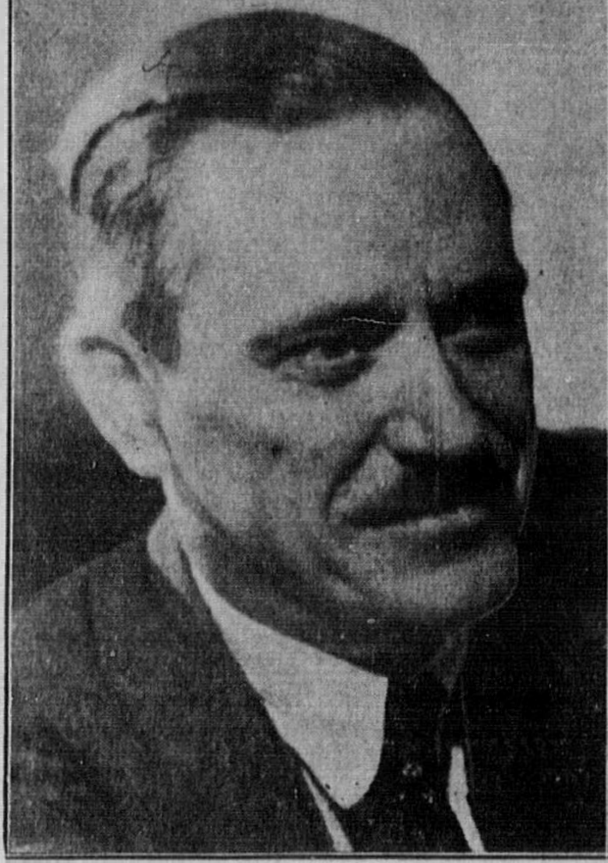


# NON-AGGRESSION PACT WEAPON FOR PEACE, OPEN TO ALL NATIONS, SAYS BROWDER

By Harry Gannes

Earl Browder, Secretary of the Communist Party, who has just returned on schedule from his vacation, in an interview with the press, spiked the distortions of the discussions of the Soviet Union and Germany for a non-aggression pact. He outlined the basic significance of this great contribution to world peace and blow to the Munichmen and the fascist aggressors.

Comrade Browder, looking fit and in fighting trim, after a very brief statement to the newspaper men who



EARL BROWDER

packed his office on the 9th floor at 35 East 12th St., opened the press conference to a barrage of questions.

"I saw from the morning papers," began Browder, "that there was some public interest in the opinions of the Communist Party about the latest international developments. And therefore as soon as I returned from the

country where I have been on my vacation I immediately agreed to meet the gentlemen of the press who had any interest in this question of the point of view of the Communist Party.

"I think that what strikes one the most forcefully in the newspaper discussion of the announcement of the negotiations for a non-aggression agreement between the Soviet Union and Germany," he continued, "is the excitement with which this announcement was greeted; although its execution—it is now in the preliminary stages—is in the line of a long declared and established policy which every one who wanted to could be fully familiar with. It is a policy which has been put into effect by the Soviet Union in every case in which it found was possible.

## AN IMPORTANT PROVISIO

"Insofar as we have any information at all or any reason to believe it is a declaration by the two powers that they will not attack one another.

"That would seem to be an excellent example for all of the powers of the world, to declare formally that they will not attack one another, and should be, if carried out, a distinct contribution for the protection of the threatened peace of the world.

"I said 'carried out,' which is a very important proviso to make with regard to any international agreement in these days when international agreements are being broken right and left.

"If we attach any importance to this agreement, if it is consummated, it is not because we have any faith in the agreements of Hitler," Browder went on. "If the agreement of Hitler not to attack the Soviet Union should be observed it will not be because Hitler is in the habit of observing his agreements but because of the military and political preparedness of the Soviet Union, which is the argument that, above all others, the Nazis understand.

"There is a great deal of newspaper comment to the effect that this represents a change of policy by the Soviet Union; that it is a blow against Poland, and so on. All that, of course, is nonsense, although, it is the kind of nonsense which is very valuable to Berlin.

## REFERS TO DAILY WORKER EDITORIAL

"The dispatch from the New York Times correspondent in Warsaw printed in this morning's paper indicates that the Poles—who should be the most sensitive of all to any change of relation of forces in the international situation—do not agree that that is the tenor of these events. They do not seem to be at all worried about any blow to their interests involved in the negotiations in Moscow.

"Also, the dispatches which I have seen from Tokio, indicate that the Far Eastern member of the Axis does not agree with the opinion that the negotiations constitute a strengthening of the Axis powers in world affairs."

After this introductory statement, Comrade Browder told the reporters that they would find additional enlightenment on the subject in yesterday morning's edition of the Daily Worker.

