

# THE BANDUNG CONFERENCE

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE HOLDING in Bandung, these last few days, of the conference of the 29 Asian-African nations was an event of great historical importance. The fact that these peoples, hitherto kicked around and abused by the capitalist powers, could meet together, to the exclusion of their erstwhile bosses, the imperialist European and American nations, was an eloquent testimonial of the extent to which colonialism has been undermined in the Far East. It was enough to make the imperialist Churchills of yesterday and today turn over in their political graves in alarm and indignation.

The basic immediate political significance of the Bandung conference is that it was a protest against the danger of atomic war now hanging over the world. The conference represented well over half the total population of the globe, who were taking this occasion to let it be known that they were very much opposed to being made cannon-fodder by those agents of Wall Street who are aiming to turn the world, and especially Asia, into a vast battlefield.

To combat the danger of war was the essential reason why the Conference was called in the first place. Consequently the war threat now centering in the Formosa Straits hung over the conference like a storm cloud. And certainly the bulk of humanity in Asia has a pretty good idea as to where this war threat originates—among the big capitalists of the U.S.

Of course, there were a number of American puppets in the conference who did their utmost to disrupt and try to make it appear that the war threat is coming from the Soviet Union. But after the reality of the Korean and Indo-Chinese wars, especially in view of the present tense situation around Formosa, relatively few will have their eyes diverted from the real warmongers, the agents of American big business. The hope of Wall Street's agents to turn the conference into an anti-Soviet demonstration were reduced to ashes.

THE MOST BASIC and long run significance of the Bandung Conference, in addition to its peace aspect, is that it was a mighty protest against colonialism and imperialism. Even up to the last few years almost all of Asia, as well as Africa, has been formally under the oppressive first of imperialist Britain, France, Holland, Germany, Japan, Portugal, and the U.S. And the bulk of the Asian and African countries still are by no means free of imperialist domination.

Here again, there were cer-



tain loud-mouthed gentlemen from the Philippines, Ceylon, Turkey, etc., who tried their best to confuse the situation; to get the masses to turn their attention away from the capitalist powers that have exploited them for 300 years and which continue to do so yet, and to direct their attention against an imaginary imperialism, charged against the USSR. This political juggling went to demonstrate once more the insolence and cynicism of the present-day tools of Wall Street imperialism.

These elements, fattening on the payroll of the United States government, will stick at no fantastic project in order to keep the American dollar rolling into their pockets. They are indeed what the Chinese call "running dogs of imperialism," but with the added cunning of the fox.

Imperialist colonialism is collapsing in Asia and Africa under the growing attacks of the oppressed peoples, resolved upon being free. True there are still numerous outright colonies in these vast areas, and many of the countries that have won nominal independence — India, Burma, Pakistan, Ceylon, etc., — are in fact still tied to the imperialist countries by numerous economic and political chains. But the general course of political development is unmistakably away from colonialism and towards national independence. All this constitutes a major disaster to the world capitalist system, of which, as Lenin pointed out long ago, colonialism is one of the fundamental foundations.

IN THE COLONIAL and semi-colonial world, people's China is the outstanding leader. The most populous land in existence, and one which won its national independence after 25 years of bitter civil and imperi-

alist war, it is blazing the political path that all the oppressed countries must eventually follow.

At the conference there were three groups—the countries under the thumb of American imperialism, the Philippines, Turkey, etc.; the Columbo powers led by India, and those countries associated directly with People's China. But the strong voice of the Conference was that of the latter. The whole program adopted by the Conference — against war, against imperialism, against racial intolerance, for equality among the states, and for the economic development of the more backward lands—is the program of the progressive left, of which People's China is the most basic expression. The Conference took on its full meaning, unity, and significance when Chou En lai made his proposal to negotiate with the United States a peaceful settlement of the tense Formosa situation.

The Bandung conference was a major defeat for Anglo-American imperialism. The latter will, however, try to make the best of a bad situation, by filling the air with twisted pro-imperialist "explanations" of the gathering. But the inescapable fact is that, behind all its hesitations and confusions, the conference basically opposed the whole Anglo-American imperialist program of atomic war and world war. It was another massive blow against the prestige of the United States, brought about by the latter's program of political intimidation, atomic war threats, and infringements upon the national independence of people's everywhere.

Bandung was one of those political milestones by which the historians of the future (and many of today) will mark the decay and decline of the world capitalist system.

## Francisville Center of Fight To End School Jimcrow

By THOMAS NABRIED

PHILADELPHIA.

FRANCISVILLE is considered to be a community with good educational facilities but very inadequate in cultural facilities.

This community has one Junior high school and seven elementary schools. The schools in this highly congested community are overcrowded and under-staffed. One teacher is required to teach too many children.

Under such a situation a teacher finds it almost impossible to give attention to special problems of a child without it becoming harmful to the whole class group. Therefore, while the school facilities may be fairly modern, the benefits are limited because there are too few schools.

Most of these fairly new schools in this old section of the city are crowded into an area of no more than one-quarter of a half city block each, leaving practically no ground for outdoor activity.

THE SCHOOLS are used only during regular school hours and

by the Board through allowing the children of prejudiced white parents to go to school in another district.

As the struggle around the Supreme Court ruling on jimcrow in the South unfolds, this conscious separation of Negro and white school children strikes a sensitive chord in almost every community throughout the nation.

FRANCISVILLE today is a center of that struggle as City Councilman Raymond Pace Alexander presses the fight to smash jimcrow in Girard College that is today perpetuated by the will of the long-deceased Stephen Girard.

The warped mind of Stephen Girard as documented in his will for building a school that only white male orphans can attend not only denied Negro orphans the rights to enter the school, but also imprisoned 1,000 white male youth behind a wall of stone and racial prejudice.

Hats off and full support to City Councilman Alexander in his struggle to help lift the curtain