

Toward Freedom

AS THE progressive forces of America direct their whole energies toward speedy victory in the Japanese war, they must be alert to struggle against certain aggravated forms of racism which are already beginning to emerge from this conflict. We will win the Pacific in the same way we won in Europe—through the fullest possible mobilization of all democratic Americans in a powerful coalition of national unity to strengthen the unity of the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition and to support the war measures of our government against the attacks of defeatists and pro-fascists within our country.



And the continued unity of the Negro people with all other win-the-war Americans is absolutely necessary for our nation to triumph in the military and political conflicts in which we are involved. Herein lies the danger and urgency of the peculiar ideological attacks to which we will be subjected increasingly as the Japanese war proceeds.

Racism will be used increasingly by the enemies of our country in an effort to disrupt the national unity coalition which alone can guarantee our victory. Indeed, the ideological attack has already begun, and it is advanced in two apparently opposite but actually inter-related forms.

First, the defeatist sections of the daily press are subtly (and at times crudely) playing upon the latent color-prejudices in our culture by

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interpreting the Japanese as something less than human, certainly a less "respectable" foe than the fascist beast we have just conquered in Europe. Did you ever see a Nazi pictured as a vicious grinning ape—with tail and all? Well, you've seen it with the Japanese, and you'll see much more of it as the Pacific war moves along.

LET there be no mistake: the Japanese war-lords are a vicious and dastardly enemy, just like their German counterparts at the other end of the Axis. Moreover, they have welded the Japanese into a fanatical and cruel fighting force, just like the Nazis who continue to struggle in Europe even after the unconditional surrender of their government and the disintegration of their armies. All the power of our great nation must be mobilized completely to destroy their military power, their government and all their evil works.

But it is not for this that anti-Japanese racism is being played up by the defeatist press in America. Rather, it is to heighten color prejudices, aggravate racial conflicts within our country, and thereby to weaken the democratic coalition of national unity which constitutes the greatest threat to both the Japanese and our own native fascists.

Second, the Japanese and their agents are emphasizing again the propaganda line that their mission is to protect the "darker peoples" from the oppression of "white imperialism."

Racism and The Japanese War

Just as the Nazis tried to divide the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition and the people of our own country with their "crusade against bolshevism" hoax, so our Japanese enemies are trying to alienate "darker peoples" from the United Nations coalition and to weaken the bonds which unite the Negro people in our country with other sections of the win-the-war coalition.

THE answers to both forms of racism are clear.

(1) As Congressman Adam Clayton Powell declared last week in **The People's Voice**: "Regardless of what atrocities have been committed by the Japs, none of them can measure up to the recently publicized horrors of Nazi Germany. . . . Nowhere in the annals of history . . . has there been any horror to compare with Lublin, Maidanek and Buchenwald."

(2) As all who have followed China's struggle for survival well know, the Japanese aggression, exploitation and ruthless cruelty directed against these "darker people" completely refute the propaganda by which our Pacific enemies now seek to divide their opponents.

But it is not enough for progressives to see and understand these special forms of racist propaganda which are peculiar to the Japanese war. We must conduct aggressive ideological warfare against them. We must make sure that the masses of people understand. For the common goal of both forms of racism is to weaken the military and political forces of progress in America.