

Woman Leader Of India Plays Britain's War

Member of National Congress Says India Will Not Join

By Angelo Hendon

Miss Manjivdevi Chaudhary, an outstanding Indian woman leader and member of the All-India National Congress, was greeted with long applause yesterday when she told a packed meeting of West Indian and American Negroes that "India's stand in the present struggle of the imperialist war is that she will not participate in it."

Speaking in the "National Congress and India's Struggle for Freedom" at the 110th St. branch of the YWCA, under the auspices of the Caribbean Union, she described vividly the brutal oppression of the Indian people under the brutal domination of British imperialism. The present war, she said, "was

(Continued on Page 2)

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(Continued from Page 1)

declared against Germany in our name without our being parties and signatories to it."

In answer to the false claim that Great Britain is fighting for "democracy," she said, "we in India are fighting for democracy as we conceive it to be and not the kind that Britain speaks of. Democracy can not be created by armies facing each other—it can only be created when empires are liquidated and oppressed peoples freed."

Fearful of the great movement among the Indian people, England, she pointed out, did not dare make public its war plans, but secretly and even without the knowledge of Indian troops, transported at midnight more than 100,000 soldiers to London long before war was declared.

This created such wide-spread indignation that no further attempt has been made to force Indians against their will to fight for Britain.

Declaring that Britain had arranged the seizure of Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland, by Hitler after having promised to defend them against aggression, she said "the history of Britain is one of a long line of broken promises."

She made it clear that the Indian people are no longer interested in promises but are determined to fight for their national independence. Since the outbreak of the war all local governments have been suspended and direct rule of the viceroy imposed.

She said the Peasants Union and the India Congress are both fighting against imperialist domination as well as against the native landlords and 500 princesses who are the servants of the imperialists. She expressed the hope that the people of Africa, and oppressed people everywhere, would follow their examples.