

ACT 139
A.P.
5/11/56

SOUTH AFRICAN PEACE COUNCIL.



P.O.Box 10528,
JOHANNESBURG.

25th October, 1955.

Dear friend,

Recent international events have been very favourable for the forces of peace. The historic Geneva Conference assisted in the easing of the tense world climate, and the great Helsinki Assembly for Peace proved to the world the strength of the Peace Movement and the desire of millions of human beings. It is time that the South African Peace Council takes stock of the existing international situation and consolidate the peace movement in our country.

Council

The Secretariat of the South African Peace Council has decided that a meeting of the be called in order to put the Council on a proper working basis, and to discuss and decide on matters of emergency.

A meeting has therefore been convened for the 1st, November, 1955, (Tuesday) at the Kholwad Board-Room, 27, Market Street, Johannesburg, at 8.p.m.

AGENDA.

- ✓ 1). Report of Secretariat.
- ✓ II). Report on World Peace Council.
- ✓ III). Discussions on Report.
- ✓ IV). Adoption of Secretariat's draft proposals of future campaigns.
- ✓ V). Correspondence.
- ✓ VI). Finance.
- ✓ VII). Other matters applicable to S.A.P.C.

It is imperative that this meeting be well-attended and therefore please make every effort to be present.

With greetings of Peace,

Yours for a peaceful world,

Leon Levy.
For: SECRETARIAT.
South African Peace Council.

① DCT. 190

SECRETARIAT

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

1st November, 1955

7/11/55

ESTATE-HAUS

WIEN IV

MÖLLWALD-PLATZ 5

AUSTRIA

Master D. J. Thompson
Union of South Africa

Dear Friend,

As you already know, a meeting of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace was held in Vienna on 12th and 13th October. This meeting discussed the international situation, examined the ways in which the spirit of Geneva could be reinforced and perspectives opened up on the eve of the four Foreign Ministers' Conference. Following its adoption, we sent you the text of the Appeal to Public Opinion issued by the Bureau at the close of this meeting. We take advantage of this opportunity to send you another copy.

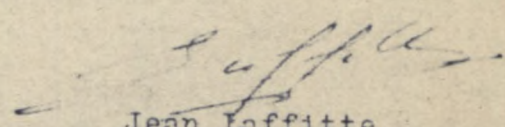
We are also enclosing for your information a copy of the letter summarising the work of the Bureau which the Secretariat has sent today to all National Committees. We hope that the ideas contained in this letter will be of assistance to you when you are working out, together with other leaders of the movement, your plan of action for reinforcing and developing the struggle for peace in your country.

We should be very glad to receive your views on the ideas put forward by the Bureau.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

For the Secretariat
of the World Council of Peace


Jean Laffitte
General Secretary

Encl : Copy of letter to National Committees;
Copy of Appeal to Public Opinion.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PEACE COUNCIL.

TRANSVAAL COMMITTEE.

Address.
Date.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 13th, NOVEMBER, 1955.

A PERSONAL LETTER FROM THE ^{President} CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PEACE COUNCIL.

Dear Brethern,

Sunday, November the 13th, 1955 is Remembrance Day, when we remember in our Churches and Public Memorial services, the fallen and those who suffered in two World Wars, and the significance of that sacrifice for the future life and peace of mankind.

It is our firm conviction, that all preachers and religious leaders should use the opportunity afforded this year, to continue to proclaim the gospel of reconciliation and to break down the barriers that divide, and build the bridges of understanding in the "spirit of Geneva".

In the 10 years since the end of World War II we have lived in a period of uneasy tension, more deplorably increased at certain times threatening the whole existence of mans life on this planet.

The Geneva Summit Talks of the Four Great Powers in July of this year, brought a most welcome easing of International tension, and the success of that conference filled the peoples of the world with great satisfaction, marking a new and happier stage in international relations.

The Peace Movement throughout the world feels this joy more deeply, because it has for years striven throughout the world to bring the Geneva Meeting about, by urging the dire necessity of the Representatives of the Great Powers to get together.

In remembering the Fallen of Two World Wars, and the "spirit of Geneva" we ask that you not only preach the Gospel of Peace according to the tenets of your Faith, and but that you will seek practical expressions of fulfilling the great inherent demand of the peoples for Peace, and the peaceful negotiation of all outstanding problems, so that our future peaceful co-existence is assured.

Over the period of years now, the Peace Movement has gained increasing momentum, and whilst there is every

Page Two. (2)

there is every

cause for rejoicing, realism demands the utmost of vigilance that the peace we desire, and is within our grasp and will be assured provided we :-

1. Take a realistic view of the issues at stake under modern conditions of the consequences of war, and the alternative of "peaceful co-existence".
2. Recognise the tremendous gains already achieved in the cause of World Peace, through the World Peace Movement and the stand of all peace-loving peoples.
3. See that there is no retreat from the already positive results of "Geneva".
4. Continue to see that the will of the Peoples for Peace is strongly and clearly felt, when future negotiations take place, and
5. Demand that Governments deal concretely with the following practical outstanding problems, among others :-
 - i. General Disarmament.
 - ii. European Security.
 - iii. Re-unification of Germany, guaranteed against the revival of German Militarism.
 - iv. Improvement in East-West Relations.

In other words "Let us seek Peace and pursue it".

