

UNIONS WARN:

Danger Of Total War

The N.S.W. Trades and Labour Council in February this year expressed grave concern at the danger of world war arising from recent events in Vietnam.

"We consider that peace can be achieved by international agreement and therefore call on the A.C.T.U. to immediately approach the Federal Government for instant action by the Prime Minister in support of world leaders who have urged Britain and Russia, as co-chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indo-China, to initiate talks immediately.

"We further consider that peace in North and South Vietnam cannot be assured by warfare, and call upon the Federal Government to support the cessation of hostilities

with a view to eliminating all forms of foreign intervention in the whole of Vietnam and establishing the right of the Vietnamese to manage their own affairs."



ACTU STATEMENT, MAY 1965

"The Executive views with grave concern the very serious situation now operating in Vietnam and considers that this conflict could lead to another world war.

"The Executive declares that all nations and peoples have the right to self-determination without the threat of military force or oppression. We welcome the statement by President Johnson offering unconditionally to talk to anyone at any time. We urge the conflicting parties to commence peace talks at once with a view to cessation of hostilities, and to plan for the establishment of democratic Government as provided for in the 1954 Geneva Agreements."

DECLARATION

The undersigned declare their support for the A.C.T.U. statement and being confronted with the increasing involvement of Australian fighting forces in the Vietnam conflict, and the lack of response to the A.C.T.U.'s approaches to the Commonwealth Government, we consider it our obligation to the membership of the Unions we represent, and to the Australian nation, to call on all unionists to demand a halt to the war in Vietnam and a return to the Principles of the Geneva Agreement and the Charter of the United Nations.

In this direction we call on

- The Australian Government to withdraw our troops from Vietnam.
- The Australian Government to call on all world leaders to demand that Britain and the Soviet Union, as co-chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference, call a conference of the conflicting parties, including the National Liberation Front (known as the Viet Cong), aiming at self-determination and a permanent peace for the Vietnamese people.
- The Australian Government to call for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Vietnam.

To achieve this end we call on all unionists to support this Declaration and to seek the support of all sections of the Australian people.

We urge all work places to hold meetings seeking support for this Declaration and Government action now for the implementation of this programme.

Amalgamated Engineering Union (Commonwealth Council); Actors Equity; Australian Railways Union (Federal Council); Amalgamated Printing Trades Union; B.W.I.U.; Builders Laborers Federation (N.S.W.); Boilermakers Society (Federal); Bridge & Wharf Carpenters' Union; Blacksmiths' Society; F.E.D. & F.A.; United Fire Fighters Union of Australia; Firemen & Deckhands Union; Seamen's Union; Gas Employees Federation (Federal); Hairdressers' Union; Liquor and Allied Industries Union; Miners' Federation; Fed. Miscellaneous Workers' Union of Aust.; Milk & Ice Carters' Union; Federated Moulders Union of Australia; Painters Union; Plasterers Metal Workers Union; Wool and Basil Workers Union; Waterside Workers Federation; Tram and Omnibus Employees Union.

MAIN POINTS OF GENEVA ACCORDS, 1954

1. Recognition of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia as three separate independent states.
2. Establishment of a provisional military demarcation line at the 17th Parallel in Vietnam; the Vietminh forces being regrouped to the North, and the French and associated forces to the South.
3. Free election for a united Vietnam Government to be held not later than July 1956, on the basis of electoral arrangements to be drawn up not later than July 1955.
4. No foreign military base to be established in any of the three countries, and no commitments to foreign military blocs.
5. No military reinforcements of men or material to be sought or obtained from abroad.
6. Political and civil liberties for those who had taken part on either side in the military struggle.
7. An International Commission for Supervision and Control, composed of representatives of India, Canada and Poland; was set up to supervise the cease-fire and to control the execution of the agreement.

UNION PETITION BRING AUSTRALIAN TROOPS HOME STOP WAR

All workers are urged to sign the Trade Union Petition which calls for:

1. The Australian Government withdraw our troops from Vietnam.
2. The Australian Government call for immediate cessation of hostilities in Vietnam.
3. The Australian Government call on all world leaders to call a Conference of conflicting parties, including the National Liberation Front aimed at permanent peace and the self-determination of the Vietnamese people based on the principles of the 1954 Geneva Accords.



ORGANISE A JOB MEETING ON VIETNAM

The Danger of Escalation

America's plan for total war in Vietnam does not spell security for Australia. It means we are committed to a plan that could spell total disaster for our country. A path to peace must be found.

Read these views on why it is vital to end the war in Vietnam now — and how it can be ended in accord with the Geneva Agreement of 1954.

"Australia's aim should have been to help end the war, not extend it." — Opposition Leader Calwell.

END THE WAR IN VIETNAM— RECALL TROOPS

In a call to the entire Labor movement from the floor of the House of Representatives, the Leader of the Federal Opposition, Mr. A. A. Calwell, urged action against the Menzies Government's decision to commit a battalion of Australian combat troops to the war in Vietnam.

