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War Series No. 4-A

MOSCOW SPEAKS

Down with the imperialist war!

Down with Capitalist reaction!

Down with the instigators of war, the profiteers and freebooters!

No support for the policy of the ruling classes directed towards continuation and spread of the imperialist slaughter!

Long live the fraternal alliance of the workers of the entire world!

Long live the U.S.S.R., the bulwark of peace, freedom and Socialism, the fatherland of the working people of all lands!

These are some of the slogans issued by the Executive Committee of the Communist International in its manifesto on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the October Revolution on November 7th. To those who adhered to and insisted in the belief that Communist Russia had abandoned its idea of world revolution, the manifesto brings little comfort. The document dispels all contentions that Soviet Russia has abandoned the principle of the "Class struggle" and world revolution. It is a virtual dec-

laration of war upon the democracies and is an appeal to workers throughout the world to rise against their governments.

The Comintern manifesto is in complete harmony with the speech delivered by the Premier and Foreign Commissar Viacheslav M. Molotov at a meeting of Communist Party members in the Bolshoy Opera House on the very evening of the day the manifesto was issued; it is, on the whole, a repetition of Molotov's address.

Molotov accused the British and French ruling classes of doing "their utmost to protract and extend" the war, "with the purpose of utilizing it to consolidate their world supremacy." He said Soviet Russia stood against this with her "policy of peace and her ardent efforts to secure rapid termination of the war." "The names of Lenin and Stalin," he declared, "arouse bright hopes in every corner of the world and resound as a call to fight for the peace and happiness of nations, to fight for complete emancipation from capitalism." The accusations made in the manifesto are of a similar nature. In this respect the document declares:[1]

"Do not believe those who are dragging you to the war under the false pretext of the defence of democracy. What right have those who oppress India, Indo-China, the Arab countries, who hold half of the world in the chains of colonial slavery, to speak of democracy? The bankers of London and Paris have in the past by their loans saved, and they continue to save, the most reactionary regimes in Europe.

The Lords of Britain maintain reaction on all the five continents of the earth. The boasted democrats of France throw Communist deputies into jail, suppress the Communist press and abolish political liberties. It is not for the freedom of the nations that they are fighting, but for their enslavement. Not for the preservation of democracy from fascism, but for the triumph of reaction. Not for a stable peace, but for new imperialist conquests fraught with new wars."

In the manifesto, the Communist International calls on the "proletarians and working people" to struggle against the imperialist war; to be true to the end to the cause of proletarian internationalism, to the cause of fraternal alliance of proletarians of all countries; to strengthen the fraternal alliance with the toilers of the city and the countryside, with the enslaved peoples of the colonies; to rally closer around the Soviet Union.

It is important to note that both Molotov and the Comintern refer only vaguely to Germany; their main attack being directed at Great Britain, France and the United States of America.

Gregorie Dimitrov, General Secretary of the Communist International, writing in the official organ of the International called on Communists throughout the world to join other Left-Wing elements in a new united front to resist the "Imperialist War." He said the united front would include only those who opposed war.

The article appeared soon after War Commissar Klementi Y. Voro-

shilov, addressing army units massed in the Red Square on November 7th, declared that Russia "must be ready for war, although we shall not take part in war."

Outlining the new Comintern 'line,' Dimitrov said that the old united front had become obsolete. He declared that the new united front could be organized "by a most decisive struggle against Socialists and Radicals for the purpose of liquidating the influence of those agents of the bourgeoisie in the labour movement.

"Communists must not be frightened by persecutions or repressions, and must adjust themselves to war conditions, purge doubtful elements from their ranks and establish iron discipline," he said,[2]

Acting upon instructions from Moscow similar manifestos were issued by the Communist Parties of the United States and Canada. Earl Browder, General Secretary of the American Party, in his speech in Boston celebrating the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution urged the people of the United States to duplicate the feat of the Russians. He further declared that his followers must achieve Socialism in the U.S.A. by a quick transition.

The Communist Party of Canada, the Canadian Section of the "foreign legion" of the Soviet Union, on the eve of Remembrance Day, issued, in pamphlet form its own manifesto entitled "The People Want Peace." The pamphlet, issued officially by the Dominion Executive Committee over the signature of Tim Buck, General Secretary, and which was distributed simultaneously throughout Canada by members of the Party especially selected for the task, reads in part:

"THE PRESENT WAR is a catastrophe for Canada. Twenty-one years after the 'war to end all wars' which claimed 10 million lives, and before we recovered from the consequences of that war, Canada is engulfed in a foreign war and Canadians are being exhorted to throw away their lives on foreign fields.

"For the capitalists this war means fabulous profits; but for the Canadian workers, farmers and middle classes the war means death, misery, exploitation, crisis and ruin.

"The Canadian people wanted national recovery, jobs and security and peace.

"The Mackenzie King government and the bankers and capitalists who were strangling national recovery in peace, are now the promoters of imperialist war. There was no money in peace, so they said, to pay decent wages to the workers and fair prices to the farmers; no money or public works; no money for jobs for our youth; no money for adequate relief.

"But today, Premier King and the capitalists say there is unlimited money for destructive war. Your scanty income, your dinner table, your sugar, tobacco, your bread, are heavily taxed to provide the first \$100,000,000 of the billions that they say they will spend on war.

CANADA SOLD INTO ECONOMIC BONDAGE

"Canada is being sold into economic bondage to the war-profiteers by the government. Canada will be impoverished as our children for generations will pay tribute to the 50 Big Shots.[3] Profiteers are given free rein. Purchasing power and the living standards of the masses fall while the Wartime Prices and Trade Board blames the housewives and consumers for the rising prices, thus shielding the profiteering monopolists. The masses will bear the entire brunt of the war.

