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CORRESPONDENCE

Central Bureau: Berlin SW 48, Friedrichstrasse 225, III. — Postal address Franz Dahlem, Berlin SW 48, Friedrichstrasse 225, III
for Inprekorr. — Telegraphic address: Inprekorr.

Do you sincerely wish to help the United Front against the danger of war, against the strangling of Soviet Russia and Germany and against advancing Fascism?

To the International Socialist Congress at Hamburg

**NOOYER WAR
COLLECTION**

The representatives of the 2nd. International and of the Vienna Working Union have assembled in Hamburg to combine into one united organization.

That is their affair and we do not address ourselves to them for the purpose of expressing our opinion upon the historical importance of this fusion. We approach the representatives of the parties assembled in Hamburg, to put to them the question whether they are willing, in common with the Communist International, the Red International of Labor Unions, and the millions of revolutionary workers, to organize the struggle against the dangers which threaten us today.

There is no need for us to point out that war is threatening; the question of the danger of war and of the struggle against it is on the agenda of the Hamburg conference.

There is no need to call attention to the danger which threatens from the side of the growing counter-revolution; the struggle against this danger too is on the agenda of the congress.

What we want to point out is, that these dangers do not threaten us in the more or less distant future, but that they may lead to bloody events even tomorrow.

The English note to Germany shows, that the Entente has formed a consolidated front against the German people. The German bourgeoisie (which organized the resistance in the Ruhr in order to obtain for itself a favorable share in the Franco-German Coal and Iron Syndicaté—the German bourgeoisie which was convinced that the differences within the camp of the Allies would enable them to avoid payment of the tribute to the Entente) this bourgeoisie, in view of the solidarity of the Allies is ready to surrender. It will capitulate in order to transfer all the burdens which the Allies will lay upon it on to the broad masses of the workers, who already live under worse conditions than the working class of any other industrial country. The capitulation of the German bourgeoisie not only threatens the German working class with a still, lower standard of existence. The German workers will be reduced to the role of strike-breakers,—to the position of under-cutters of the international proletariat. The bare existence of the German workers is being made impossible.

German capital is mobilizing bands of the proletarianized and enraged petty bourgeois class. It is trying to divert their rage over the approaching capitulation to the working class; it seeks to persuade the masses of the petty bourgeoisie that unless home affairs are put in order it will be impossible to fight against the enemy without. The proletariat will be charged with being the disturber of Order who must be called to account. Germany is on the brink of civil-war—the attack of the counter-revolution (of the Fascisti) against the working class.

The note of Lord Curzon to the Soviet Government proves that the English government desires a breach with Soviet Russia. If it were not so it would not address the government of a great people in a manner which, as the "Daily Herald" aptly said, calls to mind the Austrian note to Servia which led to war in 1914. The Soviet government, in order to preserve peace has set aside all question of political prestige. It has not only complied with the immediate and pressing demands of the British government, but it has declared itself ready to settle all difference through an Anglo-Russian conference.

The conservative British government however, refuses to negotiate with the first proletarian government on the footing of equality of rights. Lord Curzon has granted an extension of the period of the ultimatum, but the ultimatum remains. Lord Curzon is waiting for the moment when parliament having risen he will have a free hand to bring about a breach. Such a breach will mean nothing less than a fresh intervention against Soviet Russia.

