

## THE WINDOW

From month to month the outlining of "Grossraums" is becoming more and more apparent. This is also to be noticed in the field of news. The people living within a "Grossraum," in our case the East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, are forced by the course of events to concentrate on their own problems and to be interested above all in questions affecting their own sphere. Not only do they have less time and inclination to devote themselves to events happening outside the "Grossraum," but they know that all news passes through the filter of numerous censorship before reaching them.

From the USA, for example, comes only that news which the USA wishes to let out. And even then it does not come to us directly but must take the roundabout way via Buenos Aires, Lisbon, or Stockholm, which affects it, not only in time, but also in content. The news which the ordinary reader finally receives represents only a tiny fraction of the events that have taken place in the country in question. And often it is items of no consequence whatever that have the best chance of evading the clutches of the censors, as, for example, the recent report from the USA that a bridegroom was two hours late for his wedding because the tailor had forgotten to deliver his pants, or the "news" that a little boy in Arizona had stolen a brassiere to make a blindfold for his mule.

In most cases the radio is not much help either. Even if one is able to hear short-wave transmitters from other continents, one is soon disappointed to find that the American short-wave programs, for instance, do not reveal anything about events in the United States. All they send out is propaganda items specially designed for, in our case, a Far Eastern audience. The programs for Americans, which would be of far greater interest to us, are not transmitted by short wave but by long wave stations which we cannot pick up on account of the distance. Only in the case of the Soviet Union are conditions slightly more favorable for observing domestic events, as its vast space makes the use of short waves necessary for home consumption too.

These circumstances have the effect that even those interested in politics are more and more in danger of losing their broad vision of events beyond their "Grossraum." Our magazine, whose task it is to follow and interpret the most important events and developments of the twentieth century, regardless as to what part of the world they take place in, will try to keep open a window onto the world outside. We have requested experts in various important fields to collect all available material and to report their findings to our readers. The task of giving a survey from a few reports, often distorted and usually sent here more or less at random, is just as difficult as the task of the scientist who is to reconstruct an antediluvian dinosaur from a single vertebra. Nevertheless, we shall try. In war time it is more important than ever not to lose touch with what is going on in other parts of the world and to know, if not the details, at least the main outlines of developments.—K.M.

## USA REACTION

Without warning, the United States has been put right in the midst of a bitter and so far most unsuccessful fight. The country had, of course, been anticipating its eventual entry into the war. A state of pre-war belligerency against Germany had existed. Yet when the war actually came and news of Japanese victories and sinkings by German submarines began to fill the newspapers, this was a terrible shock to the people of the United States. Five months have passed since then.

Reviewing the development of American life during this period, two phases can be clearly distinguished: first, a state of consternation and confusion, then, with the realization of the danger, a period of national rallying.

### *First Panic*

Hysterical reactions on the part of the population were reported at the outbreak of the war from all over the country. An exaggerated air-raid scare arose. Scores of false

alarms were sounded along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, in Boston, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and many other communities. Wholesale blockings of telephone lines (Los Angeles) and even premature evacuation of thousands of families from allegedly endangered zones (Santa Barbara) took place. Nervousness about the dreaded "fifth column" caused a wave of suspicion and persecution, its victims being mainly American citizens of German, Japanese, and Italian origin.

Rumors of coming shortages in many commodities, of rising prices, and the possibility of an inflation, spread rapidly. Hundreds of Americans resorted to panicky buying and hoarding in order to spare their families avoidable privation and preserve the value of their available cash. As early as the beginning of January 1942, New York reported stocks of household commodities to be diminishing rapidly, while department-store sales showed an increase of 19 per cent against the same period in 1941 (Washington, D.C., 21.2.42). Not only foodstuffs and household goods but also textiles, cosmetics, electrical appliances, motorcars and parts for them, and even sports supplies were the objects of desperate buying.

