

Make Peace And How To Fight For Peace The Burning Topic

A TREMENDOUS wave of discussion and debate on how world peace can be saved is the aim of a great new campaign which has been launched by the Australian Peace Council.

Peace committees everywhere have been urged to exert every effort to see that the main problems of saving peace, and how to solve them, are made the subject of special discussion in every organisation and neighbourhood in the country.

160,000 Australians Sign To Ban A-Bomb

PEACE workers throughout Australia, stepping up the tempo of their atom bomb petition drive, have now sent in well over 160,000 signatures.

In Victoria, the 40,000 mark has been topped, following a fine burst of activity which returned more than 5000 signatures during last week.

This reply by peace workers to the growing war preparations, propaganda and threats to Australian freedom, led the Australian Peace Council to decide, on Monday night, that the petition campaign should go on as fast as possible to the target of 500,000 signatures, and 150,000 in Victoria.

It was pointed out that a recent Gallup Poll showed that half the adults in Australia oppose the use of atom bombs in any war.

Two young girl workers in Melbourne have already gained more than 1000 signatures each, and Melbourne youth have already collected 12,000 of their 30,000 target.

Heidelberg peace committee widely distributed a special letter to householders pointing out the effects of atom bombing, and then seven canvassers (including three newcomers) got 112 signatures in the first 200 homes they visited. The letter was mentioned by many people.

The Brighton committee secured 130 signatures in two hours at a street signing point in Bentleigh.

A young girl got 32 signatures in one street in Prahran.

Camberwell Committee reported on Monday that they now have 1766 signatures, their target being 2500.

SOCIALIST LANDS' PEACE PROPOSALS REFLECT WORLD'S MOST URGENT NEED

ONCE again the United States and British Governments have contemptuously rejected as a "trick" genuine proposals for a united, peaceful and disarmed Germany advanced by the conference of Foreign Ministers of the Soviet Union and East European Democracies.

A spokesman for the Australian Peace Council said this yesterday.

The Prague Conference were:

The proposals advanced by (1) A declaration by the Big Four Powers that Germany won't be remilitarised.

(2) Removal of all obstacles in the way of the establishment of a peaceful German economy.

(3) The immediate conclusion of a Peace Treaty with Germany, together with a renewal of the unity of the German State in accordance with the Potsdam Agreement, and the withdrawal of occupation troops within one year of the conclusion of the treaty.

(4) The establishment of a council for all Germany to prepare a government for a unified Germany.

"The Prague conference proposals coincide with the feelings of all genuine peace-loving people."

The aim is to get people thinking about world peace, instead of world war, and to find at least some ways to co-operation between all the different, genuine peace supporters, whatever their point of view.

The sweeping progress of the world petition to ban atomic weapons—the Stockholm Appeal—has already yielded 400 million signatures and its the greatest mass demonstration of public opinion in the history of mankind.

In the course of the campaign in more than 70 countries, it has become clear that people of all points of view and beliefs are prepared to work together against the supreme threat of world atomic war. But it is also clear that many people, of all kinds, are also looking for solutions to some of the other great problems of the present urgent threat to world peace.

We must not be content with mobilising one-third to one-half of the adult people of the world against the atomic threat, although this remains the key question. Now that the strength of the ordinary people in the struggle for peace is becoming clear, it is vitally necessary to search for COMMON GROUND among all peace-lovers, on as many aspects as possible for the fight against world war.

Many millions of honest people do not wish to separate atomic weapons from other weapons of war. More millions see all the principles of the United Nations Charter as equally necessary for world peace. Other millions regard war propaganda as a menace as great as any other, because war propaganda, in Australia as elsewhere, is creating a "will to war" among some sections which are not aware of the true facts of the world situation.

It is now the task of every genuine peace worker to go out far more boldly into new circles, to discover just how much agreement can be reached on what are the main conditions necessary to save world peace. And further, we

must find just how much agreement can be reached on lines of ACTION to implement any or all of these conditions.

Above all, it is urgently necessary that we discuss, and stimulate others to discuss, these matters—to lead great numbers of people (even if they do not accept all of our policies) to start thinking and talking about ways to peace, instead of the unthinking preparation for war.

It is for these reasons that the World Peace Committee, at the recent Prague meeting to prepare for the great Second World Peace Congress, brought forward five principles which it considered necessary for securing world peace.

These are:

- Banning of atomic weapons and all others means of mass extermination of people, with international control.

- Agreement among the nations to carry out progressive disarmament, with international control.

- Prohibiting all aggression and military intervention in the internal affairs of any nation.

- Return to the principles of UN to solve present wars, such as Korea.

- Outlawing of war propaganda in all countries.

There should be wide agreement that all or some of these are necessary. There may be other principles that should be discussed. Every proposal to implement any of these principles should be discussed and considered, and every reasonable plan reported to the Peace Council.

Every peace committee could immediately discuss these proposals and work out how to further the discussion on them.

Every member should raise, in his or her own outside organisation, the question of how to help secure peace through such principles as these.

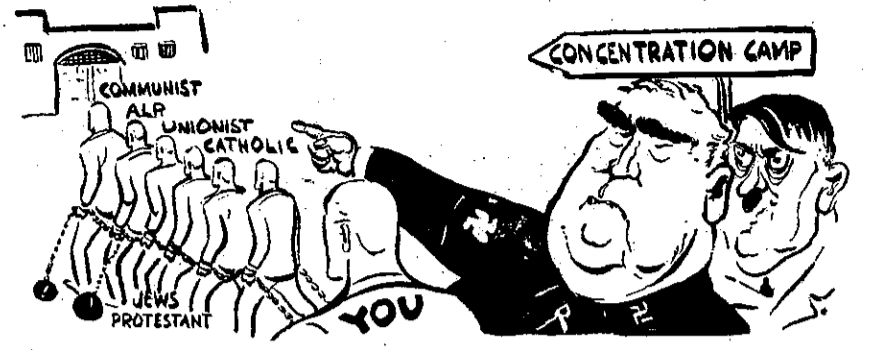
Deputations should be appointed from each committee to approach every possible organisation and leading person to start such discussions in parties, churches, commercial bodies, women's societies, debating clubs, unions, lodges, job lunch hours.

