

AMERICAN IMPERIALISM SHALL NOT THROTTLE THE CHINESE REVOLUTION

THE desertion of the national Chinese revolutionary movement by Chiang Kai Shek created high hopes in the hearts of the imperialist powers of the world. The capitalist press was openly jubilant and the scribes confidently predicted that the revolution in China was virtually at an end and that one might soon expect the fall of the rebel center, Hankow.

To the chagrin of all the interventionist forces, nothing of the kind happened. Not only did it quickly transpire that Chiang Kai Shek did not represent the national revolutionary movement, and had not been able to deal it a death blow, but also that the really revolutionary forces in China were being greatly strengthened. With a surprising virility, the Hankow forces overcame the treachery of Chiang, and mobilizing a powerful and determined army of workers and peasants proceeded to march on Peking, the heart of the Chinese counter-revolution.

With the army marching northward to Peking against Chang Tso-Lin from Hankow, and the western army heading in the same direction under the leadership of the Kuo Min Tang general, Feng Yu-Hsiang, it became constantly clearer that the Chinese people still support in even greater numbers the revolutionary nationalists. Just as during the successful and sensational northward march from Canton to Hankow, the Chinese people in the cities and villages occupied by the victorious nationalists come out to greet them with joy and the realization of liberation. The revolution marches forward victoriously over the bodies of its betrayers and enemies.

But as the revolutionary forces advance from one victory to another, the imperialist powers become more determined to the young and vigorous movement. Everyone whose eyes are open knows that intervention against the Chinese revolution is not only openly contemplated and planned, *but that it has already begun!* Literally thousands of foreign troops are today on Chinese soil, despite the vigorous protests of the Chinese. Chinese waters are filled with war ships of foreign powers, directed by arrogant and provocative martinet.

Among these imperialist powers, the United States is found well represented. Between six and seven thousand American troops are already stationed in China. Dozens of cruisers and other battleships of this country steam up and down Chinese waterways. Everything is being done to find the slightest excuse to intervene en masse, by sending thousands of additional troops, and a whole fleet, massing all the powerful, modern American war machine against the Chinese revolution.

We know that when the imperialists seek excuses for wars of rapine and plunder, they can easily manufacture them. They will find it even more than ordinarily easy to create them in the present complicated situation in China. The workers of the United States, who have nothing to gain in a war against the Chinese people, and whose sympathies are with

them in their struggle for liberation from the decades-long yoke of imperialist oppression, must not allow themselves to be dragged into the imperialist shambles for the greater glory and profit of Wall Street and its friends. Our interests lie rather in the support of the Chinese revolutionary movement, for it is fighting for a cause which is our own, the cause of victory of the people against the imperialist master class.

The Chinese people need the aid of the workers of the world, and especially of the American workers, who, by the very reason that they are less organized than the workers of other countries, can be more easily mobilized for imperialism and confused and befuddled by the hypocritical appeals of the American financiers and business men. The Chinese workers and peasants have suffered greatly at the hands of the foreign exploiters and their instruments. And now that they are on the road to victory over the degradation and oppression that has been their lot for years, the imperialists are intensifying their attacks upon them.

The campaign of hysterical whipping up of sentiment, the lies of the capitalist press about the "terrible deeds of the Chinese" cannot hide the horrors of imperialism intervention. The same pious bandit powers, who are smugly horrified by the executions of some monarchist bombers and spies in the Soviet Union, close their eyes conveniently to the nightmare of terrors that the Chinese are suffering now at the hands of the counter-revolutionaries who are aided and abetted by the imperialists. We know that not a single word was said by the imperialist powers in protest against the sickening cruelties of the forces of Sun Chuan Fang before they were forced to evacuate Shanghai in the face of the militant uprisings of the Shanghai workers who virtually took over the city for the revolutionary forces. We have received photographs of incidents in Shanghai, taken just before the evacuation, which shows scenes of such revolting barbarism that one can only sneer bitterly at the protestations of honorable intentions of the imperialist interventionists. Summary executions of Kuo Min Tang agitators and trade union workers took place in almost every other street. The pavements were covered with decapitated heads and bleeding, tortured bodies.

By Max Shachtman.

From one end of the city to the other, rills of blood marked the trail of the departure of the Chinese Gallifets. In a number of places, women and young girls were nailed to posts, their breasts cut off by the executioner's sword, the bodies mutilated in the most frightful manner. The savagery of the retreating reactionaries is simply indescribable. Suffice it to say that some of the best blood of the young Chinese working class movement was violently shed.

