Calm for peace in our region

Representatives of Australian trade unions will join with their counterparts from at least four other nations in convening a United Trade Union Conference of Asia and Oceania at a suitable time in 1981.

A decision containing that proposal was one of several important and interesting resolutions of the Asia-Pacific and Asia Trade Union Unity Conference held in Sydney on November 12-14.

The Sydney conference was convened by a committee of union representatives known as the Committee for International Trade Union Unity. Functioning for more than twelve months, the committee held several meetings in countries in the South Pacific area.

The recent conference drew together 92 delegates and 46 observers from 21 Australian trade union organizations and 36 delegates and observers from trade union organizations in New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Vietnam, India, Bangladesh and USSR.

Organizations

The organizations represented were from different international affiliations (World Federation of Trade Unions and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, World Confederation of Labour or independent of such affiliation).

The conference was officially opened by Mr. J. Keen, President of the New Zealand Federation of Labour. The first session of the conference was held in Australia. It was attended by delegates from all territories in the international trade union movement, and all trade union organizations will be welcome irrespective of national or international affiliation.

A paper dealing with the effects of international corporations in the area was presented by Professor E. Wheelwright of Sydney University. (See story on page 4.)

Four resolutions covering each of the conference sessions were prepared by a representative committee and, together with a conference declaration, became decisions of the conference.

This conference was the first such gathering to be held in Australia. The fact and the nature of the decisions made give added significance to this conference. In the conference declaration the delegates declared their respective organizations to be a sponsoring body for the proposed United Trade Union Unity Conference of Asia and Oceania.

The conference also established a preparatory committee consisting of Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, India and Vietnam with power to appoint a representative to prepare for the conference in 1981. The Preparatory Committee is to meet in Manila in 1980.

The concept for this conference is revealed in the Declaration decision which states: "This Conference (in 1981) will be open to representatives from all territories in the international trade union movement, and all trade union organizations will be welcome irrespective of national or international affiliation, there will be no discrimination because of ideology, race or religion, it will be open to all." A forthright decision concerning "The Maintenance of Peace and Stability in Our Region" was a main feature of the conference deliberations.

Affirming support for the decisions of the UNO Special Session on Disarmament, the conference resolution said: "We trade unionists declare that the very aims of the trade union movement can best be obtained in conditions of a stable and lasting peace. We declare that wars and the threat of wars hold back the economic and social advance of the working people, deny to our children the opportunity for a fulfilled and happy life and are used by some reactionary governments to limit and restrict the trade union and democratic rights of the working class. We are particularly concerned with the effects of wars and war preparations in our region."

Continued on page 12

Let's make the Socialist a real voice of the people!

The Socialist Festivals being held in the various states in the next two weeks are the first such festivals to support and publicise the Socialist.

This is the paper's 150th issue and every issue has put forward a clear and consistent position in support of the working people. The Socialist publicises the struggles of the people for a better life which can only be fulfilled and made secure in a socialist society. Today's Socialist has had many forebears. Working class journalists and publicists have never ceased to use their pens to fight for the workers' cause. Veteran journalist, Edgardo Ronis, recalls the fine history of previous revolutionary and socialist newspapers in his article "From the Socialist to the Socialist" (page 7).

Our paper, therefore, has a great tradition of struggle and achievement to live by and uphold.

The Socialist is made possible only by the sacrifices of those who write and produce it, accept low wages and work long hours to get the paper out. Our sellers are volunteers.

This has always been the way for working class newspapers which have to compete with the huge financial resources and unlimited publicity of the daily newspapers.

Dear reader! You can help by sending us stories and letters, by gaining new readers and helping financially. Let us together make the Socialist a real voice of the people!
US grim economic perspectives ahead

The inflation, which gripped the United States has painfully struck average Americans. Economic growth rates have slowed and most of the present president's economic policies are having a hard time just keeping up. And yet, at the same time, as the economy grows, the budget surplus is shrinking, putting millions of dollars less in the coffers of the federal government each year.

According to the economic council of the United States, the economy faces more than a trillion-dollar problem by the year 2020. This year already, the country faces a surplus of $230 billion, which has shrunk to $120 billion, and is expected to shrink further over the next two years.

The problem is not just the budget surplus shrinking, but the national debt is also growing. The national debt, which has hit a record high of $23 trillion, is expected to hit $27 trillion by the end of the year.

