

**HANDS OFF  
KOREA!**

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American armed intervention in Korea has greatly increased the danger of a third world war, but it is still not too late to avert this terrible danger.

The millions of common people throughout the world, who passionately desire peace, have it in their power to prevent the spread of war before the first atom bombs begin to fall. They can do so by closing their ranks, rallying behind the mighty Soviet Union and its unswerving peace policy, and by acting decisively to put an end to imperialist aggression in Korea and other Asiatic countries before this aggression extends to engulf the world.

By its naked aggression in Korea the American Government has confirmed that it is not interested in reaching a peaceful settlement of international problems, not interested in consolidating peace, but only in fomenting a third world war. From preparations for war the USA has now gone over to open acts of war.

The Menzies Government, at the behest of the United States imperialists, without consulting the Australian people, has ordered Australian airmen and sailors into action against the Korean people who are fighting for their independence. This further exposes the role of the Menzies Government as a Government of national betrayal.

The Rightwing labor leaders have once again shown that they stand on the side of monopoly capitalism, of imperialism, against the interests of the working class by aligning themselves with the Menzies Government and supporting its policy of intervention in Korea.

In this critical situation, where the shadow of atomic war looms much darker over the world, it is essential for all people who want peace to draw closer together, irrespective of their religious or political beliefs, consolidate their ranks and struggle much more energetically against the warmongers. By mass meetings, demonstrations, signatures to the World Peace petition against the atomic bomb, and other forms of activity the people must impose their will for peace on the governments that are heading for war.

The capitalist press has lied and is continuing to lie shamelessly about the war in Korea, just as it lied about the war in Spain, about Munich and other international crises in the past.

Reading the daily papers one would get the impression that the war was started by the North Koreans, supported by practically the entire Soviet army and airforce, whereas, the truth is the exact opposite.

The war was started by the South Korean puppet government of Syngman Rhee, backed by American forces, in accordance with plans prepared in Washington months beforehand. There is not one Soviet soldier on Korean territory. All Soviet forces were withdrawn from Korea in December 1948. In South Korea alone 9,900,000 people signed a letter of gratitude to Stalin for the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

The United States refused to withdraw its forces from the South when the Soviet Union withdrew from the North. Even when compelled to make a token withdrawal some months later the USA maintained a "military advisory group" of 500 American officers and men in South Korea and continued to occupy Kimpo airfield as a military base. President Truman allocated 110 million dollars for military aid to South Korea.

The aggressive plans of the American imperialists were disclosed from time to time by their South Korean puppets, who could not refrain from boasting. As long ago as October 7, last year, Syngman Rhee, in an interview with a United Press correspondent, bragged about the advanced stage of his war preparations and declared that the South Korean forces could reach and capture the Northern capital of Pyongyang "in three days."

**On November 1, Syngman Rhee's War Minister, Sin Sen Mo, declared that his army had completed its training and was ready to attack North Korea at any time. He added that he was only waiting on the order from Washington.**

Additional evidence that the war was started by the South Korean puppet government on orders from Washington is provided by the statement of the head of the US Aid Administration for Korea, Mr. Johnson, to the United States Congress on May 19, this year. Johnson told the US House of Representatives that 100,000 troops and officers of the South Korean army, equipped with American arms and trained by the American Military Mission, were ready to go into action against the North.

Only a few days before the outbreak of hostilities, John Foster Dulles, Republican Consultant to the US State department, accompanied by the American Defence Secretary, and the Chief of the US General Staff, General Bradley, arrived in Japan and had special conferences with General MacArthur. Dulles then went to Korea, where he visited frontier areas on the 38th

parallel. John Foster Dulles was also present at the session of the so-called National Assembly in South Korea on June 19, where Syngman Rhee threatened "hot war" against the North. Dulles told the National Assembly that the United States was ready to give "all necessary moral and material help" to the South. A week later the war broke out.

## South Started War

At dawn on Sunday, June 25, the South Korean army launched a surprise attack along the 38th parallel and penetrated a few miles into North Korea at three places. The attack was resisted by the North Korean frontier guards. At 10 a.m. on the same day the Government of the Korean People's Democratic Republic in Pyongyang issued a communique denouncing the provocative attack from the South and warning the Syngman Rhee clique that if it did not desist from its aggression and withdraw beyond the 38th parallel decisive counter measures would be taken.

