

Briand's Pan Europe Idea

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The correctness of the analysis of the Comintern in designating as the main war danger the attack of the imperialists upon the workers' state of Soviet Russia receives fresh confirmation in the reception given in the European capitalist press to the Pan-Europe idea of Briand.

Events in China—the attacks on the U. S. S. R. by the Chinese militarist lackeys of Britain and the United States—the activities of the British imperialists in Afghanistan, their efforts to erect a hostile block in Asia against the Soviet State—the activities of the U. S. imperialists in Europe, the enslavement of the German working class through the Young Plan; the efforts to effect a transfusion of new blood into the dying veins of European capitalism—had already given ample proof of the correctness of the analysis of the Tenth Plenum of the ECCI that:

"In spite of the rivalry and acute friction within the capitalist camp, the crucial and all dominating antagonism between the capitalist world and the Soviet Union becomes more and more apparent as a difference between two economic and political systems diametrically opposed to one another."

The significance of Briand's advocacy of a "United States of Europe" becomes plain as one notes the joyous reaction in the capitalist press. The editor of "Journal de Geneves" cannot conceal his glee but openly confesses that while Briand's idea has features of an anti-American customs block, its main incentive is the fear of Bolshevism:

"If Europe is not able to protect itself against American competition it will not be able to do away with unemployment, low wages and the discontent of the masses, which serve as a hotbed for Communist propaganda."

Directed against America the Pan Europe idea certainly is, but also and primarily it is directed against the Soviet Union. But let us first examine its American content.

For some time now there has been a deep feeling of uneasiness among European capitalists caused by the growing fear that the biggest continental industrial concerns will eventually be gobbled up by United States finance-capitalism. This fear has been openly voiced by European industrialists, like Von Siemens, head of the biggest German electro-technic concern. It also found articulation through the late unlamented tool of capitalism, Stresemann, who in his last speech in the Reichstag warned European capitalism:

"It seems to me as if all Europe is in danger of becoming a colony of those who are more fortunate than we!"

Nor are these fears baseless. United States capital, avidly welcomed after the war by chaotic European industry, used the occasion to get control of several of the biggest of European concerns. In Germany, the Opel Automobile Works and others, in France, the Citroen Works, in Italy, the Fiat Works, are all more or less controlled by Ford and General Motors Company. The General Electric Company controls one-third of the shares of the second biggest electro-technic concern in Germany, the Allgemeine Elektrizitats Gesellschaft, while of great significance is the Harrison electrification of Poland, and the fight between British and United States capital for supremacy of the English Electricity Concern.

In addition to this Europe notes the rapid growth of American capitalism on all world markets, especially in Latin America and China, where the United States is successfully pushing out the English and German goods.

The Pan-Europe idea affords another example of the sharpening contradictions of capitalism in the Third Period. It would be simplicity itself to assume that the plan (if at all possible) would confine itself to defensive measures against American competition for the home markets. It would doubtless be turned into a bitter offensive against America. Whether it could ever be realized as an anti-American customs block is another question. "The existing conflicts between the European imperialist countries are so tremendous that to create an economic block of the European capitalist states against America is almost impossible." But there is always one question that the imperialists find it possible to unite on: the question of the perpetuation of their exploitation of the home and colonial masses and therefore the necessity for a united front against Bolshevism.

It is as another effort towards the foundation of an anti-Soviet block that the Pan-Europe idea assumes special significance for the exploited workers of the imperialist countries and the downtrodden colonial peoples. Destruction of the Soviet Union, the fortress of the Communist world revolution, the main-stay and inspiration of the liberation movement of the colonial slaves of Africa and Asia, is the main objective of Briand's Pan Europe idea.

The world proletariat may be sure that the significance of the success of Soviet economy, of the sensational progress of the Five Year Plan, which in its first year has surpassed all expectations, is not lost upon the imperialist enemies. World capitalism notes (what the International Rights are too blind to recognize) that the proportion of strength between the capitalist world and the Soviet Union has altered since the time of the October Revolution and is continuing to change in favor of the Soviet Union. Hence the intensifying attacks upon the U. S. S. R. in the international arena, hence the ever growing danger of a new intervention of the imperialists against the U. S. S. R.

The capitalists also realize that, apart from the tremendous progress of the First Workers' State in regard to socialist development of industry, the Soviet agricultural enterprises already surpass even the most advanced forms of agriculture in capitalist countries.

These facts are of tremendous historic significance to the oppressed masses under capitalism—and this is what world capitalism knows and fears.

This is why the enemies of the Soviet Union are engaged in frenzied offensives against the Workers' State. And giving objective aid to world capitalism are all those right wing and conciliatory elements who not only seek to revise the tactical principles of Communism, but have gone over politically to the camp of the enemies of the Soviet Union. While the socialist construction of the Soviet State leads on to new triumphs, while our brother proletariat in the Soviet Union are taking up the last decisive fight against the capitalist survivals in the villages, against the Kulaks and Nepmen, the International Rights are doing all in their power to undermine the class fight against capitalism.

The fight for the revolutionary defense of the Soviet Union, the fight for the destruction of the imperialist attacking front, which today is increasingly coming under the leadership of the parties of the Second International (Social Democratic Party in Germany, Labor Party in Great Britain) is the most important guarantee for the further advancement of socialist construction in the Soviet Fatherland.

On this 12th anniversary of the October Revolution, the advanced workers of the imperialist countries and the colonies must increasingly demonstrate their solidarity with the workers of the Soviet Union. The Communist Party of the U. S. A. must intensify its activities among the white and Negro masses of this country, among the oppressed masses of the West Indies and Latin America, to mobilize the working class for the defense of the Soviet Union, for the prosecution of the international revolutionary struggle, for the reinforcement of international solidarity of the workers, for the destruction of the vicious capitalist system.