HONOR THE DEAD

The fascist drive toward another, more horrible world war makes it CLEAR that Armistice Day, 1937, must serve as a rallying point of united action for peace. The student council peace assembly convenes at noon with the headlines of approaching war searing our minds.

On one hand, Italy, Germany, and Japan have formed a mutual aggression pact under the guise of “anti-communism,” classifying all peace lovers as communists. Fascist strategy consists in uniting themselves to make war upon a divided world. Ethiopia has been torn to shreds; Spanish democracy is giving its blood to beat back fascism. China has been invaded. Organized attempts are being made to include Latin America in the fascist war pact. Nazis are feverishly active, using America as a munitions depot for planned insurrection against the Democratic Cardenas government of Mexico. How soon will it be us?

Division in the ranks of peace lovers gives a free hand to the fascists where united action would stop them. When the democracies united at Nyon against Mussolini’s piracy, he was forced to yield. When Pres. Roosevelt merely intimated the necessity for collective action against the warmakers, the fascists showed immediate alarm. But let us remember that collective mass action of the people themselves is the only sure instrument for the defeat of fascism and the only means of forcing our government towards peace action. The peoples fronts in France, Spain, and Mexico have demonstrated this conclusively by deterring strong fascist movements. In Germany, where there was no unity hitler is today crushing liberty.

Unity of the peace loving forces who are at the present time divided, can defeat fascism. Any force breaking this unity is an aid to fascism. On our campus there are Trotskyites who aim to confound and split the unity for peace. Hand in hand with the fascists, they openly attack the Spanish peoples’ front, the French peoples’ front, the Chinese front, and the Soviet Union which has proven herself to be the most consistent fighter for peace. Their treacherable desire to split student unity for peace is shown clearly by their threat to run a “counter meeting” to the student council peace assembly under the false guise of an “anti-war committee of city college clubs” which as expected represents no clubs.

However, the student council as the elected representatives of the students has seen clearly that this is no factional quarrel. Trotskyite activity is aimed to destroy the fundamental unity of the students. All else is just so much verbiage to hide their real purpose.

Our immediate problem is the halting of fascism’s drive toward war. Action, unity is the solution. Dependence on negative future pledges is a direct blow at city college boys fighting in Spain. The Oxford pledge today is meaningless. It tells us to fold our arms and wait until war comes: Does it tell us how to stop war by fighting fascist aggression, how to aid Spain and China how to abolish the R.O.T.C. Yet does not. In view of these facts, the pledge today is a disunifying fascist dream which tells us to wait for war.

We must act in a concrete fashion to aid Spain by boycotting Japan, to forge a mighty united peoples’ front for the defeat of fascism and war.

Let us not depend on any one man, on any one pledge. Let us depend on our own united strength.

All out to student council peace assembly—12 noon in the great hall

Young Communist League
C.C.N.Y. Branch