

# A Big Four Peace Parley And the German Question

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE incorporation of West Germany into NATO lends enormous importance to the proposed conference of the "Big Four."

President Eisenhower has stalled this conference as long as possible, in the face of the growing world demand for it. The line of Wall Street's men at the unwelcome conference will be to seek to sabotage any real agreement and to try to build a fire around the German question.



To defeat these deadly maneuvers will call for the utmost vigilance and pressure from the peace-loving masses of the world.

The warmongers of Wall St. and its Washington offices are chortling with glee over the fact that finally, after ten years of maneuvering, they have succeeded in making a reactionary-led West Germany a full-fledged member of NATO, the Anglo-American war alliance against the USSR and the European People's Democracies.

This is definitely a step toward war but, characteristically, it is being put forth to the world as an important move for international peace. It is also a complete repudiation of the Yalta and Potsdam wartime agreements, the central purpose of which was to prevent what Washington has just now made headway in bringing about an armed, reactionary Germany.

FOR ALL these postwar years the Soviet Union and the

people of Eastern Germany, in line with the interests of democracy and world peace, have striven to create a united and democratic Germany, on the basis of that country's non-participation in any war alliance such as NATO clearly is.

But the last thing that Wall Street will tolerate is such a Germany, securely oriented toward democracy and peace. Instead, it wants a Germany divided, one with West Germany manned by reactionaries, armed with atomic weapons, largely fascist, and resolved upon a war of revenge. Wall Street calculates that it has achieved just a setup in present-day Germany.

The general Washington idea behind the existing situation in West Germany is that that country, presumably with the reactivated Nazis having more and more to say in shaping its policies, will set a course of restoring the unity of Germany by force. This, Wall Street figures, will be a perfect setting for the rise of another Hitler—who will undertake a fresh warlike *Drang nach Osten*.

This is all in tune with monopoly capital's policy of launching a new world war when the time and the situation are deemed opportune. The plan is to use an armed and more or less Nazi-fied West Germany as a constant source of international tensions and, hopefully, of an eventual great war.

THE situation created by an armed West Germany, as the spearhead of an all-around capitalist military alliance in Europe, is indeed a dangerous one. It gives new vitality to the war danger. In the coming period

we may expect, if the people permit it, serious diplomatic crises, with West Germany as the storm center. This is the assigned role of that country in the new setup to inflame and provoke the European situation, eventually to war.

But the warmongers in this country should not count their chickens before they are hatched. They have already tried out this sort of scheme several times, but with little or no success. Thus they tried to prolong the Korean war and to develop it into a general Asian war; but the people compelled them to sign an armistice.

They tried to do the same thing with the Indochinese war; but against the resistance of the world's peoples stayed their hand and forced a cease-fire. During recent months also the warmongers have been trying another adventure in this general direction by seeking to develop a war over the offshore Chinese islands of Quemoy and Matsu; but rising world opposition seems also to be vetoing this lethal plan.

The same futility could also develop with regard to West Germany. The people in this situation also, could balk the plans of the warmakers to use that country as the touchstone for a new world war.

The approaching "Big Four" conference may well prove to be the most vital meeting since the end of World War II. It must and can be won by the defenders of peace and democracy, despite all those who at the conference will be trying to develop West Germany as a provocative weapon against the USSR and the Peoples' Democracies.