

Why Yalta Papers Were Published By William Z. Foster

ALL OVER the world insistent voices are demanding to know just why the United States government has seen fit to publish the report on the wartime negotiations leading up to the Yalta agreement of 1945 among Great Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union. President Eisenhower has shoved the responsibility over onto the State Department, and when Secretary Dulles was asked the question about the publication by a Canadian reporter, he unceremoniously turned his back and walked away without answering.



But the answer, nevertheless, is simple enough. The whole smelly business is part of the war propaganda campaign of the American sabre-rattlers. The general aim of this maneuver is to disturb international relations still further; to make peaceful negotiations with the Soviet Union all the more difficult, if not impossible. The move also has the impossible aim of driving a wedge between the USSR and People's China.

Yalta was one of the last of the intelligent acts of cooperation among the victorious war powers, before Wall Street imperialism launched forth upon its insane post-war drive to establish its hegemony over the world. The heart of Yalta was to defeat and disarm Nazi Germany.

But this rational conference has never sat well with the wild-eyed imperialists in this country who, more and more, have developed the idea that any contact whatever with the USSR, even when that country's armies were decisive in saying the world from fascist domination, was treason to the United States. They increasingly look upon the

defeat of Hitler as a tragic mistake.

The publication of the Yalta papers, carried out in this spirit, is calculated to sustain their lying legend that Yalta was a big giveaway session by Roosevelt to the Russians. The aim now is to develop movements to demand the repeal of all the legitimate territorial provisions established by that historic conference. It is a deliberate attempt to inflame imperialist passions in this country and elsewhere in the capitalist world.

HOW MUCH the documents in question have been doctored to suit these war purposes remains to be fully determined. But on the face of them they are unofficial, lacking in authentication, and grossly incomplete. Frequently, for example, the reporter had to leave the conference hall "to get President Roosevelt a glass of water," or presumably, to visit the gents' room, and therefore he missed whole slabs of the proceedings, which remained unreported.

Even Winston Churchill has had to protest vigorously against gross errors in the documents. One can easily guess how badly Stalin and other Soviet delegates must have been misquoted and misrepresented, both by admission and distortion.

While the main purpose of the publication of the Yalta records, with their preceding and present misinterpretation, is to further inflame and worsen the international situation, the move also handily serves domestic purposes for the aggressive militarists.

Thus, in the furor created by this seven-day wonder, President Eisenhower, almost unnoticed, has been able to get away with his terrible statement that in the case of a war in Asia the United States will use atomic weapons. That he says that these will be "only tactical weapons" will deceive nobody but political fools. The substance of this announcement is that, henceforth, the

United States in war intends to use the A- and H-bombs whenever, and wherever it sees fit to do so.

President Eisenhower's reactionary statement and the publication of the Yalta papers are cut from the same cloth.

BESIDES serving to worsen international relations and to cover up new A-bomb policies, the publication of the Yalta documents also acts as a means to throw discredit upon President Roosevelt and the whole progressive co-existence policy with which he was associated. Although he is 10 years dead, Roosevelt remains a living target for the reactionaries, who want to destroy even the memory of his work.

We may be sure that the Yalta documents, with the usual red-baiting and hysterical distortions, will be a major Republican weapon in the 1956 national elections. And one needs but little imagination also to figure out just how feeble—unless the peace forces of labor and the people speak up—the defense of Roosevelt and his co-existence-with-Russia policies on the part of most Democratic Party (including labor) leaders, who are themselves saturated with imperialist anti-Soviet poison.

The publication of the Yalta documents is fundamentally an attack upon the policy of developing a peaceful relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union. It is to further the ghoulish ambitions of those who are cunningly and ceaselessly planning for a third atomic, world war. Upon this basis the whole militaristic maneuver must be fought.

President Eisenhower has announced that if war breaks out in Asia, Washington would not hesitate to be the first to use atomic weapons.

The American people must not allow themselves to be tricked or pushed into the fatal adventure of atomic war.