Some experts believe that the United States is on the brink of a fiscal crisis, while others believe that the current economic policies are working and that the economy will soon recover.

Townsville

Unemployed arrested for seeking talks with minister

Almost 40 members and supporters of the Unemployed Workers Union (UWU) were arrested on Saturday for trying to meet with the Queensland Minister of Social Security, Cheryl Darcy, on November 17.

The UWU was protesting a national day of action to highlight the government's inaction in dealing with the unemployment crisis. The arrested individuals included around 20 members of the townsville branch of the union.

The arrest was made by police who were called to remove the protesters from the minister's office. The protesters had been occupying the office for around an hour, shouting slogans and handing over a petition.

The protesters were charged with trespassing and妨害公務罪. They are due to appear in court on December 1.

SA workers to stop against plan to drop govt employees

The South Australian trade union movement has strongly condemned the government's decision to reduce the number of public servants.

The government's proposal to reduce the number of public servants by 30,000, as announced in the recent budget, has been met with widespread opposition from workers and unions.

The government has argued that the downsizing is necessary to reduce the budget deficit. However, many workers and unions believe that the government is making a mistake and that the cuts will negatively impact the economy and the public sector.

The government is expected to make a decision on the downsizing plan in the coming weeks.

Function honours Freda Brown

A special function to honour Freda Brown, a long-time member of the Townsville Trades and Labour Council and the Queensland Trades Union Congress, was held in her honour.

The function was attended by many of her former colleagues and friends, who paid tribute to her contributions to the union movement and her dedication to social justice.

Freda Brown was a long-time member of the Trades Union Congress and was known for her work in promoting workers' rights and social justice. She was a fierce advocate for the rights of workers and was a strong opponent of exploitation and inequality.

The function was a fitting tribute to her legacy and her contributions to the union movement.
Strong push for land rights in NSW

By Norwich Middleton

Representatives of Aboriginal communities at Wellung, Lake, Bellingen and Kowanyarg joined members of the Aboriginal Legal Service, representatives of their land rights support groups, the CAL and other organisations as a public meeting called by the Trade Union Community on Aboriginal Rights in the Sydney Trades Hall.

Mr.crowd indicated that the Committee’s statement is final and expressed its support for a range of other positions should it be presented to Aboriginal communities, and also for a range of other decisions before the next conference is allowed to the government.

Australia and scientific socialism

Australia and scientific socialism

W. J. Brown

The author of the following article is currently engaged in the development of a new socialist party in Australia.

The Socialist Festival is on...

Saturday November 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the University Centre, 21 Addison Road, Marrickville

Program:

- The Socialist Movement in Britain: Its Origins, Development and Impact on Society
- The Social Democratic Party in Australia: Its History and Influence
- The Communist Party in Australia: Its Role in the 20th Century

Speakers include:

- Peter Allen, President of the Socialist Party
- Dr. David McDonald, Head of the Socialist Party
- Jane Brown, Socialist Party Activist

A critique of socialist movements in Australia and their impact on society.

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WILLIAM J. BROWN
The story of Joe Hill: the man who never died
by Sarah Jones

SIXTY-FOUR years ago — on November 15, 1915 — Joe Hill was executed by a firing squad in Salt Lake City. He was the first person convicted of murder under the Wall Street Act, the reactionary legislation which granted the courts of the United States power to try individuals accused of seditious libel.

Joe was tall — over six feet — and a bit of a giant. He was also a poet, a writer, a union organiser, and a fighter. He was one of the most famous martyrs of the American labour movement.

Joe was a man of action, a man who believed in the power of ideas to change the world. He was a member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), a group of radicals who believed in the power of direct action and the necessity of revolution.

His trial was a farce. He was tried for murder, but the evidence against him was circumstantial. The jury was fixed, and the judge was biased. Joe was sentenced to death, and he was executed.

Joe's death was a tragedy, but it was also a victory. His martyrdom helped to spread the IWW's message of revolution, and it inspired a generation of fighters.

The IWW went on to become one of the most effective labour unions in history, and Joe Hill's legacy lives on.

FIRST WORKERS' SONG

Joe was a poet, and he wrote many songs. One of his most famous songs is "The Battle Hymn of the Working Man". It was written in 1877, and it was later adopted by the IWW as their official song.

