

Australian Peace Congress Greeted By Famous World Figures

Mighty international response to the announcement that Australian Peace Congress will be held on April 16 is indicated by the number of world figures who have already signed messages wishing success to the Congress and expressing complete confidence that it will play an important part in safeguarding peace and democratic rights in the Pacific and the world.

DEMOCRATIC peace forces abroad particularly welcome this Australian demonstration for peace in view of attempts to turn Australia into an anti-liberal war base.

"Warmest greetings" have been sent to the National Peace Congress at Melbourne by:
Abbe Jean Boulier, renowned French Catholic priest who defied fascism both before and during the war;
O. John Rogge, formerly Assistant Attorney-General in the Roosevelt Cabinet and one of America's best known liberal writers;
Pierre Cot, former Minister for War in the French Cabinet;
Pietro Nenni, leader of the Italian Socialist Party;
Senator Emilio Sereni, Secretary of the Italian Peace Committee who spent 7 1/2 years in Mussolini's jails;
Dr. James G. Endicott, Canadian missionary from China, who was adviser to Chiang Kai-shek during the anti-Japanese war in 1939-40, and is now Chairman of the Canadian Peace Committee.

Writer, Scientist
James Aldridge, Australian-born best seller writer and correspondent, whose books include Signed With My Honor, The Sea Eagle, Of Any Men and The Diplomats;
Dr. J. G. Crowther, one of Britain's distinguished writers, whose books include Social Relations of Science, Peace and Life, Soviet Science and Famous American Men of Science;
W. Chairman of the British Peace Committee and General Secretary of the World Federation of Scientific Workers;
Boris Claessens, barrister of the Belgian Court of Appeal and leader of Belgian scientists who spent 4 years in German labor camp and is now Secretary of a Belgian Peace Committee;
Jaino Meled, Governor of Uusmaa province of Finland and President of a Finnish Peace Committee;
Other world figures to send greetings are Anna Seibers (Germany), Steen Hantzen (Denmark), General "Mexico", Yona Golan (Israel), Yuse Abbas (Senegal), Mimi Lundén (Norway), Frances Damon (American president, World Federation of Democratic Youth), famous Americanist Rockwell Kent and British AEU London District president Reg Birch.

Sydney's delegation to the Peace Congress is expected to total 15. The Queensland Peace Council has indicated it expects 30 to go.
Mrs Katharine Susannah Prichard will be a Western Australian delegate and will be among prominent authors addressing a special Readers and Writers' Conference to be held in conjunction with the Peace Congress.

Miners' Support
South Bulli, largest miners' lodge on the South Coast, has resolved to send a delegate to the Congress.
Richmond, main, biggest lodge in Australia, has voted a resolution protesting against the proposed ban on the Communist Party, and has asked Kurri Area Committee to send representatives to the Peace Congress.
A public meeting of 85 people in the Maroubra Masonic Hall decided unanimously to send a delegate to the Australian Peace Congress.
They also decided to convene a South Sydney Peace conference to which their delegate could report back and to which the Dean of Canterbury will be invited.
All working class and other democratic organizations from Redfern to Botany will be invited to participate or to send observers.

Waterfront Clerks
The waterfront edition of The Clerk says that selection of delegates to attend the peace Congress will be the job of the Shipping Section Committee of the Communist Party.
For nominations for a minimum of two delegates, ex-servicemen will be preferred, though others may be chosen.
Meetings should be held on each job to take nominations for delegates and names should be forwarded to the union office without delay, says the Clerk.
"We have been advised that some members of the Section would like to visit the Congress as delegates, but paying their own expenses. Any member wishing to do this should advise the union office without delay," says the Clerk.
Workers at Stewart Bros, Villawood, also heard a peace speaker and decided to send a delegate to Melbourne.
The meeting subscribed £9/15/- to pay the Melbourne delegate's expenses and unanimously endorsed the Peace Council's objectives.
There will be a peace meeting in Liverpool Masonic Hall on Wednesday night March 20 at 8 p.m.



Labor Party Must Fight Menzies' Minority Govt.

Because the Menzies-Fadden Government got only a minority of votes cast at the last Federal elections, the Labor Party has an obligation to fight even to a double dissolution against any amendment to the Bank Bill, the Child Endowment Bill, or particularly, against the proposed "Subversive Activities" Bill which violates every concept of democracy.

WHARFIES WON ON FIRST-AID ISSUE

ALTHOUGH the capitalist press claimed that Sydney wharves "capitulated" in the first-aid dispute early this year, a better first-aid system than that sought by the strike has since been introduced.
As in the Brisbane dispute, the daily press whipped up hysterical propaganda that the strike for an effective first-aid system was really "part of a Red plot in the South-West Pacific."
If the shipowners had introduced the reforms forced from them by the strike, the stoppage need never have occurred.
Wharves struck for the right of fellow-unionists, who were always on the job, to have exclusive rights as first-aid men. Instead of the old system of using watchmen and clerks who were not always readily available when accidents occurred.
"We have not only won the right of having all our first-aid men members of our union, but the shipping companies are now getting special first-aid posts ready for us," said Mr. Nelson.
It has also been agreed that these men will have special uniforms and wear full time as first-aid men, said Mr. Nelson.
Mr. Nelson urged that this instance of a complete victory for wharves should be remembered on future occasions when shipowners and their press tried to cover their own defeat with talk of "capitulation."

THE Menzies-Fadden coalition has no mandate to govern the people. It gained the Treasury benches on a minority vote because of the redistribution of seats carried out by the Labor Government.

