THE WORLD SOCIALIST PARTY CONFERENCE—1958

A most successful Conference of the WSP was held at Essex Hotel, Boston on August 30th and 31st.

All of the Locals were represented, comrades coming from California, Detroit, New York City, Rhode Island. Comprehensive reports were given of Party activities. A goodly number of sympathizers attended all the sessions.

Keynoting the Conference was comradeship and cooperation; the unity of the comrades everywhere in support of socialist principles. Never have we had such financial support: more than $500.00 was received prior to or at Conference. This will enable us to meet increased printing and postage costs for WS, and to possibly get out more issues of the paper — if similar support continues.

Enhancing the Conference was the presence of Com. James D'Arcy, official delegate of the Socialist Party of Great Britain. He gave an excellent report of SPGB activities and took part in Conference discussions, adding keen and stimulating comments.

A highlight of the Conference were taped recorded messages from comrades in U. S., Canada and various parts of the globe. The response to our request for voiced messages was even greater than last year and the recordings were most inspiring. As a tribute to the late Com. Walter Henderson of Los Angeles Local, we replayed his last message to us and listened to his singing of THE RED FLAG and THE INTERNATIONALE. These recordings will travel with Com. D'Arcy on his tour of the continent, and then be sent to the various Companion Parties.

The discussion at the Conference was on a high level, concerning itself with Party principles and activities. The subjects which most concerned the Conference were Party pamphlet, leaflets, advertisements, covering stores with literature, gaining new libraries, taped recordings, editorial policy.

During an intermission in the Conference, Walter Kobus of Detroit, who had applied for membership, was examined by a group of official speakers (Com. D'Arcy present), and found qualified.

The facilities in the large hall at Hotel Essex were most adequate. An excellent buffet dinner (the first evening) and a banquet (the second evening) were decidedly delectable. A most enjoyable social was held in the same hall. Filmed activities of our last Conference were shown at the same time.

The day after the Conference, Labor Day, a number of delegates attended a picnic at Norumbega Park at which quite a number of the wives and children were present. In the afternoon, from 3 to 6:30 P. M., a successful outdoor meeting was held on Boston Common. Coms. Darcy, Miller and Gloss spoke to an attentive audience which averaged 125. $6.50 worth of literature was sold and quite a few back issues distributed. Lengthy personal discussions were held with a few avidly interested attendants.

All in all the Conference was an outstanding success — a landmark in the history of the World Socialist Party.

George Gloss
Secretary

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THE WESTERN SOCIALIST

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE FOR SOCIALISM! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CHAINS

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ANOTHER BRINK: QUEMOY

The capitalists of the world, in the words of that doughty old defender of the status quo, Mr. Winston Churchill, seem to enjoy "living dangerously." Certainly there has been no reluctance on their part to take us to the "brink of war" time after time since the end of their second World War. They have frightened us with their Greek crisis of 1947; they scared us with the Berlin Blockade of 1948; they inflicted upon us the bloody mess known by Mr. Truman as the Korean Police Action; our nerves were on edge during the Indo-China crisis, the Suez crisis, the Jordanian and Lebanese crisis, and now we are faced with a possible all-out war in the Far East because of the odd little war around the off-shore islands of Quemoy and the Matsus.

Certainly there has been no lack of danger in any of the localized phases of the vast new type of war which has raged between the so-called Iron Curtain nations and the West since almost before the ink was dry on the documents officially ending the fighting of World War II. In fact it is no exaggeration to state that the world has continued in all these years to teeter on the very edge of all-out nuclear war.

The reasons behind this dangerous state of affairs are not to be found, however, where so many look for them in the personalities, political acumen or lack of it, of the leaders of the contending nations. Mr. Eisenhower and John Foster Dulles could be replaced tomorrow and the tension would not be eased an iota. Nor would the replacement of Mr. Khrushchev or Mao Tse-tung or Mr. Macmillan help. If a world war begins because of the Mideast crisis or the Quemoy crisis, it will not be because of the ineptness of the "madmen leaders" of the United States, Russia, China, etc. but because of the very nature of the system—capitalism—the politicians are attempting to operate even if with the support or acquiescence of the overwhelming majority of their population. Regardless of who runs capitalism, markets and oil and strategic military areas will have to be fought over.

Who's Using Whom?

Insofar as concerns the present crisis between Red China and the United States, one would gather from the typical analyses, particularly those of the liberal and "left-wing" press that America is being pushed into a war by a third "power" the so-called Chinese Republic on Formosa.

If the situation were not so dangerous, this estimate by so many of our "astute" political writers would be downright laughable. One must be indeed naive to think that the capitalist class of the United States will allow itself to become involved in a vast global war just because Chiang Kai-shek wants to "use" them to further his ends. Any "using" is