

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LONDON 9-POWER CONFERENCE

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE MAJOR THING accomplished at the London conference of the nine capitalist powers was that West Germany was given the green light to build its Nazi-dominated army.

This project, a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy, is in flat violation of the Potsdam agreement, made at the end of the war, which definitely provided for the disarmament and de-nazification of Germany.

The present development has long been in the works as far as the U.S. was concerned. The only real question was whether or not this country, disregarding its British and French "allies," would itself give West Germany "permission" to re-arm or whether it would carry out this plan behind the cover of a general capitalist agreement. With the help of the British monopolists and the right Social Democracy, especially of the British Labor Party, the conference, in agreeing to again put arms in the hands of the German Nazis, let the whole reactionary project be sanctioned by a "general agreement."

Chancellor Adenauer of West Germany, of course, made a number of pseudo-concessions, which are supposed to act as brakes upon the upsurging militarism in his country. That is, he agreed to forego in West Germany the production of A- and H-bombs, of biological and chemical weapons, of guided missiles,



of large submarines and heavy bombers. He also pledged that West Germany would not use force in unifying Germany or in "rectifying" its frontier.

But one needs to be a political infant in order to believe such cheap "pledges." For once West Germany gets its independence secured, is free of occupation forces and sets out to build its scheduled army, the door will be opened and rabid militarists will press on all fronts to re-arm the country in every respect, in spite of any and all "pledges" to the contrary. Hitler, long ago taught us this bitter lesson.

Every Nazi in Germany will see in the new "settlement" the path opening up for the realization of his dreamed-of renaissance of German militarism and of a war of revenge.

AT PRESENT the capitalist leaders of the West are singing hymns of praise for the work of the London conference. John Foster Dulles calls it "a dream of unity," and others spout in a similar vein of unbridled jubilation.

But one needs only to recall how each successive plan of American imperialism in its project of world conquest—Truman doctrine, Marshall plan, NATO, EDC, etc.—were similarly hailed. However, these schemes, all in turn, failed to solve the deepening crisis of capitalism and to create the great all-out capitalist war alliance against the countries of socialism, which was and remains the heart of Wall Street's foreign policy. Nor will the new agreement of London bring any more effective results than

all the futile U.S.-inspired war plans which have preceded it since World War II.

A basic obstacle confronting the London agreement is that it cannot overcome the fundamental antagonisms and rivalries among the capitalist powers subscribing to it. These conflicts have been all along the bane of all Wall Street's war plans, and under the new agreement they will continue right on as such, eventually in accentuated forms.

Germany and France obviously will remain at dagger's points, with a rising tension between them. And the deep antagonisms between the U.S. and Britain will be sharpened by the attempt of the latter country, by its more active participation on the Continent, to steal the lead away from the U.S. The London agreement will not accomplish Wall Street's hoped-for objective of whipping together the Western capitalist powers into a militant and solidly-knit anti-Soviet military alliance.

ABOVE ALL, the London agreement will not and cannot allay the deep fear of war now rife among the peoples all over the world. On the contrary, when the German Nazis really get down to their active business of rearming West Germany, the war fears among the European masses are bound greatly to increase.

The very narrow vote by which Attlee, Morrison, et al were able to put across, at the recent Scarborough conference of the Labor Party, their re-arm Germany resolution, was a significant indica-

tion of the powerful peace sentiment now prevailing among the peoples of Europe and elsewhere in the world. This peace sentiment has hitherto proved to be an insurmountable obstacle in the path of the American imperialists and would-be world conquerors. The long-run effects of the London conference will be a vast strengthening of this anti-war spirit of the peoples.

ALTHOUGH ONE CAN already foresee the futility and failure of the London agreement, it would be a grave error to underestimate the danger that it represents. The Wall Street warmongers will surely bend every effort to arm West Germany to the teeth, and to develop it as a militant tool of U.S. aggression against the Soviet Union, People's China, and the European Democracies.

The only sure guarantee that this murderous plan does not succeed will be the most active opposition on the part of the peace forces of the world, not the least, of those in the U.S. The re-arming, and re-nazification of Germany, which Wall Street hopes to achieve under the London agreement, must be fought militantly and at all points, as a war danger of major proportions.

The workers and their allies for peace must insist, as never before, on the development of policies based upon a perspective of peaceful co-existence between the countries of the capitalist and the socialist worlds. This is the main condition for the defeat of the "London agreement" against world peace.