

What About Germany?

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE RECENTLY adjourned Berlin conference of the Big Four foreign ministers had at least two constructive aspects—it arranged for a peace conference on Korea and Indo-China, and the atmosphere at the ministers' meeting was much more



temperate in tone than has hitherto been the case. These facts have led

to a further easing of international tension. This is all to the good, and it should be followed up carefully by the world peace forces.

The weakest phase of the Berlin conference, however, was that it did nothing concretely to improve the crucial German situation, the chief problem for which the gathering was organized.

The basic reason for this serious failure on Germany rests squarely at the doorstep of the White House. Premier Molotov, acting in the spirit and the letter of the constructive Potsdam agreement, made proposals that would have united Germany, prevented it from falling into the hands of the Nazis, and kept it out of excessive armaments and an aggressive military alliance.

But Secretary Dulles, with his minor partners Eden and Bidault yessing him and in flagrant disregard of the Potsdam Agreement, which they have long since openly repudiated, stood pat on a line that can only lead to a divided Nazi-dominated, heavily armed, warlike Germany—which is precisely what the Eisenhower-Wall Street warmongers want.

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WHAT, NOW, ABOUT Germany? There is at present no definite perspective for an improvement in the situation of that country. This fact will sit ill with those reactionary elements in Germany and in the United States who are more than anxious to use German strength for warlike purposes.

We may be sure, therefore, that they will be greatly tempted to try to accomplish by force that which they see no chance to do by intimidation at the Council table. They got a taste of red meat in the big attempted putsch of last June 17, and they will strive for something on even a more ambitious scale.

The worst of it is that in such plottings they will know that they have the backing of Eisenhower and Dulles. For nothing has happened that could make us believe these reactionaries have abandoned their so-called liberation policy, which is undisguisedly one of the attempted launching civil wars in the coun-

tries of Socialism and People's Democracy—especially in Democratic Germany.

What makes this sinister "liberation" policy all the more dangerous is precisely that it has the ultra-blatant support of such labor leaders as Meany and Reuther. Even more openly than Dulles, these leaders have repeatedly called for the promotion of civil war in East Germany.

OBVIOUSLY, in view of all this, the progressive labor forces in this country should demand that the government specifically dissociate itself from the Dulles civil war-putschist policy, especially with regard to the German People's Republic. And above all the Meany and the Reuthers should be compelled by rank and file pressure also to repudiate this violent policy.

To further decrease international tension, it is necessary for the workers not only to insist upon real peace at the coming conference on Korea and Indo-China, but to increase their opposition to every aspect of the 50 billion dollar a year war provocation of Wall Street. And one of the most important phases of this pro-peace fight is to destroy completely the so-called liberation policy of organizing civil wars. For this policy is potentially one of the most dangerous features of the whole Eisenhower-Dulles warlike program.