

Registration

Please enrol me for the National Conference for an Independent and Non-Aligned Australia.

Name

Address

..... Postcode

Phone No.

Occupation

If you are representing an organization, please state its name and postal address.

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I have enclosed the registration fee: - - - 1976

\$10 Individuals

\$5 Student/Pensioner

\$20 Organisational Delegate (Minimum)

\$ Donation

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Return to the National Congress for an Independent and Non-Aligned Australia:

VICTORIA: C/ CICD, 208 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000 (6633677).
NSW: C/ AICD, 232 Castlereagh Street, Sydney 2000 (261701).

Endorsements to date

The National Conference for an Independent and Non-Aligned Australia is sponsored by the Australian Peace Liaison Committee and endorsed by the AMWU (Commonwealth Council), AMWU (Victorian Branch), AMIEU (Victorian Branch), AFULE (Federal), AFULE (Victorian Branch), WWF (Melbourne Branch), Food Preservers Union (Victorian Branch), Federal Liquor and Allied Industries Employees Union (Victorian Branch), Clothing and Allied Trades Union (Victorian Branch), Federal Miscellaneous Workers Union (Victoria), Pax Christi Australia, Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Friends of the Earth, Environment Alert, Union of Australian Women, Greek Democritus League, Gordon Bryant MHR, Keith Johnson MHR, Senator W. Brown, Dr J.F. Cairns MHR, Australia Party (Victorian Branch), Australian Railways Union (Victorian Branch), Senator George Georges, Senator Arthur Gietzelt, Sam Goldbloom, Joe Kiers (Provisional list only.)

Conference Location — Victorian College of Pharmacy

National Conference for an Independent and Non-Aligned Australia

Sponsored by the Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament on behalf of the Australian Peace Liaison Committee

Melbourne, October 1,2,3 1976

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“... a fundamental re-examination of Australia's foreign, military and resources policy is urgently necessary.”

Australia's traditional foreign policy has been one of alignment, except for some important independent decisions taken by the Curtin Labor Government in the interests of Australia's defence, following Japan's entry into World War II. However, prior to 1942, Australian foreign policy was determined by Great Britain, and since 1945, by the United States.

This policy evolved on a bi-partisan basis. Until the end of World War II, Australia was essentially a European outpost in an imperialist dominated Asia.

This situation has dramatically changed as a result of the National Liberation struggles in our region over the last 30 years.

Our basic foreign policy of alignment has not changed, and was directly responsible for our involvement in Vietnam at United States insistence. Further, this policy is leading to an intensification of Australia as a foreign military base and distorting the economy, leading to a reduction of social services and living standards, while at the same time giving rise to an increase in defence expenditure.

The Foreign Policy statement by Prime Minister Fraser in Parliament on June 1, 1976, attempts to justify the expenditure of \$12,000 million on defence, while savagely cutting back on all other areas of Government spending by alleging a "Soviet threat" to our country and our region. This assumption must be challenged.

Current Australian foreign policy direction runs counter to the historical trends in our region in particular, and internationally generally. It contains all the dangers of involving us in new Vietnam-type situations.

A fundamental re-examination of Australia's Foreign, Military and Resources policy is urgently necessary.

Aims and Objectives

The Conference for an Independent and Non-Aligned Australia aims to bring together people who are concerned and active in numerous organizations and campaigns in order to:

- Deepen understanding of the social, political and economic consequences to Australia of the Australia/US Alliance.
- Examine the threat to Australian Independence by having foreign military bases on our soil.
- Examine the influence of Multinational Corporations on Australian Foreign Policy and Economy.
- Analyse the consequences of being a member of military blocs, e.g. ANZUS.
- Examine the means by which we can approach the problems of giving substance to our aspirations for greater independence, including the aspirations of black Australians for self-determination.
- Evaluate the role and nature of non-aligned nations in international affairs, and in particular a non-aligned Australia.
- Consider a non-aligned Australian contribution to the struggle for a new international economic order.
- Find common ground for action by the participating individuals and organizations.

The Conference has as one of its objectives that Australia should make a positive contribution to international peace, disarmament and social progress.

Conference Structure

Will consist of plenary sessions and workshop discussions.