#### *Profiteering*

Far more serious reactions occurred in certain business circles which derive their living from speculation and questionable profiteering. As late as September 27, 1941, Senator George of Georgia brought a profit-limitation plan before the Senate. It was turned down. But on February 12, 1942, a Congressional committee had to ask for immediate steps to prevent such exorbitant profits from armament contracts as had been collected by defense brokers. About a month later, on March 11, 1942, a Senate investigation committee likewise established that, among many other instances, a single broker had received in commissions alone more than US\$100,000 from a magnesium factory in California for securing armament orders during 1941. Similar cases with all the earmarks of a war boom as yet uncontrolled occurred not only in the sphere of "big business" but in that of smaller business enterprises and retailers as well.

#### *Unemployment*

Labor was faced with two problems: first, the question of preserving its constitutional rights, such as regulations for working hours and the right to strike, and secondly, the danger of a new wave of unemployment caused by economic dislocation as the result of war. Drastic curtailments were applied to the automobile industry, the motorcar trade, and many other branches of production and distribution. Consequently many an American family has been thrown into unexpected unemployment, and thus the initial general confusion has been increased considerably. On January 18 an agreement was reached be-

tween President Roosevelt and Congressional leaders to set aside an appropriation of between 450 and 600 million dollars for about 4 million men expected to be temporarily out of work, that is, while American industrial plants were being converted to war production. A spokesman of the Federal Government declared, however (5.2.42) that this conversion would probably increase the number of unemployed during the next few months to over 6 million.

#### *Struggle for Orders and Priorities*

Widespread uneasiness has also been reported in smaller business enterprises. They expect to be hard hit by various and still unpredictable war restrictions and taxes. At the same time they are afraid that only the large concerns will get profitable armament orders. Well-remembered experiences of the Great War justify these apprehensions.

The large firms actually favored with extensive armament and other war-essential orders also have their headaches. Until the entry of Japan into the war, their main concern was to maneuver themselves into the best possible position within the armament-production system. Since then many of America's vital raw-material supply lines have been cut by Japan's rapid advance in the southern Pacific, and bitter struggles have been fought over priorities in the supply of essential raw materials.

Drastic Government orders closing down large parts of American industrial production have clearly shown that, in the United States as well as in other countries, industry cannot get away from being commandeered by their respective governments. Thousands of medium-sized and small industrial enterprises and hundreds of large concerns are idle at present, and the only thing they can do is wait for their turn to be switched into the armament program in order to receive raw materials.

#### *Opposition Weakened But not Dead*

Before December 8, 1941, sharp public criticism and political dissatisfaction existed with regard to the President's aggressive policy towards Germany. As was to be expected, Japan's sudden entry into the war terminated, at least on the surface, the struggle between Isolationists and Interventionists, and brought for the time being many oppositional groups into line.

Immediately after the outbreak of hostilities, Senator Burton K. Wheeler and Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh assured President Roosevelt on behalf of the isolationist "America First Committee" of the unqualified support of that organization (Transocean, Stockholm, 9.12.41.). This did not, however, save the committee from being dissolved by the US Government a few days later (Radio Schenectady, 13.12.41.).

Colonel Charles Lindbergh, who had retired from the US Army in 1941 after having been

charged by President Roosevelt with being unpatriotic, placed himself again at the disposal of the US Army, and arrived in Washington during the first days of January 1942 to meet Government leaders. But this, too, does not seem to have led to mutual suspicion and hostility having been eliminated completely; for it was announced that Lindbergh had joined the staff of the Ford Motor Company (Reuter, 27.3.42). And this, in turn, was followed by the news that Ford workers had signed a petition demanding his dismissal from the plant (Havas Telemondial, 10.4.42).

The arrest of the author William Dudley Pelley, founder of the USA League of "Silver Shirts," also shows that complete national unity has not been achieved. Drastic measures seem necessary to suppress this determined group of Americans who are still unconvinced of the righteousness of America's cause in the war.

#### *Election Campaigns Loom*

Political unrest looms as Congressional elections approach, for it seems that the authorities do not intend to invoke the state of unlimited emergency in order to postpone the elections (Havas Telemondial, 5.2.42.).

