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# Program of the Friends of Soviet Russia.

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For four years Soviet Russia was subjected by the Allies to coordinated military attacks on all frontiers. They not only made direct assaults by land and sea, but openly subsidized individual marauders. It became necessary for Soviet Russia to mobilize its workers and peasants for the defense of the country.

At the same time, the Allies persisted in a vicious economic blockade, which deprived the Russian people of the necessary machines and supplies to rebuild industry. The vigorous protests of the working class in many countries were a great factor in ending the blockade to an extent; although through the denial of credits and the raising of obstacles to trade the blockade in large measure still exists.

The military invasions and the economic blockade left the Russian people weakened and impoverished, an easy prey to the terrible drought of 1921 and the dread famine which resulted. Having been deliberately denied by the capitalist world the machines and supplies necessary in meeting such a situation, millions of men, women, and children died of starvation and disease. The strength of tens of millions of others, among them great masses of little children, was undermined. Large territories where food and machinery with which to raise food were entirely lacking, had to be evacuated. Rarely in the history of the human race has a people been so cruelly afflicted.

It was this situation which called into existence the Friends of Soviet Russia.

## **Aims of the Organization.**

The Friends of Soviet Russia, an organization of American workers without distinction as to political affiliation, is true to its name; it is a friend of the people and government of Soviet Russia. It stands for the relief of the men, women, and children who are still in need of food and other aid; it pledges that all relief gathered by it shall be distributed in Russia by the Soviet government to those in need, regardless of their political opinions.

The Friends of Soviet Russia, recognizing the supreme need for measures to prevent the recurrence of the famine, aims to assist in the economic reconstruction of Russia. The havoc worked by Allied assaults and the starvation blockade cannot be fully repaired, it believes, until machines and other outside help arrive for the rebuilding of the country's shattered economy.

Towards this end the Friends of Soviet Russia advocates the extension of credit to, trade relations with, and recognition of the government of Soviet Russia as the government of the workers and peasants who, in five years of self-sacrificing military defense and unswerving political support, have shown their choice very clearly.

The Friends of Soviet Russia believes, in the spirit of the Declaration of Independence, that the people of a country have a right to determine their own form of government without direct or indirect interference by other governments; and that

the workers of a country which infringes upon this basic right of a foreign people have a right to agitate and demonstrate for the cessation of such interference.

### **A Call to American Workers.**

In conformity with these beliefs and these purposes, the Friends of Soviet Russia will raise funds for food and clothes for the destitute in Russia, as well as for tools for the impaired factories, machinery for agriculture, and other reconstructive assistance. It will disseminate truthful news about Soviet Russia and its great struggle by means of the platform, the press, and the film screen. It will develop sympathetic sentiment that America may abate its economic boycott.

We call upon all workers, farmers, and other sympathizers, upon labor unions and other workers' organizations, to support the Friends of Soviet Russia in this program morally and financially. Such support is the most direct method available for bringing concrete help to the first Workers' Republic in the world.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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