

Lessons in Internationalism

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE BIRTHDAY greetings which came to me from 42 leading Communist Parties throughout the world carried with them lessons in internationalism that are of real value to the Communist Party and to other organizations of the left. Altogether, it was a demonstration of sympathy and support of our Party's brave battle against the forces of reaction in this



country. Through all the messages ran a strong current of admiration for our Party, and of its leaders—Dennis, Davis, Stachel, Gates, Flynn, Thompson, and the many others—who have courageously gone to jail in the fight against the warlike, pro-fascist, and jimcrow policies of the Truman and Eisenhower administrations. All this should be a matter of pride to our Party, and it should encourage us to fight all the more resolutely to save the Bill of Rights in this country and to halt the warmongers.

Of course, the great democratic organizations behind this big tide of comradely greetings are doing much more about Wall Street imperialism than to formulate protests to us about it. They recognize it as a great international danger, as a menace to the welfare of the peoples of the whole world, as well as of the United States. On this basis they are fighting it. And they are a real power in the world,

among nations of capitalism, as well as among those of people's democracy and Socialism.

The existence of the great and growing camp of world peace, democracy, and Socialism has, within the past few years, become a decisive force internationally. It cannot possibly be ignored by the big imperialist powers who are ever busy with their plottings of aggrandizement at the expense of the peoples of the world, including their own. The vast power of these democratic forces was graphically illustrated last year at Geneva, when they put a road-block in the way of Wall Street's would-be atomic-war makers. This was a tremendous set-back for these ghouls, one from which they are still dazed.

EVEN IN ITS domestic policies, American imperialism has to pay heed to this great new democratic force, which has the ear of hundreds of millions of people in all countries. Thus, in the recent set-back delivered to McCarthy, a very big factor was the international element in it. All over the world the democratic peoples became deeply aroused by the fascist threat presented by McCarthyism and they let their opinions be known in no uncertain way. Wall Street found it to be impossible to keep up its democratic pretensions abroad, while at the same time cultivating McCarthyite pro-fascism at home. Similar international democratic pressures also played a big part in the concessions recently made by the government to the Negro people, regarding jimcrow in the schools, the armed forces, interstate travel, etc.

McCarthyism and jimcrowism in the United States became international issues of major importance. The left forces in this country must be keenly aware of this trend.

The Communist Party and other progressive forces in the United States should become especially internationally-minded. Among many other reasons, this is necessary because of the world program of aggression of Wall Street imperialism and the need to cooperate with the democratic forces which are combating this aggression in all countries. Also, the forces of progress in this country, fighting in the heart of world capitalism in the face of great odds, can draw fresh strength and inspiration by keeping in close touch with what the workers and their allies are accomplishing in other countries, where the tempo of this march towards Socialism is much faster than it is as yet in our country.

The most famous of all Marxist slogans is, "Workers of the world, Unite!" This is the basic international watchword, already sounded by Marx and Engels over a hundred years ago in the **Communist Manifesto**. In the many decades of struggle since then, the integrity and maturity of workers' organizations could always be measured by their understanding and application of this great slogan. And as the years go by and the advance into Socialism becomes faster and upon an even broader scale, the need for proletarian internationalism constantly grows and becomes more decisive. Above all, the American working class has need to be thoroughly international in its outlook and policies.