In Defence of China

The war that now rages in the Far East is not a conflict between two imperialist powers. In so sense of the word, can one speak of China as an imperialist country with war-like aims against Japan.

China is a backward country, which has not yet been industrialized, which has not yet developed to the point where it feels compelled to seek foreign markets and spheres of influence for capital investments. The present war has been carried into China by Japan's imperialism.

And for that reason the resistance given to the Japanese aggression by China from the Chinese viewpoint, a war against imperialism.

So closely is the rule of the Chinese wealthy classes intertwined with the interests of foreign capital that it is virtually impossible for Chinese workers to liberate themselves from imperialist oppression within their own Chinese ruling class. Because this is so, the Socialists will take the independent forces of the workers, organized in the Chinese trade unions, strengthened in the course of the war against Japan so that the war shall not end with the defeat of Japanese aggression but shall move on to the abolition of all imperialism and exploitation in China.

Whether or not there is such a revolutionary movement in China, however, does not essentially change the fact that there is now being waged a struggle against Japan's imperialism.

In such a struggle, Socialists are not neutral. Socialists are anti-imperialist. This anti-imperialist is not limited to the utterance of pious phrases against imperialism. All international organization by finance capital. Socialists anti-imperialist also necessitates an active—offensive military struggle against imperialism, such as is now taking place in China.

Socialists, therefore, call upon the workers to throw their strength to the aid of China in the present struggle. Such a call for aid to China does not involve a demand upon the US government to intervene actively against Japan. To do so would only increase the US war, but in a war which would strengthen US imperialism, would strengthen dictators, which would entail suppression of the workers at home in America. It is ready to embark upon a war with Japan or any other commercial competitor. That is the reason American warships and soldiers have been and now are stationed in China.

Let this boycott be the answer of the American people to the imperialist aims of Japan. Let this form of workers' sanctions stop the Japanese war makers in their attempt further to divide and rule China.

The boycott hits the Japanese imperialists where it hurts most—their pocketbooks. It is within your power to apply the most effective type of pressure—the economic boycott!

Only workers' action will effectively aid China. The American government, agent of American imperialism, has now participated in subjugating China. It will act, not for reasons of "pity" or "peace", but to safeguard capitalist interests in the Far East. And for that, and that alone, it is ready to embark upon a war with Japan or any other commercial competitor. That is the reason American warships and soldiers have been and now are stationed in China.

What you can do:

We suggest the following, to make the boycott most effective:

1. Before buying any toy, novelty, notion, any item, look for the label, "MADE IN JAPAN!" If you find such items, call the salesperson or owner why you refuse to buy them.

2. Urge your local stores to halt all purchases of Japanese goods.

3. Since most of our silk comes from Japan, find substitutes for silk dresses, stockings, slips, etc.

4. Have your organization or trade union support this boycott.

5. Join our picket lines to enforce the boycott.

6. Demand the withdrawal from China of American warships and soldiers.

Issued by SOCIALIST PARTY and YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST LEAGUE
21 East 17th Street, New York City
Algonquin 4-8413