

# The Bulldozing of France

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

IN THESE DAYS of cold war one is accustomed to seeing the U.S., the big capitalist boss, browbeating weaker nations and forcing them to do its bidding, but never has there been such an outrageous exhibition of this political bull-dozing as as the recent forcing of the French National Assembly to endorse the Paris agreements, providing for the rearmament of Western Germany.



Obviously the French masses, in vast majority, are strongly opposed to placing weapons into the hands of the Nazis, their enemies. In voting down the Paris agreement on Christmas Eve, the National Assembly was expressing the true sentiments of the French people. The French people realize that there is no war danger coming from the USSR.

Eisenhower and Dulles are not concerned with yielding to any people's wishes for peace. With most outrageous threats of reprisals, of driving France into the position of an isolated, third-rate power, they literally compelled their lickspittles in the French Assembly to spit upon national pride, by reversing that body's previous patriotic action and by knuckling down to Wall Street's demands.

Manifestly, the drive to rearm West Germany signifies a serious sharpening again of the war danger. Its success would open the door wide for a return to power of the Nazi militarists. One would have to be politically blind not to see that these elements, with the powerful U.S. standing behind them, and with atomic weapons under their control, would be hell-bent for war. They would try by armed action to get revenge upon the Soviet Union for their crushing

defeat in World War II, to reunite Germany in on a reactionary basis by military force, and to wrest by war the eastern lands properly delegated to Poland at the end of the last war.

THE SOVIET UNION is now solemnly warning the peoples of the world of the grave danger implicit in rearming the German warhawks. During the post-war years there have been many sharp international crises—over the Berlin situation, the Korean and Indochinese wars, etc.—but never before has the USSR spoken out so gravely of the danger of eventual war. Also never before did it take definite steps towards a defensive military alliance with the neighboring People's Democracies.

The Wall Street war mongers know very well from past experiences with the peace loving masses that they cannot simply walk the capitalist world deliberately into war as a result of formal decision. So their idea is to get the desired world war started by plunging the countries into it suddenly on the basis of some provocation or other, which they aim to organize.

To this end, it was bad enough to have John Foster Dulles running around the world trying to create civil war in the Socialist countries, striving to prevent armistices in Korea and Indochina and seeking to develop every international tension into a war clash; but the putschist danger would be obviously increased if there were an armed West Germany, soaked through with Nazis, spoiling for a fight and looking for every favorable occasion to precipitate one.

WITH INSANE recklessness, the mouthpieces of the warmongers are now jubilating over their humiliation of France. They are too stupid to realize that the whole incident is proof positive that that country, like many other capitalist lands now

posing as allies of Wall Street, would not be worth a nickel to the Washington militarists in case of actual war. If they were able to precipitate a great war under such conditions the end result for them could only be total military and political disaster.

The basic responsibility for this "victory" of the warmongers over the peace-will of the French people rests with the right social-democracy of France, Britain, and the U.S. In France, the criminal decision of the National Assembly could not have been secured without the supporting votes of the Socialists. And in Britain and the U.S., the governments would not have dared to assume such a truculent attitude had they not had the backing of the Attlees, Deakins, Meanys, and Reuthers.

The fight against the rearming of West Germany is not yet lost. The countries of Socialism are using their great power to block it. The peoples of France and Germany are continuing their struggle to defeat the warlike Paris agreements. These peace forces must be given every possible support by the American people.

THE WORKINGCLASS, the Negro people, the working farmers and other democratic strata must also increase their vigilance and struggles generally against the war-instigators of Wall Street. Their every war move, always made under hypocritical pretenses of peace, should be exposed and fought. The coming Eisenhower federal war budget has to be combatted.

The sinister threat of an armed West Germany needs to be made clear to the masses. Preparations need to be developed to deliver a defeat to the Republican and other reactionaries in the national election next year and, more immediately, to arouse the greatest possible opposition to the Paris Pact when it comes up for action at this session of the Senate.