

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Peaceful Transition In Eastern Europe

BOSTON

Editor, Daily Worker:

We want to give the widest circulation, I should judge, to the idea of a constitutional or peaceful transition to Socialism in the U. S.

William Foster constantly refers to the Eastern Europe Peoples Democracies as examples of peaceful transition (his article in the current Political Affairs, for example). I wonder if this helps make our meaning clear to the largest number of people?

It is true there was relatively peaceful transition to socialism in these countries, but this came as the result of the bloodiest of world wars which liberated these peoples from Nazi and Quisling rule.

As I understand it, a peaceful transition to socialism in this country will be most likely to occur if the American people join efforts with other peoples and actually prevent and rule out another world war.

Secondly there is no doubt in my mind that a peaceful transition to socialism in these countries was made possible by the presence of Soviet armed forces (and a very fortunate thing for these peoples, whatever problems it created).

For example, Italy was also liberated from fascism by the

military outcome of World War II, and there was a powerful partisan movement in Italy, as in many of the Eastern European countries, and unquestionably after the war the majority of the Italian people would have supported far-reaching social changes as did the peoples of Central Europe. But the last did not take place in Italy, contrary to what happened in Eastern Europe, and there was one good and sufficient reason for this: the presence of British and American troops.

In other words, the destiny of the smaller countries of Europe after the war was determined to a large degree by the military-political relationships of the great powers that were victorious, and not by themselves alone.

On the other hand a successful struggle for peace by the American people will strengthen their hand in the affairs of their government and lessen the influence of monopoly and reaction. It will enable the American people to decide for socialism on the best possible terms, avoiding the national catastrophe and dislocation that World War II entailed for the peoples of Europe.

So again it seems to me that matters are quite different.

Of course it may be said that technically and scientifically Foster is correct.

But political science should enlighten the people and win them to progressive ideas. I doubt that the American people will be won to the idea of peaceful transition if Eastern Europe is continually held up as a model, without pointing out the different and more favorable possibilities open to us.

Science should serve the people, not a sect.

CODFISH

Hallinan and Farrell Dobbs

Editor, Daily Worker:

I have read Alan Max' Thoughts of a Former PP Voter (Daily Worker Sept. 21) apropos an article by Vincent Hallinan, presidential candidate of the Progressive Party in 1952. His running mate was Mrs. Charlotte Bass, a Negro woman leader of wide experience and knowledge of political life in America. In his article, (People's World and reprinted in the National Guardian, Sept. 24) Hallinan gives his views on the 1956 elections, analyzing the GOP and the Democratic Party and their candidates on foreign policy in particular.

Alan Max writes: "If the situation between the two parties on foreign policy were really as Hallinan describes it, I would have expected him to announce . . . that he planned to vote for

Eisenhower. But this was not the case. He announced that he intends voting for Farrell Dobbs, the candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, a Trotskyite organization."

While expressing "a feeling of admiration for the gallant way in which Hallinan and his running mate, Mrs. Charlotte Bass, campaigned against great odds, and for the way they hit the issues squarely, Max just could not see how Hallinan could do that.

As I see it, it is quite simple. Hallinan is doing what Max has been saying all along: unity of socialist groupings. Perhaps Max' logic permits the fallacy: "It should not always follow." But recently a symposium was held in Brooklyn on the elections. The participants were A. J. Muste, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, Farrell Dobbs and a speaker of the Communist Party.

Actually what we have here on the part of Alan Max, in my opinion, is a sort of doctrinaire infallibility towards Vincent Hallinan. I thought we were getting away from this sort of thing, a sort of ex-communication. In this connection, I have my doubts about the following statements of Max. He writes that "the PP was an ineffective way of trying to influence the labor movement toward independent political action."

This is simply in disregard of traditional movements for independent political action in the U.S.A. and their influence—the Populist, various farmer-labor movements (Minn., Wash., etc.), Socialist, PP, ALP, Communist, etc. There is, of course, the undoubted influence of the Communist Party in helping labor and the Negro people toward independent labor-Negro people political alliance.

Such movements of independent and political action have at least supplied the propaganda for making labor and progressive people aware of their political power vis-a-vis the power of the capitalist class and the deceptions of its political parties. Obviously progressives should find the most effective way of influencing the 1956 elections. But I don't think Max's method here is the most suitable.

JAMES FORD

Hopeful Elements In Pittsburgh Case

Editor, Daily Worker:

I welcome Bill Albertson's and Irv Weissman's call for more struggle for victory in Smith Act cases that appeared in the "Daily" of Friday, Oct. 5. But I wish to emphasize why I look for a reversal of the five-year sentences against Benjamin Careathers and James Dolsen. And why I am hopeful of victory for Steve Nelson, Albertson and Weissman.

The Government's confession that its star witness—Joseph Mazzei—is a habitual liar is unprecedented. I have investigated many political frame-ups as a labor reporter. And I don't remember a single case where the prosecutors were compelled to repudiate their star witnesses in a statement to the Supreme Court. The Mooney-Billings case does not furnish a parallel. For only the witnesses did the confessing in the San Francisco frame-up. Here the prosecutors confess.

The Government confesses that the "only" testimony against Careathers and Dolsen comes from an habitual liar—its star witness, Mazzei. And this testimony, it admits, is uncorroborated. True, the Government asserts that it still believes Mazzei's trial testimony. But this face-saving declaration is destroyed by the other admissions.

