

Carry the Struggle Against War Into the Shops

IN the resolution on the war in the Far East and the tasks of the Communists in the struggle against imperialist war and military intervention against the U.S.S.R., the Twelfth Plenum of the E.C.C.I. points out that "the period of relative stabilization in international relations has ended; that the attack of Japanese imperialism on China which is taking place with the full and open support of France and with the secret support of England, marks the beginning of a new imperialist war." It pointed out how the U.S.A. is striving to provoke war between Japan and the Soviet Union in order that by weakening both Japan and the U.S.S.R. it may strengthen its own position in the Pacific.

The Party manifesto, issued in January, 1933, shows that war is already going on in the Far East, in Latin America. It exposes the aim of the Japanese army through the occupation of Jehol to reach the Soviet border all along its Asiatic frontier. It exposes the League of Nations as an instrument of war and the Second International as shamelessly preparing to repeat in the coming imperialist war the present role of the Japanese social democracy as betrayers of the working class. Billions are being spent in a new race of armaments, and other millions are being spent for peace conferences that have been following each other in the last years as a camouflage for war preparations (while in the U. S. A. and in the other capitalist countries millions of workers are out of jobs, millions of farmers are at the mercy of bankers, burdened by heavy mortgages, taxation, debts, etc.). The manifesto calls upon the toilers of the United States to increase the struggle against developing imperialist war.

Weaknesses in our Anti-War Campaign

If we examine our anti-war campaign conducted in the last year, then we must come to the conclusion that we have not taken all measures to reach wider masses of the toiling population. We did not yet succeed in bringing the campaign among the workers in the factories; that the Party and the trade unions did not concentrate with vigor in the industries which can be mobilized for the conduct of war, such as metal, chemical and transport; that we did not spread our campaigns to the millions of farmers among whom the anti-war sentiment strongly prevails; that we did not reach the masses of American youth and the masses of women in industry with our anti-war campaign.

Our campaign still remains to a great extent a purely agitational campaign. Yes, such agitation must be followed up and extended. *But this agitation campaign and the propagandist activities must be followed up by the revolutionary work of the Party among the masses, by concrete work. At this stage our task is to concretize the slogan of setting up anti-war committees in every shop, in the neighborhoods and workers' organiza-*

tions, to concretize the slogan of stopping the shipment of munitions, to concretize the slogans of demonstrating against the bloody Japanese imperialist bandits and in support of the heroic Japanese revolutionary workers, to demonstrate against the imperialist war-makers of Wall Street and Washington. It is necessary now more than ever before to develop the struggle against the capitalist offensive to lower the standard of living of the masses. All these struggles must be linked up with the anti-war struggle. (These struggles will facilitate the setting up of anti-war committees in the factories, in the mass organizations), on a neighborhood scale, among the unemployed. But this in itself is not sufficient. It is not only through economic struggles that we develop anti-war activities. It is also necessary to develop the political struggle and specific activity against war.

Build Anti-War Committees in the Shops

Today more than ever before we must intensify our activities toward penetrating the factories and building the shop nuclei, one of whose major tasks will be the winning of the masses for our anti-war struggle. This is one of the fundamental organizational tasks of the Party particularly at this moment. Special attention shall be concentrated on building shop nuclei in ammunition factories, in the shipyards, in the railroad centers, in other branches of transport, in factories that can be easily transformed into war plants (auto, chemical, rayon, etc.). In this respect the districts must have a clear program of action.

The setting up of anti-war committees cannot be accomplished in a mechanical manner. In certain factories or mass organizations, in the neighborhoods, such committees can be set up legally, after an intense ideological campaign among the masses. In other factories, such as ammunition plants, shipyards, etc., according to the situation, such committees can be set up illegally or semi-legally. In this respect we must work out the methods of how to get contacts, how to utilize the contacts inside the plants, how to spread anti-war literature among the workers, etc.

Develop Partial Struggles

In all industries, including the war industries, wages are slashed and on the basis of the continuous rationalization workers are laid off. In addition to the development of the struggle against the wage cut, we must arrange demonstrations of solidarity of the employed and unemployed workers. In the shipyards, for example, where workers are laid off, we must rally the laid-off workers and draw them into the struggle for immediate relief and unemployment insurance and utilize their connections to reach the masses still inside the plants. In the war plants it is of special importance to develop struggles against wage cuts, speed-up and around other grievances in

the plant. Here such struggles are in actuality a struggle directed against the government.

In the anti-war campaign all forces of the Party must be mobilized; nuclei, street units and fractions in all mass organizations, and especially in the revolutionary trade unions, in the unions of the A. F. of L. for the conduct of an intensive anti-war struggle inside the unions, to set up anti-war committees, to lead the workers especially in metal, chemical, marine in the struggle to hinder production of ammunition and war material in general. For months and months, from the ports of New York, Philadelphia, Norfolk, New Orleans, San Francisco, Seattle, transport after transport has left for the Far East and Latin America, loaded with ammunition or raw material to be used for war purposes. While the American bourgeoisie is talking about a boycott against Japan, Mr. DuPont realized a profit of 37 million dollars in the last year. Shipments of cotton, scrap iron, chemical stuffs, etc., to Japan are continuing this year.

During this year two or three demonstrations took place in different ports of the United States against the transportation of ammunition to Japan. The working class has not yet succeeded in stopping one single shipment. It will succeed in the near future, if the Party, the Marine Workers Industrial Union, the militant workers among the railroad men, among the longshoremen will concentrate with all forces to rally the masses for action, repeating the heroic struggle of the Seattle longshoremen in 1919. In every port of the United States anti-war committees must be built among the longshoremen, among the sailors and seamen; anti-war committees on board ships especially those which take the route of the Far East and Latin America.

Stop the Shipment of Ammunition

An immediate task for the shop nuclei, for individual Party members working in shops, metal plants, chemical factories, shipyards, on the waterfront, is to keep their eyes open and see what is being produced, what is being shipped, what steps are being taken by the bosses for the transformation of the industry into a war industry, etc. The nuclei, individual Party member, sympathizers should discuss immediately these problems with the most conscious of the workers in the plants, bring to the knowledge of the whole factory crew what is going on, through leaflets, legal or illegal gatherings—according to the situation. One of the tasks is the exposing of the concrete facts of war preparations in the industries, in the press which will become valuable issues around which to mobilize large masses and bring the anti-war struggle into the factories, to the docks, railroad centers, aboard the ships. On the basis of such information, shop gate meetings, anti-war demonstra-

tions shall be arranged in front of the plants. Real efforts must be made to stop the shipment of ammunition.

This activity will spur the initiative of the masses, of each individual, each Communist, each sympathetic worker who is conscious of the necessity of fighting against war in the places of work; will spur the building and extending of the net of anti-war committees which must become instruments of vital importance for the mobilization and organization of the masses in the anti-war struggle.

—F. B.