

The Atombomb War Crime

By WM. Z. FOSTER

THE CAPITALIST international war code is brutal enough, but it does at least ban as war crimes the use of certain proscribed weapons and practices, such as bacteriological warfare and the arbitrary massacre of prisoners and civilians. The A-bomb, its various makes, certainly belongs within this banned category, for it is far and away the most brutal and savage weapon ever concocted by man. It would be so condemned were it not for the resistance of the U. S. The persistent effort of this country to introduce the A-bomb, and its big brother, the hydrogen bomb, into international warfare is one of the most terrible war crimes ever committed. The responsibility for the bomb in this respect lies at the doors of both the Truman and Eisenhower Administration.



The U. S. is, above all, the country of the atom-bomb. It has the sorry honor of having devised this devilish and savage contrivance; it has also persistently tried to have it accepted as a legitimate weapon of war, and it has successfully blocked so far all efforts of civilized people to ban it as a monstrous thing. This stubborn allegiance to the atombomb originates in the fact that Wall Street monopoly capitalism has based upon this dreadful weapon its major hopes of winning world domination.

THE REACTIONARIES at the head of the U. S. government began their terrible record with the atombomb by dropping it upon the cities of Hiroshim and Nagasaki, butchering therewith hundreds of thousands of unarmed civilians—men, women, and children—on a scale never before achieved by war slaughterers. The Nazi massacres at Malmedy and Lidice were only child's play compared to this cold-blooded mass murder. The act was entirely unjustified, and throughout history, when capitalism is a thing of the past, Americans will be ashamed of it.

It was a crime, under any circumstances, to use such a horrible weapon anyway. Japan was on its last legs militarily and about to surrender. The real purposes of the terrible crime were to legalize the use of the bomb, and to frighten the world with it, especially the Soviet Union. It indicated the way—

atomic terrorism—by which the monopoly capitalists of the U.S. aimed to win control of the world.

The atomic outrages in Japan shocked the world — a shock that grows greater as the years go by. Hence the Pentagon sabre-rattlers must needs build up a protection around the monstrous A-bomb. This they accomplished with the Baruch plan.

The purpose of this plan, stripped of its hypocrisy, was to legalize the bomb and to keep it in the hands of the U.S. despite the world outcry that the bomb be outlawed. The Baruch plan worked out just this way, as was intended. With its control over blocs of delegates in the United Nations, most of whom were directly upon its payroll, the U. S. has been able so far to defeat all efforts of the USSR and many other nations to outlaw the bomb.

THE ORIGINAL war plan of the atomaniacs, and they openly proposed this in the press and in Congress at the time (nor have they given up the idea yet) was to carry through an atomic preventive war against the USSR. A shower of atomic bombs on Soviet cities, they believed, would forever remove this great obstacle from Wall Street's path of world conquest. But this cold-blooded scheme got a rude jolt when, before a sufficient American stockpile of bombs had been built up for an aggressive war, the fact was ascertained that the Soviet Union had cracked the American A-bomb monopoly and was making its own bombs.

This was a fiasco for the Pentagon warmongers, but they went ahead, nevertheless, with their atombomb strategy, which henceforth was based upon the fatal illusion that in an atomic war the U. S. would have a superiority in this savage mass slaughter weapon.

President Truman, hearkening to the demands of the extremists, was quite ready to use the bomb upon Chinese cities during the Korean war, and he was restrained from doing so only by the world protest against it. The same held true also for President Eisenhower; not only in Korea, but also in Indochina.

Meanwhile, the sadistic warmongers rejoiced that they had in the meantime developed a still more frightful weapon in the hydrogen bomb. With this latter, they speculated, they possessed the means that would even be able to destroy the planet itself.

THE LATEST ACT in this drama of Wall Street's attempt to inflict the A-bomb upon the world was President Eisenhower's recent announcement that in case the U.S. got into an Asian war it would use atomic weapons. Thus, he threw into the ashcan the oft-repeated assertion that the U.S. would use atomic weapons only if first attacked by this means.

To sugarcoat this shocking statement, the President explained that these atomic weapons would be used only for tactical purposes, not for strategic bombing. But only fools will believe this. The whole maneuver is designed to trick the American people into acceptance of the atomic bomb in general.

We can be perfectly sure that if an Asian war were to develop in spite of the peace forces and the people did not interpose the most powerful objection to the use of any and all atomic weapons whatever, tactical or strategic—Eisenhower's "tactical" use of atomic weapons "for military objectives" would turn out to be the use of the bomb to blast cities generally. We would be in a full scale atomic war.

THE INSISTENCE by the U. S. upon using the atomic bomb is another frightful, expression of the bankruptcy of the world capitalist system. Defeated economically and politically on a world scale by the growth of Socialism and the development of the colonial revolutions, Wall Street believes it can re-establish capitalism, under its own domination, by the use of the A-bomb. But this is a horrible delusion. If capitalism dared to use this frightful weapon, the end result would be the finish of world capitalism at the hands of the outraged people of the United States and the world. Moreover, there is real reason to believe that they would also deal with the men directly responsible, as war criminals.

The workers and other democratic forces in the world have so far blocked the war use of the A-bomb. They can prohibit its use and outlaw it altogether if they will but insist upon this and demand that atomic power be used only for peaceful purposes. To this general end one of the most urgent tasks is precisely to defeat President Eisenhower's proposal to use atomic bombs as "tactical" weapons. This, in reality, is a scheme to use the A-bomb in general, and it must be fought vigorously on this basis.