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-chairman of the 1954 Geneva Conference in 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 the 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. statement by 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

1. The Australian Government to withdraw our troops from Vietnam.
2. The Australian Government to call on all world leaders to demand that Britain and the Soviet Union, as co-chairman 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.
3. 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 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); Action Equity; Australian Railways Union (Federal Council); Amalgamated Metal Trades Union (A.M.T.U.); Builders Labourers' Federation (N.S.W.); Butchers' Society; F.E.D. & F.A.; United Fire Fighters' Union (Australia); Firemen & Deckhands Union; Street's Union; Gas Employees Federation (Federal); Inland Transport Union; Liquor and Allied Workers Union; Miners Federation; Fed. Miners and Millers Workers' Union of Australia; Mill & Ice Creamers Union; Polish Workers Union; Painters and Decorators Union; Postal Workers Union (Federal); Sheet Metal Workers Union; Wool and Wool Worhers Union; Waterside Workers Federation; Tram and Omnibus Employees Union.

UNION PETITION

BRING AUSTRALIAN TROOPS HOME

STOP WAR

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

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

Total War Means Total Destruction

... (Text continues...)

Calwell says:

MENZIES—TAKE THE BLINkJERS OFF

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

"No policy, shot through with falsity in this one, 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 the Red China refused to acknowledge the powerful civil war component in South Vietnam.

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 a national cause.
- "There will be no solution until the blinimers 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 coming Budget geared for even higher wasted war expenditure will further curtail their living standard.

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

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

The Government has already spent £6,100m 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 between all nations.

We need a policy of peace and friendship towards our neighbours; withdrawing our troops, and starting negotiations on the basis of Vietnam instead of war.

Authorised by J. H. Hoffer, P. R. G. O'Brien, R. B. King, T. B. H. Prunings Limited, 111 Parramatta Rd, Annandale, N.S.W.