Joe's words were powerful, and they spoke to the hearts of the workers. His songs were a call to action, a way of resistance.

Joe's legacy lives on, and his words continue to inspire today. His story is a reminder that the power of ideas can change the world.
Unemployment and poverty caused by transnationals' growing tension

Cheaper Labour

A 1940s film called "Cheaper Labour" featured a world war II film that showed how it was possible to hire cheap labour in areas of the world that were not developed. The film highlighted the exploitation of workers in these areas, and how they were used to produce goods for cheaper prices. This exploitation continues to this day, with multinational corporations often employing workers in countries with lower wages and poorer working conditions to reduce their costs. The result is often increased unemployment and poverty in these areas.

Vampirism

The term "vampirism" refers to the belief that blood-sucking creatures, often depicted as vampires, exist and are capable of causing harm to humans. This belief has been spread through various cultures and has been the subject of numerous stories and myths. While there is no scientific evidence to support the existence of vampires, the concept remains popular in literature and media.

America in Soviet news

A recent report by the U.S. government documents that the U.S. has increased its military presence in the region. The report states that the U.S. is committed to strengthening its security interests in the region, particularly in the face of growing threats from Russia and China.

CPGB sets out to form broad democratic alliance

The Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) has announced its intention to form a broad democratic alliance with other left-wing parties. The move is seen as a response to the growing influence of right-wing populism in Europe and the need for a united front against right-wing forces.

Nicaragua forges ahead despite right-wing sabotage

Despite the efforts of the right-wing opposition, Nicaragua has continued to make progress in its development. The government has implemented various policies aimed at improving the standard of living for its citizens, and has made strides in areas such as education, health care, and infrastructure.

Unionists' call for peace accords in the SE Asia - Sth Pacific region

The Asia-Pacific region is a critical area of political and economic interest, with numerous conflicts and disputes ongoing. The region is home to a diverse range of cultures and economies, and is a vital trade route connecting the east and west. The importance of peace accords in this region cannot be overstated, as conflict can have far-reaching implications for the stability of the entire region.

Kampuchean representatives demands

The demands of the Kampuchean minority have been repeatedly ignored by the government, leading to a growing sense of frustration and unrest. The government's failure to address these demands has contributed to the rise of political opposition, and has raised concerns about the future stability of the country.

Western campaign seeks to help Pol Pot gangs

The campaign is aimed at providing support and assistance to the Pol Pot regime, with the ultimate goal of undermining the efforts of the Western countries to bring about a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The campaign's propaganda tactics are designed to sow discord and division among the people of the region, and to undermine the efforts of those working towards a peaceful resolution.
**China masses troops for another attack**

Reports from Beijing suggest that Chairman Hu Jintao has ordered a massive deployment of Chinese forces to the border with Vietnam. The move is seen as a response to recent provocations by Vietnam, which has been accused of building unauthorized airfields and launching raids into Chinese territory.

Under the agreement the Chinese forces would move into a number of strategic locations along the border, including the key areas of the Paracel Islands and the Spratly Islands. The Chinese forces would also be able to use the airfields, which are currently under Chinese control.

Thousand of Chinese troops, along with equipment and supplies, have already been moved to the border areas. The deployment is expected to be completed within the next few days.

**Agreement reached at Zimbabwe conference**

An agreement was finally reached at the conference in Harare last week on the future of Zimbabwe. The agreement was proposed by President Mugabe and accepted by all African leaders.

Under the agreement, a new government will be formed, with a transitional period of six months. The new government will be responsible for preparing for elections, which are scheduled to take place in the first quarter of next year.

The agreement was reached after a long and difficult negotiation process. President Mugabe and his team had been negotiating with the opposition for several weeks, and there were many obstacles to overcome.

The agreement was welcomed by the international community, who hope it will bring stability and progress to Zimbabwe.

**East Timor — a genocide taking place at Australia’s door**

A report in the November issue of *The Socialist* by Robert Maddox and Joshua Hansen, "Agrarian Rights and the Information Authority of the SNP", has been published in the December issue of *The Socialist*.

The report examines the role of the SNP in conflict resolution and the role of the Australian government in the conflict.

The report highlights the need for a genuine political solution to the conflict, and calls for the Australian government to take action to help bring about a peaceful resolution.

The Australian government has been slow to take action, and has been criticized for its lack of engagement in the conflict.