But not one word of protest from the imperialist powers. Not a single insulting note, such as is sent regularly to Hankow. Not a single move to threaten the counter-revolutionaries with armed intervention to prevent the horrors of the white terror. No enraged editorials in the capitalist press.

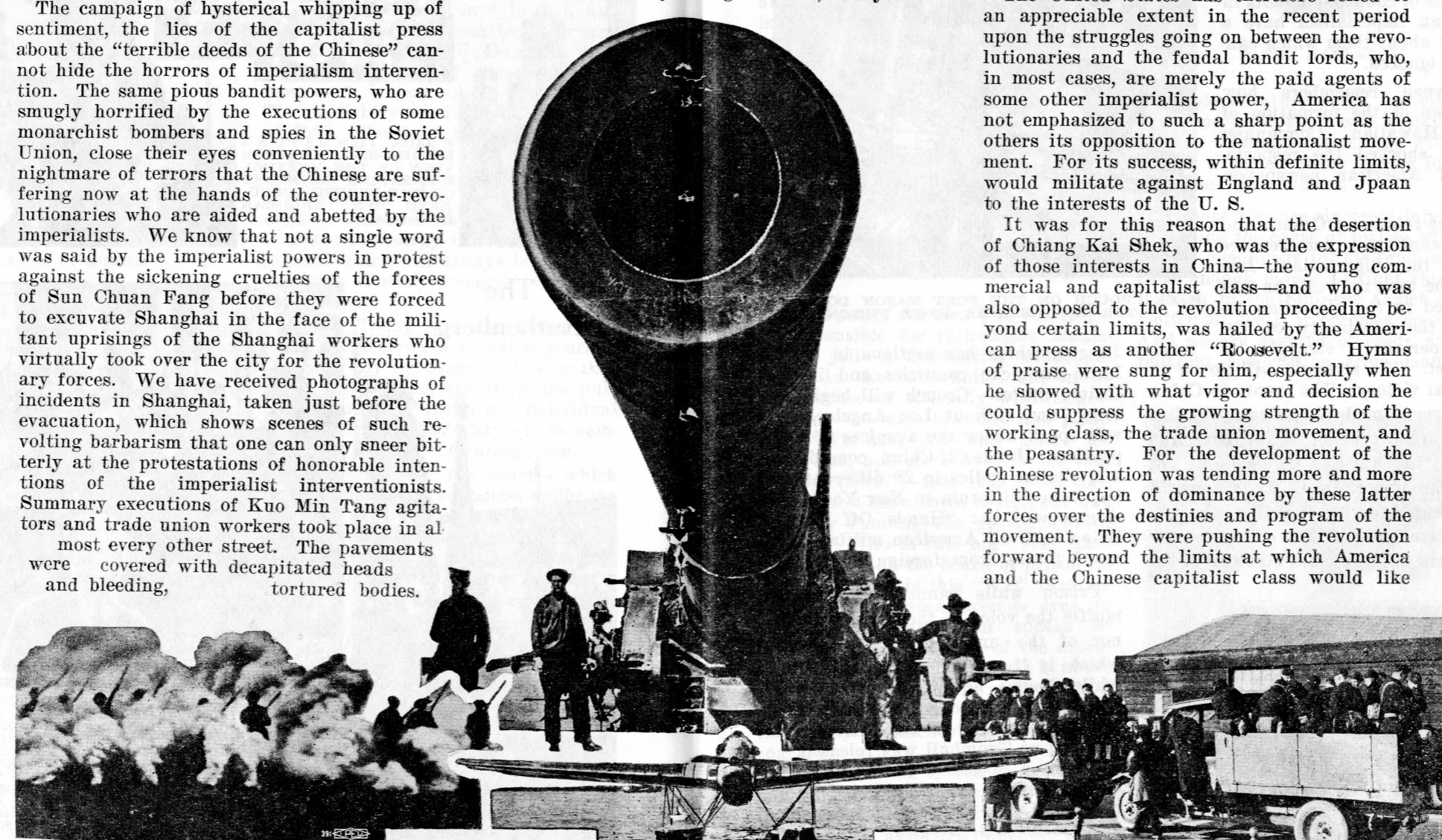
Nor did anything of the kind result from the continuation of these horrors in other parts of China under the control of the reactionary forces. Not a word about the persecutions and executions by Chang Tso Lin, or by the

renegade Chiang Kai Shek. There is no action against them because these are the instruments of the imperialists, because they carry on no real people's struggle to rid the land of its oppressors.

