

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

ON LABOR DAY President Eisenhower, in opening the first American experimental atomic industrial power plant, at Shippingport, Pa., announced that six nations—the United States, Great Britain, France, Canada, South Africa and Australia—had formed a pool to cultivate the use of atomic energy throughout the world for peaceful purposes. The President pulled all stops in extolling the great benefits which this move is supposed to confer upon the peoples of the world.

But this project is only one more of the many moves made by American imperialism in its futile drive for world domination. The international atomic pool will not be anything more than a cover for the military use of atomic energy and an instrument to facilitate American imperialist penetration and control of various countries. If the



# The Atomic-Pool Flim-Flam

men behind this pool project had any desire to employ atomic energy primarily for industrial purposes they would take the step the Soviet government has long been urging upon them, namely, the banning of the A- and H-bomb. This would give the production of atomic energy a new and more healthy orientation.

CAPITALISM cannot spread the use of atomic energy for non-military purposes throughout the world. It will even have the greatest difficulty to adapt the great force to such ends in the United States and other developed capitalist countries. In fact, the appearance on the industrial scene of this vast potential industrial energy creates a crisis situation in the power industries of the capitalist countries. This is because, with the enormous present-day investment in the production of power from coal, oil, water, and gas, the advent of atomic energy comes as a devas-

tating competitor and necessarily awakens a powerful opposition. This will be a big handicap to its widespread application.

The adaptation of atomic energy as industrial power in the more underdeveloped countries, under capitalist conditions, will meet with even more formidable obstacles. All the resistance to its spread that exists in the industrialized capitalist countries will also operate even more drastically in the less developed lands, with the added difficulty of the latter's being unable to raise the enormous amounts of capital necessary to install the production and application of atomic energy in industry. Talk of the new atomic pool, which is dominated and run by imperialists, bringing large-scale atomic power to under-developed countries is so much nonsense.

HISTORICALLY, capitalism has been notoriously both unable and unwilling to extend the great industrial inventions throughout

the world. The fact is that up until the Russian Revolution and the development of the colonial liberation revolutions, about two-thirds of the world's population were almost bereft of the advantage even of steam and electricity, not to mention the later developments of radio, motion pictures, etc. In view of the existing 80 to 90 percent of mass illiteracy, the printing press also had little real meaning in the lives of these masses. Imperialism deliberately resisted the introduction of these great inventions, and with the modern industry, into the underdeveloped countries. This was so that it might dominate their economies in their own interests. It is absurd to believe that the dying world capitalist system, which was historically responsible for these monster social crimes, is now going to bring the blessings of atomic industrial energy to the whole world.

Only socialism, or the peoples' democracies moving toward so-

cialism, can make the industrial use of atomic power universal. This is true also even of steam, electricity, electronics, and many other inventions and processes. The only way the great industrially backward areas of the world—in Asia, Africa, and Latin America—can achieve full industrialization and therewith the general application of all the other industrial powers and inventions is precisely by breaking the power of imperialism, along with that of their primitive feudalism, and by heading in the direction of Socialism.

THE ONLY serious use the capitalist United States has for atomic energy, whether here or abroad, is as a devastatingly destructive military weapon. Any use it may make of the great power beyond this will be purely secondary. The future of atomic energy, not as an instrument of mass slaughter, but as a means for the enrichment of men's lives, rests with the socialist countries of the world. President Eisenhower's international atomic energy pool, as it is now set up, is a shot into the water.