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War has been waged since the end of the last world war, although it has been localised in the sense that it has been confined within the borders of certain countries.

But it was war, nonetheless, and war fought with devastating modern weapons. And in every single case, it has been war against peoples struggling for, or claiming, liberation from colonial rule, direct or indirect.

When "Western" leaders speak of the need for building armaments and military blocs against the menace of some future mythical military onslaught, or against the so-called menace of "communism" and the Soviet Union, they are deliberately blinding their people to obvious and proved facts: that their preparations for war is in fact against the advance the challenge of the popular movements of people in vast colonial or semi-colonial territories; against the people of Korea, when they resisted Rhee's "March to the North." Against the peoples of Malaya, Viet-nam, Greece, Algeria, Kenya.

In spite of these interventionist expeditions and wars, they have not been able to halt the march forward to liberation. China won through to freedom in 1949; Korea and Vietnam resisted and defeated all attempts at subjugation, even though the unification of their countries has still to be achieved; the subsidised Middle East dictatorships and puppets are succumbing, ~~and can count on only a limited lease of life~~; all Asia moves forward; and Africa stirs, from end to end.

But war can immeasurably prolong our struggle and set back advancement. The people of ~~North Korea~~ North Korea are rebuilding some of their devastated cities, replanting their burned and ruined countryside. But their constructive efforts can never bring back the dead, never restore the families destroyed, never efface the bitter suffering. In Kenya, "order" may have been restored; what the African people have suffered is still not fully known, and to what extent their struggle for liberation has been set back cannot be assessed for many years.

TWO WARS

Perhaps we use the terms "war", and "fight" and "struggle" in too many different ways. We are fighting against modern war, with all its horrifying modern weapons of destruction. At the same time, we are fighting another war - "the struggle for the elevation of mankind, to develop the natural resources of the world, to make great industrial and scientific advances available to enrich the lives of all." These two struggles are linked together. Modern warfare must be defeated if man's struggle to raise himself and those around him is to succeed. Nowhere is this more clear than on the continent of Africa."

We have to fight the menace of war in order to achieve liberation. We have to achieve liberation in order to secure ourselves and our children against the menace of war. And we have to remove the constant threat of world war, to prevent ~~the unknown dangers to generations of the future~~ unknown dangers to generations of the future.

We must consider for a moment some of the hazards with which we are confronted, without actual war, through the acts of preparing for war.

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EVEN IN PEACE - DANGERS.

We have received in recent months harsh warnings from scientists of many different countries of the harmful effects of radiation. The people of the world first woke up to this danger when the Japanese fisherman on their boat 90 miles from the scene of the explosion suffered the ghastly results of an H-bomb test. These tests have spread radioactivity over wide and unpredictable areas, causing damage to human beings, agriculture and fisheries. The full nature of this damage cannot be assessed.

The scientists explain the long-term danger to us this way: radiation is dangerous to every form of life. The germ cells, the reproductive cells - are amongst the most easily damaged. The damage may not kill the germ cell, but would be transmitted to a future generation. The changes caused are called "mutations," and are genetically harmful. The harm is cumulative. The effects of the damage are not fully seen - may not be seen at all - for generations, and may only appear when the damage is so wide-spread among the population that a child receives a "double-dose" of damaged cells - from both parents. This can only happen when any given mutation is relatively common within the population, in fact when it has been handed down from generation to generation until at last it does become common. Some of the defects that arise are so acute that they may cause death in early childhood, or before the ~~child~~ child is born; others reduce the victim's chance of procreation. But most of the defects are slighter, and therefore persist much longer. The danger is of slow deterioration of the pattern of inheritance, leading to a gradually increasing burden on the population of ills of genetic origin.

"The risk we are now taking has not been calculated," says Prof. Berrill of

Canada, writing of the effects of radiation caused by H-bomb tests. "We are playing with a new kind of fire, knowing only that the flame is hot and that we as material are inflammable . . . If we don't worry about ourselves, we should at least worry about the quality of our descendents. The test bomb explosions are inexcusable and should cease."

Professor Haxel, of the Heidelberg Atmospheric Testing Station, says: "Wherever an atomic, hydrogen or cobalt bomb explodes in the world, a more or less rapid increase in atmospheric radioactivity can be registered everywhere . . . the quantity of radioactivity passing into the stratosphere from recent tests is so great that it will still be traceable in the year 2,000 even if no more atomic bombs are exploded."

Dr. Ralph Lapp, American nuclear physicist, warns that the point of safety in testing hydrogen bombs has already been reached.

In ^{the foreword to} a report published by the government of India on Nuclear Explosions and their Effects, the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Nehru, writes:

"War is associated with death. We have now to face death on a colossal scale, and, what is much worse, the genetic effects of these explosions on the present and future generations. Before this prospect, the other problems that face us in this world become relatively unimportant.

"But even without war, we have what are called nuclear test explosions, which, in some measure, spread this evil thing over large parts of the world. These explosions continue in spite of the dangers inherent in them."

