

OUR POLICY AND PROGRAMME

WHICH CAN BE PUT INTO EFFECT ONLY WITH YOUR SUPPORT

War is avoidable. We believe that there is no barrier to the peoples of all countries living together in the same world, without war and in spite of different social systems. We are confident that, led and directed by the Peace Movement, the desire of ordinary people everywhere for peace will prevail over the forces making for war.

Let's talk it over. We have always pressed for negotiation to solve international differences, and the great emphasis we have placed on this has been justified, as the conclusion of the wars in Korea and Indo-China showed, and as the Geneva Conference of the Heads of Governments has shown, too. We will continue to urge negotiation on every possible opportunity, especially on a subject like —

Disarmament, which we think is the chief issue facing the world at the moment. In fact, the World Peace Movement has called 1956 "The Year of Disarmament". Never have the viewpoints of the great powers been closer. Never have the benefits that disarmament would shower on mankind been clearer. Naturally we do not, and never have, advocated disarmament by Australia or any other country by itself. But we do believe in pressing the Governments in *all* countries to reach accord. That's why the Peace Movement exists in all countries.

What About the Atomic Tests? Yes, we feel particularly strongly about these, partly because of the menace they present with their known and unknown physical effects, partly because we see an agreement on halting all tests everywhere as the prelude to an agreement to ban the bomb, and as the prelude to an agreement on general disarmament. The Australian Peace Movement has collected nearly 350,000 signatures in favor of banning the bomb; now we are pressing further ahead in many ways. We have asked the Australian Government to declare the terms on which it believes it possible to bring all tests to an end, and to approach other countries to negotiate on this. We oppose any further atomic or hydrogen tests anywhere, and have launched a full-scale campaign throughout Australia against them.

Each to His Own. We believe that the existence of foreign troops in other countries, whether they are Russian troops in Germany or American airmen in Arabia or British soldiers in Malaya, leads to situations which will raise international tensions; we work for a world in which no country will be "occupied".

Over the Back Fence. Australia is an appendage to the great continent of Asia, and we believe the peaceful and secure future of this land depends on the development of harmonious relations with all Asian people. We call for closer cultural, trade and technical ties of all kinds; we demand support for movements in Asia towards establishing national independence, for peace can only come through the co-operation of free nations; and hence we see colonial wars and repressions of all kinds as disease beds breeding viruses of war. We support recognition of China by the Australian Government, the seating of China in the United Nations and the return to China of all her territories.

There is so much more to say, and so little space to say it in. But we always remember this: that an active, informed public opinion is vital to wise government; that it is the duty of the citizen to participate actively; and that it would be a sad day for Australia, or any other country, if organisations and individuals did not exist, continually informing, moulding and reflecting public opinion.

These tasks are not only vital to our livelihoods, but to our very lives themselves.

*Victorian Peace
Council Collection*

FROM AN ORIGINAL IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES
NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT PERMISSION



WAR

*means
you!*

We believe . . .

The peoples of the world are faced with the real and terrible danger of another world war.

Four years after the signing of the United Nations Charter, our world is dividing into two opposing blocs of nations, with a disastrous armaments race developing.

Science, to-day, could make this world into a garden. Instead, scientists waste their skill on atomic bombs and bombs for spreading infantile paralysis and the bubonic plague.

Fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter have been violated by the organisation of political unions and military pacts.

Under the crippling burden of preparations for a new war national economies are collapsing and the planned rupture of trade relations between groups of countries assumes the character of a war blockade.

As we pass from the stage of "cold war" to open preparation for war, truth and reason are continually under assault from organised war propaganda.

Our democratic liberties and institutions are attacked and undermined in the mad drive to war.

But, war is not inevitable.

The two main social systems of our time, capitalism and socialism, can and must peacefully co-exist.

We declare our belief that the peoples of the world, without distinction of political opinion or religious belief, can and must unite in defence of peace; that this unity of the peoples is capable of imposing peace on the forces making for war.

Our objects . . .

To mobilise public opinion in support of the United Nations Charter and against the idea that war is inevitable.

To support the principle of the peaceful co-existence of different social systems and to oppose all military alliances and acts of aggression which violate the United Nations Charter and render ineffective the United Nations Organisation.

To demand the immediate limitation of armaments and the outlawing of atomic energy for war purposes.

To make known the facts concerning international relations, the causes of war and the problems and aims of peoples of other countries.

To expose and counter all forms of war propaganda and all appeals to race hatred and prejudice.

To advocate self-determination and national independence for all peoples.

To co-operate fully with all genuine Peace Movements at home and abroad.

To collaborate with other bodies in defence of our democratic liberties and institutions.

Our programme . . .

We do not propose merely to talk about peace or to hope for it; we propose to organise for peace, work for peace, fight for peace. We offer a policy for peace and a programme of action.

