

THE SOVIET UNION AND FASCIST AGGRESSION

IN the struggle between the forces of peace and the forces of war, a very great deal depends on British foreign policy. Unfortunately, British policy continues to disappoint all intelligent peace-lovers.

Despite the numerous features of Nazi Germany which revolt British public opinion, despite the direct rebuffs and rudenesses of Hitler to Great Britain, the British Government is still determined on an Anglo-German agreement. The Nazi Press campaign against the British Government, British statesmen can be rudely left in the waiting-rooms of the Wilhelmstrasse, but nothing stops the British efforts for an Anglo-German agreement.

It grows more evident that Mr. Eden, despite his platonic references to the indivisibility of Eastern and Western Europe, is prepared to sign a separate Western agreement that would give Hitler a free hand in the East.

What is the explanation for this? There must be some explanation, since this passive, accommodating attitude towards the fascist powers actually involves the sacrifice of some important British interests.

Unfortunately, the only answer is that the British Foreign Office is almost as anti-Soviet as the Nazis themselves. That prominent writer on foreign affairs, Mr. Vernon Bartlett, also puts his finger on this in his monthly magazine, "World Review." Discussing the obstacles in the way of an Anglo-German understanding, Mr. Bartlett writes that:

"It is safe to say that this understanding would already have been made impossible if the reluctance to please Moscow were not almost as strong in London as in Berlin."

Spain and the Soviet Union

THE Spanish civil war—better described as the fascist war of intervention in Spain—is now in its second year.

The paramount interest of Soviet foreign policy is the maintenance of world peace. In pursuit of this the

Soviet Government agreed to support the policy of non-intervention proposed by France.

This did not mean, as the Trotskyists slanderers asserted, that the Soviet Government had suddenly adopted an attitude of indifference to the interests of world socialism. The Soviet Union is second to none in its hatred of fascism. But it realises that the greatest blow to fascism is precisely the maintenance of world peace.

The Soviet Government is concerned with the progress of the forces of socialism and democracy in other countries for the simple reason that it is itself a socialist, democratic, and progressive country without parallel. But it has never pursued a policy of "exporting" socialism and of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries.

With regard to Spain, it was content to let the destiny of the Spanish people rest in the hands of the Spanish people themselves. And thus, in the interests of world peace, the Soviet Union joined the non-intervention agreement.

That was at the beginning. As the months passed by, what could at first have been called a civil war clearly became a war of intervention by Italy and Germany. Consequently, the Soviet Union declared that it would consider itself bound by the agreement for non-intervention to no greater extent than any other remaining participants in the agreement. The Soviet attitude was expressed in the words of Stalin when he said that the cause of the Spanish people was the concern of the whole of civilised mankind.

The Soviet Union has come to the assistance of the Spanish people in many ways. Some people say that this assistance has already been decisive in saving the Republican cause from defeat. Senor Martinez Barrio himself, the President of the Cortes, said recently that "without the Soviet Union, Loyalist Spain would already have disappeared."

Non-Intervention Committee

BOTH at the League and in the Non-intervention Committee the Soviet Union has distinguished itself as the defender of Spanish democracy and national independence. At the present time the Non-intervention Committee has run into a blind alley, as a result of the British Plan raising the question of belligerent rights.

Belligerent rights, declares the Soviet Union, have nothing to do with non-intervention. On the contrary, they represent direct intervention against the Spanish Government.

The Soviet position is perfectly clear. Non-intervention does not exist. It cannot therefore be maintained. What has to be done is to put an end to the intervention of Germany and Italy. M. Maisky repeatedly brings the Committee down to this question—when are the democratic States going to pluck up enough courage to compel the interventionists to honour the obligations they undertook?

The French Government has clearly allowed itself to be led up the garden on the question of belligerent rights. Mr. Eden, it is true, talks about the granting of belligerent rights only when a "substantial measure of evacuation" has been carried out.

This is all very nice; Italy and Germany may agree to withdraw 20,000 men if the Republican



The Red Army in the Red Square on May Day.

By Gore Graham

forces disband the same number of volunteers. And this would still leave Franco with at least 100,000 men whilst the Government forces would have been deprived of all foreign volunteers!

Fascist Offensive against Bolshevism

THE intervention in Spain is a stage in the struggle of fascism towards repartitioning the world. The fascist Powers, Germany, Italy, and Japan, are determined to expand at the expense of other States.

Above all, they aim at the destruction of the Soviet Union, for the Soviet Union is the very citadel of all that is anathema to fascism—of socialism, democracy, culture, racial and national unity, scientific progress, world peace.

We said at the beginning of Hitler's regime that the anti-communism of the Nazis at home would have its counterpart in an anti-communist foreign policy. This meant primarily a foreign policy directed against the Soviet Union. Events have also shown how Nazi Germany and its allies are using their anti-communist crusade as the justification for aggression wherever this is possible. Today it is Spain: tomorrow it can very easily be Czechoslovakia: the day after . . .

