

What's Behind Attlee Trip To Moscow and Peking?

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE FUNDAMENTAL significance of the current British Labor Party delegation to the U.S.S.R. and People's China is that it is a reflection of the vast and growing world-wide demand for peace, for the peaceful co-existence of the capitalist and socialist states of the world. The great demand has penetrated all classes in nearly all countries.



Behind the Labor Party mission is the peace-will of the overwhelming mass of the working class and the whole British people. In common with the great bulk of the peoples of the world, the workers and other democratic strata in Britain are alarmed at the war maneuvers of Wall Street imperialism and are determined upon maintaining the peace of the world.

They have sent the Labor Party delegation as a major means to this effect. Their peace sentiments are shared not only by the workers of Western Europe, but in practically all other countries.

THE VISIT of the labor delegation to Moscow and Peiping also reflects a diminishing taste of the British capitalists for a war against the socialist sector of the world. They no longer have the cock-sure attitude towards such a war as they did in March, 1946, when their spokesman, Winston Churchill,

delivered his fire-eating speech at Fulton, Missouri, with the applauding President Truman on the platform with him.

At that time the United States still had a monopoly of the atomic bomb, and what Churchill had in mind in his bellicose harangue was the launching of an "easily won preventive war" against the U.S.S.R. But now, with the A-bomb monopoly a thing of the past and with the certainty that a belligerent Britain would be utterly devastated in a third world war, the war-perspective does not look as enticing to the British imperialists.

So Churchill, faithfully reflecting their views, talks less about war and more about peaceful co-existence. He has given the Labor Party delegation an unofficial blessing.

THE ATTLEE delegation opens up possibilities for a further easing of international tensions. To this end, it can, if it will, do much to increase British trade with the Socialist world, to further the sentiment for the setting of People's China in the United Nations, to lay obstacles in the way of the Eisenhower-Dulles scheme for a united war front in South East Asia, and to prepare the way for a four-power conference in Europe.

How many, if any of these aims the delegation will push actively, will depend to no small extent upon what Churchill's attitude is towards them. For, after all, the right Social-Democrats are the "left" wing of the bourgeoisie and they never op-

pose it in its main policies.

The State Department naturally takes a very dim view of the visit of the British delegation to Moscow and Peiping. They are convinced that no good can come out of it for their program of war.

It is just one more sign that they have lost very much of the power that they had a couple of years ago to dictate foreign policy to the capitalist world. They see in this mission the hand of Churchill and of the British big bourgeoisie, which is more and more resentful against the arrogant aggressions of American imperialism.

AMERICAN organized labor is duty-bound to play a constructive part in the great fight now going on to establish peace in Asia and the world. Therefore, if the top leaders of the A.F. of L., C.I.O., and conservative independent unions, in their foreign policies, really represented the interests of the working class and the American people, they, too, would organize a peace delegation to establish direct contact with the peoples of Russia, People's China, and the European Peoples' Democracies, instead of swallowing and peddling Wall Street's lies about these countries.

Their present servile policy of tailing along after the foreign policy of Wall Street, whose government spokesmen are Eisenhower, Dulles, Knowland, McCarthy, and other enemies of the labor movement, is a betrayal of the workers' interests and a blow at the welfare of the American people.