IMPERIALIST OR WORKING CLASS SANCTIONS?

THE SLID STAND
WHY DEFEND ETHIOPIA?

Mussolini seeks a solution in open imperialist aggression against the last independent nation of Africa. The liquidation of Ethiopia to colonial status would strengthen the latter's bourgeoisie by means offering further means for exploitation and for greater repression of its own working class.

A defeat for Italian imperialism would weaken the fascists and would help the Italian masses to overthrow Austrian capitalism. It would aid the liberation of colonial peoples and serve a death blow at imperialism. This would accelerate the world-wide flight for socialism.

ROLE OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS
The League of Nations was established by the victorious powers of the last war to maintain their imperialist gains. France and England present the threat of this growing imperialist wing, while Italian control of Ruanda would endanger the life line of the British Empire. The basic organization at Versailles would be violently disturbed. If France supports England now, England will support France when Germany attempts the redivision of Poland. In either case, both will hide their designs by means of the League, which they control. The "peace" of the League was vain. It was an alliance which these powers maintained when Japan invaded Manchuria and during the China-Germany affair.

WORKING-CLASS OR IMPERIALIST SANCTIONS?

Economic sanctions by imperialism will inevitably lead to war. To be effective, economic acts must be backed by military acts. England and France have learned that Mussolini's boycott is in earnest: "We will answer in kind. To acts of war we will answer with acts of war."

Workers have no interests in fighting the battles of their imperialists masters. They must not be led to another World War. We must not permit Ethiopia to be the "raped" Africa of 1935. We are for the defence of Ethiopia, just as Thomas Paine said: 'We shall not sit by and see this land torn asunder by the hands of the imperialists. The independent sanctions of the working classes - boycott, strikes, mass demonstrations - are all the "economic" people, not the sanctions of financial capital. Let the workers refuse to transport goods to Italy and the war will be defeated. The defeat of Italian fascism by the international working class will be a signal for the revolt of the Italian masses. At the same time, independent action of the working class of France, England and the United States will draw a clear line between their own and their class's interests. The class struggle will not be obliterated; it will be sharpened.

The SLP is for working class sanctions AGAINST IMPERIALIST SANCTIONS. We reject the position of the IWW and other communist organizations. They would lead the workers to a new war. They would suspend the class struggle and identify the worker's interest with that of "good" capitalist states as opposed to "bad" fascist states. They would repeat the blunders of the social-patriots of 1914.

FOR THE DEFENCE OF ETHIOPIA! WORKING CLASS SANCTIONS ONLY! AGAINST IMPERIALIST SANCTIONS AND IMPERIALIST WAR.