The coalition obtained only 44.9 per cent of the total Senate vote and 42.2 per cent of the total vote cast for the House of Representatives.

Despite press and "Liberal" propaganda, therefore, the Government cannot claim a mandate for its reactionary policy of attacking living standards, banning the Communist Party, interfering with trade union rights and conscripting Australian youth for an aggressive war.

The "Liberal"-Country Party coalition appears to be a majority party because it won 72 House of Representatives seats, or 60 per cent of the total.

But the fact to remember is that it polled less than 50 per cent of the votes.

The Labor Party obtained only 41 seats compared with 72—but this difference was due to a difference in the vote of only 4.5 per cent.

Edgar Ross, Communist Senate candidate, polled the third highest number of Senate votes in NSW, but failed to be elected and even lost his deposit.

Ross polled 23,886 votes — three times as many as elected Labor Senators Grant and Amour.

Stalemate Already

The Opposition has indicated that it will oppose the Bank legislation reforms proposed by the Menzies' Government.

The Government will oppose any Labor reform of its child endowment proposals.

Thus the Government faces stale-

mats on the first two important pieces of legislation it has put forward.

In his election campaign Mr. Chifley indicated that he would oppose restoration of Board control of the Commonwealth Bank. Last week Labor Caucus voted to unanimously support him.

Caucus had also indicated that it wants amendments made to the proposed 5/- a week Child Endowment Bill, but the Government is determined not to accept them.

One Labor amendment is to increase the first child allowance from 5/- to 10/- a week.

Chifley's Hint

In correspondence to the convenors of public meeting which called upon the Labor Opposition to oppose the "Subversive Activities" Bill, Mr. Chifley indicated last week that the Opposition would safeguard democratic rights.

He said, however, that until the Bill was made known to the House he could not forecast just what action would be taken against it.

The Opposition must be stiffened from outside the House by working class pressure and promise of full support in any action to defeat the reactionary policy of Menzies and Fadden.

The Bank Bill proposed by the Menzies' Government means handing the Commonwealth Bank back to the bankers to be used as a weapon against workers, middle classes and small farmers in the coming economic crisis.

The Child Endowment Bill holds the danger of interference with the present assessment of the basic wage, and the possibility of the wage being slashed to the needs of a childless couple.

"Dark Ages" Bill

The "Subversive Activities" Bill will deprive the Labor Movement of many of its cherished rights, including free speech, the right of trade unions to manage their own affairs, and political freedom.

The tremendous growth of the united front of workers has already had the effect of halting the Government on its original intentions and caused the re-drafting of the Bill.

An intensification of this united front will give stimulus and strength to the Opposition—causing it to fight to a double dissolution if necessary, to preserve democracy in Australia.

Every democratic has the duty of making his voice heard, of sending the protests to the politicians, of throwing in his weight to the movement to save Australian democracy and national independence.

Fantastic "Red Plot" Lies By Newspapers

Capitalist press technique to combat working class struggles against the unpopular Menzies Government is to brand as a "Red Plot" every move to achieve better working conditions or bigger pay envelopes.

HIS was never carried to more ridiculous extremes than it was at the Brisbane wharf dispute over a simple issue of rotation of watches according to order of pick-

up in a desperate effort to justify Menzies' hasty invoking of the Crimes Act on such a trivial issue, a simple Brisbane dispute (affecting only one port and involving 1,440 of Australia's 25,000 wharfies) suddenly became "part of a Red Plot" to tie up all Pacific territories."

The Tribune prints the facts and asks you to judge who is plotting against whom.

Wharfies Locked Out

The Brisbane wharfies were not on strike, but suspended (locked out) by the Stevedoring Industry Board over wanting introduction of rotation of hatches as already operating in Sydney and every major port on the coast.

Wharfies were ready to go to work hatches starting from the low water mark in which they are used. On Saturday morning, Menzies commenced his day-long placatory

their right to a system of favoritism towards "bull" gangs, who got the bigger hatches, which provided a guarantee of the longest period of work.

Last week three men were victimised by suspension through offering for work under union policy in the hatches dispute. Through a system of "rolling suspensions" or "rolling lockouts" (NOT ROLLING STRIKES), eventually the dispute involved 1,440 men who had been quite prepared to work.

BRISBANE.—Shipowners and Liberal politicians claims that the Stevedoring Industry Board is entirely neutral and makes independent decisions were thoroughly discounted here last weekend.

Ever since last Wednesday, locked out Brisbane wharfies have been ready to work every day, but the Stevedoring Industry Board adamantly refused to lift suspensions imposed on three men who had been victimised over the hatches rotation dispute.

On Saturday morning, Menzies commenced his day-long placatory

COPENHAGEN

—The formal opening of the World Peace Committee session in Stockholm took place in the People's House on March 15.

broadcasts pleading with wharfies to return to work, and indicated that the barrier to resumption of work—the suspension of the three men—had been removed.

Brisbane wharfies' branch assistant secretary Mr. A. Graham immediately telegraphed Mr. Ball, the local representative of the Stevedoring Industry Board, and asked him if it were correct that the suspensions had been lifted.

Mr. Ball said it was not and that the men were still suspended.

Mr. Graham pointed out that if this was the case Mr. Ball and Mr. Menzies should try and get things straightened out between them.

A little later (obviously after having discussed the matter with "persons unknown"), Mr. Ball rang Mr. Graham and said Mr. Graham was right after all, and Mr. Menzies had meant that the suspensions were lifted.

"This is surely proof enough that this so-called neutral Board has its decisions made by someone outside the Board," Mr. Graham commented to the Queensland press.

STEVEDORING BOARD NOT SO 'NEUTRAL'