Our programme includes:—

PEACE PROPAGANDA: We will organise immediately throughout Australia public meetings, lectures, film screenings, radio programmes, newspaper articles and advertisements, and will distribute large quantities of pamphlets, posters and leaflets. A **PEACE JOURNAL**, which will report Peace Movements throughout the world, present essential facts concerning world events, and systematically expose all kinds of war propaganda.

PEACE BALLOT: The National Peace Ballot was launched during Peace Week in November, and already there has been an enthusiastic response. In this Ballot the public are invited to vote "Yes" or "No" to eight questions which summarise the Peace Council's policy. Ballot papers are now available to Peace Council auxiliaries, and can be used at public meetings, in factories, workshops, and farms, and for door to door canvassing. Thousands of votes for peace can play a most powerful part in shaping Australian policy on the question of war or peace.

PEACE CONGRESS: The campaign launched in November will lead up to and prepare for a great **PEACE CONGRESS** in March, 1950, to which delegations from overseas are being invited. From this Congress, resolutions and the result of the Peace Ballot will be taken by deputation to Canberra.

PEACE AUXILIARIES: Council aims to promote the formation of Auxiliaries everywhere, organised either on a district, occupational or common-interest basis. Within a few weeks we hope to receive applications for affiliation from, for example, auxiliaries of ex-servicemen, of clergymen, writers, housewives, students, scientists, trade union auxiliaries, factory auxiliaries, or from groups of people organised simply on a locality basis.

Only through a network of such auxiliaries can we draw all sections of the community into united and determined action for peace.

Our Council . . .

The Australian Peace Council was formed in Melbourne in July, 1949. It is a broad non-party, undenominational body consisting of some seventy representative citizens drawn from all States of the Commonwealth and from all walks of life. Included are ministers of religion, members of parliament, trade unionists, some of Australia's leading writers, scientists, artists, ex-servicemen, housewives, educationalists, sportsmen, youth.

Rev. Victor James and Rev. F. J. Hartley are joint honorary secretaries, and the honorary treasurer is Rev. A. Dickie. State Divisions of the Council are now in process of formation.

The Australian Peace Council is not a delegate body based on other organisations. Responsible only to its own members, it regards itself as a provisional council and its task as preparing the way for the Peace Congress in March, 1950, at which a permanent peace organisation can be democratically established.

Believing that the great untried weapon for peace is the unity of the peoples of the world, irrespective of nationality or political or religious creed, we earnestly seek and will welcome the support of people of every opinion and belief who sincerely want peace and are prepared sincerely to work for it.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

"Of course I want peace," you say, "and I would like to do something about it; but what can I do, one person, alone . . . and the newspapers say. . ."

No, friend, you are not alone, and you can do something. Throughout the world, in all lands, a mighty peace army is mobilising. You can join it and say with Paul Eluard, the famous French poet, "I am one of those—and their name is Legion—who are proud to prefer a book to a revolver, a tractor to an atom bomb, civilisation to barbarism . . . to love peace, to fight against death, to believe in life and the future of man." In this army of peace you will march with the greatest figures in the world of science and the arts: Curie, Aragon, Bernal, Vercors, Sholokov, Haldane, Stapledon, Faddeyev, Amado, Fast, Robeson, Shapley, Giral, Neruda, O'Casey, Nexo and hundreds of others; your allies will be the peace-loving peoples of the whole world.

The Australian Peace Council asks you to call meetings in your factory, among the members of your organisation, or in the district in which you live, to discuss our policy and programme for peace. Apply to us for a speaker to address you.

You and your friends can organise a Peace Auxiliary—write to us for further information about this, or call to discuss it personally.

We need the help of hundreds of activists now—writers, artists, speakers, organisers, typists, general office helpers, button sellers, ballot canvassers, literature sellers. . .

Your country needs you—in the battle for peace!

YOUR CONTACT

MELBOURNE:

Sec., Aust. Peace Council, 2nd Floor, 330 Little Flinders St., Melbourne.
Telephone: M B 1034.

SYDNEY:

N.S.W. Sec. Aust. Peace Council, 1st Floor, Haymarket Chambers, 175 Hay Street, Sydney. Telephone: M 3501.

BRISBANE:

The Secretary, Queensland Peace Council, Box 2095W, G.P.O., Brisbane. Telephone: L 2375.

ADELAIDE:

Mr. Graham Smith, 12 William Street, Hawthorn, Adelaide.

PERTH:

Mrs. D. Carey, Box N 1073, G.P.O., Perth.

HOBART:

Mr. D. C. Jacobs, "Irnisfrae," Pillingers' Drive, Fern Tree, Tas

Issued by the Australian Peace Council, 330 Little Flinders St., Melbourne.

Capricorn Printing Co., 289 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.