This important announcement was completely suppressed by the capitalist newspapers, which had been given the task of depicting the North Koreans as the aggressors in order to justify subsequent American intervention.

From the statements of Syngman Rhee and his War Minister, plus the activities of John Foster Dulles in Japan and Korea on the eve of hostilities, it is clear that American intervention in Korea began long before the meeting of the United Nations Security Council on June 27. The United States, in fact, confronted the United Nations with a fait accompli and obtained the rubber stamp approval of a rump Security Council for its violation of the peace.

The resolution which the United States pushed through the Security Council on June 27 is a gross violation of the United Nations Charter. According to Article 27 of the Charter important decisions of the Security Council must be taken by not less than seven votes, including the votes of the five permanent members — The Soviet Union, China, America, Britain and France. The resolution approving United States military intervention in Korea was taken by six votes only—America, Britain, France, Norway, Cuba and Ecuador. Furthermore, only three of the five permanent members of the Security Council were present and voted for the resolution. The representatives of the Democratic Republic of China and the Soviet Union were not present. The Chinese delegate has been debarred by United States obstruction from taking his rightful place on the Security Council and the Soviet representative refuses to attend meetings

where the defeated and discredited Chiang Kai-shek clique continues to be unlawfully represented.

The United Nations Charter also expressly forbids intervention in the affairs of any country where there is internal conflict between two groups in the State.

The Security Council resolution approving the armed intervention of America, Australia and other capitalist states in Korea is therefore illegal and Menzies and Chifley are deceiving the people.

America's real aim in Korea is not to uphold the United Nations Charter and restore peace, but to overthrow the Korean People's Democratic Republic, deprive the Korean people of their national independence and turn the country into an American colony and war base in the Far East. This shameful aim is supported by the Menzies Government and the Rightwing Labor leaders in Australia.

American imperialism needed the stamp of United Nations approval for its aggression in Korea because of the tremendous sentiment and powerful movement for peace throughout the world. But step by step its real reactionary aims are being disclosed.

At first the American Government stated that its intervention in Korea would be restricted to supplying arms and other equipment to the Southern forces. But when these forces, instead of reaching and taking Pyongyang in three days, as they had boasted they would, were hurled back in headlong retreat, the US announced that air and naval forces, but not ground forces, would be sent to Korea.

Later, as the war continued to go against the South, America announced that ground troops would also be sent, and these are now being despatched in increasing numbers.

In the beginning, the US Government said that American forces would only be used in South Korea, but within a few days American planes were bombing Pyongyang and other defenceless towns and villages in the North and there was talk of General MacArthur ordering his troops over the 38th parallel and up to the Manchurian frontier. This clearly shows that the United States is doing all in its power to extend the war.

In a smashing indictment of American aggression, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Gromyko, on July 4, declared that American intervention in Korea represented open war against the Korean people. Truman's orders to the US navy to prevent an attack on Formosa constituted direct aggression against China. His reinforcement of American forces in the Philippines showed

that the United States continues to regard the Philippines as its colony and not as an independent state. In the same way Truman's order to speed up military aid to France in Indochina shows that the United States has adopted a policy of kindling war against the Vietnamese people.

Gromyko continued that Truman's pronouncements mean that the United States has violated the peace and has passed from a policy of preparation for aggression to direct acts of aggression in a number of Asian countries. The United States has committed hostile acts against peace and must bear the consequences for the armed aggression it has undertaken.

## Soviet Peace Policy

Reaffirming the Soviet's peace policy and its policy of self-determination for all nations, Gromyko stated:

"The Soviet Government is persisting without change in its policy of consolidating peace in the whole world and in its traditional principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other states.

"The Soviet government considers the Koreans have the same right in the matter of unification of the South and North of Korea into one State as belonged to and was used by North Americans when they unified the South and North of America into one national State."

The Soviet Union has consistently upheld the right of the Korean people to democratically organise themselves in a single national state since the country was liberated from Japan in 1945. The United States, on the other hand, has just as consistently opposed the peaceful, democratic, unification of Korea and has sought to maintain the artificial division of the country, which was brought about when the Soviet accepted the Japanese surrender to the North and the Americans to the South of the 38th parallel in August 1945.

It was never intended that the division of Korea into two parts should be permanent, but that the Korean people should be given the earliest opportunity to realise their age-long aspiration to reconstitute their country as an independent state organised on democratic principles.