Incidentally Mazzei's picture appeared at the top of the front page of Pittsburgh's only morning newspaper—The Post Gazette with the caption: "Government Repudiates Him." And this repudiated stoolie is described in the accompanying story as the Government's "star witness."

I am hopeful of a reversal of the sentences of all five Pittsburgh defendants, for Mazzei's testimony damaged all five. I can't forget that the Supreme Court rejected the "tainted" testimony against the Communist Party in the McCarran Act case. And the Pittsburgh Smith Act case is terribly tainted by professional liars and by psychotics. Matt Cvetic, another star witness, has been in and out of psychiatric wards at least three times since he testified against Nelson, Careathers, Dolsen, Albertson and Weissman. He is a "chronic alcoholic" and a victim of obsessions, the doctors find. He has been a sick man for years. Other witnesses have also been exposed.

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn used to predict that a break in the Smith Act witchhunt was coming. It began when Simon W. Gerson and Isadore Begun were acquitted in Foley Square. The break widened when five of the 11 Cleveland defendants were acquitted. There have been other acquittals too. The McCarthyite clouds are waning.

But continued struggle is needed to ensure victory. And I second Albertson's and Weissman's appeal for funds for the Self Defense Committee at P. O. Box 134, Madison Square Station, New York 10, N. Y.

—ART SHIELDS

New Sources Of Strength

Editor, Daily Worker:

That capitalism can never answer all the human needs of such people, and the very vigor and power of the socialist answers, is best proved by the fact that despite overwhelmingly adverse periods in our history (such as the now dying McCarthyite era) there have been new infusions of vigorous life and blood into the socialist movement with unflinching recurrence throughout the history.

Just as true is the fact that despite the steadily successful struggle of socialist-minded people to improve conditions of all the people under capitalism, capitalism fails, with inevitable recurrence, to meet even the minimum needs of the people. And we know that with each recurrent failure, the people will rise to greater and greater heights of understanding and demand for the socialist answers.—S. G.

Filipinos Say U.S. Stalls on Bases Issues

MANILA, Oct. 8.—Filipino sources said today the U. S. was "stalling" on the resumption of the military base talks with the Philippines until after the U. S. Presidential election.

The talks were recessed Sept. 24 to give U. S. chief negotiator Karl R. Bendtsen a chance to consult Washington on disputed issues, particularly the Philippine demand for jurisdiction over criminal offenses committed in U. S. base areas in the Philippines.

At that time Bendtsen said he would return to Manila in time for the talks to be resumed Oct. 10.

'Imperialism Doomed', Sukarno Tells Cheering Crowd in Peking

PEKING.—Indonesian President Sukarno declared that "colonialism and imperialism are doomed. No one can save them. This is decided by history." He made that statement last Thursday to a cheering crowd of over 30,000 Peking citizens at the stadium here.

He said Egypt's victory over Suez was a victory also for all Asian people and for all the people throughout the world against colonialism.

As President Sukarno mounted the main stand in the company of Vice-Chairman Chu Teh, Premier Chou En-lai and Mayor Peng Chen, the stadium resounded to cheers and a 500-man military band struck up a march.

School girls in bright dresses presented flowers to Sukarno and the other high-ranking Indonesian officials in his company.

Cheering greeted his remark that New China would have the recognition of all countries in the world, though there were still some at present reluctant to face the fact that the Chinese People's Republic had the support of the 600 million Chinese people. He said he regarded this as an objective development which "could be resisted by no one."

President Sukarno added that the people of Indonesia and China had an ideal in common, to fight for independence and build up a new world. It was this ideal that "makes it possible for us to be friends," he said.

This friendship between the two peoples, forged on the basis of common struggle, "is solid and will become even stronger in the future through our common struggles," Sukarno stated. A great round of applause and shouts of "Long live President Sukarno," "Long live Chairman Mao Tse-tung," "Long live peace," went up from the crowd as these words were translated into Chinese and the Chinese and Indonesians on the main stand were seen shaking hands.

Both the Indonesian and Chinese people had not yet completed their struggle, Sukarno went on. "You are struggling over Taiwan and we are struggling over West Irian until its return to the Republic of Indonesia," he said.

"Let us carry on our struggle with full confidence. We are not



President Sukarno of Indonesia

isolated. The will of the 1,600-million people of Asia and Africa who were against imperialism and colonialism was voiced at Bandung. The progressive people throughout the world are on our side. Our goal, our ideal will certainly be realized.

"The victory of the Chinese people is the victory of the Indonesian people and the victory of the Indonesian people is the victory of the Chinese people. Our victory is also that of the people of the whole of Asia and of the world peoples' struggle against colonialism."

In a friendly aside, Sukarno said, "According to protocol I come as President of the Republic of Indonesia, but please call me Bung Karno, and take me as your friend." Premier Chou En-lai shouted

over the microphone "Bung Karno" and the crowd took up the cry.

Sukarno told his audience that the warm welcome he had received in China since his arrival had made him feel very much at home. The respect shown to him was respect for the Indonesian people, for their ideal of independence and building a new world which they had in common with the Chinese people.

"I will convey this respect to the Indonesian people," he added.

At the President's request, when he finished his speech, the whole audience rose and joined him in five cheers for "Merdeka." The people surged forward from all directions as he descended from the main stand and mixed with the crowd.

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