

Dowling

VICTORIAN PEACE COUNCIL - January 1956.

Summary of decisions on the initiation of State peace work in 1956.

1. That the central theme for the year's work be disarmament, the banning of atomic weapons and the question of atomic tests.
2. On the question of atomic tests we feel that, in accordance with Dr. H.V. Evatt's election proposals, there should be a suspension of all tests until greater opportunities have been given for the powers to reach agreement on the abolition of atomic and nuclear weapons. Pressure should be brought to bear on the Australian Government to take an active part in this.
3. Special material on disarmament should be prepared for peace workers at once, in particular the World Peace Council notes on the present state of the proposals which we have recently received.
4. Subject to the approval of other States, a national newspaper with the main theme that in para (1) above be prepared for publication in February.
5. A preliminary street-canvass questionnaire be prepared at once, leading to a street canvass questionnaire campaign the results of which should give rise to deputations to M.P.'s etc. and should culminate in a national deputation to Parliament before the tests.
6. There should be an early National Executive meeting of the A.P.C. Other States to be consulted immediately on this.
7. Regarding the proposed meeting of Asian-Pacific peace leaders on February 15, we agree that a national leader of the A.P.C. should attend, with other national representatives if possible, and propose to the WPC Indonesia as the place and February 20 as the date.
8. Regarding the April Council meeting, we draw attention to the seriousness with which the W.P.C. regards this meeting, and the need for careful and detailed preparation, bearing in mind the recommendations contained in letters from the WPC, especially the statement: "It is not only a question of finding individuals likely to accept the Bureau's invitation, but to create the conditions for extremely broad participation."
9. As an initial step a letter should be sent nationally from the APC to all national unions, asking for these unions to support the meeting, and all States should be asked to write similarly to all unions in their States.
10. It will be necessary to find out if the WPC will pay the fares and expenses of guests at the April meeting.

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11. It will be necessary for the Staff and Executive an Peace Council to have early and detailed discussions with the Victori tists and doctors, trade unionists and factory workers, teascien women and mothers, ALP members, students and youths, churchmen, architects and builders, theatre workers, film workers, writers, musicians, artists, regarding specific contributions to the fulfilment of the peace plan in their spheres, and the encouragement of a specif- ic response from those circles and their own ideas how peace work can best be carried out.
12. A new campaign for Children of Hiroshima should be launched.
13. The question of a visit of atom bomb victims from Japan should ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ be prosecuted.
14. To solve some of our financial difficulties, three funds must be opened. ONE, to meet running expenses of £50 a week from 50 local groups each contributing £1. TWO, larger donations on a regular basis to support a propaganda fund; THREE, special meetings and functions to meet WPC dues, finance delegates etc.