In anticipation of the forthcoming campaign, much attention has been paid to the regional elections held at Waterbury, Connecticut, as this traditionally Democratic district elected a Republican for Congress. Wendell Willkie seems already to have taken the initiative in this new campaign. At first he, too, seemed to have abandoned his hostility toward the Administration. After the attack against rear harbor, he wrote to President Roosevelt that, as an American citizen, he was ready to co-operate in the war effort, but did not want a Government position in the New Deal. In a statement made in February 1942, however, he came out with a sharp criticism of Secretary of the Navy Colonel Frank Knox for the latter's interference in United States foreign politics; and on March 24, 1942, *Look* published a sensational article written by Mr. Willkie which constituted a full-fledged attack on the Roosevelt administration. (Recent reports about his retirement from political life are still unconfirmed.)

In the meantime the Administration was able to strengthen its position because of the national emergency, and several bills increasing the "exceptional" war powers of the Government have been passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate since December 7.

#### *Has Labor Buried the Hatchet?*

The traditional strife between the two outstanding American labor organizations, the AFL (American Federation of Labor) and the CIO (Committee of Industrial Organization) seems to be coming to an end, at least for the time being. First William Green, the President of the AFL, stated his readiness to

give up any competition among labor unions (17.12.41). A month later John L. Lewis, ex-President of the CIO, addressed an open letter to Mr. Green as well as to Philip Murray, his successor as President of the CIO, asking them to combine the rival American labor unions under a unified and competent leadership (18.1.42). Significant in this respect is a simultaneous action on the part of the CIO and AFL to eliminate certain extra payments for armament work done on holidays (Reuter from New York, 25.3.42). But no definite steps towards a further co-ordination of the two organizations have yet been taken.

In the meantime President Roosevelt has created, by executive order, a National War Labor Board (Reuter from Washington, D.C., 19.1.42), with a view to adjusting labor disputes and avoiding strikes and lock-outs. A further measure for the co-ordination of labor was suggested by the President in the form of a War Labor Committee which would comprise three members of each of the two big labor unions (5.2.42). The purpose of the new committee would be to prevent quarrels between the two bodies during the war.

Labor as well as official circles in Washington are quite aware that the organization of labor must undergo great changes and that strict discipline will dominate factories as well as barracks. This militarization and unification of labor will be simplified because labor assumes that it will get the largest share in the coming redistribution of wealth. However, the extension of the 40 hour week to 48 hours has as yet, in spite of the urgency, not been possible.

#### *Strikes and Strike Legislation*

The threat of strikes seems to be diminishing for the present. Even as late as December 4, 1941, William Green branded any anti-strike legislation as a first step towards totalitarianism, but shortly after the outbreak of the war the Union of Navy Yard Workers decided not to call any strikes during the war (20.12.41). Then the AFL and CIO decided to abstain from strikes for the duration of the war (1.1.42), while the White House announced an agreement between representatives of employers and organized labor with a view to preventing the occurrence of strikes and lock-outs (23.12.41). Nevertheless, strikes still flare up here and there, and occasional news about these disputes leaks through the censorship that has been imposed on all news dispatches emanating from the United States. Labor troubles were reported from Bethlehem Steel plants, from factories engaged in armament manufacture in Detroit, and from various other places (Washington Post, 28.2.42.). As an example: the President, in his capacity of Commander of the Armed Forces, had to order the Toledo-Peoria and Western Railroad Company to submit unconditionally to the Government's arbitration in

a conflict that had been going on for two months. This intervention was rejected by the President of the strike-bound railroad. Thereupon President Roosevelt signed an executive order advising the Office of Defense Transportation to take over the company (21.3.42).

Rumors regarding an Anti-Strike Law have been circulating since the outbreak of the war, but as late as March 17 President Roosevelt informed press representatives at a conference that he was not in favor of any anti-strike legislation. He thought the voluntary action of yielding the right to strike "a

more satisfactory answer to the problem of production and national unity than restrictive enactments by Congress."

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Thus wherever we look we find more or less the same picture: a great nation is trying to find its first psychological and material bearings in a war into which it was led by its President, a war which few of the people wanted and for which the nation as a whole is essentially unprepared. The next months should show whether the consolidating or the disintegrating forces brought forth by the war will prevail.—So.

