

# Warmongers Defeated in France

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE ELECTION of Mendes-France as premier of France by the rousing majority of 419 to 47, constitutes a real defeat of the warmongers, not only in France but throughout the world. Previous French governments, of which the ousted Laniel-Bidault combination was the latest, have spared no effort to keep the "dirty" Indochina war going, in violation of the peace-will of the French people and in obedience to the Wall Street warmongers, of whom Eisenhower and Dulles are the chief spokesmen. The new French government stands committed to the proposition that it will achieve peace in Indochina within 30 days or resign.



to shift their line and vote for him. The basis of Mendes-France's huge majority was, therefore, the action of the 95 Communist deputies.

The election of the new premier greatly increases the chances for a cease-fire in Indochina. For the first time since that reactionary war started, there is a government at the head of France which, under the tremendous pressure of the French people, may bring the war to a close. The ending of this eight-year war would have profound world effects, in various directions.

• It would be a terrific setback to the warlike program of American imperialism. Eisenhower, Dulles, Knowland & Co. (with the support of the bulk of the leaders of the Democratic Party and of the trade unions) are doing their level best to develop a big war in Asia, which, they hope, would bring about the downfall of People's China, and possibly also of the USSR, as well as the establishment of American hegemony in Asia. They tried hard, but failed, to develop the Korean War to this end, and now their main warlike strategy is to continue, intensify, and spread the war in Indochina. The settling of this war would completely shatter this basic war effort of American imperialism.

• The ending of the Indochina war on satisfactory terms would also give a great spur to the ever-stronger liberation movement in Asia (with eventual important repercussions also in Africa and Latin America). The oppressed peoples of Asia would

be quick to understand that a favorable settlement of the long-drawn-out Indochina war would be a great victory for them and a serious defeat, not only for French imperialism, but especially American (and British) imperialism. The peoples would be encouraged to intensify their struggle.

• The cease-fire in Indochina would also have vital consequences for the peace movement throughout the world. It would encourage all lovers of peace to fight for still greater victories. Instead of concluding that "the war danger is now over," the peace forces internationally would more militantly than ever carry the peace struggle to American imperialism and its allies on every front.

One of the most important (and least remarked) aspects of the current French situation is the splendid example of constructive national leadership shown by the Communist Party in its attitude all along towards the war in Indochina, concretely, and in this latest situation in which it has brought about the election of the new Premier Mendes-France. From the outset of the "dirty war," the Communist Party, alone of all the major parties in France, actively opposed the war, demanding an immediate peace (while the Socialist Party treasonously supported the war). In its peace stand, the Communist Party truly expressed the will of the French people. This was shown unmistakably in the Communist Party's sudden and dramatic mobilization of the French dem-

(Continued on Page 8)

# FOSTER

(Continued from Page 2)

ocratic and peace forces for the election of the new premier, committed to peace in Indochina.

Important political realignments are on the way in crisis-stricken France. These will develop along people's front lines, probably of a new pattern. The first major signs of this coming French realignment was the election of the new government, with its pledge of immediate peace. But it will be up to the peace forces of which the Communist Party is clearly the decisive spokesman, to see to it that this pledge is definitely carried out. France, which has gone from one crisis to a deeper one ever since the Communists were forced out of the government seven years ago upon American demand, has taken a political step forward. It is only the first of many such soon to come.