

A LETTER TO TRYGVE LIE*

by William Z. Foster and Gus Hall

Hon. Trygve Lie,
United Nations,
Lake Success,
Long Island, New York.

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

Reports coming from Washington today demand from you immediate assurance that the United Nations has not sanctioned, and will not sanction, the use of atomic weapons against the people of Korea.

Emergency action on your part is urgently required now. Tomorrow it may be too late.

* Addressed on July 12, 1950.

The reports which convince us that plans are afoot for the early use of atomic weapons by the United States are as follows:

1) In tonight's *New York Post* Robert S. Allen reveals that President Truman told a congressional group that the military situation in Korea is serious, and added that Gen. MacArthur has a "Sunday punch" up his sleeve.

2) Senator Brewster of Maine urged that Gen. MacArthur be given full authority to use the atom bomb. Rep. Bentsen of Texas today called for an atomic ultimatum—and was

applauded by the House of Representatives.

3) In his press conference today, Secretary of State Acheson gratuitously blasted the World Peace Pledge, which brands as a war criminal any government that first uses atomic weapons, and calls for outlawing the atombomb through international agreement and inspection. Asked about the use of atomic weapons, Mr. Acheson replied that the choice of weapons is "incidental," and that what counts is that an "act of aggression" has been committed.

4) In the last few days, MacArthur's headquarters have obviously been attempting to create the psychological climate for such mass murder. This is the only explanation for the fake atrocity stories to which we are being subjected, and the efforts to portray the Korean people as "bandits" and "yellow-eyed animals."

5) The American imperialist interventionists have already suffered serious military and political defeats in Korea. It is not surprising that in desperation they now yearn to put into practice the threats with which they have vainly sought to terrify all humanity.

The United Nations suffered grave loss of prestige when it surrendered its moral and legal authority to the American State Department three weeks ago. Now peace-loving peoples everywhere will demand more than an assurance that the U.N. has not already sanctioned atomic war in Korea. They will demand guarantees

that the U.N. is doing more than wait again until the damage has been done in order to give its blessing to disaster.

At this critical hour, the existence of the human race as well as that of the United Nations hangs in the balance. Your high office and obligation to all nations places a heavy responsibility on your shoulders. The fact that your acquiescence shielded the U.S. invasion of Korea now makes it mandatory that you act before your silence can be taken to mean U.N. assent to atomic war.

We, too, feel a special responsibility which is imposed on us and on all Americans of all political and religious beliefs. For the people of our country can only purge themselves of war guilt if they act together now—with resolute determination to stay the hands of those who in their name would bring atomic disaster upon all humanity.

Therefore, Mr. Secretary General, we urge that you at once declare that the United Nations will not lend itself to any maneuver designed to permit the use of atomic weapons in Korea, but will on the contrary brand such action as a crime against mankind. We urge also that you renew your earlier efforts to secure the outlawing of atomic weapons through international agreement, and initiate new U.N. endeavors to end U.S. intervention in Korea now.

WILLIAM Z. FOSTER, *Chairman,*
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