THE FALL OF DIENBIENPHU

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE capture of the French fortress of Dienbienphu by the army of Ho Chi Minh is an event of world importance. It constitutes far more than a heavy defeat for French imperialism, which is desperately seeking to hold onto this rich erstwhile colony of Indochina. Above all, the fall of Dienbienphu signifies a major defeat for the aggressive war program of American imperialism.



Eisenhower and Dulles, loyally carrying out the wishes of Wall Street monopoly capital, had the policy of continuing and broadening the "dirty" Indochina War. They hoped to make of it a springboard for the development of a general atomic war in Asia, aimed against People's China and eventually the Soviet Union. This was the meaning of the growing U. S. intervention in the war, by taking over from France the bulk of the financial burden of the war, by the sending of American technicians and military advisers to Indochina, and by the repeated atomic ultimatums to People's China and the USSR about "instant massive retaliation" and the like.

Dulles and Eisenhower, however, overlooked one small detail—namely the fact that the overwhelming mass of the peoples of the world, including those in the U.S., wanted an end put to this war at the present Geneva conference. Drunk on their power in this country and dizzy from their control of the great American military machine, Dulles and Eisenhower believed they could flout American and world peace opinion and bull through their war program nevertheless.

But they were soon taught a sharp lesson to the contrary. The first blow they got was the outcry in the U.S. and throughout the world at the speech of vice-president Nixon in which it was indicated that the Administration was intending to send U. S. ground troops to Indochina. This was a deliberate attempt, also, to wreck the Geneva conference.

THE ADMINISTRATION

got its next heavy crack when Dulles, going to Europe with an arrogant demand that Britain and France must join with the United States in scuttling the Geneva conference and in enlarging the Indochina war, was met with a flat turndown upon the part of both these governments. Churchill and Bidault let the swashbucker Dulles know that their respective peoples were determined to end the Indochina war and that they

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Packinghouse

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W. Dowling, vice-presidents.

Only rollcall vote of the elections occurred on the vice-presidencies as Stella Geesaman, president of Local 58, St. Joseph, Mo., challenged the incumbents. Mrs. Geesaman withdrew from the race before completion of the vote.

The delegates wrote a program to meet growing unemployment and rising attacks on civil liberties and on minority groups. For lack of time, much of this program was adopted unanimously by the resolutions committee and referred to the executive board for action.

FOREIGN POLICY

The main resolution on foreign policy stated:

"We call upon the leaders of all nations to recognize that with a bomb warfare as the only alternative, world suicide can be prevented only by continued and persistent conference and negotiation conducted relentlessly in the face of all odds, in the face of all name-calling and saber rattling for the purpose of seeking the basis on which nations even of widely divergent philosophies and economies can exist in the same world without engaging in mutual destruction."

The resolution on McCarthyism denounced not only the Wisconsin Senator but also President Eisenhower and leaders of the Administration who are imperiling constitutional liberties.

Said the delegates:

"The poison of McCarthyism is not found only in the crude bullying tactics of the man after whom it is named, but has come to run all through our nations political and even private life."

The convention charged that Eisenhower, Vice President Nixon, Attorney General Brownell and others are using McCarthyism as "an instrument of national power politics and suppression." The delegates pointed out that all this is tied in with the Republican campaign to try to discredit the New Deal gains of the past with the cry of "treason."

Repeal of such laws as the Smith and McCarran Acts was urged.

FOSTER

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would have on taste whatever for an atomic war, one of the first results of which be to blow their countries off the face of the earth.

The Administration was further discomfitted by the debacle of its war plans at Geneva, and the disgraceful flight of Dulles from the peace conference there. The fall of Dienbienphu has exposed the utter bankruptcy of the Eisenhower-Dulles-Wall Street policy of conquest in Southeast Asia. Every imperialist propagandist in the United States has had to admit, however sady, the collapse of the Dulles policies.

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THE PEOPLES of Asia, realizing the true significance of the great event which has happened at Dienbien phu, will hail the success of the Viet Minh forces as a great victory by the peoples over imperialism in general and American imperialism in particular. Dienbienphu will stimulate the resistance power of all the anti-imperialist elements in the colonial and semi-colonial world. It will make the vastly more difficult Wall Street's plans to re-establish colonialism, particularly in Asia, under Wall Street's domination.

One of the most serious features of the latest defeat of Wall Street's foreign policy is the heavy blow it has delivered to the Anglo-American war alliance. Ever since the end of the war the arrogant Wall Street imperialists, with scores of billions in doles under their control, have bossed around the other capitalist countries of the world as though they were merely American satellites. They also ruled with an iron hand their synthetic majority in the United Nations.

But the events around the latest stages of the Indochina war have accelerated the growing resistance of the other capitalist powers to ruthless American domination. Dulles will have the devil's own time to reconstruct and to reactivate his badly shattered capitalist war alliances. This he is now trying to do, and the people need to be alert to every such effort.

The fall of Dienbienphu is a vital victory for the cause of world peace and freedom. So courageously accomplished by the Viet Minh forces in the face of an enemy vastly better equipped, it is one more great signal that the peopels of the world will not allow Wall Street's yoke to be fastened on them. Wall Street imperialism has suffered a distastrous defeat at Dienbienphu.

FUR UNION

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iron police of Pennsylvania enforced the eviction of striking miners and steel workers from their homes allegedly after "due process." "But will anyone here say this was due process?" he asked.

Burt pointed out to the New England group that American labor traditonally stood by those in its ranks who were victimized by the terror of its enemies and the Gold case takes its place with many of the frameups fought by all labor.

Gold, speaking on the resolution, stressed that the decision on backing his defense should be based in the first place on his record of 40 years as a member of the union and 30 years as an officer. Second, he said the case should be viewed from the standpoint of defense of the right of all labor. Finally he told the delegates that if a "substantial" minority voted against the resolution, he would turn down the decision to back his defense.

The resolution passed with 339 votes to 16.

The convention gave unanimous or near unanimous support to resolutions backing the fight of Meyer Klig, Jack Scheider and Morris Angel, leaders now under deportation charges, and again called for amnesty for Irving Potash, one of its top leaders imprisoned under the Smith Act.

The convention also pledged support for the fight of Hugh Bryson, president of the Marine Cooks and Stewards, indicted and Clinton Jenkins, organizer for the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers convicted under the same charge as Gold's.

An omnibus resolution embodied the union's stand on all basic political, economic and welfare issues. The resolution:

- Called for negotiations for peace and to ban the use of the A and H bombs; opposed intervention of the U. S. in new wars.
- Called for expansion of in-