

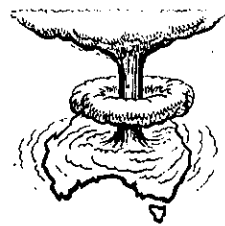
# H-Bombs IN Australia

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# H-Bombs ON Australia



## We must not become a nuclear base!

The Sydney Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament draws your attention to a very real danger facing Australia at the present time.

Early in 1962, the Secretary-General of the United Nations wrote to all Governments, pointing out the terrible risks confronting the world if more and more nations joined the "Nuclear Club" by acquiring nuclear weapons. He invited each nation to state its views on what could be done about this dangerous situation.

Nations such as India have already declared that they will join the "Non-Nuclear Club", and not allow the stockpiling or stationing of nuclear bombs on their soil.

Sir Garfield Barwick's reply however, showed little interest in any proposals to limit the spread of nuclear weapons; in fact, he stated flatly that the Australian Government reserved the right to acquire them.

Now, it should not be assumed that the Federal Govern-

ment is simply thinking of some remote future possibility, when it talks of allowing nuclear bases in Australia. Agreements on such questions are often kept secret, and it may well be later than we think. Do we in fact know the full meaning of such developments as the visit to Sydney of a submarine equipped to fire Polaris missiles? Or the granting of a base at Exmouth Gulf to the United States to be used for submarine communications? The sending of Australian troops overseas, for example, must almost certainly have been agreed on during the visit to Australia in May of Mr. Dean Rusk, United States Secretary of State; but only a part of the actual undertaking was announced at the time. It seems probable that the Federal Government would likewise neglect to take us into its confidence over steps to make Australia a nuclear base — and a nuclear target.

The horrifying results of such an agreement can be easily imagined:

### Our Destruction Would Be Necessary

1. All military experts agree that, in the event of a nuclear war, the "first strike" with nuclear missiles must be made at the enemy's bases, in an attempt to destroy his power to retaliate. This means that, in the event of such a war, Australia

would have to be attacked if it were a nuclear base, even if hostilities had begun in, or concerned, an entirely different region of the world.

### Our Destruction Would Be Possible

2. Because most of our population is packed so densely in a narrow coastal strip, our large area is not the protection it appears, and such a "first strike" would effectively destroy us. Bombs already exploded in tests are of such a size that their "incendiary radius" (the distance at which they start

fires) is about 50 miles. This means that if such a bomb were dropped at Gosford, Sydney would burn. A mere half-dozen such bombs would leave a country so devastated that, as one writer has put it, "the survivors would envy the dead".

### There Is An Alternative

3. By entering the nuclear rat-race, we would not only be making certain of our own destruction in a nuclear war, but actually increasing the chances of such a war occurring. The greater the spread of nuclear weapons, the greater the chance of war breaking out by accident or design. But by joining the "Non-Nuclear Club", we would help to extend the non-nuclear regions of the world and play an important role in slowing down the "race to the brink". The nuclear-free zone in the Southern Hemisphere, proposed in May by the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party Executive, is an example of the kind of constructive role Australia could play, in contrast

to the defeatism and drift to suicide implied by the present policy.

The view that "Australia needs nuclear weapons for its defence", is based on a complete misunderstanding of the nature of nuclear weapons. It is worth repeating: far from giving us protection, the presence of nuclear weapons would ensure our destruction if a nuclear war broke out anywhere. It is true that in its death throes Australia could possibly kill a few million men, women and children on "the other side"; it is hard to see any consolation in this.

### Keep The H-Bombs Out Of Australia

The Sydney Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, formed in March 1962, has for its aim the adoption by a Federal Government of a foreign policy by which Australia will —

- Refuse to possess, manufacture or use nuclear weapons
- Refuse its territory for use by other nations as nuclear bases
- Refuse, also, the use of Australian-administered territory for nuclear tests or nuclear bases, and withhold assistance to, nuclear tests anywhere.

We do not pretend that, once such a policy is adopted, Australia will have no further problems, or will be placed out of all possible danger; in the world of today, absolute security does not come so easily. But we do say that it avoids the certainty of destruction in the event of nuclear war; and that it will enable Australia to practise foreign policies aimed at relieving the tensions which are building up towards a catastrophe for all mankind.

We believe these aims are worthy of your support. The situation demands an alerted public opinion, an awareness of the catastrophe threatening us, and a determination to fight against it in all possible ways.

If you wish to assist, by taking part in demonstrations, helping to organise the campaign, or giving financial aid (or preferably all three), please phone FA 2302, 71-1472 or XY 3612.



(Authorised by R. Gould, 471 Liverpool St., Darlinghurst)

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