ATOMIC ENERGY FOR PEACE

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~~The development of nuclear power is of vital importance to the people of the African continent. The development of power opens up for humanity the road to plenty. The parts of the world that have most to gain from the large-scale application of power made possible by the harnessing of the atom are those vast, under-developed areas, such as in Africa, where in the past geographical, climatic and other conditions have blocked or delayed the industrial development that proceeded so rapidly in Europe.~~

In their pamphlet "A World To Gain", the story of the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy at Geneva, 1955, ~~prepared and published~~ published by the Association of Scientific Workers in England, the opening paragraph states:

"In round figures you have today 2,000 million brothers and sisters, and 10,000 more of them are born each day. . . . Into what sort of world are they born? For most their lot is poverty and suffering, most of it preventable. Probably less than 25 per cent of the earth's surface is efficiently used for the raising of food. More than 25 per cent is desert, much of it man-made, and in many places expanding; the Sahara for example advances in places at the rate of 35 miles per year. There are also huge areas of white desert, and of ~~green~~ the frozen tundra of the ~~Arctic~~ and the untamed forests of the Amazon. Humanity might be fed from these areas; to harness them requires power."

The power produced in the world today is insufficient to develop these "desert" areas; and in any case, its distribution is unbalanced. In 1952, of all energy produced in the world, 36 per cent was consumed in North America, 35 per cent by North America and West Europe together; 17 per cent in the U.S.S.R.; Latin America, 4 per cent; Asia, 13 per cent; Africa, excluding South Africa, 2 per cent. Among the developed areas, consumption of power per head was more than ten times that of the under-developed. And often the power produced is at ~~the~~ fantastic cost. In India, for instance, 80 per cent of the power consumed per head is produced by the burning of dung, which is actually urgently needed for agricultural use. The under-developed part of the world, containing two-thirds of its population, has less than 8 per cent of the total world electric generating capacity.

Conventional sources of energy (mainly coal and oil) are not unlimited, and may become exhausted. And what tremendous sources of power are required! ~~Industrialized~~ ~~developed~~ Countries such as England, America and the U.S.S.R. have the scientific and industrial resources for the research and development of nuclear power; but it is in those areas of the world least developed that the need is most urgent. Countries like India and China, vast in area, with huge populations, and emerging from decades of colonial oppression and backwardness, are obviously on the threshold of development that could proceed at a greatly accelerated pace if huge quantities of power were

Are there dangers from radiation when nuclear power is used for peaceful means? The scientists tell us that there are. And also that, as with the effects of the H-bomb explosions, the extent is still unknown. They say that the study of human radiation injury, both bodily and genetic, is required on such a scale that only an international effort can have real significance, and even with such efforts no immediate results would be forthcoming.

"It is in fact, a cruel dilemma with which we are confronted; either to forego our development of nuclear power indefinitely, or else to proceed cautiously into the dark. ...To the whole problem the answer is prevention. The hazard, though enormous, is controllable ~~and it is not a matter of life or death~~"

But to safeguard the future, international research and co-operation is required. A spokesman of the World Health Organisation has stated that radiation protection must now be considered as an aspect of public health both nationally and internationally, and that the urgency of international collaboration has been forced upon us as "we enter into the nuclear age."

To further such research, and to further the uses of nuclear power for peaceful means, secrecy in its development must be broken down. We must close the gap between political and scientific progress. We must outlaw war for all time, we must achieve those conditions that will forever remove the threat of war.

By doing this, we will open up the great ~~paths~~ paths to development of man and material ~~that~~ of which we are obtaining our first glimpses in these exciting times. We will bring a world of happiness and plenty, of unlimited advancement for all - and in our lifetime!

~~But the choice must be made - now~~ But the choice must be made - ^{now} We must choose between the alternatives of nuclear annihilation and nuclear prosperity, for there is no middle course. Each one of us must realise that there is now no scientific reason ~~whatever~~ why any country or any person need go short of the power needed to achieve a full and happy life."

Our struggle to make the Freedom Charter a reality must surely take a great spurt forward, when we consider it against such a background. With such understanding we are armed with new determination and new strength, for now we know better not only what may be lost, but what we stand to gain.

available And what of Africa itself, the dormant giant, only now beginning to test the possibilities of its own strength?

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"The peculiar advantage of the nuclear ~~reactor~~ reactor is that it can be maintained for long periods in remote places with a minimum of attention. Essentially untended, it can heat, can cool, or pump water as required. It can provide the means of making accessible to man valuable reserves of raw materials at present beyond his reach and can restore fertility to lands which are barren today ~~What is the nearer task~~ ...it is the nearer task, however, (which must interest us most: that of correcting the fantastically unbalanced distribution of energy consumption under which mankind suffers . . . it is now scientifically possible to do so. Hitherto there has always been a power shortage; within a relatively short space of time there can come abundance: as much power as you can use."

(D.G. Arnott - Power: Technical Considerations.)

To redress the injustice of the unbalanced distribution of power throughout the world, says this writer, would seem to be the most important step in the fight for world peace.

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