

# WORLD LABOR UNITY MUST BLOCKADE FASCISM --- FOSTER

By William Z. Foster

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The fascist powers, with their greedy aggressions upon neighboring peoples, again have thrust the world to the brink of war. Nazi Germany's attempt upon Danzig, not to speak of Japan's outrages in Tientsin, have produced such an acute tension, that, even before these lines come to print, it may all result in a terrible war or a new Munich of the Chamberlain surrender policy which has brought the world to its present desperate situation.

Obviously there is great need for world unity of the working-class to serve as the core of a system of collective security by the democratic nations, in order to hold back the fascist aggressors. True to its traditional unity policy, the Communist International, therefore, in its May Day Manifesto, called upon the Labor and Socialist International to cooperate with it



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in building a world united working class front "in defense of peace on the basis of a determined repulse to the fascist aggressors, the organization of collective security, the struggle in each capitalist country against the treacherous policy of the reactionary bourgeoisie, who seek agreement with the fascist aggressors, to the detriment to the liberty and independence of their own country."

This world united front proposal is receiving widespread support in international labor circles. Among others, the French, Norwegian and Mexican federations of labor have already endorsed it, as have very many individual unions and outstanding leaders in England, Switzerland, Belgium, Poland, Canada and other countries. The great Soviet trade unions are solidly backing the proposal. There are also numerous leaders and

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# Labor Unity Can Halt Fascist Drive --- Foster

## U.S. Labor Leaders Must Initiate Anti-Fascist Work, Foster Says

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progressive sections of the Socialist International that are giving it their support.

### UNITY CENTRAL QUESTION

The general matter of world working-class unity will be a central question before the International Federation of Trade Unions when its Congress meets in Zurich early in July. The French C.G.T. will be a strong supporter of a general united front of the working class, its political as well as its economic organizations, as proposed by the Comintern, to stop the war drive of the fascists. Another highly important unity question will be the proposal of the British trade unions that the Soviet trade unions be invited to become members of the I.F.T.U. Had the Soviet trade unions been members of the I.F.T.U. that body would have written quite a different and better record regarding Spain, Munich and other critical phases of the world situation.

There will also be strong sentiment at the I.F.T.U. Congress in favor of bringing the CIO into the folds of that organization, and also to take steps to heal the split in the United States. Whether or not anything concrete will be done at the Congress on these vital unity questions remains to be seen.

It is a serious weakness of the present drive for world trade union

unity and for the organization of a great anti-fascist international working class united front that very little is being done regarding the issue in the United States by the progressive forces. They, as yet, are hardly raising their voices at all. Undoubtedly this passivity represents an underestimation of the gravity of the world situation, bred of American isolationist influences, and it in no way corresponds to the interests of the American working class or of the people as a nation.

### FALSE REPRESENTATION

As things now stand, the A. F. of L. reactionary leaders are presuming to represent American labor on a world scale in the I.F.T.U. This is an evil caricature and a serious hindrance to world labor unity. We may be certain that these misleaders, flying in the face of all that is progressive in the international and American trade union movement at the I.F.T.U. Congress will make a strenuous fight against bringing the Soviet trade unions into the I.F.T.U. against extending an affiliation invitation to the CIO and against moving towards a great world working class united front against the fascists. Such a reactionary stand by Green's representatives will be quite in line with their splitting tactics in the United States, with their attempt to break up the Latin American Confederation of Workers, and with their efforts to defend Roosevelt and the New Deal.

It is, therefore, gravely important that American labor itself speak out on these burning questions of world labor unity and make known its real policies and desires.

## Much Hinges Upon Action of I.F.T.U. at Zurich This Month

Trade unions and progressive labor leaders everywhere would do well to let their voices be heard at this crucial period. It is worse than stupidity to allow the Wobbs and Greens to be American labor's international spokesmen and thus to let them betray its most sacred interests. The fate of world peace, of civilization itself, demands that the working class unify itself immediately and prepare to defend its rights and organizations, shoulder to shoulder with other democratic strata of the people, in the great struggle which is now so rapidly developing. Above all, it is necessary to strengthen the I.F.T.U. by bringing the huge Soviet trade unions into its ranks, to affiliate the CIO with the I.F.T.U., to preserve the integrity of the Latin American Confederation of Workers from the present A. F. of L. attempts to disrupt it, to establish unity between the A. F. of L. and CIO, and to create the broad working class, anti-fascist, anti-war united front now being so widely debated in international labor organizations.

Never was there such a powerful movement as at present for world labor solidarity, and never was the need for this unity so great. American labor, alert and forward-striving, should play its true constructive role in this vast and vital unity movement. But it can do this only if its progressive leaders and members speak and act promptly.