

lead to a degree of general radio-activity which no one can tolerate or escape.

**Professor Marcus Oliphant, Australian Nuclear Scientist:**

There is no defence against atomic weapons unless humanity is prepared to live, work, and grow food deep beneath the surface of the earth.

**The late Albert Einstein:**

I do not believe that we can prepare for war and at the same time prepare for a world community. When humanity holds in its hand the weapon by which it can commit suicide, I believe that to put more power into the gun is to increase the probability of disaster. The idea of achieving security through national armament is, at the present state of military technique, a disastrous illusion.

**Dr. Linus Pauling, Nobel prize-winner:**

The continued dispersal of radio-active materials into the atmosphere is creating a critical situation. Constant irradiation of living cells may already have begun a new cycle of leukemia victims, or set in motion new mutations.

**Dr. Lanier, Head of Radiological Dept., University of Colorado, U.S.A.:**

The best guinea-pigs for so-called safe dosage studies have been the radiologists themselves. Doctors now try to keep below 300 milli-roentgens a week, but X-ray doctors have nine times the leukemia rate of the average citizen. They have five times the incidence of skin, kidney and lung cancer. They have more malformed children. Particularly for genetic damage, which may not show up for several generations, **THERE IS NO KNOWN SAFE MINIMUM DOSAGE.**

**Professor Paul Berthold**, lecturing in Sydney for the Alliance Francaise, a French Government organisation similar to the British Council, said that he has seen Pacific Islanders suffering from terrible diseases caused by eating radio-active fish. Professor Berthold said that radio-active fish from atomic testing grounds could swim into any Pacific waters.

#### RESOLUTION CARRIED AT ANNUAL MEETING

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Ben Smith, Secretary of the Boot Trade Union, and carried unanimously:

This meeting of citizens of Brisbane, representing many sections of the community, including Churches, Trade Unions, Women's Organisations, Peace Groups and others, convened for the purpose of discussing disarmament and in particular the necessity for banning nuclear weapons and their testing, declares its unqualified opposition to the holding by the British Government of tests of atomic weapons in the Pacific, and the prospect of the Australian Government holding similar tests in Australia later this year.

It does so in the knowledge and belief that such tests constitute a danger to the health and safety of the peoples of Asia and Australia and indeed of the world.

This meeting welcomes the declared policy of the Federal Labor Party at its recent Brisbane conference in respect to the holding of nuclear weapon tests, and calls upon the Government of this State to act in consonance with this policy by protesting to the British Government against the holding of the tests and by working for an international agreement covering the abolition of nuclear weapon tests and further, by working for progressive world disarmament.

**THE CAMPAIGN FOR PEACE URGENTLY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT. PLEASE TALK ABOUT IT TO YOUR FRIENDS. DONATIONS TO THE QUEENSLAND ASSOCIATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN ASSEMBLY FOR PEACE MAY BE SENT TO THE HONORARY SECRETARY, Mrs. N. CHALMERS, 390 MANLY ROAD, MANLY.**

# Report on Peace

BY THE

QUEENSLAND ASSOCIATION

OF THE

## Australian Assembly For Peace

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECHES DELIVERED AT THE ASSOCIATION'S  
ANNUAL MEETING (25th March, 1957):

**Rev. Norman St. Clair Anderson, National Chairman, Australian Assembly for Peace:**

It is now clearly seen that atomic warfare and the hazards arising from the continued testing of nuclear weapons threaten the whole of mankind. Radio-active elements are no respecters of races or persons. The peace-struggle has therefore become a struggle for human survival. For this reason it can no longer be "smeared" as politically partisan or ideologically slanted. The peace movement is simply pro-human. If we have respect and reverence for life we will be in the struggle to preserve it.

If anyone doubts the dangers that threaten us let him read what eminent scientists in the fields of nuclear energy and genetics have been saying over the past three years. There is in fact world-wide concern about these dangers. The World Council of Churches has warned of the effects of nuclear war and has called for a cessation of nuclear weapon tests. The subject has been frequently aired in the United Nations, but so far U.N. has not been successful in prohibiting the manufacture and testing of such weapons, or in producing an agreed formula for disarmament.

The issue will in the end be decided by the will of the peoples of the world. The weight of informed and organised public opinion must be brought to bear on governments. In this we can all have a part. The first step is to insist that all experiments in nuclear and atomic weapons must cease. Not only do they endanger life, they exhaust the economic resources of nations, diverting to evil purposes the money which should be used for social services, national culture and physical development. In the end it will be seen that what makes a nation great is not military preparedness but the well-being of its people, and their will to live in peace with their neighbours.

**Miss I. McCorkindale, National President, Education Dept., Women's Christian Temperance Union :**

Miss McCorkindale spoke of her recent trip to Europe and painted a graphic picture of the devastation in Germany which was caused by bombings during the last war.

She recalled that sections of the great German cities had been rebuilt, but that alongside the new sections there were vast areas in which nothing but rubble was to be seen.