The questions then fired at Comrade Browder ranged from the silly to the serious, in an obvious effort on the part of the most ardent inquirers to dig up material to support the editorial line of their newspapers.

"Have you been in touch with Moscow on the subject," was the first query. "All my connections with Moscow," replied Browder, "are through the news' associations. I have exactly the same information that you gentlemen have."

## HITS PRESS DISTORTION

Asked what he meant by describing much of the "news" in the capitalist press on the subject as "nonsense" which aided Berlin, Browder said: "The Soviet government has a declared policy which it must be prepared to execute at any time; and just as it could not consistently refuse a pact of non-aggression with any of its neighbors it could hardly do so with regard to Germany."

Quoting from the Daily Worker of the latter part of May this year about previous capitalist press distortions concerning an "understanding with Nazi Germany," Browder declared that the statement of the Daily Worker "holds equally good today; that it applies to all of the interpretation of the pact of non-aggression made by the

# NON-AGGRESSION PACT WEAPON FOR PEACE, AVAILABLE TO ALL NATIONS, SAYS BROWDER

(Continued from Page 1)

capitalist newspapers. This is not a political alignment with Germany against any other country. It has no meaning such as all of this anti-Soviet propaganda is trying to interpret it.

"The Soviet Union has had, for many years, a non-aggression pact with Italy and with Germany. In the New York Times this morning, or yesterday morning—I am not sure which—it was pointed out that so far as the announced negotiations are concerned there is no change in the relationships that existed before, but there was a mere affirmation of them."

"How will this affect the boycott against Nazi Germany?"

"It will not affect it in any way. The Party itself does not conduct boycotts. It supports the campaign for a boycott against Germany and Japan. And this situation will not affect the Party's position with regard to those boycotts."

In reply to another question, Browder declared: "I think that the negotiations, which have not yet culminated in a treaty, do not represent any change in policy, as I have indicated; though at this moment it is a great contribution to the cause of world peace for the Soviet Union to reaffirm this policy."

## COMMUNISTS REJECT AGGRESSION

"If one disagrees with that, one must accept the conclusion that a consistent peace policy necessarily involves the organization of aggression. That is something which the Communists have always rejected and have never allowed to enter into their point of view. We do not think that the organization of aggression, whether against the fascist powers or any others, is the road to peace."

"Does not there appear to be some direct connection between the conclusion of this treaty and, psychologically, so far as Hitler's mind is concerned, an aggressive attitude today against Poland?"

"I am not a student of psychopathology," responded Browder, "and I don't think I would want to go into an examination of Hitler's mind."

Finding that reply contained no meat for his paper's anti-Soviet policy, the reporter who put the previous question, again asked "whether at this crucial time the proposed pact would not be a help to the Nazis, as the Nazis claim, against Poland." He added that the Soviet diplomats knew that in advance.

"I would say," replied Browder, "that there have been grave mistakes made in judgment by American newspapers, by public officials of the democratic powers, and so on. And just as a year ago they completely misjudged the results of Munich, so today, I think, they are just as completely misjudging—in an opposite sense—the consequence of the negotiations in Moscow."

"They won't find out the errors of their judgment until it is too late, will they?" Browder was asked.

"We can hardly accept the responsibility for the misjudgment and confusion in other people's minds—except insofar as we ourselves are responsible for them," he replied.

## NO 'WEAPON' FOR NAZIS

Asked whether the non-aggression pact, if signed, would not give Germany a new powerful weapon in the hands of Hitler, Browder answered:

"It is a powerful weapon that is very easy for Great Britain and France to use, if they want to."

"By that you mean they should sign a pact with Russia?"

"Yes; the same weapon is in their hands. If it is so powerful in one hand, it is just as powerful in another."

Amplifying the economic questions put to him, Browder said:

## U.S.S.R. URGED SANCTIONS

"The Soviet Union has proposed time and again joint economic sanctions against aggression. But each time they have been let down. The Soviet Union will not conduct economic warfare by itself, and in our opinion that is a correct position. The Soviet Union has proposed that the powers stop aggression in a concerted way. The democratic powers have refused."

