Women's Rally In Rome Hears Russia Praised

Pro-Soviet Congress Told U.S., French and British Imperialists Seek War

By Barrett McGurn

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

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ROME, May 17.—Delegates to a world convention here of anti-Fascist and pro-Soviet women indicated today that they have been embarrassed seriously by activities of Catholic and Right-wing Socialist women in the United States and western Europe, and by the International Women's Council which met last September in Philadelphia.

The aim of the organization which is meeting here, the Democratic Women's International Federation, is to fight "American, British and French imperialists and warmongers" and thus achieve peace. Both Russian and American delegates attacked the United States' foreign policy furiously today as they reviewed their organization's world activities and planned its future. The federation claims to represent 80,000,000 women in fifty-one nations.

Nina Popova, Soviet representative in the federation, told the delegates today that they must concentrate on winning women away from Catholic and Right-wing Socialist leaders and from the International Women's Council. She said they must launch "tremendous" activitiy through newspapers, radio programs and public meetings to convince the women of the world who are the true friends and who are the foes of peace.

Miss Popova, a grave, square-shouldered middle-aged woman, said Soviet Russia has proved its love of peace by the many treaties of friendship, collaboration and mutual assistance it has signed recently with neighbor nations "to prevent a repetition of imperialist aggression on the part of Germany or its possible allies."

The United States, Britain "and the countries which dance to their tune," on the other hand, have ignored the year-old United Nations resolution against war-mongering, Miss Popova told the delegates from Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Italy, France, the Communist "liberated" area of China, Viet Nam and the United States.

American imperialists, Miss Popova said, are "directing the Fascist detachments in Greece which are shooting the peaceful population," are "bribing sheiks and emirs in Arab countries," are organizing groups of adventurers and bandits in Pakistan to attack innocent Kashmirs, are "seizing foreign territory in Greenland and proclaiming it as their own and building military bases on it," and in Latin America "are striving to place representatives of the American stock exchange and the general staff in leading positions which enable them to direct the life of those countries."

Miss Popova indicated that Catholic groups have been successful in keeping many women from joining the federation by "threatening them with the tortures of Hell" and "frightening them with the danger of the destruction of Christian civilization." She placed the words "Christian civilization" inside quotation marks in her prepared copy. She advised the federation to "respect the religious feelings" of the Catholic women and to attempt to convince them they are being used as the tools of reactionaries.

The chief American delegate is Mrs. Murie Draper, of New York, mother of Paul Draper, the dancer, and chairman of the women's section of the American National Committee for American-Soviet Friendship. In an enthusiastic address today she agreed heartily with many of Miss Popova's points.

Mrs. Draper said that the recent report of Russian submarines in Japanese waters was an "invention" of the United States Navy, and that the American people are being given a dose of anti-Soviet propaganda worse than that against Germany before the second World War.

She said that one of the most recent conversions to "the camp of war and anti-Sovietism" was that of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. She listed Walter Lippmann, Elliott and James Roosevelt, Max Lerner, Philip Murray, James B. Carey, John Steinbeck and Mary McLeod Bethune as others who have been so converted.

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