Miss McCorkindale said that her chief impression, after talking to many people in Germany, was the overwhelming fear of war which was still felt by all sections of the people.

**Mr. Eric Bourke, Assistant Secretary, Queensland Branch, Australian Postal Workers' Union :**

Numbered amongst the supporters of Peace are people high in the social scale and members of the legal and professional ranks and the sciences, together with that stratum of society which may humbly be called the workers.

It naturally follows that, there being more workers, they should predominate in the ranks of the fighters for Peace. Not because there are more of them, but because workers get most out of Peace.

It is impossible to separate economics and politics and as Trade Unions have been set up throughout the world to look after the economic lives of their members they must of necessity be political. But in joining with that band of stalwarts who fight for Peace, Trade Unions do so because peace in industry, like World Peace, keeps everyone happy and contented, free from the fear of want, misery and degradation caused by wars.

The development of atomic weapons has reached such dimensions that the peoples of the world are now faced with the stark, terrifying spectacle of a possible atomic world war, causing a danger to the very fabric of the earth, its atmosphere and all its inhabitants, which is so real that distinguished scientists refer to the prospect with a sense of desperation.

The Peace Movement believes that the greatness of all Peoples and all Nations will in the future be measured by their courageous approach to the solution of these tremendous problems.

#### **EXTRACTS FROM MESSAGES TO ANNUAL MEETING FROM SUPPORTERS UNABLE TO ATTEND :**

**Lady Jessie Street :**

Development of atomic and hydrogen weapons has made war suicidal for life on earth—therefore, we must have peace. Every responsible person in every country should grasp this opportunity for peaceful co-operation in every sphere. Some far-seeing person in the past said "nothing is ever settled unless it is settled right." Let us all seek what is the RIGHT thing to do. Nothing has ever been finally settled by force or violence. All Christians must remember that Christ condemned violence. One of His last acts was to reproach His disciple for cutting off the ear of the man sent to arrest Him.

Development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes can make possible a good life for all people in all lands. Australia can benefit enormously. The great desert in Central Australia has many underground rivers. Atomic-powered pumps can make this desert and many other dry areas fertile and fruitful. If we are wise enough we can develop a good life for all who live in Australia, whether they are black or white. All we need is faith in our country and in ourselves, and courage. We must not be afraid to step into the new life that is opening up before us.

We are privileged persons—it is not often that human-kind has the

privilege of participating in the development of a new era, and I am sure that we are on the threshold of a New Era.

**Mr. John Egerton, Secretary, Brisbane Branch. The Boilermakers' Society of Australia :**

Far too few Australians realise that unless some check is placed upon Governments, we can quite easily become embroiled in a third world war with subsequent horrifying and unthought-of results. Public opinion is the most powerful weapon to direct at such Governments and I wish you success with your Committee.

**Mr. Frank Waters, Secretary, Queensland Branch, Australian Postal Workers' Union of Australia :**

The cause of Peace is one of world-wide concern and my Organisation is grateful to the Australian Assembly for Peace for bringing to the attention of the Australian public the necessity for more active measures to prevent the outbreak of another world war, and the need for all the citizens of all countries to live in peace and harmony with each other.

**Mr. Frank Nolan, Secretary, Queensland Branch, Australian Railways Union :**

I trust the meeting will be a successful one and you can be sure that both my organisation and I will always be ready to assist in the fight for peace.

**The Rev. C. T. Palethorpe :**

Your organisation, in its effort for peace, has indeed a Christian ideal, and my prayer is that righteousness, and the spirit of love that makes for peace, shall prevail everywhere.

#### **EMINENT SCIENTISTS' OPINIONS ON NUCLEAR TESTS**

From a statement by Lord Bertrand Russell on behalf of a group of eight scientists, including the late Albert Einstein :

No doubt in an H-bomb war great cities would be obliterated, but this is one of the minor disasters that would have to be faced . . . No-one knows how widely such lethal radio-active particles might be diffused, but the best authorities are unanimous in saying that a war with H-bombs might quite easily put an end to the human race . . . People scarcely realise in imagination that the danger is to themselves and their children, and their grandchildren, and not only to dimly-apprehended humanity. They can scarcely bring themselves to grasp that they individually, and those whom they love, are in imminent danger of perishing agonisingly.

From a statement issued by the Federation of American Scientists, representing 2000 leading scientists and engineers :

We may be approaching a point where we cannot be sure that we will not make all the world a laboratory and all living things the experimental objects.

The Federation said that it made its proposals "with some sense of desperation".

From leader in "Sydney Morning Herald" :

The most disturbing fact is the discovery by the British Committee (of the British Medical Research Council) that the fall-out from H-bombs has created a serious new hazard from radio-active dust which may affect food and water. In particular, radio-strontium in this dust contaminates water and vegetation which is then eaten by animals and men. Radio-strontium gets into the bones and eventually can cause cancer.

**Professor Edgar Adrian, Nobel prize-winner, President, British Association :**

We must face the possibility that repeated atomic explosions will