

The Daily Worker Is Puzzled

By H. W. BENSON

On November 19 the National Committee of the Communist Party dodged a critical aspect of the Hungarian Revolution and left itself floating above the struggle.

"We do not seek to justify the use of Soviet troops in Hungary's internal crisis on November 4," reads the NC "Open Letter to CP Members." "Neither do we join the condemnation of these actions. Was there no alternative? Was it a grim necessity? There are no ready answers and we are in no position to give final judgment on the Soviet actions."

The Daily Worker and the Communist Party are now in the pitiful position of those who presumably welcome a struggle for democracy in Hungary but are not ready to condemn those who shoot down revolutionary democrats. It is a fine thing to fight for democracy! But it appears tolerable, too, to murder democrats.

The NC is well advised to address this "analysis" to members of the CP and not to the public opinion of the working class where it would be received with the mockery and scorn it deserves.

How does the NC get into such a contorted position?

On November 4, just before Russian troops set up the puppet Kadar government, the NC adopted a statement on Poland and Hungary which said among other things:

"Their [the CP government] calling upon the Soviet troops stationed in Hungary to put down the popular demonstrations was a tragic error." (Let us overlook the peculiar terminology which calls such an anti-socialist crime an "error.") And it added: "The response of the Soviet authorities to the request for armed intervention also cannot be justified by the argument that they had the legal right to do so under the Warsaw Pact. This was not a matter of formal rights. It violated the essence of the Leninist concept of national self-determination because the call for the troops was not in accord with the wishes of the Hungarian people."

Here too the authors place an undue strain upon the English language. It was wrong to massacre the Hungarian people because that was "not in accord with what the people wanted." The tone better befits a discussion of a Roper public-opinion poll than a brutally suppressed fight for democracy.

IMPRESSED BY WHAT?

But even that is a big step forward for the *Daily Worker*; it is frankly critical of the Russian action, critical in a gingerly sort of way, but still critical.

Two weeks later, the CP National Committee retreats into a puzzled neutrality. And why? It has been impressed by Kremlin-created "facts" that manufacture, in typical Stalinist fashion, a fascist and imperialist plot in Hungary.

This is from the Open Letter:

"The role and influence of the reactionary elements within Hungary were bolstered by an influx of exiled fascists, interventionists, and agents of Project X across the Austrian border. The Nagy government, retreating before reactionary pressures, lost its capacity to govern and was unable to halt the lynchings, anti-Semitic outbreaks and reign of terror against Communists and progres-

sives. From these facts it appears that the Soviet Union decided on the large-scale use of troops on November 4 to head off the White terror and what is considered to be the danger of the formation of an anti-Soviet, Horthy-like regime on its borders which would threaten not only the security of the USSR and other socialist countries but world peace as well."

We don't intend to wade too deeply into this muck of apologia. But we ask: where did you learn of the mass influx of fascists, etc? And when?

The Kremlin has not yet had time to manufacture forged documents or to create real corpses with mythical political histories. So far, there has not been one reference anywhere to any "fascist" or group of fascists by name and address, dead or alive, found fighting in Hungary. They are the pure invention of the Kremlin.

What devious inner-party motives guide the authors of the Open Letter, we cannot know in detail. We do know, however, that they are aware of the fraudulent nature of the charges of "fascist counter-revolution" directed against the Hungarian people.

ELUSIVE 60,000

Here is where they got their "facts," as explained in the *Daily Worker* on November 23 when the editors answer indignant Fosterites who claim that the *D.W.* had suppressed the "facts" of "fascist" intervention:

"On Nov. 8, the *Daily Worker* ran a story culled from the *London Daily Worker* by foreign editor Joe Clark, which reported that since last April when the Austrian-Hungarian border was opened to tourist traffic an estimated 60,000 counter-revolutionaries had entered Hungary. As far as we've been able to discover, no other English-language daily paper published this news item. Yet, several people have demanded to know why we've 'suppressed' it."

Is that clear enough? The CP National Committee's sole unverified source of the fable is none other than the *London Daily Worker*. But that is not all to be noted:

(1) The traffic in fascists was supposed to have started in April. Yet no one thought it fitting to mention it until the Hungarian events of November. A suspicious person would conclude that the whole story is a Stalinist invention.

(2) The *Worker* doesn't explain how counter-revolutionaries were identified nor does it mention a single name. Did they cross the border with swastika flags flying?

(3) Where did the figure "60,000" come from? Was there a special turnstile, complete with counting device, through which border-crossing "fascists" passed?

(4) Where and how did the 60,000 spend their time in Hungary awaiting the Budapest events of November? Did they ride the subways? Did they infiltrate government buildings, dozing with feet on desks pretending to be Communist Party bureaucrats?

But away with annoying details! In days of old, thousands were shot as "fascists" in Russia on even flimsier evidence. The Kremlin demands that the Hungarian revolution be defamed. So be it.