This intent to unify Korea was embodied in an Agreement signed by the Foreign Ministers of Britain, America and the Soviet Union in Moscow in 1945. To assist in the early formation of a Provisional Democratic Government of Korea a Joint Commission of representatives of the United States command in the South and the Soviet command in the North was set up. The

Agreement stipulated that the Joint Commission, in drawing up its proposals for self-government for Korea, should consult with the democratic parties and organisations of the Korean people.

The work of the Joint Commission was obstructed from the start by the United States representatives, who insisted on consulting with reactionary cliques and individuals like Syngman Rhee, who had been in America for 32 years and had taken no part in the liberation struggle, while excluding the mass organisations of the Korean people like the trade unions, peasant organisations, women's and youth's organisations.

## Contrast, North And South

Within a month after Korea's liberation from Japan's 35 years of occupation People's Committees were established throughout the country and the Korean People's Republic was proclaimed.

In the North several progressive reforms were quickly carried out. Universal suffrage was adopted. Equality for women and the abolition of child labor were proclaimed. Land reform gave 725,000 small and landless peasants more than 2,500,000 acres which formerly belonged to the Japanese colonisers. Industries formerly owned by the Japanese were nationalised. An 8-hour day and system of social insurance against sickness and unemployment were introduced.

Agrarian reform and nationalisation of basic industries made it possible to increase production by 260 per cent by 1948. Wages rose by 15 per cent between March and December 1948, while prices fell by 40 per cent. The Korean language was reintroduced in schools and a big program of education and cultural expansion was commenced.

In South Korea, under American occupation, the picture was the exact reverse. The United States from the first days of occupation revealed its real colonising mission by declaring the People's Republic illegal, by disbanding the People's Committees and embarking on a rigorous policy of repression of the people's democratic organisations.

**General Arnold, Chief of the United States Military Administration, cynically declared on October 10, 1945:**  
**"Sovereignty in South Korea does not belong to the Korean people but to the American Military Administration."**

There has been no land reform in South Korea and no nationalisation of industry. Landlords and tax collectors take from 60 to 70 per cent of the peasants crops each year. South Korean industry has been practically liquidated by the Americans. There were 3,000,000 unemployed workers in South Korea at

the end of 1949. The American puppet Government of Syngman Rhee concluded an agreement with the USA which brought South Korea into the Marshall Plan and gave American monopolies favored treatment. Whereas there were 10,000 factories and workshops in South Korea in 1943 there were only 4,500 in 1947. American monopolies have seized control of South Korea's electricity, coal, oil and transport undertakings.

Wages and working conditions in South Korea under American domination are worse even than under the Japanese. Even the pro-American United Nations Commission was forced to report that prices had risen by 20 times between December 1945 and January 1948, while wages had increased by only 7.5 times.

The working day is from 10 to 14 hours. Transport workers work an 80 hour week and in one textile mill in Seoul young girls were working a 90 hour week.

**These are the conditions the Menzies Government has sent Australian forces to defend in South Korea. These are the conditions the Government wants to impose in Australia.**

Trade union rights are not recognised in South Korea and no trade union activity is tolerated. Trade union leaders, Communist and non-Communist, are not only removed from their positions, but thrown into jail, tortured, and beaten to death. Trade union offices and the offices of democratic parties are closed down by the police. Since Japan's surrender in August 1945 more than 93,000 Korean workers and patriots have been done to death in the South and more than 150,000 imprisoned.

**This is the sort of regime the Menzies Government has sent Australian forces to uphold in Korea. This is the sort of regime the Government, with the connivance of the Right-wing Labor leaders, would like to introduce in Australia.**

Syngman Rhee's brutal reign of terror, buttressed by the American occupation authorities, drove the South Korean people to revolt. In October 1946, 40,000 workers struck against the hunger regime in South Korea. More than 300 strikers were killed, 2,600 were wounded and 25,000 were arrested, but this did not stop more than 2,000,000 workers, peasants and intellectuals from joining the mass protest movement.

In April 1948, the entire population of the island of Chyei-jyu off the South Coast of Korea revolted against the Syngman Rhee administration. Several detachments of the army were required to put down the revolt. More than 10,000 were arrested and many hundreds were tortured to death. Almost every house on the island was reduced to ashes before the revolt was quelled.

