

Questions of the day

By **JOHN GATES**, Editor of **The Worker**

QUESTION.—*Does a peaceful settlement of the war in Korea and coming to an overall agreement with the USSR and China mean another Munich?*

ANSWER.—Most of the newspapers and politicians who now condemn any and all peace negotiations as "another Munich" were the loudest champions of the original Munich deal in September, 1938.

Knowing that Munich is still a stench in the nostrils of a majority of Americans who associate it vaguely with the discredited figures of Chamberlain and Daladier, they count on the dimming memory as to what really happened at Munich and seek to distort its actual meaning into its opposite.

My memory of Munich will never fade. In September, 1938 I was in the trenches of Spain, fighting alongside of 3,000 American volunteers in defense of the democratic Republic of Spain against Hitler, Mussolini and Franco. Incidentally there were some 25,000 volunteers from all countries who fought against fascism under the command of the Spanish Republican Army in that war. This was the renowned International Brigade which earned the admiration of a majority of mankind. There would have been many times more volunteers if the governments of Britain, France and the United States had not placed an embargo against the Spanish Republic's receiving any assistance.



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This should be remembered when you hear doubt cast on the "authenticity" of the Chinese volunteers. The Chinese are carrying forward in a new way the great traditions of Lafayette, Kosciuszko, Pulaski, and the International Brigades in Spain. The big difference is that in contrast to the lack of support to democracy in Spain given by the U. S. Government, the Present Chinese Peoples Republic is giving all-out support to its volunteers for peace and democracy. Had Roosevelt done this in 1937 and 1938 fascism would have been stopped dead in its tracks and World War II averted. All honor to the Chinese Peoples Republic for doing what the US Government failed to do! They are acting in the true interests of the American people.

I remember Munich because Spanish democracy was its first victim. What was Munich? In September, 1938 the heads of the British and French governments signed a pact with Hitler and Mussolini giving away Czechoslovakia to Hitler. This was not a peace but a war pact. The British and French governments sacrificed the independence of small nations to German Nazism in the expectation that Hitler would march eastward and attack the Soviet Union. Munich was the unity of the western European capitalist states with the fascist states for war against the Soviet Union.

This did not produce peace but world war. This ugly and sordid deal backfired against its architects when Hitler attacked the West first. All this could have been avoided if the western European governments and the United States had heeded the appeal of the Soviet Union for unity against fascism.

The spirit of Munich is being carried forward today by American imperialism which is seeking to organize the capitalist world for war against the Soviet Union. Just as in 1938 the so-called western powers are uniting with the fascist elements in Germany, Spain, Japan and everywhere for an anti-Soviet war. This time however, this evil alliance is not under the leadership of Hitler but of Wall Street.

The movement for a peaceful settlement of the war in Korea, for peaceful co-existence of the capitalist and socialist nations, is not in the spirit of Munich but its direct opposite. Munich produced war. Genuine negotiations and settlement of differences between the capitalist and socialist world on a basis of peaceful competition will produce peace.

*(Readers are urged to send their questions to
John Gates, 35 East 12th St., New York 3, N. Y.)*