

Why AFL brass left world labor body

CPYRGHT

The Story behind **George Meany's withdrawal from ICFTU**

By **GEORGE MORRIS**
NEW YORK, Feb. 24

George Meany's top brass last week formally pulled the AFL-CIO out of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the organization which was most instrumental in its founding. The real reason is that the Federation in recent years has not been able to influence the world organization to serve as a tool of United States imperialist policy.

The AFL-CIO hierarchy now has its own international machinery of operatives in Latin America, Africa and Asia closely involved with the Central Intelligence Agency.

The disaffiliation was no surprise. The given reason that the ICFTU is still considering the membership application of the now independent United Automobile Workers, is only the official excuse for the withdrawal.

For some years AFL-CIO president Meany, and his international affairs director, Jay Lovestone, have waged a war against the Brussels-based ICFTU in an effort to return it to what they termed its "original" objective of "fighting Communism." But while waging this struggle that several times brought the AFL-CIO to the brink of withdrawal, the federation has been building its own "international," concentrating on areas of greatest interest for U.S. imperialist penetration.

In announcing formal withdrawal during sessions of the AFL-CIO's executive council meeting in Bal Harbour, Fla., Meany told newsmen the money the federation allotted as dues to the ICFTU would be better spent for its own "international programs" in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Meany's own "International" Meany referred to the three agencies established by the AFL-CIO, with himself chairman of each, mostly financed publicly by the Agency for Internal Development (AID). As already detailed in exposures of these operations in the Daily World series Dec. 12-13 on "CIA's 'Labor Front' in Africa" and on the "CIA's Labor Front in Latin America" Oct. 8, 9 and 11, they are:

— The American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), operating in Latin America to which, according to a recent Senate sub-committee hearing headed by Wayne Morse, AID gave at least \$21,000,000 from 1962 through 1968.

— The more-recently set up African-American Labor Center, headed by Irving Brown, second only to Lovestone of Meany's operational personnel in "international" affairs, received from AID alone \$2,411,390 for 1967 and part of 1968, AALC drew other amounts, reportedly totalling \$1,000,000 from "special funds" set aside for such subversive activities by U.S. embassies in Africa.

— The Asian-American Free Labor Institute (AAFLI), created only last year, is just getting into stride with a Saigon labor federation the beach-head. The head of that federation, Tran Quoc Buu was displayed to newsmen by Meany last week. Buu's name has come up a number of times when strikes of South Vietnamese longshoremen, textile and other workers were broken by his Saigon regime-backed bureaucracy.

The mass of evidence, compiled by this writer in "CIA and American Labor" — A Subversion of the AFL-CIO's Foreign Policy," the CIA exposure scandal of 1967, and the Morse Sub-Committee print on the world of AIFLD, show that the much publicized "aid" projects of AIFLD,

AALC and AAFLI are trivial in substance and only a front for the labor-labeled subversion coinciding with the CIA's.

A cold war product

The ICFTU was the result of years of effort by Meany, Lovestone, David Dubinsky of the Ladies Garment Workers and others to split the World Federation of Free Trade Unions. The WFTU emerged out of World War II as the most all-inclusive international labor body. It included the CIO; only the AFL of the main labor organizations was not in it. When the cold war set in, and the United States launched the Marshall Plan in its design to become the world's policeman, the program involved a thrust through several groups.

The Central Intelligence Agency coordinating global subversive activities to an unprecedented scale, was set up. The State Department placed primary reliance on the Meany-Lovestone-Dubinsky group for its cold war "labor front." The right wing forces in the CIO were spurred towards a split in that organization that led to ultimate expulsion of unions with a million members at the 1949 convention because they refused to go along with cold war policy. The government launched a drive against "Communism" — actually against all let-progressive forces — to beat down opposition to the cold war program. With Marshall Plan "aid" funds as the weapon, attractive to some lands devastated by the European war, some European unions were bludgeoned into splitting from the WFTU and creating a new international labor body that would be "anti-Communist."

The major machinery used by the State Department to further the drive for a new international was the group of U.S. "labor attaches" in each of the 16 Marshall Plan countries. In March 1948 — the first conference of these cooperating labor leaders in Europe and the AFL was held