If anyone doubts this, their doubts will be dispelled by the Italian document, which the "Manchester Guardian" published on the 18th of this month. This lights up the situation in a most vivid manner. The telegrams which the representative of the Italian government, Amadori, sent from Moscow to Mussolini in the middle of April state: that for some time conversations had been taking place between the British and Italian governments over the joint recall of their representatives from Russia and over the commencement of a blockade. The telegrams prove that the British government calculates, that the damage done by the blockade, to the slowly improving economic situation in Russia, will compel the Soviet Government once again to have recourse to the defensive means of the Terror and to break through the blockade by means of an attack on the border states. Thereupon a fresh intervention would begin under the pretext of defending civilization against Soviet Russia. Lord Curzon and the British Foreign Office consciously deceive the English proletariat and English public opinion when, through the mouth of their parliamentary representative Ronald McNeill they assert that the breaking off of the trade relations does not mean war, because England did not enter into war with Venezuela when she broke off relations with that state. Soviet Russia is not Venezuela; Soviet Russia is a state with 150 million inhabitants, with which one must either be at peace or at war, but which cannot be ignored. Soviet Russia is only divided from British territory by a narrow frontier, and this rouses the hatred of British imperialism. The adventurers of world counter-revolution will therefore see to it that a guerilla war on the frontiers of Russia begins which will lead to a new war.

The murder of the ambassador of the Soviet Republic in Lausanne, the murder of our comrade Vorovsky, is the result of the unchaining of these reactionary forces through the instigation of British imperialism. This was only possible because Britain, (the strongest capitalist power in Europe) had declared Soviet Russia to be outlawed. New interventions against Russia mean however, in view of the existing and every-day-intensifying world political differences, a new world war.

The Russian trade union delegation at the Hague conference gave its warning before the acceptance of the general resolution, behind which there was no will to definite action. They pointed out the dangers of the approaching Ruhr occupation, they called attention to the struggle preparing in the near East. They proposed to call the proletariat to at least a one day's general demonstration strike, which would show to the bourgeoisie that the proletariat is not prepared to allow itself to be driven into a new war.

This proposal was flatly rejected. The advance into the Ruhr district followed. For months the hordes of imperialism have ravaged in the heart of Germany. The situation in the near East grows more intense, and after British imperialism had been on the verge of war with Turkey, it now threatens Soviet Russia with war.

Participants in the congress of the 2nd International!

We do not wish to disturb old sores. But we must remind you that it was solely due to the abdication of the 2nd International in July 1914, that the world war was possible which cost ten million human lives—that thanks to this abdication the working class today is divided and delivered up to capitalism.

We ask you: Will you once again be guilty of inactivity in the face of this new danger of war? Will you bear the responsibility for a new war of the Entente against Soviet Russia? against that same Russia of whom the Amsterdam Trade Union International in its appeal in the year 1921, said, that its defeat would mean the defeat of the working class of Europe? Will you look idly on while the German proletariat, bound hand and foot, is delivered over to the most ruthless exploitation by Entente and German capital?

Hamburg, 19th. May 1923.

The Committee of Action against War Danger and Fascism.

These questions demand more than an answer in mere words, in resolutions—these are of little value. The only answer which has any value is an answer in terms of deeds. We propose to you that at the beginning of your conference you call the proletariat

to a one day's demonstration strike.

We appeal to the British Labour Party at once to arrange powerful demonstrations against the breaking off of relations with Soviet Russia. The English working class form the great majority of the population; if they do not wish it, then no British Junker and no British militarist will venture to proclaim war on the Russian Workers' and Peasant's state.

We appeal to the French, Belgium, and Italian Social Democracy to demonstrate, together with the English Working Class, against the strangling of the German people,—for the immediate withdrawal of the occupation troops from the Ruhr district and the Rhineland.

We appeal to the congress of the 2nd International, immediately to appoint representatives to negotiate with the representatives of the Committee of Action elected at Frankfurt, a struggle against War and Fascism.

We offer to fight, *in the proletarian United Front*, shoulder to shoulder with the workers standing behind you,

against the new danger of war;

against the strangling of the German proletariat;

against the domination of the bloody monster of Fascism.

Behind us there stand millions of revolutionary workers, who in this fight for the bare existence of the proletariat will set aside everything that could render common action impossible, and who will do everything to make sure that the international proletariat, in view of the threatening dangers, will march forward with closed ranks like one man.

It is for you to decide whether the proletariat, still bleeding from the wounds of the last war, is to be subjected to the attacks of imperialism to the rage of counter-revolution; or whether the united proletariat repels the enemy and assembles its forces for its final annihilation.