

The Geneva Conference

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THE BIG FOUR Conference, scheduled for Geneva on July 18, is the center of unprecedented world attention. This is because the overwhelming mass of humanity, alarmed at the menacing armaments race, the recurring international diplomatic crises, and the continuing danger of a dreadful atomic world war, are looking to the conference to put an end to this nightmare situation, taking steps to end the cold war and to establish real peace in the world.



This is a realizable hope upon the part of the peace-loving masses throughout the world. Even during the most threatening crises of the past several years, the world peace forces, with the Communists in the forefront, have steadily maintained that the theory of the inevitability of a third world war, assiduously propagated by the imperialist warmongers, is a lie and a delusion. From the outset the peace forces have always worked upon the basis that the peoples had the power to end not only the current acute war crises but also the cold war. Their basic line has been one of the peaceful coexistence of all nations.

In this conclusion the peace-loving masses, all the warmongers to the contrary notwithstanding, have been historically correct. The cold war, and with it the threat of a shooting war, can be ended if the peoples will insist upon it strongly enough. This does not mean, however, that the conference could abolish completely the war danger; for as Lenin and Stalin have taught us, the danger of war will last as long as imperialism; that is, monopoly capitalism exists, the conference certainly has the potentiality, under the mass pressure of the world peace forces, of moving definitely towards doing away with the present dangerous situation in which the peoples are bled white by fabulous military expenditures, and where humanity is kept upon the brink of a catastrophic atomic world war.

The Geneva conference, which was brought about by the insistent demand of the world peace forces, represents a high point in the post-war peace struggle of the world's peoples, whose strongest champions are the USSR and People's China, for an end to the threat of war. During this hard struggle the peace forces have administered many stinging defeats to the war forces led by American imperialism. These include the breaking of the United States atombomb "monopoly" by the Soviet Union, the settling of the Korean and Indo-Chinese wars, the easing of the dangerous situation around Formosa, the prevention of the American use of the atombomb on Chinese cities, the blows against the McCarthy "War Now" crowd, the forced shelving of the incendiary Eisenhower-Dulles policies of "liberation," "instant massive retaliation," etc.

These peoples' victories have materially eased international tension and they have also inspired in the peoples the hope and determination to ameliorate, if not to end outright, the cold war in Geneva.

By the same token, if the world's peoples are looking hopefully to Geneva, the world forces of reaction and war are viewing the coming Big Four conference with alarm. This is because they realize that the very holding of the conference is an expression of the growing failure of their aggressive foreign policies, and they are mortally afraid that Geneva, by taking real steps toward peace, will greatly increase their bankruptcy. This is why the Washington reactionaries did everything to head off the conference and why they constantly seek to play down its importance and possibilities. Their dearest wish would be to see it end in a bitter stalemate. Of course, all this sabotage of peace they are carrying out under a thick blanket of peace demagoguery, in order not to be repudiated by the peoples.

THE MAIN danger at the Geneva conference will come from American imperialism. It definitely feels that its predatory interests are gravely threatened by the conference. There is the

strong possibility that at Geneva its hard-built NATO and SEATO war alliances may be undermined; that its highly profitable arms race may be checked, that its trade and cultural embargoes may be curtailed, and that its indispensable cold war may be seriously weakened.

Despite the awful threat of atomic war, there is no reason to believe that Wall Street has abandoned its program of war and world conquest. At Geneva, aggressive American imperialist policy is facing its most severe crisis.

The Geneva conference has tremendous potentialities. If it can be brought to make real progress toward peace, this will enormously strengthen the world movement for peace and it will deal a blow at the world forces of fascism and war. But if, on the other hand, Geneva should fail, if American imperialism and its allies should succeed in castrating the conference, this defeat would give the warmongers a new lease on life—to increase world tension, to stoke up the declining cold war, to increase their diplomatic thuggery, to sharpen up their arms race, and to cultivate their failing demagoguery of the inevitability of war. The success of the Geneva conference is a profound historical necessity.

THE AMERICAN peace forces, above all the Communists and other left wingers, have a grave responsibility to help make the Geneva conference produce constructive results. With a keen realization of the warlike policies of Wall Street, they need to be on guard against Washington's efforts to weaken and to scuttle the conference. Especially they should insist that the present elaborate peace talk of the Eisenhower reactionaries be translated into peace deeds at Geneva. At this time the worst and most dangerous illusion is the belief among American masses that President Eisenhower is going to Geneva as a genuine peace-maker. The reality is that Eisenhower will take constructive peace steps at Geneva only if, under the peace pressure of the vast majority of mankind, he has no other alternative.