"To enforce this war policy the government has annulled all democratic rights. The British North America Act is suspended. The Quebec people, opposing conscription and the war, are being threatened with martial law. Provincial and municipal rights, freedom of trade unions, the rights of free speech, assembly and press are being wiped out.

"In the name of 'war to save democracy' every democratic movement of the workers, farmers and consumers to defend themselves against the profiteers and big business sharks will be ruthlessly attacked.

"The most reactionary capitalist cliques, who have been long undermining Canadian democracy, have seized upon the war to consummate their aims. The nation is being sold into political bondage to the most imperialistic, most chauvinistic and most fascist circles of big business. This is the real essence of fascism...

"The people know the truth. This was is not a war to save democracy but is the inevitable result of imperialist intrigues against democracy....

"Had the international working class succeeded, despite the reformist splitters, in forcing the establishment of such a Peace Front, there would have been no war today.

"The Chamberlain circles deliberately prevented such a Peace Front of the peoples and governments.

"Chamberlain, and the pro-Chamberlainites in Canada, prevented a Peace Front in Canada because they approved the merciless suppression of the German and Italian working-class and democratic movements by Hitler and Mussolini; they supported the fascist war against the liberation movement of the Spanish people; they welcomed the robber war against China. For, to them, fascism was the saviour of crisis-stricken, dying capitalism!.....

HOW POLAND WAS SACRIFICED

"We are told that this is war to save Poland. The truth is that Poland

was chosen to be the final link in the conspiracy to instigate the long-planned German-Soviet war. Poland was the [4] pathway for the Nazi war machine to attack the Soviet Union.....

THE REAL AIMS OF THE WAR

"Chamberlain's aims in this war are identical with his aims during the past two years—to maintain the supremacy of British imperialism, to continue the exploitation and suppression of the workers and colonial peoples, and above all to find the way to transform this war into a joint imperialist attack against the Soviet Union.....
"The guilt for this criminal war rests equally upon the shoulders of the imperialists of Berlin, London and Paris. And 'our own' Canadian imperialists, with their eyes upon markets and huge profits, have played and are playing, their ignoble independent role in the tragic crime as willing partners of Chamberlain and Daladier, thus threatening to embroil the Americas in the war.

WHY CANADA IS AT WAR

"Canada is plunged into war because it is hitched, through the ruling groups, to the war policy of Chamberlain; because the government of Mackenzie King, and before that, of Bennett, refused to pursue an independent foreign policy based on the needs of the Canadian people—on Canadian security!

"Mackenzie King's slavish support of Chamberlain inevitably meant that when the war came Canada was plunged into it without any regard for the real interests of the Canadian people.

"That it took our people by surprise and shocked them, is to be seen by the absence of that wild jingoism which accompanied August 4, 1914, by the questions asked by the people everywhere (and for which they are jailed under the War Measures Act), by the events in Quebec.

"The Canadian nation did not want war; its security as an American nation demanded that Canada keep out of it.

"The Canadian government, supported by the Tories and by the opposition parties in Parliament, plunged the country into war because it was tied to the tail of the Chamberlain government, and because the small handful of already rich profiteers saw in war the chance for those great contracts which would heap their vaults with gold, as in the last war—in short, because [5] they are ready to sacrifice Canadian lives and jeopardize Canadian security if only they can reap a golden harvest as partners in British imperialist war.

"All of this shows that the Communist Party was mistaken in the first weeks of the war in creating the illusion that this could be made 'a different kind of war.' These opportunist illusions could only help the capitalists to create the confusion necessary for them to carry

through their imperialist aims against the people.....

U.S.S.R. — BEACON OF PEACE

"The U.S.S.R. in this crisis has acted firmly and swiftly to save its people from invasion and to strengthen the people of the whole world who long for peace. It has kept its millions out of war. It has refused to be a catspaw for imperialist schemes, knowing that its duty to the people of the world is to stand firm for peace.

"Once Hitler, stopped in the east by the Red Army, sued for peace, the Soviet Union in proposing that peace be considered by all the belligerent powers acted in the best interests of all peoples.

"The Soviet Union stands for peace. So do the working people of the world—a peace which will stop the advance of imperialism and the destruction of millions of lives!

"We call on the Canadian people to fight for the restoration of their liberties; the right to a free press; the right to freely criticise government policy and war aims; the right to speak and assemble; the right to unite for the restoration of peace!

"We call on the Canadian people to fight profiteering by the big monopolies who want this war for their own greedy ends.

"Declare an end to the imperialist war!

"Fight for a lasting and democratic peace!

"Immediate measures against the profiteers to bring down prices!

"For immediate increases in wages, farm prices and unemployment relief to meet the rise in the cost of living![6]

"Hands off democratic rights and social services!

"For the establishment of a new government which will carry out these demands, begin peace negotiations and represent the interests of the people against the armament kings and plundering 50 Big Shots!

"Banish the spectre of war and open the road towards a new, free, Socialist life!"

The distribution of the Communist Party pamphlet constitutes part of a gigantic International Campaign initiated by Moscow in an attempt to block the war efforts of Great Britain and France. It marks the beginning of a movement, in Canada, calculated to undermine the morale of the people and their faith in the British Empire.

The Communist Party of Canada stands convicted as an agency of Stalin and his methods.

Mass distribution of the Communist Party pamphlet containing the manifesto was halted by this Force acting in conjunction with Provincial and Municipal Police. A number of the distributors were arrested throughout the country and charged under the Defence of Canada Regulations.[7]