

INTRODUCTION

THE resolution to which this is an introduction was adopted by the Communist Party at its national convention in New York City, July 26-29, 1945. It is a Marxist-Leninist analysis of the American and world situations in the concluding stages of the great world war and the opening phases of the postwar period. It gives a clear picture of the major economic and political problems confronting harassed humanity and the paths along which the problems must be solved. The surrender of Japan, which took place two weeks after the C.P. convention, has created world repercussions which serve to emphasize the correctness of the analysis and slogans of action of the resolution.

As the C.P. resolution states, the winning of the war against the Axis fascist powers constitutes a tremendous victory "for world democracy, for all mankind." So, too, was the setting up of the United Nations to maintain world peace and to facilitate a friendly economic and political collaboration among the nations of the earth, the latest expressions of which were the decisions of the Potsdam conference. Of world importance to democracy, also, was the development of friendly relations between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. during the war.

These are vital achievements which provide historic possibilities and conditions for realizing the American people's desire for durable peace, flourishing democracy and economic security. These conditions and possibilities exist, both within our country and on a world scale. Their realization, however, depends upon the initiative of the people and the leadership of labor who dare not rest upon the laurels they have won in their great victories. For the forces of reaction and social chaos are still strong and are busily at work internationally, and if they remain unchecked they will plunge the world into

an even more terrible disaster than the great world war it is now emerging from. Never were the words more true that "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

Especially in the United States, organized labor and the masses of the people must be vigilant. For it is in this country, now when the fascist powers have been defeated, that world reaction has its greatest force and finds its most aggressive leadership—in the most fascist-minded sections of finance capital, in our imperialistic big monopolies and trusts.

American reaction is now actively making its evil influence felt, both at home and abroad. Take, for example, the vital matter of reconverting our national economy from a wartime to a peacetime basis. Under the influence of reactionary monopolistic elements a subservient Congress failed completely to prepare the country for the difficult reconversion period. All Congress was interested in was to protect the profits of the employers, after doing which it adjourned for a two months vacation. The millions of war workers were left to face mass unemployment as best they could, without government assistance. The Truman Administration also shares the blame for not pressing its program more actively upon Congress. The result is that the country is threatened with a serious economic crisis. These developments make the adoption of the reconversion program contained in the C.P. resolution a matter of paramount importance to the entire American people.

American reaction is also trying to defeat the major purposes of the war by seeking to save what it can of the shattered forces of world fascism. In Europe reactionaries of all stripes turn to their political brothers in American big business confidently, and not without results, to shield them from the rising tide of democracy. And in China, reactionary American influence, fostered in large measure by our State Department is creating the danger of a civil war through its machinations with the reactionary Chiang Kai-shek government. This whole situation is one to which the democratic forces, especially organized labor, must pay close attention. For as a nation we are profoundly interested in the strengthening of democ-

racy in Europe and the Far East, as well as in our own hemisphere. The provisions in the C.P. resolution bearing upon this question have won more validity and urgency with each passing day.

The resolution's warnings regarding the necessity for strengthening the United Nations, for consolidating friendly relations between the U.S.S.R. and U.S.A., and for combatting the maneuvers of American imperialism, are being made doubly timely by the present growth of reactionary sentiment in this country among the forces of big capital looking towards American imperialist domination of the world. Seeing the great strength of this country and the weakness of other capitalist lands at the conclusion of the war, the active imperialists are filling our press and radio with propaganda to the effect that the United States, through practically bypassing the United Nations, should virtually take over the leadership of the world. These imperialists hypocritically make it appear that American world rule would have no selfish objectives, but would be carried out in an altruistic spirit of benefiting the peoples everywhere by our leadership. Such imperialist ambitions, however, are the way to new disasters for our nation and the world.

With no little assistance from reactionary figures in our State Department, these imperialists are urging a "tough" attitude towards the U.S.S.R. and the new democratic governments in Europe. They would swing Australia still more definitely under American influence; they would reduce Japan to economic and political dependence upon the United States; they would establish an American economic, and eventually political, hegemony over China; and they would hold as permanent military bases all the Pacific Islands occupied by our armed forces in this war. In short, they would like to turn the Pacific Ocean into an "American lake." These aggressive imperialists would establish American world domination not only through this country's great economic and political strength, but some of them also have the insolence to hint broadly that the United States could use its control of the

atomic bomb as infallible means for bending other nations to its will.

These dangerous schemings and developments make it imperative that the labor movement and the great mass of the democratic American people undertake seriously to curb the reactionary imperialists in this country, and to develop their own great irresistible forces for a broad progressive program. To these ends the Communist Party resolution is indispensable. As a program fitted to advance the interests of our nation as a whole, it should be studied far and wide among the workers and the entire American people.

WILLIAM Z. FOSTER, *National Chairman,*
Communist Party, U.S.A.