

Message  
to  
Educationists

The final session of the Educationists' Conference adopted unanimously the following message to be sent to teachers' organisations in other States and other countries—

"The members of this conference of teachers and others concerned in the education of young people, held in Sydney on 24th October, 1964, as part of the Australian Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament, pledge ourselves to work for international co-operation and disarmament and urgently recommend to all teachers in Australia and throughout the world, individually and collectively, that they work for this object as vital to the maintenance of the survival of the human species.

We draw to the attention of teachers everywhere the statement published in the Unesco Courier in 1950 that 'All Wars are Fought Against Children'. Far more than in any previous conflict, children in their millions would be among the victims of a nuclear war. Children and unborn children are more vulnerable than any other section of the population to the radiation released by nuclear tests.

Before the bombs explode, their costly production means that there are fewer ploughs, fewer homes and schools, so that millions of children are condemned to malnutrition and illiteracy because of the high amount of the world's wealth being spent on armaments.

The work of teachers is to educate children for living. That work is negated by the present state of world tension which deprives so many children of the means of living a full and happy life, and threatens them all with disease, deformity and death. In contrast, the living, health, educational and cultural standards of the peoples of the world will be advanced by the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and by the application of the wealth and resources of the world to constructive purposes.

We believe that teachers have a special responsibility to the children of the world and we call upon teachers everywhere to consider what steps they can take to achieve international co-operation so that all children may, in fact, be educated for living."



Australian Congress  
for International Co-operation  
and Disarmament  
EDUCATIONISTS'  
CONFERENCE  
Sydney, Saturday October 24, 1964

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON:—**

## Education & Disarmament

“It is in the nature of things that children can never win a war and it is in the nature of things that all wars are waged against children. Children suffer also from military expenditure which diverts funds needed for food, housing, education and hospitals. Agreement by nations to settle disputes by negotiation instead of by force would release vast sums to meet the peaceful needs of the children and peoples of the world. This Education Conference emphasises the need to publicise the disastrous effects which the armaments race is already having and calls on teachers:

- 1 To equip themselves with an understanding of the social and economic consequences of disarmament so they can play their proper role in the preservation of peace.
- 2 To educate children to live in the world community by giving them a respect for and an understanding of the peoples of different races and cultures.
- 3 And urges that the important role of the United Nations Organisation in this respect be emphasised wherever possible.”

## Extracts from the United Nations Charter

“We, the peoples of the United Nations, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, . . . and for these ends to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.

*The Purposes of the United Nations are:*

**1**

To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;

**2**

To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples;

**3**

To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.”