

# Acute Danger of Armed Attack on the Soviet Union

By I. AMTER.

**T**HE danger of an armed attack on the Soviet Union grows more acute day by day. That the naval "reduction" conference has the main aim of mobilizing all imperialist and reactionary forces against the Soviet Union daily becomes clearer.

The instigation of the attack on the Soviet government in China, by the American imperialist government through Chang Kai-shek; the interference of Mr. Stimson with what he called a "peaceful" settlement between Mukden and the Soviet government; the postponement of the conference between the representatives of the Soviet Union and the Mukden agents from January 25 to February 25, all at the behest of the U. S. imperialist government, were the beginning of a series of events pointing clearly to intervention.

## The Bosses' Front.

The breaking off of relations between the Mexican and the Soviet government, the Mexican fascist president, Rubio, acting as a willing tool of Wall Street; the threatened breaking of relations by the British government, the provocation against the Soviet government by the French imperialists, in ascribing the disappearance of the white guard general Koutepoff to plots of the Soviet embassy and the subsequent demand for the severance of relations between the French imperialists and the Soviet government—all occurring within a short period indicate the sharp trend of events.

The attack on the Soviet embassy in Munich, Germany, the bitter attacks carried on by the Berlin social democratic "Vorwärts" with the open aid of full assistance to the imperialist government, show the trend in Germany as far as the fascists and social-fascist social democrats are concerned.

Then came the encyclical of the pope against "religious persecutions" in the Soviet Union. Prior to that the American Zionists, led by Rabbi Wise, protested against the "indignities" placed upon the Jews in the Soviet Union, by the workers demolishing the synagogues and building up workers' clubs in their place. Then the declarations of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York, followed by the snivelling statement of Bishop Manning of New York.

The aim of these religious pronouncements is to arouse religious hatred against the Soviet Union, because the Communist Party and the Young Communist League of the Soviet Union, and the Atheist League, are carrying on a struggle against the medieval belief in religion and the church. This campaign of education and propaganda is proceeding with all energy and with splendid effect, with the result that the workers and peasants themselves decide to drive out the priests and convert the churches into clubs.

Contrary to the lying propaganda about persecution of the priests and all believers, now being carried on in every imperialist country, including the United States, Metropolitan Sergius, chief patriarch of the Russian Church and member of the Synod, when asked a series of questions, gave answers in which he declares that the Soviet Union is allowing free practice of religious ceremonies within the law, and that when churches are closed it is at the will of the workers or peasants who have been parishioners of the church. Priests who have been punished have only paid a penalty for counter-revolutionary activity.

## Not an Accident.

This makes no difference to the imperialists who are doing their utmost to stir up hatred

of the Soviet Union, with a view to attacking the Soviet Union.

It is not an accident that the naval "reduction" conference is deciding to increase armament, that relations are broken off with the Soviet Union or a threat is being made in that direction by several reactionary governments, that a hue and cry over "religious persecution" is being raised throughout the reactionary world by the heads of the churches—all simultaneously.

The attacks of the Soviet Union on the kulaks, with the firm intention of uprooting this reactionary capitalist remnant of the old regime in the Soviet Union, are countered by the imperialists with attacks on the Soviet Union. The attacks on the kulaks are necessary in the industrialization and collectivization plans incorporated in the Five-Year Plan. The success of the Five-Year Plan is convincing the most backward peasants with small and medium holdings that this new mode of production—collectivization—is progressive. The driving out of the kulaks—the representatives of capitalism in the Soviet Union village—in many instances on the demand of the poor and medium peasants and often through their initiative—is coupled with the campaign of enlightenment carried on among the workers and peasants, intensifying their hatred against the kulaks, the upholders of religion and ignorance in the Soviet Union. But the world capitalists are determined to support their fellow capitalists in the Soviet Union.

Thus the attacks on the Soviet Union are not based upon an opposition of "religious persecution," on "freedom of thought" and the various other sham issues raised against the Soviet government, but entirely on the growing power of the Soviet government, of Soviet economy, of the growing misery of the workers and peasants in the imperialist countries, and the developing influence of the Communist Parties.

Alleged agents of the G.P.U. of the Soviet Union making raids in Rumania; alleged agents of the Soviet government with large quantities of forged notes, etc., in Greece, agents of the Soviet government or the Communist International in India and Indo-China—all of these are issues raised in order to justify a united attack on the Soviet Union.

The coincidence of these happenings is not accidental. The crisis in the capitalist countries, driving the imperialist powers to war for markets; the vicious offensive against the workers of all countries to reduce their conditions; the fearful unemployment amounting to at least 17,000,000 in the imperialist countries, as contrasted with the rising conditions in the Soviet Union; the growing power of the Soviet Union and the rising tide of Communism as a result of the growth of revolutionary will to struggle on the part of the workers and peasants in the imperialist and colonial countries; the "arms reduction" conference which is an arms increase conference—all emphasize the closeness of imperialist attacks on the Soviet Union.

The rising tide of fascism, the establishment and merging of fascist organizations in the United States, the unemployed demonstrations and strikes on March 6 point out lessons for the workers.

## Lessons for Workers.

1.—There is immediate need of mobilization of the workers in defense of the Soviet Union. The Soviet government is resisting all provocations of the imperialists, but everything points to armed intervention, against which

# Party to Religion

By N. LENIN.

