

One Big Defeat— Another Being Prepared

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

HARDLY HAS the European Defense Community (E.D.C.) been knocked into a cocked hat, by France's refusal to go along with this mad Wall Street scheme to rearm Western Germany for war purposes, than Mr. Dulles has set forth to launch a similar project in Asia, the so-called S.E.A.T.O. It will not be long until this reactionary proposition, like E. D.C., will also collapse, and for the same general causes:



E.D.C., the military phase of N.A.T.O. (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), failed for two basic reasons. The first was because of mass peace resistance. The peoples of Europe, particularly of France, recognized E.D.C. for what it was, a Wall Street attempt to force Europe into a great war against the U.S.S.R. upon the basis of a re-armed West Germany. Consequently, they were against it. Mass peace sentiment was responsible for the fact that the French National Assembly, when a French premier dared to let the matter come to a vote, brought down the whole reactionary E.D.C. structure with a heavy thud.

The second basic reason of the E.D.C. debacle was the sharp and growing antagonisms among the capitalist powers, particularly between Britain and the U.S. In fact, Britain was more responsible than France for the downfall of E.D.C. When at the outset it refused to become part of E.D.C., that warlike institution was doomed. Had Britain accepted it, it might then have been possible to shove the whole thing

through the French National Assembly. But without Britain's participation the whole business was hopeless. Washington, therefore, may thank its "good friend and ally," London, for the defeat of its most cherished war policy in Europe.

THE PROSPECTS for SEATO, the South-East Asia Treaty Organization, are even more dismal than were those of E.D.C. at its launching. This whole murderous monkey-business is stillborn. Already it is running smack up against the two basic forces that wrecked E.D.C. Only in Asia these forces are even more powerful than in Europe.

First, the anti-imperialist, pro-peace sentiment in Asia is already letting it be known categorically that it wants none of the Eisenhower-Dulles plan for a general war against People's China, or also against the Soviet Union as the reactionaries hope.

Just what Asians think of the murderous scheme, they are showing by the fact that nine-tenths of them will not be represented at the coming Manila Conference which is supposed to establish a great united military front to preserve them from the machinations of the Communists. This conference is made up of the leading imperialist powers—U.S., Britain, France, and others—and a handful of small Asian powers—the Philippines, Thailand, etc.—all of them on the American dole. The only important Asian country scheduled to attend is Pakistan, and newspapers reports indicate that sentiment in that country is so hostile to the conference that if the government attempts to make any serious commitments there, it will surely face real trouble at home.

SECOND, the imperialist mu-

tual antagonisms are even sharper in Asia than they are in Europe. Thus, the British imperialists with a lot of bitter experience behind them in the not distant past are more than dubious of the American scheme of setting up an anti-Chinese war front in South-East Asia. The U.S. government wants war with China, but Britain wants trade with that country. Therefore, instead of supporting Dulles' scheme to consider a so-called attack upon one of the new "Asian" allies as an attack upon them all, the British will agree only to confer in case of such an "attack."

This wide divergence in program, taken together with the tremendous anti-imperialist pro-peace sentiment among the Asian peoples, will certainly condemn to failure this latest hare-brained Eisenhower-Dulles scheme to unleash a great war.

THE WORLD may well rejoice in the collapse of the E.D.C. war plan in Europe. It was a deadly blow to the whole war program of Wall Street imperialism. The eventual collapse of S.E.A.T.O. in Asia, which will not be long in coming, will be another such crippling blow. This latest plot against world peace is so clearly an attempt of the imperialists to regain hopelessly lost ground in Asia that the vast masses in that continent are not failing to perceive its real purposes and to draw the necessary conclusions therefrom.

Month by month, with ever-increasing speed, there is being made manifest the utter bankruptcy of the whole insane Wall Street plan to dominate the world through another great war. It is high time that the labor movement and the American people should put a stop to this monstrous warmongering that is being carried out in their name.