On October 20, 1948, the 17th Regiment of Syngman Rhee's army mutinied at Port Losy, through which the army units had been sent to crush the revolt on Chyei-iyu island.

## United States Manoeuvres

Faced with mounting opposition to its colonisation policy and a growing demand for an end to the division of Korea, the United States resorted to a manoeuvre and forced a discussion of the Korean question in the General Assembly of the United Nations. Here, in face of strong Soviet opposition, America secured the unlawful adoption of a decision to hold separate elections in South Korea under the supervision of a so-called United Nations Temporary Commission. The object being to foist the Syngman Rhee clique on the Korean people by a rigged ballot.

When the United Nations Commission arrived in Seoul the South Korean people showed what they thought of the American proposal to perpetuate the division of their country. More than 1,300,000 workers took part in a general strike under the slogans: "Down With The UN Commission.", "Give the Korean People the Right to Form Their Own Government."

In April 1948 a Congress of representatives of 56 political parties and democratic organisations in South and North Korea, with an aggregate membership of 10,000,000 called on the Korean people to boycott the separate elections, with the result that only 30 per cent of the voters went to the polls. The Americans had to resort to crude forgery to declare their puppet, Syngman Rhee "elected".

Two months later, in June 1948, another Congress of political parties and organisations of the North and South decided to hold general elections throughout Korea. In the North, where the ballot was held in conditions of complete freedom and democracy, 99.98 per cent of the electors voted.

**In the South, where the ballot had to be taken in secret under conditions of extreme terror in which 291 were killed and 9081 arrested, 6,712,408 out of a total electorate of 8,601,746, or 77.5 per cent voted.**

The Korean People's Democratic Republic was proclaimed and the Supreme People's Assembly established as the central government with its temporary headquarters in Pyongyang in the North.

The Supreme People's Assembly devoted itself to bringing about the peaceful unification of Korea as a free and independent democratic State, and, to this end, made many approaches

to the South Korean National Assembly. The most recent approach was on June 19, this year, when the Supreme People's Assembly in Pyongyang proposed to the National Assembly in Seoul that a unified all-Korean legislative body be jointly established; that this body enact a Republican Constitution; and that a general election for an all-Korean legislature be held on the basis of such Constitution.

The Syngman Rhee clique, acting on the instructions of its American masters, whose colonising plans would have been ruined by the peaceful unification of Korea, answered the North's proposals with war.

**It is perfectly clear from all this that the American, Australian and other imperialist forces in Korea, are not there to uphold the United Nations Charter, as they claim, but to prosecute a filthy war to overthrow the People's Democratic Republic of Korea and turn the country into an American colony and advanced base for war against Democratic China and the Socialist Soviet Union.**

## Menzies' Fascist Bill

In the light of Korean events the war character of Menzies' fascist Bill to outlaw the Australian Communist Party is shown up much more clearly. It is also much clearer now why Menzies was so desperately anxious to rush the Bill through before Parliament rose on June 22. The timetable of events had been drawn up in Washington. Menzies was instructed to push the Bill through before June 25, when hostilities were scheduled to begin in Korea.

Only the tremendous upsurge of working class and democratic opposition to the Bill upset Menzies timetable. The Labor politicians, who support the Bill in principle, because they are just as much the servants of monopoly capitalism as the Menzies Government, found it necessary to manoeuvre to avoid losing all prestige among the workers. To split the united front of working class opposition they proposed some trifling amendments to the Bill which in no way altered its fundamental fascist character. They were temporarily caught up in their own manoeuvre and compelled by the scope of the mass protest movement to persist beyond the stage originally intended with their amendments. The result was that the Bill failed to pass the Senate in its original form and was temporarily shelved.

However, there should be no relaxation of the struggle against the Bill. On the contrary, as an essential part of the struggle for peace, the struggle to prevent the war in Korea from developing into a third world war, the fight against Menzies'

fascist Bill must be raised to a higher level, compelling either the dropping of the Bill by the Government, or its rejection in entirety by the Labor Party when it next comes before Parliament.

The Communist Party Dissolution Bill constitutes an attack not only on the Communist Party and the trade unions, but strikes at the very roots of political freedom in this country. It is a war measure designed to smash all democratic organisations, beginning with the Communist Party, as the spearhead of opposition to the ruling class policy of national betrayal.

