H-Bombs IN Australia means H-Bombs ON Australia

We must not become a nuclear base!

The Sydney Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament draws your attention to a very real danger facing Australia, at the present time.

Early in 1963 the Secretary-General of the United Nations wrote to all Governments, pointing out the terrible risks confronting the world if more and more nations joined the "Nuclear Club" by acquiring nuclear weapons. He invited each nation to state its views on what could be done to avoid this dangerous situation.

A number of nations, including India, have already declared that they will join the "Non-Nuclear Club" and forgo the stockpiling or stationing of nuclear bombs on their soil.

Sir Gardan Barwick's reply however, showed little interest in any proposals to limit the spread of nuclear weapons. In fact, he stated, falsely that the Australian Government reserved the right to acquire them.

We should not assume that the Federal Government would ever think of adopting such a policy.

Our Destruction Would Be Necessary

1. All military experts agree that, in the event of a nuclear war, the "first strike" with nuclear missiles must be made at the enemy's bases, in an attempt to destroy his power to retaliate. This means, in the event of such a war, Australia would have to be attacked if it were a nuclear base, even if hostilities had begun in, or concerned, an entirely different region of the world.

Our Destruction Would Be Possible

2. Because most of our population is packed so densely in a narrow coastal strip, our large area is not the protection it appears, and such a "first strike" would effectively destroy Bombs already exploded in target areas of such a size that their "unexplosive radius" (the distance at which they start to detonate) is about 50 miles. This means that if such a bomb were dropped at Gosford, Sydney would burn. A more half-dozen such bombs would leave a country so devastated that, as one writer has put it, "the survivors would envy the dead".

There Is An Alternative

3. By entering the nuclear rat-race, we would not only be making certain of our own destruction in a nuclear war, but actually increasing the chances of such a war occurring. The greater the spread of nuclear weapons, the greater the chances of a war, breaking out by accident or design. But by joining the "Non-Nuclear Club", we would help to extend the non-nuclear regions of the world and play an important role in slowing down, or even stopping, the spread of nuclear weapons. The nuclear-free zone in the Southern Hemisphere, proposed in May by the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, is an example of the kind of constructive role Australia could play, in contrast to the deflection and drift to suicide implied by the present policy.

The view that "Australia needs nuclear weapons for its defence", is based on a complete misunderstanding of the nature of nuclear weapons. It is worth repeating: from giving us protection, the presence of nuclear weapons would ensure our destruction if a nuclear war broke out anywhere.

It is true that in its death throes Australia could possibly kill a few million people, women and children on "the other side"; it is hard to see any consolation in this.

Keep The H-Bombs Out Of Australia

The Sydney Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, formed in March 1963, has for its aim the adoption by a Federal Government of a foreign policy by which Australia will:

- Refuse to possess, manufacture or use nuclear weapons
- Refuse its territory for use by other nations as nuclear bases
- Refuse, also, the use of Australian-administered territory for nuclear tests or nuclear bases, and withhold assistance to nuclear tests anywhere.

We do not pretend that, once such a policy is adopted, Australia will have no further problems, or will be free of all possible danger, in the world of today, absolute security does not come so easily. But we do say that it avoids the certainty of destruction in the event of nuclear war, and that it will enable Australia to practise foreign policies aimed at relieving the tensions which are building up towards a catastrophe too ghastly.

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