Yours fraternally,

D. C. Thompson

(D. C. THOMPSON).

SECRETARIAT
OF THE
WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

ESTATE-HAUS

WIEN IV

MÖLLWALD-PLATZ 5

AUSTRIA

Vienna, March 2, 1956.

Rev. THOMPSON

South Africa

Dear Friend,

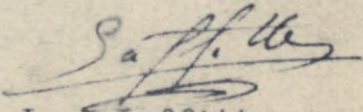
We wish to inform you that the extraordinary session of the World Council of Peace convened by the Bureau at its Helsinki meeting, about which our President has already sent you a letter, will be held in Stockholm from April 5-9, 1956.

We would be grateful if you would inform us whether you can come and, if so, to give us the details of your arrival so that we can make the best possible arrangements for your reception and accommodation.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

For the Secretariat
of the World Council of Peace


Jean Laffitte
General Secretary

20/7/1956

Vienna, July 6th, 1956.

Dear Friends,

The Bureau of the World Council of Peace met in Paris from June 23 - 26. This session, which was opened by a report from our President Frederick Joliot-Curie, was the occasion of far-reaching discussions in which the majority of Bureau members took part. We are sending you the two texts adopted by the session:

- 1) A statement addressed to all forces working for peace, including all national peace movements;
- 2) A letter to the governments of the United States, the U.S.S.R., and Great Britain.

The first document was issued to the press in Paris immediately after the Bureau meeting finished. The second has just been sent by Professor Joliot-Curie to the governments concerned; it was also sent, for information purposes, to the governments of all countries and was the subject of a press communiqué.

These two texts will be sent directly to international organisations and leading personalities with whom the World Council is directly in touch. The diffusion of these texts to the various circles of public opinion and the different national organisations by various means such as directly, by articles in the press, contacts and meetings, depends on the initiative of national committees.

1) The statement of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace is based on the far-reaching changes that have taken place in the international situation. The relaxation of tension effects, to a different degree, nearly all countries and has released new forces for peace and disarmament. This situation imposes on the movement the necessity to adapt itself rapidly so as to be able to play its full role.

The statement clearly reflects the Bureau's concern to do everything it can to help bring about the indispensable reconciliation and co-operation between all those who want peace. It is a statement of intention but at the same time the Bureau has tried to create the conditions necessary for making it effective. With this in mind it adopted the conclusions of a commission which it set up to look into these problems and then agreed by vote to a certain number of decisions of principle which can be summed up as follows:

- a) To reaffirm and develop further the autonomous character of the national movements. This autonomy applies not only to their own aims or activities; it needs to be accompanied by such changes of form and method as may be necessary to create the most favourable conditions for the development of their activities and of co-operation with other forces for peace in their countries.
- b) To develop regional actions, based on the many problems which are of similar interest to the countries of a certain region or continent. Such activities will help to bring closer together those who work for peace in these regions and make the world action of the peoples for peace more effective.

- (2)

c) To modify the composition of the various bodies of the movement. The World Council, the Bureau and the Secretariat should, in their structure, more broadly reflect the participation of those who support the Peace Movement. As first, and immediately realisable steps, the Bureau has taken the following decisions:

- to ask the national committees represented on the Secretariat to review this representation as soon as possible in the sense desired;
- to give greater mobility to the Secretariat by more frequent missions, by lengthy stays in different countries or regions and also by the nomination of secretaries residing in countries other than that in which the Secretariat has its headquarters. Such changes and additions to the composition of the Secretariat should, however, not turn it into a body which, because of its size and the wide dispersal of its members, would find it impossible to function as a collective body;
- to do away with the position of General Secretary in order to strengthen the guarantee of full equality between members of the Secretariat and so to make it easier to broaden its composition without political exclusiveness.

The Bureau decided that the President, the Vice-Presidents and members of the Secretariat should study changes to be made in order that they can be more thoroughly examined at a future meeting.

These decisions are simply a first step in the transformations and adaptations contemplated by the Bureau's statement. They apply to problems which are of interest to the whole of the movement. It is therefore extremely important that the carrying out of these decisions and the drawing up of further decisions which may be made should be done with the help and participation of all national committees.

2) The Letter to the three governments deals with a question to which public opinion in all countries is particularly sensitive. It thus gives all the national movements a means of action which would allow a combined and forceful expression of public opinion to gain the speedy ending of atomic weapons tests. At the same time it meets the desire expressed by the Bureau to speed up and develop the activities of the movement, which would allow it to widen its contacts with other forces for peace.

Hoping that your movement will benefit from these Bureau decisions in the development of its activities,

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

for the Secretariat of the
World Council of Peace.

SECRETARIAT
OF THE
WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

①
DCT 197

22/8/1956

ESTATE-HAUS
WIEN IV
MÖLLWALD-PLATZ 5
AUSTRIA

Vienna, August 18, 1956

Dear Friend,

The events which followed the decisions adopted by the Egyptian Government with regard to the Suez Canal are a serious danger for peace and the Secretariat of the World Council of Peace has therefore recalled to all governments and to world public opinion the principles of the Movement.

We are sending you a copy of the statement issued on August 15 and ask you to let us have your views on this step.

Yours sincerely,

For the Secretariat of the
World Council of Peace

Nino Fogliaresi
Secretary

Nino Fogliaresi

Encl:

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RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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