The Reverend Allan Walker said that disengagement by America and Australia was a necessity, and the battle should be around the conference table.

The idea that others' lives and lands can be ravaged to protect your own is a relic of imperialism and an expression of power politics.

Senator William Fullbright (U.S.) said the only solution in Vietnam lay in a negotiated settlement involving major concessions on both sides.

Later said that the Johnson Administration should recognize the Viet Cong in any peace talks.

New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr.

Total War Means Total Destruction

Holyoake, said that he believed that the Viet Cong should be included in any peace talks.

The United States Democratic Leader, Senator Mike Mansfield, suggested that President De Gaulle of France be asked to take the lead in trying to fashion a peace formula for Vietnam and South East Asia.

(The Australian, June 18, 1965).

Federal M.H.R. Dr. J. Cairns, said that the average Australian would become a nationalist and fight the foreigners if the same conditions as in Vietnam existed in Australia.

He also asked, "Where, throughout the ten governments we have

seen in South Vietnam, can self-determination be seen, and where throughout these ten governments, can we say that we are fighting for freedom? We must accept the fact that social and economic revolution is necessary to these people."

Morris West, Australian journalist says: The only way is to come to negotiations and go back to the Geneva Accord of 1954.

STATEMENT OF AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The short executive statement was addressed to the government and peoples of Australia and has been forwarded to the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Menzies). It reads:

"The Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches welcomes the offer to negotiate a settlement of the 19-year conflict in Vietnam. We are aware that the complications facing our leaders in this situation are of daunting complexity. But we nevertheless believe that the time is now opportune for all governments, including our own, not charged with immediate direction of military operations to strive for a conference.

"The complexity and inter-relatedness of the interests of the people of ravaged Vietnam and the maintenance of stability in the South-East Asian area generally rule out any easy or universally acceptable solution of the Vietnam problem. But we believe that God vindicates those who seek justice and eschew violence, and we ask for the prayers of all Christian people that our leaders may be given the wisdom, determination and courage that are needed to bring peace with justice to this troubled part of the world."

Calwell says:

MENZIES — TAKE THE BLINKERS OFF

The Federal Government's policy on the Vietnam war was based on false assumptions, the Leader of the Federal Opposition, Mr. A. A. Calwell said.

"No policy, shot through with falsity as this one is, either achieves or merits success," he said.

Mr. Calwell was commenting on a statement defending Government action in Vietnam made by Sir Robert at a Press conference in Canberra.

Mr. Calwell said Australia could not contribute towards finding a solution of the Vietnam war as long as Sir Robert:

- Refused to acknowledge the powerful civil war component in

South Vietnam.

- Viewed the 150,000 Vietcong merely as aggressors from the north and agents of China.

- Did not try to understand that the Vietcong were willing to kill, and be killed, for what they believe to be a national cause.

"There will be no solution until the blinkers are taken off," Mr. Calwell said.

Mr. Calwell said the United States and Australia "are being forced into the position of making the war appear increasingly, in Asian eyes, as a war by non-Asians against Asians, waged with all our technological superiority against the town and villages of Vietnam."

THE DARK AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS



Vietnam & The Budget

The Menzies Government's military intervention in the Vietnam war will be largely responsible for yet another "horror budget" this year.

Federal Treasurer, Mr. H. E. Holt, has already indicated that the coming budget would raise tax—direct and indirect.

"Spending is likely to be about £250m more than last year," he said.

He went on to say that Australia's natural growth would close part of the gap to the £250m extra but added THAT NO ONE KNEW JUST WHAT THE REST OF THE GAP WOULD BE.

One of the official reasons given for increased taxation in the budget is an increase of £85m for arms expenditure in the coming year.

The Australian Financial Review said that the estimated total requirement for defence next year is £370m in the current year, and added that most of the money for keeping the 1st Battalion in South Vietnam will come from the maintenance sector, which is expected to rise by £30m to £228m.

Taxes, both direct and indirect are paid in far greater proportion by workers and small business people, than they are by the big monopolies.

The coming Budget geared for

even higher wasted war expenditure will further curtail their living standards.

Indirect taxes in the 1964 Budget meant dearer cigarettes, telephone rentals, radio and TV licenses and other items.

Petrol, beer and cigarettes are already earmarked for more revenue for war this year.

The Government has already spent £3,105m on defence since 1949. Most of this has been spent on the pretext that Australia is threatened by countries in South-East Asia, but in fact no country in South-East Asia has threatened Australia.

Australia's safety requires above all an independent foreign policy based on free trade and friendly relations with all nations.

We need a policy of peace and friendship towards our neighbours; withdrawing our troops and depending on negotiation instead of war.

Authorised by J. Heffernan, R. Scott, M. O'Brien, Trade Union Section, A.I.C.D., and printed by Union Printing Ptv. Limited, 171 Parramatta Rd., Annandale, N.S.W.