And while Kline remains a small fish in a big bourgeois ocean—competing with better known writers like William F. Buckley—neither his role, or the CPML's, is limited or restricted when it comes to unrestrained support for the U.S. imperialists in the coming showdown with their counterparts in the Soviet Union. ■