



Half the World

by Claudia Jones

IN BETWEEN frequent incarceration in the filthy city jail of the Women's Detention Home, I have been busy keeping up with basic reading.

The most basic piece I read was a copy of a recently world-issued pamphlet entitled "We Accuse!"

The pamphlet is the well-written signed report of the delegation of prominent women of many political beliefs and persuasions who recently visited Korea and witnessed for themselves the terrible destruction of life and property of over 3,000,000 Koreans. In its simplicity of language, every word of which is an indictment—an indictment against the imperialist jailers of fighters for peace and progress and thought—if they could—in our own land as well as throughout the world.

Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables*, pales before this brief and well documented pamphlet. Dante's *Inferno*, is no longer a flight of the imagination, but all too real. One reads of the uncovered graves of mothers pregnant with new life indecently buried in the hills even, as did Hitler's fascists seek to cover up their foul deeds of concentration camp human bones before the bar of mankind's justice and holy wrath.

Tears of unexpressed anger flow from your eyes as you read of the rape of women, of the wiping out of the young manhood in village after village of the millions of Korean workers, peasants and children, who died with their eyes open, in which, from the jaws of death they ACCUSE the interventionists of the vast pillage and waste of life. They write how they cover their mouths and noses at the terrible stench of the dishonored dead, buried naked, lying in neat rows—always the efficiency of our Western Civilization's desperate "leaders" is manifest!

And in page after page these magnificent anti-fascist women who dared their jobs and security, to compose this delegation, like Mrs. Monica Felton, Labor M.P. of Shakespeare's England, and the Britain of Tamara Rust, leader of Britain's anti-fascist women. They, as well as the magnificent Soviet women, Eastern European women, French, Italian, African and Latin American women who saw with their own eyes this infinite suffering, tell you in their report why they demand, together, with the women of Stalin Peace Prize Winner, Mme. Pak Den Al's Korea, retribution, and bringing the criminals responsible for this, before the bar of mankind's wrath.

Shame fills you as an American to read of these scenes of destruction and mass death. And in this pamphlet, as well as another, entitled *The Children of Korea Call to the Women of the World*, these people, the magnificent Koreans, whose bodies have helped to impose peace on the warmakers, explain "How Decent Boys Become Barbarians."

"People forget that soldiers of any nationality fighting in aggressive war of annihilation against a whole people, become quickly brutalized and commit acts that they would never have dreamed themselves capable of a few months before. An unjust war can only be fought by barbarous means." (*The Children of Korea Call to the Women of the World*.)

Both pamphlets are issued by the Women's International Democratic Federation, Unter den Linden, 13, Berlin, W. 8, Germany.

When one reads such documents, is it any wonder that when people ask you about your frequent jailings, that you urge their recognition of the world wide threat that the Smith Act enforcers represent to peace and social progress?

