

THE PEOPLE'S PROGRAM OF STRUGGLE FOR THE DEFEAT OF HITLER AND HITLERISM

The following manifesto was unanimously passed by 145 delegates at the National Committee meeting of the Communist Party now meeting here. The delegates came from every state in the Union. The National Committee concluded its sessions last night.

To the American People:

The people of our country are facing a new world situation.

Hitler fascism has brazenly attacked the Soviet Union, in flagrant violation of a treaty of non-aggression and despite the peace and neutrality policy of the USSR. This has immeasurably increased the menace of Hitler and fascism to the national existence of all peoples, to the social and national security of the people of the United States. The involvement of the Soviet Union in the war has changed the character of the war. The glorious and mighty defense by the Red Army and the united peoples of the Soviet Union, their valiant struggle to drive out and crush the aggressor, creates the opportunity for the people of the United States and for all peoples to unite and assure the complete and final annihilation of Hitler and Hitlerism.

The American people hate and abhor fascism. They have seen for themselves that fascism means unrestrained oppression of the masses at home and aggressive war for conquest abroad.

Prior to the outbreak of the war considerable numbers of the American people sought to stop the fascist aggressors by supporting the policy of collective security—the policy advanced by the Soviet Union. But the statesmen of the capitalist countries threatened by fascist aggression refused to accept this policy. This they did because they feared that resistance to aggression would strengthen the democratic forces of their own peoples and the position of the Soviet Union. Instead, they adopted the shameful Munich policy of appeasement, betrayal and surrender.

They hoped in this way to divert the attack of the fascist aggressors from themselves to the Soviet Union—the land of Socialism, the truest champion of peace and equality among nations. Instead of peace the capitalist statesmen brought on war among the imperialist powers themselves for the redivision of the world. The people of the United States rightly had no confidence or trust in this kind of a war. They remained overwhelmingly in favor of keeping out of it.

The Soviet Union tried in vain to prevent this second imperialist war. Rebuffed in this attempt by the conspiracy of the Chamberlains to divert fascist aggression towards the land of Socialism, the Soviet Union accepted the proposal of the German government for a treaty of non-aggression. It adopted a policy of consistent neutrality towards both sides in this war and exerted all its efforts to prevent the spread of the war. It strove to bring the war to an early end and to establish peace. This policy of peace and neutrality was in the interest not only of the peoples of the Soviet Union who desired peacefully to build their socialist society, but also corresponded to the best interests of the peoples of all lands.

All of this proved conclusively that the war was not really a war against fascism but a struggle between rivals for imperialist aims. The stand of the Soviet Union only strengthened the conviction of the majority of the American people that this was not their war and that the United States like the Soviet Union, should keep out of it. That is why the advanced sections of the labor movement and of the people regarded as their main task the organization of the people's opposition to the imperialist war and an imperialist "peace" of violence, calling for a genuine people's peace without annexations or indemnities, with full security to the national independence and freedom of all peoples. They realized that this was the only genuine way to fight against reaction and fascism.

Why did Hitler attack the Soviet Union at this time? He attacked because the very existence of the mighty and free Socialist state constituted a threat to Hitler's plan to enslave the peoples of the world. He attacked in the hope of arousing in his support in the United States and England the reactionary elements, to evoke again the old Munich betrayal of the peoples of England and America and of the countries he has enslaved in Europe. He was driven by a fear of the rising people's movements in the occupied countries as well as in Germany. He attacked the Soviet Union as the outpost of world progress and with the hope of acquiring the boundless resources of the great Soviet Union to strengthen his hand against Great Britain and the United States and to further his plans for the conquest of the world.

Hitler's attack upon the Soviet Union imparts a new and sinister aspect to the menace of Hitlerism for the American people, the British people and the people of the world. It shows conclusively that German fascism is determined to continue at all costs its fight for world conquest, to impose upon the world a regime of complete destruction of the independence of nations and of all elementary rights of the masses. There can be no peace for the peoples of the world without the complete destruction of Hitler and Hitlerism. Hitler fascism stands exposed as the greatest and main enemy of the peoples of the world.

