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# **Australian Labor Party**

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*Federal Leader*



*Dr. H. V. Evatt*

## **LABOR'S plan for WORLD PEACE**

**Declarations and Decisions of the Hobart Conference**

# **STATEMENT BY FEDERAL LEADER**

**Dr. H. V. EVATT**

## **Survival in the Pacific demands dynamic and definite policy on foreign affairs**

**I**N striking contrast to the Menzies Government's make-shift foreign policy, and its repeated recourse to expediency in international affairs, is the positive policy for peace which the A.L.P. is prepared to submit at any time to the test of public opinion.

Labor has called the bluff of the small subversive clique within its ranks whose ideas on foreign policy are not only inimical to Australia's chance of peaceful and independent survival in the Pacific, but are also alien to the traditional Anglo-Saxon capacity to bring enlightened and persistent thought to the most complex of world problems.

Labor's foreign policy, as declared by the Hobart conference, will now become one of the most vital issues in Australian national life. It not only reaffirms our oft repeated pledge of complete unity in our membership of the British Commonwealth of Nations as well as the United Nations, but it insists on a more active participation in the peace-making role of these two free world forces. For that reason we are urging the admission into membership of U.N. all nations now excluded from its ranks. This would mean that of the 18 nations outside the world organisation, such countries as Communist China, Southern Ireland and Italy would take their place with others in full membership.

### **MALAYA**

Of immediate concern to all Australians is our attitude to S.E. Asia with particular emphasis on Malaya where, according to press reports, Mr. Menzies has committed Australia to serious military obligations. Labor believes that, just as belated peaceful intervention in Indo-China ended the disastrous fighting there, so the Malayan situation will have to come finally to the conference table. This will not be hastened, nor will Australia's role as a potential peace-maker in S.E. Asia be helped, by sending forces to fight in the Malayan jungles. As already indicated by responsible Asian leaders, such an act will only lead to further misunderstanding between the peoples of Asia and the white race. And it will be represented as an act of aggression on our part by the enemies of the Western democracies.

### **ATTEND AFRO-ASIAN TALKS**

To better understand the Asian problems in Australia, and to bring the Australian point of view to Asia, we are

submitting to the Australian people the urgent need of exchange visits between all their countries and our own. These visits must go beyond the diplomatic level. They must be arranged at almost every level of our national life. Steps will be taken by the appropriate authorities of the Party to have observers representing Labor appointed to attend the Afro-Asian conference in Indonesia next month. While we recognise that regional pacts such as S.E.A.T.O. have a partial value, they can never replace the full and effective use of the Charter powers of U.N. S.E.A.T.O. commands no support among such vital Asian powers as India and Burma and, at best, is no satisfactory alternative to the form of collective responsibility that resides in the U.N.

### **NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION**

In addition to calling the Australian people to a more direct and greater acceptance of responsibility for the raising of living standards, the eradication of illiteracy and disease, among the Asian peoples, the Labor Movement insists that all this will be as naught if the policy of massive retaliation through nuclear weapons is retained as the corner-stone of our democratic foreign policy.

We adhere to Sir Winston Churchill's proposals, now almost forgotten, for high level talks which have become more urgent in the face of the dire warnings of world atomic scientists as to the catastrophic consequences of an atomic war. We insist that the present situation has developed because of the two-year old failure to press on with the demand that these talks be held. Our Federal Government has shown a complete indifference to a pursuance of these highly desirable and practical ends while accepting the old myth of deterrent war provisions. The Labor Party will engage in a nation-wide campaign to mobilise public opinion in support of effective international control of nuclear weapons.

### **APPEAL TO RANK AND FILE**

Labor's declaration of foreign policy will now go to the rank and file of the A.L.P., which, freed from the stress and strain caused by the disruptive and obscurantist forces which have held back the progress of the Party, will soon gather universal support and sanction not only in Australia but throughout the British Commonwealth and among all who strive for peace based on justice. In a word, Labor's established policy based on U.N. principles of collective action to negotiate peace as well as to repel aggression is reaffirmed. But its application to the crucial areas of S.E. Asia is made direct and practical. If acted upon, it will afford fresh hopes for our threatened day and age.

# **Federal Conference Made These Clear Decisions**

## **For The Safety Of Australia**

**H**AVING regard to the present state of international tension and the resulting threat to world peace, this Conference declares as follows:—

1. Australia is, and must always remain, an integral part of the British Commonwealth of Nations as well as of the United Nations Organisation.

2. Co-operation with the United States in the Pacific is of crucial importance and must be maintained in accordance with the spirit of this declaration.

3. Australia must give greater practical support to the United Nations for the purpose of carrying out the principles of the United Nations' Charter and in particular for their wholehearted application in the Pacific and South East Asia areas. These principles cover both collective action to repel military aggression and also—a factor which is usually forgotten—continuous action by way of conciliation and peaceful intervention for the purpose of preventing war and of bringing all armed conflict to an end.

