

# THE BIG FOUR CONFERENCE

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

Hardly had the Soviet Government made known its proposal, a few days ago, for a Four Power Conference to deal with disputed European questions, Germany and others, than leaders of the State Department rushed into print with the announcement that they were unalterably opposed to the proposed conference. They



didn't give "our allies," Britain and France, time to catch their breath in the matter. They were afraid that, if given half a chance, these countries would express themselves favorably towards the suggested Big Four gathering.

The United States, in so swiftly cutting loose from the conference, made the hackneyed argument that Russia had nothing

new to offer, so a conference would be futile. This is nonsense, of course, for nothing would please Mr. Dulles and his colleagues more than to have the Soviet Union discredit itself in such a manner. The real reason is quite the opposite. It is precisely because the State Department is full of fear that the USSR would come forward with proposals that would further ease international tension, and which the USA, in conference, would not be able fully to reject. All of which would go flatly against the war-mongers of Wall Street imperialism. Hence, they want no Big Four conference.

The war-mongers of Washington, from Truman to Eisenhower, have had a very bad experience recently in international conferences on peace, and they are more than wary of future ones. Take, for example, the famous cease-fire negotiations in Korea. This made ducks and drakes of Wall Street's flagrant plan to continue that war and to expand that war into a grade A

bomb conflict against People's China. As it was, the State Department used every device to delay and obstruct negotiations—even to breaking them off twice altogether. They dragged them out for two years, while tens of thousands of boys on each side were being uselessly slaughtered. However, under ever-mounting peace pressure from this and other countries, they finally were compelled to sign a cease-fire agreement. This brought forth lamentations from Washington, but expressions of joy among the peoples.

Wall Street's experience was even more disastrous in connection with the recent Geneva conference to stop the long-drawn-out war in Indochina. Here, their efforts to continue and intensify the war were so brazen that they not only grossly offended world public opinion, but they also nearly broke up the NATO alliance with France and Great Britain. The State Department tried by every means to prevent the holding of the Geneva Confer-

ence and to sabotage it once it got under way despite them. The general result, notwithstanding, was the cease-fire in Indochina, to the great mortification of the war-mongers in Washington and the joy of the people of the world.

After these two bitter experiences with international peace conferences—over Korea and over Indochina—Dulles and company want no more such. Especially not the Big Four conferences now proposed by the USSR. They know very well that such a conference would develop into a great embarrassment and defeat for their war plans. For as sure as fate, the USSR and the other peace forces would come forward with constructive peace measures, which the United States would either have to accept or to discredit itself throughout the world.

Old man Syngman Rhee, the fanatical war-monger from Korea, let the cat out of the bag when he said, in substance, that the only difference in opinion be-

tween him and President Eisenhower is that he believes that a world war against the Communists must be fought now, whereas the President would postpone it for a while. Thus, it is because of the Administration's war line that it is so sharply opposed to peace negotiations with the USSR, People's China, and the European Peoples' Democracies. Which is exactly why the peace-loving peoples of this and other countries should insist upon negotiations taking place.

The Eisenhower Administration, orientating upon the policy of the inevitability of a war with the USSR, is both unwilling and incapable to protect and develop the peace of the world. The world wants, not a great Wall Street-instigated hydrogen war, but a peaceful co-existence between the socialist and capitalist states of the world. The proposed Four Power Conference must be held, and it will take place if the peace forces demand it militantly enough.