

Soviet Call: Dissolve Military Pacts!

NEW YORK, May 17—A meeting of top-level parliamentarians of the Soviet Union and its Eastern European allies concluded in Warsaw this week with a call to "the parliaments of all European countries" to simultaneously dissolve the Warsaw Pact Organization and NATO.

The initiatives from Warsaw is the latest in a drive that is rapidly bringing the Soviet Union to a state of total political mobilization to stop Rockefeller's push towards thermonuclear war. Virtually every propagandistic resource at its disposal — mass media, public meetings and cadre level education—has been employed in the attempt to galvanize the East bloc working class for the present historical conjuncture. At the same time, the new "open diplomacy" that began with General Secretary Brezhnev's May 8 V-E Day speech and the open call for development instead of war by the Soviet party and state leadership

two days later is being used to reach out to working people and other sane layers in the West with the message that the Soviet people will do everything in their power to ensure peace.

Both the Warsaw appeal and the other Soviet proposals have been almost totally blacked out in the Western press, as Rockefeller tries desperately to render the Soviet mobilization ineffective.

Precise Warning

At the same time that the Soviets concretize their peace proposals with the offer to disband the pacts, they have also issued their most precise warning to date about Rockefeller's plans. An editorial entitled "In the Name of Peace on Earth" in the official government newspaper Izvestiya on May 13 stressed the dangers of the present world situation in urgent and unmistakable terms:

"While we continue to demonstrate our love of peace and pursue an active peace policy, we have not forgotten that there are still adversaries in the world who

are nurturing criminal plans of aggression; they oppose a nuclear arms ban and a limitation on the arms race; they are trying to stop the lawful course of historical process. The Communist Party calls on the Soviet people and all peoples of the world to be on their guard and to expose the intrigues of reaction and defeat their criminal plans."

It must be emphasized that the language of this call cannot be mistaken for empty rhetoric: never before has the Soviet Union warned so explicitly of the imminence of nuclear confrontation.

Even the pointed phrases of the Izvestiya editorial fail to convey the full force of the Soviet mobilization. For the past 10 days—from almost the same moment when the International Caucus of Labor Committees shifted internationally to full alert status—every policy statement of any significance whatsoever to come from party, state or military leaders or from the media has been permeated with the sense of "now or never": either all-out mobilization of mass popular forces throughout the world for peace and development or an inevitable nuclear holocaust.

War "Not Abstract Concept"

Soviet Premier Aleksei Kosygin, speaking in Libya on the same day as the Izvestiya editorial appeared, stated that "for us, war is not an abstract concept. We have just completed our observance of the 30th anniversary of the victory over fascism (in World War II)...Remembering the immeasurable suffering our people and other peoples bore in the Second World War, we are fully determined not to permit the outbreak of a new world conflict. Its consequences would be even more severe, and perhaps even ruinous for mankind."

It is precisely this acute awareness of the stakes for humanity that has brought the Soviet initiatives to a new qualitative level as compared to earlier campaigns for peace. For the first time, the Soviets have begun to wield one

of the most powerful weapons they have: a genuine conviction in the power of scientific and technological progress to solve the problems of mankind.

Kosygin gave real content to previous Soviet references to development in the Mideast, when he emotionally argued that only a concerted drive for economic development could provide the basis for a stable peace. Having pledged Soviet support for the independent existence of Israel, Kosygin then addressed himself more directly to his Arab listeners. While unity, he said, is required in the struggle against imperialism and aggression, "it is no less necessary for resolving common problems—problems of economic and social development on the path to progress...People cannot fail to think of the future, of the new tasks that will arise to full height when the Mideast conflict has departed into the past. When they have freed themselves from their heavy military burden, and from the constant tension that the threat of war creates, the peoples of the Arab countries will be able to concentrate on the task of economic development, raising the workers' standard of living, developing health care, education, culture and science."

Kosygin's pledge of Soviet support for a comprehensive program of regional development for the Mideast represents the solution to the decades-old crisis in the area and the frustration of Rockefeller's plans to use it to detonate thermonuclear war. But his proposals, like those contained in the "open call" of the Soviet Union, are being criminally blacked out by every major media source in the West with the exception of New Solidarity and CP dailies. For the sane observer, the situation is intolerable: 250 million people have pledged to join their creative energy with that of American working people for the sake of unprecedented progress and development, and their call is being silenced.