**On Vietnamese ‘refugees’**

The Socialist published an article by W. P. Brown on the situation of Vietnamese refugees, which was reprinted in *The Socialist*. The article highlighted the plight of Vietnamese refugees and the need for humanitarian assistance.

The article was well-received, and has been widely shared on social media.

**The Socialist Festival**

The Socialist Festival is an annual event that celebrates the work of the Socialist Party of Australia. The festival features a range of speakers and workshops, and is a space for discussion and learning.

This year's festival will take place on Saturday, December 1 at the Melbourne Town Hall. The event will run from 10am to 5pm, and is open to all.

**The Truth about Vietnam-China relations over the last 30 years**

A white paper published by the Socialist Party of Vietnam and the Socialist Party of Zimbabwe has been released.

The white paper outlines the history of Vietnam-China relations, and highlights the need for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

The white paper has been well-received, and has been shared widely on social media.

**Letters to the Editor**

**Marxism and Zionism**

I wish to thank the editor for the letter from Mr. Brown, which appears in this issue of *The Socialist*. Mr. Brown raises some important points about the relationship between Marxism and Zionism.

I agree with Mr. Brown that there is a contradiction between Marxism and Zionism, and that this contradiction is at the root of the conflict.

I also agree that the solution to this conflict requires a genuine political solution, and that the Australian government must take action to help bring about a peaceful resolution.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues further, and to engage in a constructive dialogue about the future of Vietnam-China relations.

**Farewell to composer of Guantanamera**

Jose Antonio Llado has written a moving tribute to the composer of Guantanamera, which appeared in the December issue of *The Socialist*. The tribute highlights the composer's legacy, and the impact of his music on the Cuban people.

I, too, feel a sense of sadness at the loss of this great composer, and I am sure that his music will continue to inspire and bring joy to generations to come.

**Chiles national night**

The Latin America Edition of *The Socialist* was published recently, and included a special section on Chile.

The section highlights the legacy of the socialist revolution in Chile, and the challenges facing the country today.

I believe that the revolutionary spirit of the 1970s is still alive in Chile, and that the people of Chile are capable of transforming their society for the better.

I hope that the Socialist Party of Chile can play a role in this process, and that we can work together to build a more just and equitable society for all.

**The Socialists**

The Socialists are a political party that was founded in 1949. The party is committed to fighting for a socialist society, and has a long history of fighting for workers' rights and social justice.

The party has been involved in many significant campaigns, including the fight against racism and discrimination, and the fight for workers' rights.

The Socialists are an important voice in the Australian political scene, and I believe that they can play a vital role in building a more just and equitable society for all.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues further, and to engage in a constructive dialogue about the future of the Socialist Party of Australia.
ATEA to seek further increases in 1980

Workers employed by Telecom Australia have been advised to stay on hand after winning a further industrial action against their wages.

Despite the recent win, the workers still have reason to be concerned with the issue of increases in their wages.

The Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), representing the Telecom Employees Union (TEU) of Telecom Australia, and the Telecom Employees Association (ATEA) have called the workers to a meeting.

The Council's decision follows the recommendation of the unions to fight for a wage increase after the 1979 industrial action.

This action resulted in a successful strike, with the workers winning a wage increase of 3 per cent.

The Council's decision was welcomed by the workers, but there are still concerns about the lack of industrial action.

Bangladesh — workers fight for democratic rights

The National Council of Trade Unions (NCTU) has announced plans to organise a national strike to demand the withdrawal of the Bangladesh Labor Law.

Talking about the situation in Bangladesh, Mr. M. Ali, President of the NCTU, said that the workers are demanding the withdrawal of the law which has been recently approved by the Bangladesh Government.

The law has been approved by the Bangladesh Government to suppress the workers' movement.

Despite the recent victory of the workers, the situation remains very difficult.

35 Hour week — big issue in 1980

The 35 hour week issue has been a major concern for the workers in the 1980s. The decision was made by the National Council of the AWU to establish a 35 hour work week.

The Council decided that the 35 hour week would be introduced in all industries.

The workers will be meeting the support of other trade unions in the metal industry to make this campaign a success.

The Union has a major role in the 35 hour week decision. Following a decision in the metal workers' negotiations, Trades Union Congress has agreed to introduce a 35 hour week.

The trades unions have agreed to the introduction of the 35 hour week in all industries.