

Gates At Five-Speaker Forum Exchanges Views on World Peace

By ROOSEVELT WARD, Jr.

A final and decisive resolution of the crises in Hungary and the Middle East could be achieved at a new summit conference, John Gates, editor of the Daily Worker told more than 800 people attending a panel discussion last Monday.

The forum was held at the Community Church.

Gates appeared on the panel discussion on Hungary and the Middle East, sponsored by Liberation, independent pacifist and socialist-oriented monthly, along with Paul Sweezy of the Monthly Review; John Swomley, of the Fellowship of Reconciliation; David Dellinger, of Liberation, and Max Schachtman of the Independent Socialist League.

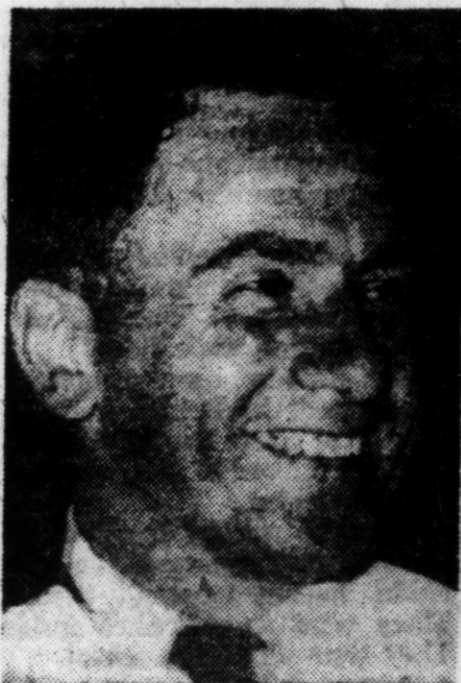
A. J. Muste, editorial board member of Liberation, was moderator.

Gates cited his opposition to Soviet intervention in Hungary and said that while there was disagreement among Communists as to whether the second intervention of Soviet troops was justified, they were fundamentally agreed that the clash was a result primarily of serious mistakes committed by the Soviet Union and the former Hungarian Communist leaders, and that powerful reactionary forces, here and within Hungary, sought to utilize the tragic situation. They also agreed, he said, on a program for a way out of the present crisis.

PROGRAM

The program outlined by Gates called for convening the Summit conference of five major powers, including India and the USSR. It proposed:

- Immediate dissolution of military blocs like NATO and the Warsaw pact.
- Withdrawal of all troops from



GATES



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foreign soil and the closing of military bases.

- A unified, neutral, democratic and demilitarized Germany.
 - Cessation of H-bomb tests as the first step toward world disarmament.
 - Support UN relief to Hungary and economic aid by Congress to Hungary without strings.
- Such a program would relax and facilitate democratization of the socialist countries, an irreversible process now under way, Gates stated, adding:

"It is the only road forward for Hungarian socialism, freedom and independence, it is a program hindered primarily by our own government, for the Soviet Union has on many occasions expressed willingness and readiness to agree to it."

Gates said his opposition to Soviet intervention in Hungary had "nothing in common" with reactionaries, at home and abroad, who continued to call for bloodshed in

Hungary and incite pro-war hysteria.

"To me," Gates declared, "the tears are being shed over Hungary by those who applauded our intervention in Guatemala to overthrow a legally elected democratic government are crocodile tears. I do not believe that those who fail to fight vigorously for Negro rights at home are true friends of Hungary. I cannot agree that the opponents of democracy, labor and peace here in our country are for the Hungarian people."

Gates assailed British and French aggression, aided by Israel, against Egypt, and stressed that world opinion isolated the imperialist aggressors while UN action, "in which the U.S. and the Soviet Union found themselves on the same side, brought the dangerous war to a quick end."

"We cannot be satisfied with a temporary truce," Gates declared, stating that "we need negotiations between the Israeli and Arab gov-

ernments which will recognize the legitimate aspirations of each, will recognize Israel as a state, allow free passage through the Suez Canal and settle the Arab refugee problem."

He urged a summit meeting of the Big 5, including the Soviet Union and India, on the Middle East question.

OTHER SPEAKERS

Swomley, criticizing both the Soviet action in Hungary and British and French aggression in the Middle East, urged a program of non-violence in internal and foreign affairs of nations as the answer to oppression.

Sweezy said he was certain that the direction of the rebellion in Hungary was leading to an "extremely reactionary government" but "after 10 years under socialism" the Hungarian people had a right to decide whatever government it chose.

He agreed with Gates that the process of democratization in the Soviet Union and the Eastern democracies was an irreversible process, painful and erratic but nevertheless forward moving.

Shachtman, assailed British and French imperialism, but railed violently against the Soviets in the main.

The aggression against Egypt helped promote the cause of socialism because it discredited capitalism, Shachtman said. He added that the "Soviet massacre" in Hungary discredited socialism.

Dellinger, a pacifist, said the uprising in Hungary proved that man will not accept anything short of full freedom. He said the revolution in Russia had come to a "dead end" and in America had come to a "dead beginning." Unless man renounces violence and begins to live like a socialist in his daily life there will be no advances, he held.