The Australian ruling class and its lackeys, the Menzies-Fadden Government and Rightwing Labor leaders, need the Communist Party Dissolution Bill to suppress the people's opposition to their war plans, their plans to involve Australia ever more deeply in the criminal war the American imperialists have embarked on, their plans to convert Australia into an American war base.

In reward for this betrayal of Australia's national interests the Menzies Government expects to receive a big dollar loan from the United States. Such a loan would increase Australia's dependency on American imperialism, further undermine our national independence and reduce our country to the status of a wood and water joey for the United States. Australian living standards would soon be smashed down to the low level prevailing in the Marshallised countries of Europe and Asia. The Menzies Government, in fact, is bartering Australian lives and Australian liberties for Yankee dollars. All patriotic Australians, all who cherish the cause of peace and freedom, must unite to smash this traitorous program.

## U.S. Bumps A Snag

In its initial stages the war in Korea has taken an unfavourable course for the imperialist aggressors. The American trained and equipped South Korean army of 100,000 was hurled back across the 38th parallel in the first day's fighting and was soon in headlong retreat.

On June 27, the Sydney Morning Herald reported: "Captain Elmer Lowry, of the American Military Mission, chased one anti-tank crew a mile and a half before turning it and putting it back into battle. Many troops fled without carrying out prepared plans to blow up bridges. The Americans watched one entire battalion flee to the South".

On Saturday, July 1, the Sydney Daily Mirror reported: "US troops went into full-scale action on the Korean front today following a dramatic collapse of the South Korean forces. Prac-

ically all Southern resistance against the North Koreans has ceased. Reliable sources report that the South Koreans have refused to mine the roads and block the advance."

**The Sunday Herald on July 2, admitted: "There is now no longer any question of helping the South Korean army. It has virtually ceased to exist."**

The rout was not confined to the South Korean army. When a rumor spread on June 30 that the North Koreans were coming, the whole American command at Suwon airfield panicked and fled 90 miles south, through the dark, wet night, to Tajon. The United States Commander, Brigadier General John Church, when he regained his wits, said he did not know who gave the order to retreat. The first he knew of it was when he found his personnel burning airfield installations, and leaping into jeeps and command cars. The Americans were ordered back to Suwon, but could only remain a few days before being really compelled to retreat.

The rapid collapse of the South Korean army does not mean that the South Koreans are less courageous than the Northern Koreans. The South Korean army melted away so quickly because the rank and file soldiers are opposed to being used as tools in the American plan to conquer and colonise their country. Where they could they deserted to the North, swelling the ranks of the forces fighting for the freedom and independence of Korea.

## Fight For Peace

Syngman Rhee has had just as little success in getting Koreans to fight Koreans for the greater glory of American imperialism as did Chiang Kai-shek in getting Chinese to fight Chinese. It is no longer possible for the United States to keep up the pretence that its armed forces in Korea are only helping the South against the North.

The vast majority of the Korean people in the South as well as the North are united in their opposition to the American invaders.

This is revealed by the statement of Lt.-Col. Thomas MacLure, a former member of the US Military Mission in Korea, who said:—

**"The South Koreans hate us. Our biggest danger will be sabotage and ambush. South Koreans will work peacefully in the ricefields by day and at night they will form gangs to cripple equipment and kill every American they can."**

The real character of the war as a reactionary war against the whole Korean people is being more clearly revealed as America pours in more and more troops and attempts to involve more deeply the forces of other capitalist countries.

Instead of the short campaign promised earlier there is now talk of a long war and a growing demand by the most rabid reactionaries for resort to atomic weapons. All this intensifies the terrible danger of atomic warfare breaking out. To prevent this from happening the Australian people, irrespective of their differing political and religious opinions, should unite more firmly and struggle more determinedly for peace.

- Sign the World Peace Council's Petition to Ban the Atomic Bomb!
- Defeat Menzies' fascist Communist Party Dissolution Bill!
- Demand the immediate cessation of imperialist intervention in Korea and other Asiatic countries.
- Demand the immediate withdrawal of Australian, American and all foreign forces from Korea, Malaya, Indochina and other colonial countries.
- Support complete freedom for the Korean, Malayan, Vietnamese and other colonial people to determine their own internal affairs.
- HANDS OFF KOREA!

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