The offensive against the Chinese people has already been begun by the United States. In a veiled and cleverly hypocritical form it has been going on for a long time. The United States, having developed its imperialist appetite at a much later period than its older prototypes, was obliged to carry on its aggressions in China under the guise of an apparently innocent program, with its policy of the "open door" which is in such sharp contrast to its policies in Latin-America, it has hoped to gain a strong foothold in China, side by side with its predecessors, and then, by its superior economic and financial power, to oust the others or else put them in such a position in China that the United States would be the dominant and decisive exploiter of the masses in China and their natural resources.

The United States has therefore relied to an appreciable extent in the recent period upon the struggles going on between the revolutionaries and the feudal bandit lords, who, in most cases, are merely the paid agents of some other imperialist power, America has not emphasized to such a sharp point as the others its opposition to the nationalist movement. For its success, within definite limits, would militate against England and Japan to the interests of the U. S.

It was for this reason that the desertion of Chiang Kai Shek, who was the expression of those interests in China—the young commercial and capitalist class—and who was also opposed to the revolution proceeding beyond certain limits, was hailed by the American press as another "Roosevelt." Hymns of praise were sung for him, especially when he showed with what vigor and decision he could suppress the growing strength of the working class, the trade union movement, and the peasantry. For the development of the Chinese revolution was tending more and more in the direction of dominance by these latter forces over the destinies and program of the movement. They were pushing the revolution forward beyond the limits at which America and the Chinese capitalist class would like



THE IMPERIALISTS ARE READY TO DROWN THE CHINESE REVOLUTION IN ITS OWN BLOOD. LEFT: A POISON GAS ATTACK. CENTER ABOVE: BIG AMERICAN GUN—ALWAYS READY TO ATTACK. CENTER BELOW: SEAPLANE THAT CAN DROP BOMBS ON DEFENSELESS CHINESE CITIES. RIGHT: AMERICAN MARINES ENTERING SHANGHAI TO DEFEND THE FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL INTERESTS OF THE U. S.

to see it stop. They were advancing more prominently the demands of the working class and the peasants.

In the elements represented by Chiang, the United States seeks a base of operations against the other imperialist powers, as well as against the Chinese people. Already the United States has advanced to the foreground in the bombing of Nanking, where defenceless men, women and children were fired at from American and British war ships. The United States was a signatory to the five-power note. The United States continues to ship more marines to China every day, accompanied with tanks, airplanes, cannon, and the rest of the equipment which makes up a modern war.

The danger of war is imminent. One need not be an alarmist to say this. The last war is still too fresh in everyone's memory to forget that when the world was on the eve of it, it was almost everywhere declared that such a situation was unthinkable and impossible. All signs point to a large, concerted attack against China, and the probable consequences of this for the entire world may change our entire epoch and the face of the world.

The United States' imperialist policy is not pacifist. Under one guise or another it is sharply aggressive. This will be more clearly demonstrated in China as the situation develops.

The American workers must prevent intervention by the United States in China. The American workers, who have a common cause with the courageous Chinese people, must end the support of the American imperialists to the butchers of the Chinese trade union movement and the peasants' movement. The war which is already now begun against the Chinese, the marines and ships that are already there, arrogantly parading Chinese soil and waters, must be swiftly stopped before it has gone so far that it will be far more difficult to halt.

The workers must remember that the imperialists need no official excuses for war. We recall the war which Wilson carried on by intervention against Soviet Russia, without even the consent of Congress. We know that war is now being carried on against China, without consent of the American people or of Congress. And if anyone doubts that it is war that is being carried on against the Chinese, let him imagine the landing of British troops in New York and British cruisers steaming up the Hudson River or Lake Michigan with the fake excuse of "protecting lives and property of British subjects."

Action must be taken quickly. Every worker must join in the universal demand for the withdrawal of all American forces from China. Every worker must condemn the executioners of the Chinese working class and their imperialist masters. Every worker must rally to the support of the forward marching Chinese people.

The imperialists must not be allowed to strangle the Chinese revolution!