"Pertinax," has declared that: "Under the cloak of Spanish affairs the Fuehrer and the Duce want to put Moscow in the dock, and in this roundabout fashion compromise the Franco-Russian Treaty of May 2nd, 1935; in short, they want to break down the French system."

M. Dzelepy himself comments on how Mussolini changed the Italian policy of friendly relations with the Soviet Union and joined the Nazi anti-Bolshevist crusade. Formerly Mussolini boasted of his "realist" policy in establishing normal relations with the socialist State. But when the Soviet Union became a big Power in the way of the "revisionist" aims of fascism, Mussolini suddenly discovered that it was necessary to co-operate with Germany to "save the world civilisation from the threat of Bolshevist barbarism."

This book of M. Dzelepy exposes pretty clearly the anti-Bolshevist smokescreen with which the fascist aggressors cover their offensive policy.

The author, as a Frenchman, is concerned with the safety of his own country. He believes that the fascist Powers are likely to attempt the sacrifice of the smaller and weaker States long before they are able to tackle their great objective, the U.S.S.R.

"Izvestia," let me add, is no believer in the efficacy of prayers, appeals, and pleadings to stop the doings of fascism.

After Spain, Czechoslovakia

TALKING of German intervention in other countries, the Nazi campaign against Czechoslovakia grows even more rabid. Recently in the "Manchester Guardian" there was printed an interesting article recounting some of the facts of the Nazis' anti-Czech campaign.

According to that paper, the Commander of a German anti-aircraft battery, in a lecture concluding an instruction course, said recently: "All Germans inside and outside Germany (i.e., the Sudeten Germans in Czechoslovakia) must remain loyal to the Reich, and with their help the enemies of Germany must be destroyed." After the lecture, the officer asked a soldier: "Who is the enemy now?" The man answered: "The Russians." Whereupon the officer said: "No, at the moment our greatest enemy is the Czech. Only when the Czech has been defeated can the Germans breathe more freely."

A whole number of batteries are being established near the Czechish frontiers. These batteries contain new guns with an effective range of 80 kilometres (50 miles). At many places military aerodromes for offensive operations against the Czechs have been constructed. The number of regular and irregular troops has been greatly increased in the Czechoslovakian frontier region—and so on.

A friend of mine has just been in London on holiday, from her home in Upper Silesia on the German-Czechish border. She gave me a mass of alarming details about block-houses that are being built on the German side and underground fortifications that are being dug on the Czechish side of the frontier. She is German, and her compatriots, she tells me, are boasting that their new range guns can now bombard Prague from German soil.

The latest anti-Czechish provocation by the Nazis is the insolent invitation to 6,000 Sudeten German children declared to be suffering from under-nourishment, to come to Germany, where German organisations will "feed them up."

Naturally, this provocative invitation met the refusal of the Czechish Government to allow the children to visit Germany.

The Czechish Government did so with the utmost courtesy. It could easily have made a few pertinent comments about such an invitation from a country where guns are more important than butter.

The result of this is that the anti-Czechish agitation is again at its very height. The "Angriff," for example, declares across its pages that "Prague starves its children," and so on.

This is the kind of thing that is happening. This is how the Nazis are preparing to plunge another small country into war. They must be stopped.

The democratic Czechoslovakian State is one of those territorial arrangements which remain of the Versailles system. It would already have disappeared and the national independence of its people would have been crushed in blood, had there not existed the powerful Soviet Union, defender of national independence, member of the

League, and protector—through the Czechish-Soviet Pact of Mutual Assistance—of Central European peace.

Soviet-American Trading Agreement

ON August 6 a trading agreement was drawn up between the Governments of the United States and the Soviet Union, granting reciprocal and unlimited favoured nation treatment. The agreement is an important step towards normalising the relations between the two countries and is more far-reaching than any of the former trading agreements between the two countries.

During the past two years, the trade turnover between the two countries has increased. Soviet exports to the United States in 1936 totalled 21.4 million dollars, compared with 17.7 million dollars in 1935. United States exports to the Soviet Union totalled 33.4 million dollars in 1936 as compared with 24.7 million dollars in the previous year.

Good relations between the two countries have also been greatly advanced by the heroic North Pole flights and by the recent visit of a Pacific squadron of the United States to Vladivostok.

White Russian Brigade for Franco?

THE Paris socialist newspaper "Ce Soir" reported the other day that the former Czarist General, Constantin Sakharov, who was a member of Kolchak's General Staff, recently arrived in Vienna.

Normally he lives in Munich, but he is at present making a tour, so it is reported, of the European capitals and other cities, with a view to raising a White Russian Brigade for General Franco. General Sakharov's son is already fighting in Franco's ranks. The "Ce Soir" report also stated that the General is alleged to be well supplied with funds for his purpose.

I don't think the General will have much success in this recruiting tour among the White Russian emigrés. Many of the younger generation of emigrants have developed strong sympathies with the Soviet Union and its interests—i.e., world peace and democracy.

And as for the older generation, the decrepit old gentlemen of the White Guard circles will not be much of an asset to Franco.



Soviet Cossacks.



Guardians of the coasts of the U.S.S.R.