This is the new world situation. Hitler's smoke-screen

of a holy war against Communism will not and must not deceive or divide the American people. The issue is not Communism. German fascism has set out to enslave all nations and all peoples—to conquer the world. That, and only that, is the issue.

The Soviet Union is fighting the brutal assault of the fascist aggressor in defense of its land, its peoples, their freedom and independence. It fights to drive out and crush the Nazi aggressor—the hateful, barbaric, imperialistic, fascist dictatorship of Hitler. In this struggle, the American people are by no means neutral or unconcerned. They cannot but strive for the defeat of Hitlerism. They cannot but adopt a policy that favors and gives to the Soviet Union ALL SUPPORT to insure the decisive military defeat of Hitler and fascism. Through their organized efforts the American people must make the policy of the American government a genuine policy of friendship and collaboration with the Soviet Union, a policy that gives ALL AID TO THE SOVIET AND BRITISH PEOPLES. The American people must throw in the full weight of their might and power to defeat German fascism.

The defeat of Hitlerism, which means the defense of the liberty and independence of all nations, calls for the world-wide unity of all peoples in the struggle against Hitler fascism and in defense of the Soviet Union. The building of such a front requires the collaboration of the peoples of England, the United States and the Soviet Union, together with all peoples. This is the desire of the British people. This will become the expressed desire of the German people, the Italian people, and of those now under the heel of the fascist conqueror. This is the desire of the peoples of Latin America, who are struggling for democratic liberties and national independence. This is the desire of the Chinese people so bravely struggling against the Japanese aggressor. But such collaboration requires the speedy adoption by the United States of all measures to secure victory over the common enemy of mankind and civilization.

The struggle of the Soviet Union to drive out and defeat the invader will be crowned with success, even though the struggle is hard and requires many sacrifices. In this struggle Hitler will meet his doom. The people of America are beginning to realize that to defend the Soviet Union means to defend the United States.

The declaration of President Roosevelt pledging all possible aid to the struggle of the Soviet Union expresses the will of the vast majority of the American people who expect this pledge to be translated into deeds. But the realization of these deeds by the American government is seriously endangered. It is endangered by the great influence and pressure of the most reactionary circles of the American bourgeoisie which seek to come to terms with Hitler at the expense of the most vital national interests of the American people. Within the Roosevelt administration itself there are those who would conciliate and compromise with the friends of Hitler and fascism.

This is a cause of the greatest concern to our nation. What is needed is speedy and effective aid to the Soviet and British peoples. To bring this about the American people have to wage a determined struggle against all the treacherous influences of the most reactionary circles of the bourgeoisie. They, the American people, will support every action of the government to prosecute the struggle to defeat German fascism and to aid the Soviet Union, and they will not fail—they must not fail, to speak out plainly against every tendency of the American government to conciliate the enemies of the nation—to appease the appeasers.

The Hoovers, Lindberghs, the Wheelers and Norman Thomases, the Coughlins and Hearsts, these are the spokesmen of the most reactionary circles of the bourgeoisie. These constitute the core of the 5th column. They pursue the policies of the Chamberlain and the Cliveden set in Great Britain, the policies of the betrayers and capitulators of France. They therefore represent the greatest menace to the American people. This menace must be exposed and fought against relentlessly, because only thus can the people secure effective aid by the American Government to the Soviet and British peoples for the successful struggle to defeat Hitlerism.

Organized labor and the whole working class are the sworn enemies of reaction, fascism and Hitlerism. In this new and critical world situation the working class therefore faces the duty to assume leadership in the people's fight against the fascist menace—in the fight to bring speedy and effective aid to the Soviet Union. It is the duty of the working class to lead the fight to establish American-Soviet-British collaboration for the defeat of Hitlerism and to make this the official and active policy of the government.

This is labor's great responsibility.