**T**HE speech of the deputy Surkov in the Duma debate on the budget of the Synod, and the discussions in our Duma fraction over the draft of his speech, have raised an extremely important and at the present moment topical question. Interest in everything connected with religion has today undoubtedly taken hold of considerable sections of "society," and has also made its way into the ranks of the intellectuals who stand near the labor movement, and even into certain working class circles. Social democracy must definitely make clear its attitude to religion.

Social democracy builds its whole world conception on scientific Socialism—that is to say, on Marxism. The philosophic basis of Marxism is, as Marx and Engels have repeatedly pointed out, dialectical materialism, which has taken over the historical traditions of eighteenth-century French materialism and of the materialism of Feuerbach in the early nineteenth century—that is, of materialism which is absolutely atheist and definitely hostile to all religion. We recall to mind that the whole of Engels' Anti-Duhring, which was read in manuscript by Marx, accuses the materialist and atheist Duhring of the inconsistency of his materialism, because he leaves a backdoor open for religion and religious philosophy. We would further call to mind that Engels in his work on Feuerbach brings against the latter the reproach that he fought religion not in order to annihilate it, but in order to revive it, to discover a new "elevated" religion, etc. Religion is opium for the people—this Marxist fundamental principle is the pivot of the whole Marxist world conception in questions of religion. Marxism regards all present-day religions and churches, each and every religious organization without exception, as in-

struments of bourgeois reaction, which serves as a shield for the exploitation and deception of the working class.

At the same time, however, Engels repeatedly condemned the attempts of those who wished to be "more left" or "more revolutionary" than Social Democracy and to introduce into the program of the workers' party a direct confession of atheism in the sense of a declaration of war on religion. In 1874, in the discussion of the famous manifesto of the Communist refugees, the Blanquists, then living in exile in London, Engels treats their noisy declaration of war on religion as folly, and expresses the view that such a call to war is the best means to revive interest in religion anew and hinder the actual dying out of religion. Engels blames the Blanquists for their inability to see that only the class struggle of the working masses, which draws the widest numbers of the proletariat into a conscious and revolutionary political activity, that only this is able really to free the oppressed masses from the yoke of religion, while the declaration of war on religion as a political task of the working class is a piece of anarchistic phrase-making. Also in 1877, in the Anti-Duhring, in which Engels flays without mercy the slightest concessions of the philosopher Duhring to idealism and religion, none the less he condemns the would-be revolutionary idea of Duhring that religion should be forbidden in the Socialist society. Such a declaration of war on religion, he declares, is "to-out-Bismarck Bismarck," i.e., to repeat the folly of Bismarck's "Kulturkampf" against the clericals, the fight which Bismarck in the 'seventies waged against the German Catholic Party, the "Center," by means of police persecutions of Catholicism. By this fight Bismarck only strengthened the militant cler-

the Russian workers and peasants must be supported by the workers in the imperialist and colonial countries.

2.—There is immediate need of the formation of Anti-War Committees in the shops, factories and mines for defense of the Soviet Union.

3.—There is immediate need of the Communist Party and Young Communist League reaching the armed forces of the government, with Communist propaganda, so that they will refuse to shoot on our Soviet brothers.

4.—There is immediate need of the creation of Workers Defense Groups, for everything possible will be done to keep the Communists from leading the workers in demonstration. (Already it is known that the National Guard has been given notice for service on Unemployed Day!)

5.—The unemployed demonstrations and strikes on March 6 must be utilized for connecting up closely the question of the economic crisis, which has resulted in millions being without work, millions working part time, and a vicious wage slashing campaign being carried on against the employed workers—with the contemplated armed attacks on the Soviet Union. Undoubtedly the fascists of the United States will be mobilized for attacks on the Communists.

6.—The Communists must intensify their work to expose and destroy the influence of the social-fascist American Federation of Labor, socialist party and the renegade Lovestoneites and Cannonites. In this period, the imperialists utilize their most despicable and contemptible tools in the ranks of the working class to induce the workers to continue capitalist rule. Matthew Woll, vice-president of the A. F. of L. is right when he says that the struggle today is between the organization of capitalist "democracy" and the social organization of Communism.

7.—The Communists must organize the fight

against the use of injunctions, Paragraph 600 in New York, the sedition and criminal syndicalism laws, the registration and deportation of foreign-born workers, the organized employment of gangsters and the underworld in attacks on the workers.

The fight against unemployment, against the offensive of the capitalists on the conditions of the workers still employed, against imperialist war and for defense of the Soviet Union—this is one fight of the working class led by the Communist Party against the capitalist class and the capitalist government.

As this is written, Premier Tardieu declares that he will not resist the rising tide of demand for severing relations between the French imperialist and the Soviet government. A few days ago he admitted that "the question of a break with the Soviet government would have to be solved not from the French, but from the European angle."

Simple, plain language! This will not be a war of French imperialism alone against the Soviet Union, but a united force of the world imperialist powers against the Workers Fatherland!

Our answer must be: immediate energetic mobilization of the workers in the shops for defense of the Soviet Union!

Immediate organization of anti-war committees in the shops and mines for defense of the Soviet Union! Intense mobilization of the unemployed and employed workers for demonstration and strike on March 6! Immediate organization of powerful workers defense groups to protect the workers against the fascists!

Mighty demonstrations of unemployed and employed workers throughout the country with the slogans: work or unemployment insurance—defend the Soviet Union, the workers fatherland!

The time is short—the danger is great! The Communist Party and the workers must get on the job!