Question: *When did the Soviet Union make the proposal that the other countries stop economic dealings with Germany?*

Browder: *In the League of Nations they proposed complete sanctions against Italy; they proposed sanctions against Germany; they proposed complete sanctions against any aggressor.*

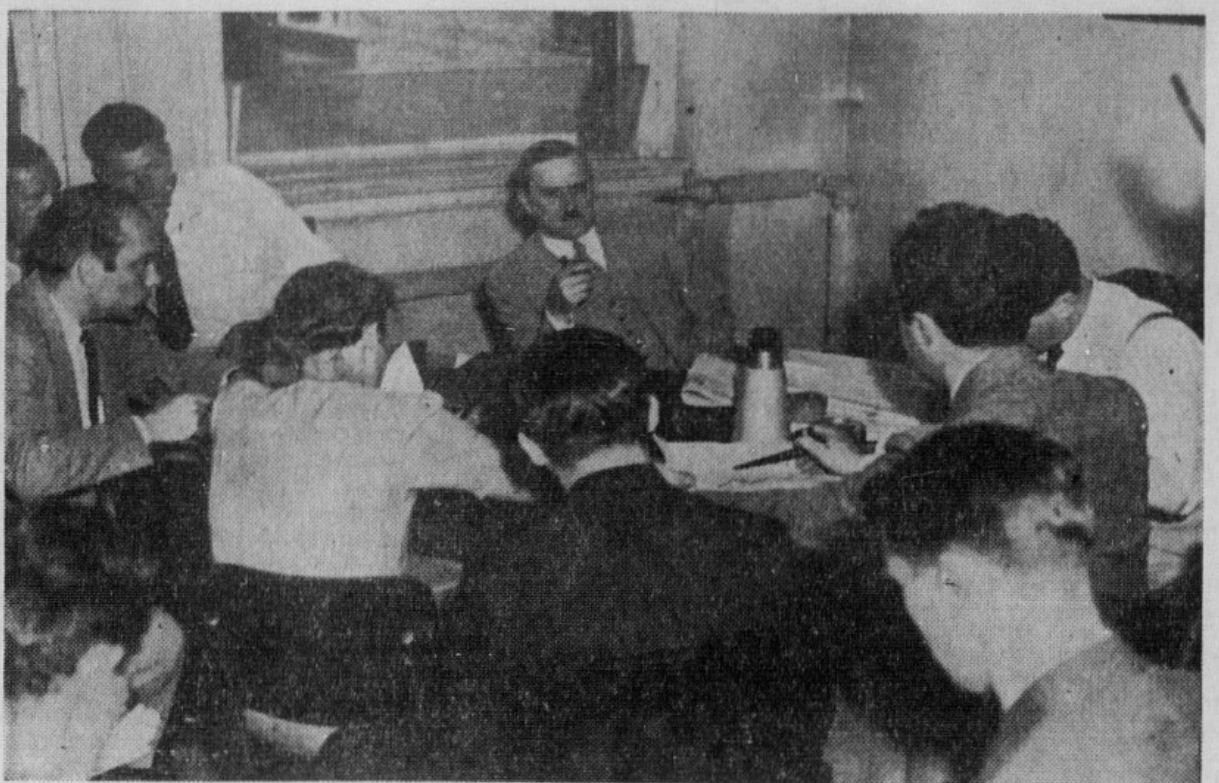
Question: *Did the Soviet Union abrogate its treaty with Italy after the attack on Spain?*

Browder: *They did not. They continued giving the Spanish Loyalists the maximum possible aid against the fascist invaders.*

Question: *I don't understand your view how this is going to help Poland avert aggression unless you mean to say that Poland should sign a similar treaty. How will this help Poland specifically?*

Browder: *First of all by giving Poland an example of how to stop aggression. If Hitler signs this pact, it will be only because he is faced with the impossibility of aggression against the Soviet Union. The Polish government has so far refused to make any agreement with the Soviet Union to meet aggression.*

Question: *How could Poland turn the*



—Daily Worker Photo  
Earl Browder, General Secretary of the Communist Party, is shown at his desk yesterday in interview given the press on the Soviet-German negotiations for a non-aggression pact.

situation so that it would make it impossible for her to be invaded?

Browder: *The General Staff of either the French or British government could tell you. The General Staff in Washington could tell you. I know it can be done. These gentlemen in Warsaw know it can be done. Whenever they want to do it they can do it.*

Question: *If Germany marches into Poland would the Soviet Union supply materials to Germany?*

Browder: *I would say that the negotiations now going on tend to diminish the possibility of an outbreak of hostilities. If invasion does occur, you will have a new situation in the world.*

When the New York Times reporter, who took the initiative in a series of obviously Trotskyite-tainted questions, and counterposed "opinions in London and Paris" to Comrade Browder's replies, Browder said:

"I do not doubt what I say is contrary to the opinions of Mr. Chamberlain, M. Bonnet and M. Daladier and all of those circles which engineered Munich of a year ago."

## "OPINIONS" CHANGED

"But this is not only the opinion of Mr. Chamberlain," persisted the Times' reporter, "it also seems to be the mass of opinion of France and England."

To which Browder responded: "A year ago opinions seemed to be the same as Chamberlain's opinion but they did not stay that way very long."

