

*On Hiroshima Day 1979  
in The International Year of the Child  
the Socialist Party of Australia says...*

# Ban nuclear weapons

## Give our children a chance

On the occasion of Hiroshima Day, in this International Year of the Child, it is appropriate to vow to our children, and to all future generations, to strengthen our efforts to end the hideous arms race and prevent the disaster of nuclear war.



No-one concerned with the future of this planet and the people who live upon it, can remain indifferent when the world is bristling with nuclear weapons capable of destroying all life many times over.

### No more Hiroshimas

All people of goodwill will warmly welcome the signing of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II) by Soviet President Brezhnev and United States President Carter. For the first time in history, both countries place a ceiling on weapons of mass destruction.

The next stage, SALT III, will deal with a reduction of arms and, if successful, will be the first actual reversal of the arms race. It will be a big step towards the great aim of the world peace movement — universal disarmament.

Everyone knows that the Soviet Union will ratify the agreement; but what of the United States? The infamous arms lobby is busy trying to prevent the two thirds majority in the Senate necessary to ratify the agreement. They want to boost the US military budget even beyond the \$130,000 million being spent this year. Yet US Gallup polls show the people are voting 75 to 80 per cent for ratification.

Failure to ratify the agreement will bring the world back to the nuclear brink, with real dangers of war and all its terrible consequences.

If people around the world can compel ratification it will open up a new era in which the principles of political detente and relaxation will extend to the arms area. The arms race graph will be pointed in a downward direction, for the first time.

The struggle for disarmament is not only to prevent the disaster of nuclear war. It will enable the transfer of millions upon millions of dollars from war spending to create more jobs, provide better social services and a better life generally. Peace and higher living standards are closely connected.

**Give Peace a Chance.**

## War business — is a big business

Who or what is to blame for the threat to world peace and the very existence of the planet? Some say mankind's inherent evil. Some say the personality of leaders. Some say uranium.

The Socialist Party says the blame today lies with the system of imperialism, with its inhuman drive for private profit and the domination and exploitation of other nations.

For the war-profiteers the grotesque weapons of mass destruction, such as the neutron bomb, are a source of super-profits. In the "home" of imperialism, the USA, 100 of the most prominent arms makers receive \$30,000 million to \$40,000 million in net profit every year. The rate of profit of those monopolies manufacturing the latest in sophisticated weaponry exceeds 50 to 60 per cent. The Lockheed Aircraft Corporation has established a rate of 74.1 per cent. The average rate of profit for manufacturers of civilian products is between 6 to 10 per cent.

### **No more Harrisburgs.**

Harrisburg and many other examples show that the dangerous uranium industry cannot be left in the hands of the multi-nationals who care little for safety, health or the environment. They want uranium for profit, power and war. They tricked and forced the NT Aboriginals into signing the Ranger agreement and care nothing for the social needs and rights of the Aborigines.

### **The multi-nationals cannot be trusted.**

The whole uranium industry should be taken out of the hands of the multi-nationals. It should become public property under democratic control and only developed when the industry is safe, health is guaranteed, the environment protected, waste disposal solved and Aboriginal Land Rights respected.

**Hiroshima Day** is a day which unites all opponents of nuclear war irrespective of differences on other issues. There is no alternative to the policy of detente and peaceful co-existence between countries with different social systems — except a nuclear holocaust.

Peaceful co-existence **does not mean** that the two social systems of socialism and capitalism merge or ignore their differences. It **does mean** that all nations outlaw war as a means of settling disputes. The Socialist Party believes that the two systems will and are competing with more and more people choosing socialism as the superior system. There will be no room for contest and social advancement in a world laid waste by nuclear war. A new world cannot be built on radio-active ashes and corpses.

### **Unite and act to:**

**Stop the arms race**  
**Ban and destroy all nuclear weapons**  
**Stop the multi-national merchants of death**  
**Take uranium out of the hands of big business**  
**Strengthen international detente.**  
**NO MORE HIROSHIMAS!**

Socialist Party of Australia publication,  
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