

# Defend Claudia Jones!

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE TIME WAS when the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, the gift of the French people to the American people in honor of the 100th anniversary of American independence, truly expressed the spirit of United State's policy, to serve as a haven of refuge for the oppressed, persecuted and exploited of the earth. The U.S. was then a strong sanctuary for all the fighters for freedom, exiled from their home countries.



But how things have changed in these days of aggressive American imperialism! Today our government, in control of the most reactionary capitalist forces, is animated by policies entirely contradictory to the spirit of freedom typified by the famous statue. On the one hand, the Government has raised the barriers against all real fighters from abroad and extends the hand of welcome to reactionaries, adventurers, and political riff-raff. And, on the other hand, the Government is busy deporting many of the best fighters in this country.

During the past decade, especially, Miss Liberty has looked down lugubriously upon the scene of hundreds of splendid men and women of foreign birth, often of 20 to 40 years of resi-

dence here, with American-born families being torn up by their roots and hurried off to countries that are now strange to them, to begin life over again.

THE LATEST intended victim of this shameful persecution is Claudia Jones, gallant Negro woman fighter for the Bill of Rights and victim of the Smith Act. She has just been released after serving an outrageous jail term.

Miss Jones, like so many others, was railroaded to prison on the basis of perjured testimony by professional informers on the stupid charge that she conspired to advocate force and violence. After inflicting this grave injustice upon her, the Department of Justice is now trying to impose upon her the further hardship of being rushed out of the country where she has spent all her adult life. The cynicism and brutality of all this is emphasized by the fact that she is a very sick woman, now in Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York, with a serious heart ailment.

In its eagerness to deport Miss Jones, the Department of Justice had cooked up a plot to seize her on Oct. 23, the day of her release from the Federal Women's Reformatory in Alderson, W. Va., at the prison gate. They were all set to spirit her to New York, and there to put her on a plane bound to Trinidad, British West Indies, her birthplace. She was not to be given an opportunity even to see her physician, her lawyer, her

family, and friends.

— Fortunately, however, this plan, learned of by accident, was forestalled by a temporary injunction in the U.S. District Court in Washington, which granted Miss Jones a few days time for medical treatment.

Her lawyers filed a petition in the U.S. District Court on Nov. 7, challenging the constitutionality of the deportation provisions of the Walter-McCarran Act and asking for a stay. This petition will be argued today (Thursday) and should the decision of the Judge be unfavorable, Miss Jones could be deported immediately, which is what the Department of Justice is planning to do. The D. of J. would undoubtedly try to seize her at once, even at the hospital, where she is now being treated for her heart trouble.

THE CRIME against civil liberties must not be allowed to happen. And it can be halted if progressives everywhere, realizing the gravity of the situation, will take prompt steps to prevent it. The most vigorous protests should be sent to Attorney General Brownell, head of the Department of Justice, a man primarily responsible for this whole shameful situation. The workers and other democratic forces can and should block this disgraceful and outrageous deportation if they will but raise their voices against it.

The people must learn to defend their fighting champions, among whom Claudia Jones is an outstanding figure.