



DON'T CELEBRATE PEACE FIGHT THE BASES!

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All of us are marching today on the streets of Melbourne to show our total opposition to the insane nuclear arms race that threatens to wipe humankind from the face of the earth. More and more people are saying STOP! - we do not want to have anything to do with it.

Here in Australia, the U.S. Government maintains its bases for surveillance, monitoring and direct military purposes. These bases have supplied photographs from satellites

that were used to bomb Cambodia during the Vietnam War, and they placed U.S. conventional and nuclear forces on full alert during the 1973 Middle East War. Only last year a military base was established in Darwin where B-52 bombers threaten the people of South-East Asia, China and the USSR. These bases have absolutely nothing to do with the defence of the people of Australia. Yet they could make us the first targets in a nuclear war.

The left within PND wanted more direct action protest at the U.S. bases and less emphasis on respectable activities such as the Palm Sunday marches. From a leaflet distributed at the 1982 Palm Sunday march.

PND argued that the U.S. ¹⁹⁸² bases made Australia a nuclear target.

So far we in Melbourne have failed to organize any effective action against these bases. We cannot afford to wait too long. True, the Australian people at the moment are ill-informed about the significance of the bases. But how do we educate them? Through abstract, armchair educationals and lofty sermonizing speeches alone? Teach-ins for example are an excellent idea. But they must be supplemented with organized actions to involve people, focus attention on the bases and force debate on the issue. Let us leave "Celebrate Peace" to the time when we have got rid of the bases; the MX, Cruise, Pershing and SS-20 missiles; the B-52's; the neutron bombs and the rest of the paraphernalia of holocaust.

How do we get rid of these monstrosities? A very effective way of beginning, especially while the momentum built up by this rally still exists, would be to organize as soon as possible a car and bike rally to the Omega base in Gippsland.

A second effective way would be to encourage the workers' movement to carry out imaginative actions rendering the U.S. installations inoperable. This could include blackbanning future sites and, where

possible, cutting off food and essential supplies to existing ones. Let's starve them out! The further active and ongoing involvement of unionists would ensure their leaders do not backtrack as they did last year with uranium mining.

And what can politicians do? The Liberal Government clearly supports U.S. foreign policy, and given that Hayden believes the bases are not used for military purposes Labor Party members have a tough road ahead. The Labor Party must be made to adopt the aims of our movement, but because we cannot expect to have the issue resolved simply in parliament our movement must remain independent of the political parties.

The organization of today's huge rally has brought thousands out on the streets but towards what end? It would be tragic if the next month was to find us all once again in our atomized existences waiting the call for another rally. The alternative to reliance on sporadic processions is grass-roots organization where people work and live. Only this is capable of reaching and involving a truly mass audience. There are now PND groups in most areas. Join one and build it!

Concerned
PND activists.