"How will this agreement between Russia and Germany effect the so-called Popular Front," Browder was asked.

"I think it should strengthen Popular Front movements everywhere," he answered.

"Would you say, Mr. Browder, that in this opinion you are widely at variance with a lot of people who have been supporting the Popular Front, for example, Mr. Heywood Broun?"

"I have not read Mr. Broun today," Browder said.

"He is of the contrary opinion," ventured the questioner.

"He and I are often of contrary opinion," replied Browder.

"Isn't he rather friendly?" was the next question.

"Everybody who is decent has a friendly attitude towards us once in a while."

## A BLOW TO HITLER

Question: *You see no injury to your party as a result of this treaty?*

Browder: *None whatever.*

Question: *Do you think this will injure Hitler at home?*

Browder: *Yes.*

Question: *I noticed that several times you said, "if it is signed," do you mean to indicate it is your belief that it will not be signed?*

Browder: *I was only making a qualification to be safe, because if I had begun to*

speak last May, let us say, about an agreement between the Soviet Union, France and Britain, as if it had already been consummated, I would be demonstrating my gullibility. I always wait until the document is completed.

Question: *You mean there is no agreement as yet?*

Browder: *That is what I read in the daily newspapers.*

Question: *But Mr. Ribbentrop is in Moscow?*

Browder: *Possibly. When it is signed I will speak of the agreement as concluded.*

Question: *Do you think this agreement will have an escape clause?*

## REFUTES 'ISOLATION' THEORY

Browder: *I do not see any reason to expect any departure in the Soviet Union's peace policy. The principle of the Soviet Union has always been to provide against aggression, not to attack any other nation, and it always provided against complicity in the aggression of any other nation.*

Question: *Would you say this agreement puts the Soviet Union in an isolationist position?*

Browder: *No more than the United States, if it signed similar agreements, would be placed in an isolationist position.*

To questions about what would happen if war actually broke out, Browder asked the reporters to return at that time and he would answer all questions on the basis of the new concrete situation thus arising.

Question: *Isn't it true that the Soviet Union will give assistance to any country that fights for its independence against aggression?*

Browder: *It is a well-established policy of the Soviet Union to give aid to any nation which is the victim of aggression. The Soviet Union has followed that policy at a time when it stood alone in applying that policy.*

Question: *Therefore, if Germany attacks Poland Soviet Russia will help Poland?*

Browder: *If Poland wants it. So far, Poland has refused it.*

Question: *Do you know what the reaction of the rank and file of the Communist Party has been to this?*

## CALLS MUNICHEERS BANKRUPT

Browder: *I have no direct information. I think I know our Party. I think the reaction of the membership of our Party is one of rather complete understanding and agreement. Our Party has been through very many critical periods, and it has never been shaken by any reactionary campaigns.*

In his concluding remarks Browder said:

"The excitement we see over the non-aggression talks arises primarily from the final bankruptcy of the policy of Chamberlain from Munich down to date. When a big policy goes so completely bankrupt as this, it is bound to cause a lot of excitement, and there are bound to be frenzied efforts to find a scape-goat."

# Letters From Our Readers

## Outbursts of Race Prejudice—

Editor, Daily Worker: Bronx, N. Y.  
This is a copy of a letter sent to Mayor LaGuardia:  
"Dear Sir:

"It is difficult to believe that the following incident took place right here in Bronx Park:

"My two sons, 10 and 13, were playing baseball in the park with some of their friends. When the group dispersed, my boys were the last to start for home. Suddenly, they were confronted by another strange group of about six boys. One of them grabbed hold of my older boy and asked very boldly, 'Are you a Jew?' They finally permitted my boys to go home—but not before they had threatened to beat them up.

"A similar experience was had by another boy about two months ago. He received a terrible beating at the hands of these hoodlums when they learned of his Jewish name.

"I am sure, Mr. LaGuardia, that you must have received other complaints of this nature, and therefore I make this solemn appeal to you to stop the sale of 'Social Justice,' which I believe is the underlying cause of the present hoodlum outburst of race prejudice.

"MRS. ROBERT S. GREENE."

## 'And from the Spark the Flame Will Come'—

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

The rich earth, barren and torn, is red-brown;  
Red with the blood of men, women, children—  
And the fresh, clear waters are pink;  
Red with the blood of men, women, children—  
And the green, felt grass is black and dry  
And the soldier trees are black and broken—  
They died in blood.  
The multiple forest sounds are stilled by the voice  
of cannon  
And the sky is black—cold black  
And the sun is red through the black.

So it is—But not forever;  
For men, women and children are dying—  
And other men and other children feel and see  
and know—  
They know and will catch the spark,  
And from the spark the flame will come!

MURRAY BERG.