## SOUTH OF THE RIO GRANDE

Today more than ever before the United States is fighting for supremacy in the Latin American world. Of course, there were trade relations between the USA and the Latin American republics even before the Great War, but they were relatively inconsiderable in comparison to those of the European powers. One factor that may have contributed to this is that at that time the American flag played a very minor role in all the Seven Seas, hence also in Central and South American waters. Nevertheless, the main obstacle in the way of the penetration of North Americans into Latin America was the economic relations built up by Europeans over a long period of time and on a cultural basis.

A large part of this European trade, especially that of Germany, was hard hit by the Great War. This was the opportunity for the neighbor in the north to build up his influence in the South American markets and areas of raw material. But he did not get very far. His attempts to penetrate the south remained without much success. The markets of the southern neighbor can hardly be conquered with American economic methods, which are determined by the mentality of the North American public. In addition to this, both victors and vanquished in Europe began, soon after the end of the Great War, to regain what had temporarily been lost, aided by the fact that they could resume old connections. A tremendous competition set in, in which the representatives of North American economy were often worsted.

### *Washington's Chance*

Then came the second World War. Germany, and with her almost all other European states, was cut off from Latin America. This was a new opportunity for the USA to pursue her former goal. Washington was determined this time to make use of the situation far more intensively than had been the case before. The longer the war lasts, the more rigorous are the measures of an out-and-out power policy taken by Washington. With the aid of political agents, with the system of black-listing, and with the influencing of public opinion through a partly bought press,

everything is being done to bring the hitherto independent states of the Latin American continent into complete dependence on the USA. Recent indications of the increasing efforts of the United States in this direction have been accumulating in press and radio.

### *Growing Dependency*

Mexico has now interned members of the Axis powers, although she has only broken off diplomatic relations with those powers. Furthermore, she has permitted the use of her ports and airfields to all states at war with the Axis. Economic agreements between the USA and Mexico apply to the mutual exploitation of Mexican raw materials, of course with American capital and under the leadership of American industry. The promise of the Mexican Government to return to their previous American owners the oil fields confiscated several years ago may serve as another indication of the economic dependency of this country on the United States.

Bolivia, too, has delivered herself up entirely to her great neighbor in the north. In addition to her valuable tin deposits, she has now also placed her total copper production at the exclusive disposal of the North Americans. Moreover, many of the Latin American republics have had to adjust themselves to Washington's desires, not only in economic, but also in military matters. One need only think of the long-existing military agreements between the Central American states and the USA, and of the fact that, according to latest press dispatches, Ecuador has now also had to agree to participate in the Lend-and-Lease arrangement, after almost all the other republics have already done the same.

The act of turning over airfields and naval ports to the USA in many parts of Latin America is another indication of the dangerous position into which these states have placed themselves. Brazil is officially not at war with the Axis powers. Nevertheless, the arming of merchant ships has now been ordered in Rio de Janeiro, and they have been instructed to travel only in convoys. Just like the United States before them, the Brazilians have through this measure put

themselves in the wrong with regard to international agreements and have thus forfeited the right for their ships to be considered neutral by the belligerent powers.

The method by which the United States plays off one Latin American state against the other in the pursuance of her goal is revealed in the border conflict between Peru and Ecuador. At first, as long as the negotiations regarding the cession of the Galapagos Islands (which belong to Ecuador) had not been completed, Washington supported the claims of Ecuador. But when this question had been settled and the goal of military occupation of the Ecuadorian bases had also been achieved, Washington turned more in favor of Peru. For the next goal is the influencing of Peru, and what method could be more suitable for this purpose than for the North Americans to look on with their hands in their pockets while Peru falls to keep to the border agreement?

Thus one state after another is losing its independence, and it is not only the small, poorly developed, and economically weak republics that are caught in this process. Even the largest of the South American states, Brazil, is well on the way towards complete dependence on the North American Union. In this vast country, which, even in its remotest corners, is a creation of the civilizing spirit of the prominent European races, a war of destruction is now being fought against all these traditions.

