

The Hainan War Provocation

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE SHOOTING DOWN off Hainan of a British passenger plane by two fighter planes of People's China was a deplorable incident. But the Chinese

g o v e r n m e n t has fully explained it, pointing out that it was an accident, the Chinese pilots mistaking the the British plane for one of Chiang Kai Shek's, it being a matter of common knowledge that war-planes and ships of Nationalist China are very active in this general area. The People's Government of China assumed responsibility for the mistake,



apologized for it, and offered to make financial restitution.

In normal diplomatic practice this correct and friendly attitude should have settled the matter, and, in fact, Great Britain, the most aggrieved party, accepted the Chinese note as satisfactory.

But not our own State Department. Seizing upon the fact that three Americans were lost in the shot-down plane, it arrogantly ignored the Chinese note of apology to Great Britain, tried to create a wild hysteria in this country, and dispatched airplane carriers and airplanes to occupy the waters and the air around and above Hainan, which is a part of People's China. There they shot down two Chinese patrol planes over Hainan Island.

THE AMERICAN armed assault upon Hainan is quite in line with the general Eisenhower-Dulles attitude towards People's China. Their policy is to pick trouble with the country on every possible occasion.

This inveterate hostility has been marked by such events as General MacArthur's ill-fated drive to the Yalu in Korea, which constituted a threat against China; the Truman-Eisenhower attempts to bomb Chinese cities during the Korean war and to defeat the mass world demand for a cease-fire; the maneuvers of Dulles to prevent recognition of the Chinese government at the Geneva conference; and the systematic efforts of the State Department to block the seating of People's China in the United Nations.

Behind this persistent attempt of the Eisenhower government to provoke a war with People's China lurks an even more dangerous plan—to develop hostilities against the USSR—a war which is the very basis of all Wall Street foreign policy. They believe that a war against China would surely draw in the Soviet Union, as the two countries have a mutual defense treaty. And they believe, too, that it would be easier to deceive the masses about the danger to America in a Chinese-American war than regarding one directly against the far more powerful USSR.

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THE HAINAN INCIDENT goes to illustrate once again the war danger inherent in the present American situation—with

our country armed to the teeth and controlled by a bunch of reactionaries who are pursuing basically a war policy, aimed at giving Wall Street monopoly capital world domination.

Although the warmongers are failing dismally to hammer the capitalist world together into an anti-Soviet war alliance, they have not themselves dropped their belligerent intentions. Consequently, they may be depended upon to try to utilize every incident, such as that originally at Hainan, to cultivate a war spirit or, if possible, to develop a war. If no such incidents develop themselves they will undertake to manufacture them. The thorough exposure of the warlike policies of Wall Street imperialism remains a task of world importance.