Discussion should start around the atom bomb petition, which REMAINS THE CENTRE OF OUR ACTIVITY. If it is refused, agreement on other points is still possible.

- Stick up posters which will soon be ready.

- Distribute leaflets on these proposals, in advance of petition canvassing.

- Theatre slides, ads in local papers,



(Reprinted by permission of the A.R.U.)

painted signs, (on Second World Congress

• Where there is success in stimulating discussion in other organisations, a local citizens' peace parley or discussion should be called, if possible, in conjunction with some other organisation,

to pool all ideas. If not, neighborhood discussion, based on homes of various committees members, could be tried.

Let us urgently set about getting everyone talking about peace. Let the Peace Council know what you do and the results you get.

Burning Desire For Unity Grips People

A BURNING desire for united action is gripping all sections of the people to-day.

This striving was symbolised by the full-throated roar with which the great crowd of at least 4,000 on the Yarra Bank last Sunday greeted the resolution calling for the repeal of the Communist Party Dissolution Act.

Far from feeling pessimistic at what they describe as the betrayal of the Labor Party leaders over Menzies' iniquitous legislation, a realisation has seized many people that their own active struggle is what will decide their future fate.

Each day the issues facing the majority of the people becomes clearer. It is apparent that the government's Act is an essential part of their war plans. In fact, Mr. Menzies has admitted so himself.

War plans arise not from a desire to defend Australia—for who in fact threatens us?

Mr. Menzies' war plans arise because he has thrown in his lot (and that of big Australian employers) with the aggressive designs of some American circles.

To carry out their plans, they must stamp out all opposition and criticism.

The majority of people are to be made to accept a lower living standard, for it is they who must pay for such a war, while big business makes super profits.

It is clear, then, these issues confront not merely a few Communists—or the leaders of some political parties. They confront all those people who would have to do the working, the dying, the paying.

In the final analysis, Mr. Menzies' Act threatens all such Australians.

The possibilities of victory arising from common action have never been so great.

The treacherous acts of a few leaders

in no way clouds these possibilities.

More and more supporters of the Labor Party are learning to apply a simple test when examining those who lay claim to the position of leading the Australian workers.

Do they oppose Mr. Menzies' policies?

Will they fight to the death on principle about these issues?

Or do they capitulate and serve the interests of a handful of puny men in high places who represent the vested interests in the country?

The answer political leaders give to these questions will determine who will occupy the position of leadership of the Australian workers.

The time to fight is NOW—temporary differences on minor issues must be put aside.

The Democratic Rights Council calls on you to fight for the great principles embodied in the Australian Charter of Freedom.

By your actions, you can enforce respect for the Charter from Municipal, State and Federal authorities.

By your actions, the rights of freedom of speech, thought, assembly and organisation can be won.

And by your actions, Australia can be preserved from the ruin and suffering of war.

With all your strength, support the work of the Peace Council and Democratic Rights Councils.

With all your heart, defend their right to carry on their activities in the best interests of the people of Australia.

UNITE NOW FOR VICTORY!

CITY COUNCIL BANS PEACE MEETING : ANGRY PROTEST

A STORM of protest swept the crowded public galleries of the City Council Chamber on Monday, when the full Council voted to ban the Victorian Peace Council from the Melbourne and North Melbourne Town Halls.

The onlookers were angered by this climax to two and a half weeks of Council buck-passing, and 15 minutes' conspiracy in the Council chamber, to prevent a Victorian Peace Council meeting in the Town Hall on November 15, 1950, featuring Wilfred Burdett, world famous correspondent.

As the Council hurriedly attempted to pass on to its rubber stamping of other business, the protests rose on all sides in the galleries.

Mr. A. Robertson, Australian Peace Council organising secretary, rose in the gallery and called down to the Council:

"I protest against what I can only describe as a monstrous action against the rights of the Melbourne people.

The people must be allowed to speak for peace.

"I warn this Council that this meeting will be held on November 15, and if 20,000 people block the traffic in Swanston Street, it will be the responsibility of this Council."

The Councils attack on democracy began when the Town Hall and Properties Committee refused the Peace Council's application for the hall, which was available for booking on November 15.

Several deputations, to the Lord Mayor, individual councillors and to the banning committee led to the committee's decision last week, to refer the whole matter to the full City Council.

Members of the Town Hall and Properties Committee include Councillors Lyall (chairman), W. J. Barry, MLA, Bolton, Hardy, Brens and Hume.

Councillor Lyall moved on Monday that the full Council refuse the Town Hall booking and also a booking of the

North Melbourne Town Hall for the International Peace Fair, scheduled for November 1.

Main feature of the brief and confused discussion in the Council Chamber was a bitter attack by Cr. W. J. Barry against members of the Peace Council, whom he described as "most unworthy people."

Speaking of a peaceful deputation—including the Reverend F. J. Hartley—which had met him outside his home at 53 Wilson Street, North Carlton, Barry said:

"I will not surrender to these pressure tactics."

Barry boasted that he had never voted for a ban on the Peace Council—and then proceeded to vote for the ban.

Not a single Councillor spoke or voted against the motion to refuse the two bookings.

Printed by Coronation Press, 31 Corr's Lane, Melbourne C1.