The disgraceful measures taken against members of the Axis powers by a government officially not at war with the Axis were to be expected least of all from Brazil and her President Vargas, and point strongly to the growing influence of the USA in that country.

#### *Two Exceptions*

In contrast to this stands the decree of the Argentine Government expressly forbidding its ships to travel in convoys. Argentina means to show with this that she desires to remain neutral and not to be drawn into the war. Indeed, the attitude of the two highly developed sister republics, Argentina and Chile, is strikingly opposed to that of the other countries. Both have in the last few months repeatedly given the world to understand that, for the benefit of their peoples, they are firmly determined to keep out of the conflict. They do not want to be involved in a war which is not their war. On the contrary, they demand that their special interests and sovereign rights be respected, while they in turn intend to continue friendly relations with all powers, in spite of any difficulties there may be. At the beginning of April, at a banquet given by the new President of Chile, Antonio Rios, on the occasion of his assuming office, the Chilean Foreign Minister, Barros Jarpe, declared that his Government had set itself the task of working for peace and a harmonious adjustment among the nations. "We are striving

for friendly relations with all states," he continued, "and we are determined to fulfill our obligations, with the obvious condition that our rights, too, remain untouched."

An example of Argentina's attitude is the decree of her Government prohibiting all Communist propaganda. The leaders of the Argentine Government have recognized that in Latin America, with its large, half-educated masses, there is no place for the Marxist doctrine, if the work of intellectual development that has just been begun is not to be seriously endangered. We should also not fail to mention here the correct attitude of the Argentine Government with regard to the use of German ships which voluntarily sought Argentine ports as a refuge. While North America and other Central and South American states have violated the right of sanctuary and confiscated Axis ships without regard for international law, Argentina did not make use of such ships until she had concluded lawful agreements with the states to which the vessels belonged.

#### *Trade and Politics*

What are the reasons causing nearly all Latin American countries, with the exception of Argentina and Chile, so openly to support the North American policy toward supremacy in the Americas? In the first place it is probably the economic measures of the USA. As an expert on Latin American mentality, Sumner Welles decided to exert the strongest possible economic and political pressure on the Ibero-American states, large and small alike. In this he was aided by a number of politicians who believed that they could ensure themselves of personal advantages through displaying willingness towards the desires of Washington. Then there was the large-scale propagandistic barrage from the United States.

It must, of course, be said for the Central and South American states that the war has closed their customary good European markets. Furthermore, they hope to get from the United States the manufactured goods they require so urgently and which they formerly obtained largely from Europe. But since the USA is also an active participant in the war, she is now only able to a limited extent to offer these commodities in exchange. To this must be added the growing scarcity in shipping space, which seriously impedes the exchange of goods between the USA and Latin America, quite aside from the fact that the former, in view of her own war requirements, is not in a position to supply many goods urgently needed in Latin America.

Looking at the situation as it is today in Latin America, we must admit that the USA has largely succeeded in her policy of supremacy. But how strong is this structure erected under the abnormal conditions of war? What will become of it when the world has one day returned to normal? We do not doubt that then the historical ties of culture and economics between Latin America and Europe will once again find their rightful place.—S.

## THE USSR FACES SPRING

In spite of all concern in the events in the rest of the world, the contemporary who is interested in politics automatically lets his gaze rest again and again on the wide plains of Eastern Europe. In the same measure in which the sun melts the snow and dries up the morass following it, everyone is becoming more conscious of the dark clouds massing over Russia and is waiting tensely for the approaching storm.

In an article, "Inside Russia," in our February number we attempted to give some idea of the domestic developments in the Soviet Union since last autumn. Now, just before the renewed flare-up of the war, which for months has only been smoldering, the time has come to add to that article a summary of the developments in the Soviet Union since the end of January.

