

Was the Geneva Parley a Failure?

Foster Says: The Answer to That Question Is a Definite NO!

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

WAS THE Geneva conference a failure? The answer to that question is a definite No! The first Geneva conference, held last July, resulted in a solid victory for the peace forces of the world; the second Geneva conference disappointingly consummated no broad specific agreements but it followed the same general track of renunciation



of force. In fact, it registered another peace victory in that it gave the reactionary foreign policy of the State Department a resounding defeat.

This sums up the peoples' side of the two important conferences.

As for the side of Wall Street imperialism, that is quite an opposite story: for it the two conferences were major defeats and failures.

What happened at the first Geneva conference was that militant American imperialism, which was basing its foreign policy upon the perspective of an early atomic world war, was compelled, by the pressure of the world peace

forces, to abate the current acute international tension by abandoning, for the time being at least, its aggressive threats of war. This retreat action marked the complete bankruptcy of the so-called "positions of strength," or war policy, of American monopoly capital.

What happened at the second Geneva conference, in line with what took place at the first one, was that the bankruptcy of Wall Street's general war policy, made evident at the earlier conference, was here extended to the detailed expressions of that policy.

Mr. Dulles' stock in trade at the latest Geneva gathering was the stale rearming of Germany, building of NATO, intensification of militarization, and other potential war policies, originally formulated as part of Wall Street's program

of atomic world war. These belligerent policies were totally out of place at a conference from which the peoples of the world were expecting substantial peace action, hence the outcome of the conference showed that they were bankrupt.

THUS, THE FIRST Geneva conference bankrupted the hot war policies of American imperialism, and the second Geneva conference bankrupted its organically connected "cold war" policies. By skillful word juggling the spokesmen of capitalism were able largely to obscure what actually took place at the first Geneva conference and even to create the false impression that it was a defeat for the peace forces and a vic-

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tory for "the free world," i.e., Wall Street. But not even the slickest among the mouthpieces can hide the setback suffered by imperialist aggression at the second Geneva conference. This is why the more realistic of the bourgeois commentators, exemplified by Lippmann, are demanding a thorough and immediate revision of American foreign policy.

The general inability of the conference to come to any measure of agreement upon other important questions turned around the general disagreement over Germany. The latter was caused because Mr. Dulles came forward with what amounted to his old pro-war policy regarding that country. He wanted to re-unite that nation upon the basis of its rearmament and its affiliation to aggressive NATO, under a reactionary German government.

Meanwhile Dulles arrogantly shoved the East German government aside as though it did not exist.

As against this essentially war policy, which was what Molotov politely called it, Molotov introduced a true peace policy, quite in accord with "the spirit of Geneva" and the interests of the German people. The substance of this was, first, that the peace of Europe should be guaranteed by a general pact, which would also include all of Ger-

many, and second, that the actual unification of the present two Germanys should be brought about by conferences between them.

Mr. Dulles rejected the practical Molotov proposals, but the outcries of the various American bourgeois writers and politicians express deep alarm at the favorable impression these proposals are making among the German people, who are the most concerned in the matter. The grave worry of the Wall Street leaders is clearly shown by Mr. Lippmann, who in Monday's N.Y. Herald Tribune is afraid that "we shall be" elbowed out of the German settlement because the Germans are sure to negotiate with the Soviet Union. Reston and others are also writing in a similar panicky mood.

THE DISPUTE over the German question ruled out any serious agreement upon other major questions. Reactionaries will seize upon this fact to cause international ill-will and tension. But this will not necessarily throw the world back into the state of acute international tension and war alarm that terrified all humanity in the period prior to the first Geneva conference. The would-be world conquerors in Washington, after their bitter lesson at the first Geneva gathering, will think twice,

or even thrice, before they unleash upon the world another such atomic war-scare as they had then.

Should they dare to create such a scare it surely would not be long before they would find themselves in an even worse predicament, from the opposition of the world peace forces, than they did upon the eve of the first Geneva conference.

Undoubtedly, the obvious bankruptcy at Geneva of Wall Street's cold war policies will have many important political repercussions in the U.S. It will create new division among the bourgeoisie and also go far to liquidate the phony peace prestige of the Republicans among the masses, thus still further lessening their already weakened chances of carrying the country in next year's presidential elections.

In this respect, the big danger is that the Democratic Party leaders, Harriman-Meany brand, will make the basic error of concluding that the American people want more armaments and more aggressive foreign policies, instead of what they really want, policies of peaceful coexistence. Such stupidity and reaction could hand the elections to the Republicans on a silver platter.

TO THE WORKING CLASS, and other progressive forces in this country

the signal from the second Geneva conference, just ended, is clear and definite—it is to fight to do away with the Eisenhower cold war policies, which were spawned by the discredited Wall Street program of atomic world war. A drastic change of policy is demanded.

Among the policies that must be eliminated are such as the over-stuffed federal war appropriations, the NATO and SEATO aggressive military alliances, the attempt to develop Germany as a warlike imperialist power, the manufacture and use of A and H bombs, the effort to keep People's China out of the United Nations and to embroil that country in civil war, the cultivation of such dangerous political riff-raff as Chiang Kai-shek, Syngman Rhee, General Franco, the plague of pro-fascist legislation in the United States, and the like. The workers should insist upon future international conferences along this general line.

The fight against these ultra-militaristic policies should be made a central task in the coming elections. To abolish them is indispensable for easing international tension and the cultivation of world peace, and for the development of democracy and mass well-being in the U.S. This is the major lesson of the Geneva conference for the democratic majority of the American people.