YOU CAN'T BAN PEACE!

We Swear . . . .

That the Communist Party did not establish the Australian Peace Council, does not control its policy or activities, and cannot use it for ends other than advancing world peace.

We Welcome . . . .

The support of members of all political parties, without exception, who sincerely want peace and who are prepared sincerely to co-operate with others of different political and religious beliefs in working for peace.

We Challenge . . . .

The action of the A.L.P. Executives of N.S.W. and Victoria in banning the Australian Peace Council and thereby dividing and confusing the Australian people at a time when all should unite in defence of peace, irrespective of political differences.

We Invite . . . .

The A.L.P. Executives honestly to admit the accuracy of the facts stated in this folder, to lift this petty ban and to place no more obstacles in the way of the thousands of A.L.P. members who are actively supporting the work of the Australian Peace Council.

REV. A. M. DICKIE
(Chairman)

REV. V. JAMES
(Joint Hon. Secs.)

REV. F. J. HARTLEY

Vic Peace Council
To the Victorian Executive of the A.L.P.

With astonishment and concern we have read in the newspapers that your Executive has decided to ban the Australian Peace Council and expel any member of the A.L.P. taking part in its activities.

In the absence of any direct advice from your party, we must rely on newspaper reports for an evaluation of your extraordinary action. According to these reports, your reasons are that the Australian Peace Council is not, or is not used by the Communist Party for Communist ends, and is therefore taboo as a "Communist Front" organization.

We are at a loss to understand the basis on which you reached these conclusions, since the inquiries as to our constitution, membership, policy or activities were addressed to us.

The Communist Party did not establish the Australian Peace Council. It does not control its policy or activities and cannot use it for ends other than advancing the cause of world peace.

These are matters of fact, capable of proof. We sincerely hope that your decision was based on false information, and that the personnel, policy, control and financial position, which we ask you to reconsider, will lead us to consider it our duty to place a copy of this letter in the hands of every member of the A.L.P. in Victoria.

ESTABLISHMENT.

The Australian Peace Council was formed, and its objects defined, at a meeting held in the house of the Rev. Victor James, Cathedral Place, Melbourne, on Friday, July 1, 1949.

PERSONNEL:

The original or foundation members of the Council were: Canon W. G. Thomas (Chairman), Rev. W. H. Dyett (Methodist), Rev. A. M. Dickie (Presbyterian), Rev. G. H. Pitman, Mrs. D. Blackmore (Secretary), Rev. W. J. H. Brittain, Miss M. Smith (Vice-President), Rev. D. T. McFarlane (Presbyterian, Victoria), Prof. R. C. Traill (Scientist), A. C. R. Sclater (Director, Australian Peace Council), Mrs. W. P. Short (Vice-President), J. W. Black (Secretary), Rev. E. J. Butler (Vice-President), Rev. W. H. Dyett (Vice-President), Rev. G. H. Pitman (Vice-President), Rev. W. J. H. Brittain (Vice-President), Miss M. Smith (Vice-President), Rev. D. T. McFarlane (Vice-President), and Rev. A. M. Dickie (Vice-President).

The membership, including the executive committee of six elected, consisted of: Rev. W. J. H. Brittain (Chairman), Rev. F. J. H. Hargreaves (Vice-Chairman), Rev. A. M. Dickie (Secretary), Rev. W. J. H. Black (Treasurer), Rev. W. J. E. Gough (Vice-President), and Rev. W. H. Dyett (Vice-President).

The name of the council was changed to the Peace Council and the Communist Party.

POLICY:

The objects of the Australian Peace Council were adopted at the inaugural meeting in July, 1949. They are:

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 any purpose.

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

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

To cooperate with the organizations and political parties for the democratic determination and national independence for all people.

To cooperate fully with all genuine Peacemaking Movements and with all other bodies in defence of our democratic liberties and institutions.

Subsequent to the adoption of these objects, the Council, after full discussion, declared its opposition to the involvement of Australia in a military Pacific Pact and its opposition to any foreign war.

Does your Executive disagree with us on questions of policy? If so, we should be interested to know which points of our policy you oppose.

MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL:

All questions of policy and all activities of the Council are decided by the members themselves, meeting monthly. Between meetings, its affairs are managed by an Executive Committee which members are listed above.

There is not, nor can there be, any outside control.

FINANCE:

The Australian Peace Council has neither sought nor received, either directly or indirectly, any money from the Communist Party, or any other political party.

We have not been assisted by the sale of any voluntary donations from individuals and organisations, and from functions and meetings organized by the Council.

THE PEACE COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY:

The Peace Council has received no support from the Communist Party and from its paper, the "Guardian," as proof that we are a "Communist front organization."

We welcome the support of any section of the community. We do not apologize for the fact that the Communist Party is of a "front organization."

CO-OPERATE FOR PEACE:

We do not ask our supporters whether they are Communist, Labor or Liberal. The only question we ask is: "Do you sincerely want peace, and are you prepared to do your bit to support our activities?" We welcome it, and regret that your Executive has not given the United Peace Movement to the hundreds of A.L.P. members who are individually assisting us.

ABOVE AND BEYOND PARTY POLITICS:

We urge you to acknowledge that the Australian Peace Council consists of men and women of different political and religious views, who are united on this— that we must work not as never before, but in this.
We do not seek the official endorsement of the A.L.P. or of any other political party, but we do earnestly ask you to place no obstacles in the way of the many thousands of your members and supporters who wish to be active in the cause of peace. In fact, we ask more—we ask that the members of your Executive, as individuals, give their sympathetic support to our activities for peace.

We enclose a number of Peace Ballot papers, which we ask the members of your Executive to complete and return to us, together with any comments you may desire to make, so that we can give your vote the widest publicity.

May we hope that your Executive will receive this appeal sympathetically, and will co-operate fully in this great work—the preservation of peace and of a happy, secure future for the Australian people.

Yours faithfully,

AUSTRALIAN PEACE COUNCIL,
(Signed) Victor James, F. J. Hartley (Joint Hon. Secs.).

Here's What You Can Do For PEACE:

- Vote in the Peace Ballot
- Join a local or job auxiliary
- Send delegates to the Australian Peace Congress (April 16-19, 1950)

CONTACT THE PEACE COUNCIL IN YOUR STATE:

MELBOURNE: Sec., A.P.C., 2nd Floor, 330 Lit. Flinders St.

SYDNEY: Sec., A.P.C., 1st Floor, 175 Hay St.

BRISBANE: Sec., Queensland Peace Council, Box 2095 W, G.P.O.

ADELAIDE: Sec., A.P.C., Box 1494, G.P.O.

PERTH: Sec., A.P.C., Box N 1073, G.P.O.

HOBART: Mr. D. C. Jacob, “Innisfree,” Pillingers’ Drive, Fern Tree, Tas.

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