Not a word comes out of the USSR regarding the daily life of the people, how they heated their houses in winter, what they are eating or wearing. Yet the study of the Soviet radio and the Soviet press shows that, aside from purely military questions, which we do not propose to deal with now, it is the problem of food that has been the greatest cause of worry to the Soviets. This is easily explained. During the first few months of the war, the Soviet Union has lost not only vast territories, among them some of the most fertile, but also, as a further result of the war, innumerable agricultural laborers. To this must be added the concentration of the remaining industry on war requirements, which has had serious effects on the stocks of agricultural machinery.

### A New Invention

New forms of economy have developed from the struggle with these exigencies. On March 5, 1942, the workers of the Lenin Factory in Saratov on the Volga appealed in a letter to the whole working world of the USSR with the suggestion to organize "Auxiliary Farms" (*podobnoye khoziaistvo*) in every factory. Incidentally, it has for a long time been the custom in the Soviet Union in many cases not to decree far-reaching measures from above, until — in order to maintain the illusion of a participation of the people in important decisions — the initiative for these measures has been given through a "spontaneous" letter from some group of workers. A proof of how little spontaneous such actions are is the fact that the *Pravda*, on the very day on which it printed the appeal of the Lenin Factory, also published the resolution of the Central Committee of the Soviet Trade Unions to introduce Auxiliary Farms.

The idea of Auxiliary Farms is very simple. The loss of the most important agricultural areas, the decline of agriculture in general, the disintegration and overworking of transport facilities for military purposes, all make it impossible for the Soviet Government to continue to feed the cities and industrial

centers. Of the three population groups that have to be fed, the rural inhabitants must, of course, look after themselves; the Army is fed from the agricultural surplus; and the cities — this is where the Auxiliary Farms come in — must stand on their own feet. Every plant is now, with all possible haste, to establish its own farm somewhere in the vicinity. Through this policy, the State shifts its responsibility for feeding the cities and industrial centers, which it can no longer fulfill, onto the shoulders of the urban population. Wherever people are starving, the State can say: It is your own fault, for you have not taken proper care of your new Auxiliary Farms.

### Marx Would Be Surprised

It seems very doubtful whether it is possible, in view of the prevailing confusion and the seizing of all labor reserves for industrial work, suddenly to create sound, productive agricultural concerns from thin air. But the significance of this policy is already clear: the necessity of creating Auxiliary Farms is a tremendous declaration of bankruptcy by the Soviet economic policy. The two main pillars of Bolshevik economic ideology — on the one hand, specialization and division of labor, on the other, strict centralization of planning and leadership — are thereby overthrown. In a most uneconomic manner the industrial worker is forced to become a farmer again on the side, and the basis is being laid for the emancipation of industrial areas from the center of supervision as well as from the agricultural areas. Instead of having an economic body nourished by a uniform circulation of the blood, each cell of this body is forced to live in isolation.

A measure urgently needed from the Soviet point of view, such as the creation of Auxiliary Farms, is thus contributing towards the undermining of the unity of Soviet economics, built up at such great sacrifice by the Bolsheviks. Karl Marx once said that the stronger capitalism grows, the more quickly it approaches its decline through the emergence of inner contradictions. He did not know at the time that he was also pronouncing the death sentence of his own brain-child.

### Limited Human Reserves

Next to the establishment of Auxiliary Farms, it is by the use of female labor that the Soviet Government is trying to combat the increasingly noticeable lack of farmhands. And it is not only on the farms but everywhere else in the Soviet Union that woman is gaining in importance from week to week.

When the world speaks of the inexhaustible human reserves of the Soviet Union, it is only relatively correct. Of course, the human reserves at the disposal of the Soviet Government are far greater than those of Poland, France, England, or Yugoslavia. But, seen absolutely, even the human reserves of the

USSR have their limits. This is shown by the following simple piece of arithmetic.