4. The Australian Government has not sufficiently availed itself of the machinery of the United Nations. A convincing illustration of this is the case of Indo-China where the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party consistently advocated intervention by the United Nations to stop the fighting and negotiate a just settlement. The Federal Government took no action in this regard and in the end—five years later—the Indo-China conflict had to be settled by negotiation. The result was a settlement which was infinitely worse than would have been the case had United Nations intervention taken place in a prompt and timely manner. In the meantime, hundreds of thousands of precious lives were lost.

5. Indo-china is typical of those cases where inexcusable delay in recognising a genuine Nationalist anti-colonial movement in Asia resulted in Communism gradually capturing the Nationalist movement. The result was that democratic Nationalism suffered a severe set-back.

6. The Labor Party advocates generous assistance by Australia to Asian peoples suffering from poverty, disease and lack of educational facilities. This is only part of our task. Asian peoples also demand—in accordance with the United Nations Charter—the end of colonialism whenever and wherever the people are fit for self-government. Even more, Asia rightly demands recognition of the dignity and self-respect of Asian Nations and peoples. Unless all these principles are fully acknowledged, Western Nations will find it impossible to achieve that real co-operation with Asia which is basic to the maintenance of peace.

7. The Australian Labor Party is satisfied that the use of Australian Armed Forces in Malaya will gravely injure Australian relations with our Asian neighbours while in no way contributing to the prevention of aggression. The "guerilla" operations in Malaya have lasted five years. They will eventually be ended by some form of agreement or amnesty. Action towards this end should begin now.

8. Labor policy is to oppose the use of Armed Forces in Malaya.

9. This Conference is firmly of the opinion that there is a grossly inadequate understanding of Asian problems in Australia and of Australian problems in Asia. Therefore it

establishes the policy of encouraging exchanges of official and un-official visits between our countries. In particular, the Australian Labor Movement itself should seek direct contact with Asian countries. In this connection no Asian country should be excluded from such exchanges.

10. The Australian Labor Party should seek the appointment of observers at the forthcoming Afro-Asian Conference in Indonesia. Delegates representing Labor should be arranged between the Federal Executive of the A.L.P. and the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party.

11. The development of atomic weapons has reached such dimensions that the peoples of the world are now faced with the stark and terrifying spectacle of a possible atomic world war causing a danger to the very fabric of the earth, its atmosphere and all its inhabitants which is so real that distinguished scientists refer to the prospect with a sense of "desperation". This desperation is partly due to the vacillation and delay in arranging high level political talks aiming at the effective prevention of the use of atomic and hydrogen bombs by any nation, whether for purposes of war or experimental purposes.

12. Conference therefore directs the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party to press for effective action directed towards these great ends. We are convinced that in years to come, a Nation's true greatness will come to be measured by its courageous approach to the solution of these tremendous problems here and now.

13. The S.E.A.T.O. Organisation must devote special attention to the peaceful settlement of international disputes in South East Asia. S.E.A.T.O. as a regional organisation within the United Nations has a positive duty to try and lessen international tension in South East Asia and the Pacific. It should discharge that duty.

14. A mutual regional Pact for security and welfare should be negotiated between Australia, Holland and Indonesia. The Pact should aim at promoting the security of the entire areas of Indonesia and New Guinea. It should also aim at improving the standards of life for all the peoples throughout this area—so vital to Australia.

15. There should be a renewed and vigorous attempt to bring about universal membership of the United Nations in accordance with the spirit of the Charter. No fewer than twelve Nations have been excluded by the Russian veto from membership. On the other hand six Nations associated with Russia have also been kept out by failure to secure the necessary majority of seven votes in the Security Council.

16. Nations now awaiting admission to the U.N. include Austria, Bulgaria, Ceylon, China, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Korea, Libya, Portugal and Rumania. On the one hand the admission of all applicants would not even disturb the balance of opinion in the General Assembly. On the other hand, the admission of all these applicant Nations to membership would be in accordance with the general nature of the U.N. as a genuine world organisation. Moreover, from a practical point of view opening the door to membership would add greatly to the stature and strength of the Organisation as a truly representative world society.

17. Our defence depends upon the rapid development and peopling of Australia and its Territories. The Australian Labor Party pledges itself to an adequate plan of national defence with special reference to Northern Australia.

# **These Are The Policy Points Summed Up**

**The Truth About The H Bomb**



**Stronger Darwin Defences**



**No Troops For Malaya**



**Greatest Support For United Nations**



**Sane & Sensible Peace Plan**



**Observers at Afro-Asian Conferences**



**National Defence Scheme**



**Master Plan For Aid To Asians**

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