Having outgrown its swaddling clothes and representing a strength of more than ten million organized workers, labor, the backbone of the nation and its future, should further strengthen its positions in the industries, in the life of the country, in influencing the formulation and execution of national policy.

The liberty loving masses of the American people have always been ready and are ready now more than ever to make all necessary sacrifices to defeat fascism.

They will insist that the interests of the people shall not be sacrificed to the narrow and selfish interests of the war profiteers, the reactionary monopolists and Wall Street imperialists. These selfish interests who refuse to grant labor a living wage are the ones responsible for the strike struggles that have taken place in the country.

The true defense of the American people against its enemies at home and abroad demands a conscientious policy of steady improvement of the economic standards, the health and the general well being of the masses. It demands that the democratic liberties of the people be guarded, preserved and extended. These are basic requisites for a successful struggle to defeat German fascism.

All of this is made fully possible by the great wealth of the nation, its great productive capacity and by the skill of the people. This demands that the millions who are still unemployed be put to work, that there be equal opportunity of employment in all industries for the Negro people and for the foreign born, that the farmers be guaranteed cost of production and economic security. It requires a complete reversal of the present policy of systematic curtailment of the people's rights and liberties, and the adoption of a policy of steadfastly preserving and extending the democratic rights of the people. An end must be put to such instruments of fascism as the Dies Committee, the school witch-hunts, the Voorhis Act, the proposed Vinson anti-strike bill, the use of troops for strike-breaking purposes, and all other restrictions of the right of collective bargaining and of the right to strike. A stop must be put to the persecution of the Communist Party. Earl Browder, leader in the people's fight for the defeat of Hitlerism, and all working class political prisoners must be released immediately. There must be an end to Jim Crowism, lynching, and all forms of discrimination against the Negro people. A stop must be put to the cultivation of anti-Semitism and the persecution of the foreign born through registration of non-citizens, the sedition laws and the threat of concentration camps.

The chief guarantee for the successful realization of this program is the struggle for the united front of the working class and the unity of the American people in a genuine people's front. Such a united and people's front would be broad enough to embrace in fraternal collaboration all honest opponents of Hitlerism, both here and abroad, all those who are willing to join in this common struggle. Such a united front will have to combat those reformist and social democratic leaders who are now obstructing the people's struggle against Hitlerism by their persistent slanders and attacks against the Soviet Union.

We, on our part, speaking in the name of the Communist Party of the United States, pledge our all, to work and struggle as a part of the American people for the realization of this program. Inspired by the best interests of the American people, by working class internationalism, and guided by our fundamental Communist principles we shall march in the front ranks of the working class and the people for the defeat and destruction of German fascism.

Defend America by giving full aid to the Soviet Union, Great Britain and all nations who fight against Hitler!

For full and unlimited collaboration of the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union to bring about the military defeat of fascism!

For a government policy of democratic struggle against fascism!

Down with the appeasers of Hitlerism—the conspirators of a new Munich betrayal!

All aid to the Chinese people fighting for their national independence! No aid to the Japanese invaders.

For cooperation of all the peoples of the Americas against Hitlerism! Support the struggles of the Latin American peoples for democratic freedom and national independence!

Preserve and extend the economic standards and democratic liberties of the American people—the workers, farmers and middle classes! Stop monopoly war profiteering!

End all discrimination against the Negro people—in industry, in the armed forces and in civil life! Pass the anti-lynching bill! Restore the right to vote to the people of the South!

End anti-Semitism! Stop the persecution of the foreign-born!

Stop all government attacks on the Communist Party! Release Earl Browder and all working class political prisoners!

Build the Communist Party, the Party that stands in the forefront of the people's fight against Hitlerism and for Socialism! Support and build the progressive labor press!

Forward to a world-wide people's front against Hitler fascism for the defense of the Soviet Union!

NATIONAL COMMITTEE,
COMMUNIST PARTY, U. S. A.
WILLIAM Z. FOSTER,
National Chairman
ROBERT MINOR,
Acting Secretary.