MAN-POWER RESERVES  
OF THE USSR, SPRING 1942

	in millions
Total population of the USSR according to census of January 17, 1939	170
Plus population acquired 1939/40 in Finland, Baltic States, Poland	+ 18
	188
Less inhabitants of areas occupied by German troops in April 1942	- 62
	128
Plus population evacuated from these areas (from 12 to 30%, but reduced by large losses through starvation and cold)	+ 6
	134
Less children under 14 (39%) and adults over 65 (4%), altogether approx. 43%	- 58
	76
Less women, i.e., half the population	- 38
	38
Less losses in prisoners	- 4
	34
Less losses in dead and wounded	- 10
Total available man power, age 14-65	24

#### Enter Women

From these 24 million, the gigantic Red Army (especially on the Western Front but to a certain extent also in the Soviet Far East), industry, agriculture, communications, administration, and a thousand other branches must be filled. This is impossible. Therefore the total employment of women is imperative. Figures constantly appearing in the Soviet radio reveal that some 45 to 55 per cent of the industrial and roughly 75 per cent of the agricultural laborers are women. Kalinin, the President of the USSR, said, "At present it is mainly women who are working on the collective farms." (Moscow, 4.3.42.) At the congress of the village organizations of the Communist youth organization (*Komsomol*) that took place in Moscow on February 25 and 26, most of the speakers were women.

In the same way that women are moving into the front lines of labor, political propaganda must deal with them accordingly. Hence, in comparison to former times, there is an unusually large number of women among the newly accepted members of the Party. And every woman Party member automatically becomes a political leader among those women who do not belong to the Party.

The inclusion of women into the economic process is only natural under war-time conditions, and has, although in a more limited degree than in the USSR, been carried out in all belligerent nations. In one field, however, the mobilization of women represents an absolutely new phenomenon, which is unpredictable in its effects and which opens up terrible perspectives: we mean the mobilization of women for active service in the army.

#### Girl-Warriors

It is known that the carrying out of universal military service for women and young people was recommended as long ago as October 1941. This service is usually called after the initial letters of the Russian words for "General Obligatory Military Training" —

*vseobutchny*. It was not long before the *vseobutchny* became compulsory for all industrial plants and thus also for the women employed in them. An intensive propaganda was developed, aiming at getting other women to participate. In this way much experience has been gained in the USSR since last autumn in the formerly unknown field of military training for women. Suitable training methods for them were worked out, and the beginnings of an officers' corps made up of women were formed. At first it was only a matter of a very few women, and the training aimed at creating a sort of civil guard, and not regular female front-line soldiers. But this has been changed during the last few weeks. On the eve of the Communist "World Women's Day," celebrated on March 8 of every year, the Party issued an appeal directed to all women of the Soviet Union:

"Women and girls! Learn the art of war! A truly patriotic Soviet woman enthusiastically acquires knowledge of war and first aid, and learns to handle rifles, hand grenades, machine guns, and other war implements."

In a leading article, the *Pravda* said (3.3.42): "All patriotic Soviet women must be able to carry a rifle." And on the following day: "Millions of women are joining the Army Reserve. Under conditions resembling war, they must be trained, and the reserves at the disposal of the Red Army must be increased every day." (4.3.42.)

A new word has been coined and is filling the ether: "the girl-warrior" (*devushka voyni*), and since the middle of March reports of military maneuvers of individual troop formations more and more frequently contain the stereotyped formula "the soldiers and girls of X Detachment" (*Boitoy i devushki N-skoy tchasti*).

#### War Companions and Atrocities

The leading place in the propaganda for the inclusion of women for military purposes is taken by the wives of the officers of the Red Army. For them, too a new term has been invented. They are "war companions" (*Boyovye podrughi*).

Hand in hand with the military training goes an atrocity propaganda which outdoes all previous efforts, a propaganda which ceaselessly accuses the German Army of the most frightful atrocities, which it describes in such detail that one is almost too disgusted to listen to it. The constant repetition of these alleged atrocities is directed above all at women, so as to bring about a deadening of their nerves and of all their womanly feelings and finally to turn them into furies of hatred.

Thus the world is approaching the gruesome spectacle of a war in which a German-European Army, accustomed to victory, excellently trained and disciplined, and equipped with all the weapons of war, is poised for a knock-out fight against masses inflamed almost to madness by all the means of propaganda, by terror, hatred, fear, and destructive rage.—M.