

8(43) <sup>(1)</sup>  
WORLD COUNCIL  
OF PEACE

SECRETARIAT

PALAIS SIA PRAGUE  
5f.

Bewysstuk No. E 317

Gekry by S.A. Peace Council

Deur NA. 20019 (7), 8 April 1954

Te General House, 110 1st St., 4th Fl.

Datum 28 - 9 - 1953

Verwysings No. Lyons - E (43)

Prague March 10th, 1954

South African Peace Council  
South Africa

Dear Friends,

Our Secretariat has just held a further joint Meeting with a Delegation of the Bureau. It was devoted to a study of the international situation and the various measures taken for the preparation of the International Meeting.

The Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Four Great Powers just held in Berlin, which is to be followed by a further conference at which, this time, the People's Republic of China will be present, is an important move towards an easing of international tension.

We must note, however, that this first step, brought about by the pressure of public opinion, is being followed by further attempts to hinder a genuine easing of tension, for example : in Europe the pressure now being exerted for the application of the agreements and treaties permitting the rearmament of Germany; in Asia the inclusion of Pakistan in a military bloc; in Latin America the threats to the sovereignty of certain countries, especially Guatemala, in the course of the Caracas Conference. These have the aim of nullifying the positive results gained in Berlin, aggravating existing disagreements and creating new disputes in the near future.

This situation makes it more than ever necessary to increase our efforts to foil aggressive plans wherever they appear, foster the growth, on the national level, of the trend of opinion for a real relief of tension and so create favourable conditions for the Conference which is to open in Geneva on April 26th.

This is the theme of our current campaign. Clearly the success of the International Meeting proposed by the World Council depends in the first place on what is achieved in this campaign.

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According to our information, the idea of the International Meeting is rousing great interest. Internationally, several religious and pacifist organisations are showing their interest in it; on the national level, various organisations and public figures in the political, cultural and religious fields are giving it their attention.

Already preparatory committees are being set up in certain countries. To this end, various methods are being adopted, such as the organisation of a series of talks between prominent people or the representatives of organisations interested in the Meeting, or the preparation on a national level of a preliminary meeting with the aim of setting up such a Committee. We think it important that each National Peace Committee should, at the present stage, promote or support projects of this kind so that preparatory committees for the Meeting may be set up wherever possible. Such committees can facilitate the subsequent setting up of an International Preparatory Committee.

In some countries there has been some delay in initiating the measures necessary for the preparation of the Meeting. For example, certain National Movements have thought it enough to issue an appeal or a statement themselves. If these come only from prominent people who already support the Peace Movement there is a danger that they may weaken the significance of the Message issued three months ago by the World Council. If, on the other hand, they are made by prominent people or organisations outside the Movement, they constitute further support for the Meeting and facilitate its joint preparation.

It is clear from the information contained in your letter of February 15th that the preparatory work you are doing should enable you to obtain such declarations of support. We, for our part, are seeking ways of contacting the public figures you suggest and we shall write to them as soon you think it necessary.

It appears that the question of the agenda is often raised in the talks which are at present going on. Exchanges of views on this point are, of course, useful in the preparation of the Meeting and we would ask you to let us know, later, any suggestions you receive. But we would like to make it clear that, in our opinion, only the International Preparatory Committee itself will be competent to make the final proposals for the agenda.

Many public figures and organisations have expressed a desire that the number of people at the Meeting should be relatively limited. Bearing in mind that every country must be able to take part in the Meeting, and that in each there are many trends of opinion and organisations which must be represented, it is our opinion that the total number should be about 400.

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The date and place of the Meeting and all details relative to its preparation will, of course, be settled by the International Preparatory Committee. We would, however, remind you that the World Council wanted the Meeting to be held soon, that is to say, not later than the month of June. Today, the development of international events and the great desire of all people for an easing of tension would appear to confirm this view.

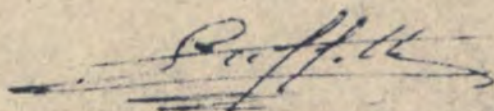
Lastly, we have to inform you that, after consultation with our President, it was decided to hold the next meeting of the Bureau of the World Council on March 28th and 29th in Vienna. There are two main reasons for convening the Bureau on this date: the first is to give an early expression of the Movement's opinion on that very important event, the Berlin Conference. The second is, the importance of the questions raised by the present state of the preparations for the Meeting and the need to make a statement without delay on the various measures taken in some countries.

Thank you for the report on your National Congress and the copy of your Information Bulletin for December 1953. We shall find them very useful. Could you please send us Nos. 7 and 8 of the Information Bulletin; they are missing in our collection.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

For the Secretariat of the World  
Council of Peace



Jean LAFFITTE  
General Secretary



CAPE PEACE COUNCIL

E. 325

P.O.Box 2706,

CAPE TOWN.

18th March, 1954

The Secretary,  
South African Peace Council,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your letter of March 6th telling us of the Reverend Thompson's visit. We are looking forward to meeting him.

With reference to our Youth Festival coming off at Easter, we are wondering whether you are in a position to lend us the Exhibition materials which you used yourselves some time ago. If this is possible we should be glad to have it at the earliest so that we can prepare it for the Easter Festival.

The material which you have sent, in many cases, seems rather out of date, but we shall distribute as much of it as we are able under these circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

*I. K. Green*  
Acting Secretary.

Bewysstuk No.....

Gekry by..... *SA Peace Council*

Deur..... *Mr. J. H. Green*

Te..... *Someones House 110 Fox St. JHB*

Datum..... *28 - 9 - 1955*

Verwysings No..... *Lys No 8 - 8(16)*



WORLD COUNCIL  
OF PEACE

E 324

(44)  
SECRETARIAT

Prague 19th March, 1954.

PALAIS SIA PRAGUE  
A.G.

South African Peace Council  
 South Africa

Bewysstuk No. ....  
 Gekry by *S.A. Peace Council*  
 Deur *No. 20319/10, 11/10/54*  
 Te *Somerset House, 11 Ex. St., 1954*  
 Datum *19-3-54*  
 Verwysings No. *Lys No. 2 - 3144*

Dear Friends,

You will probably recall that the fifth anniversary of the foundation of the World Peace Movement falls in April 1954.

It was, indeed, on April 20th, 1949, that the First World Congress was held simultaneously in Paris and Prague. It saw the laying of the foundations of a powerful World Peace Movement.

We are sure that you have already thought of the importance that should be accorded to this anniversary. Several National Committees have already informed us that they intend to make such an outstanding event the object of special commemoration.

The information we have received gives rise to a very timely consideration, that of not commemorating the anniversary outside of our present activity but rather as part of the current campaign.

Indeed, the anniversary falls at a particularly important stage in the work of the Peace Movement, when the World Council has proposed the joint holding of an International Meeting in 1954 to organisations and personalities who desire a relaxation of international tension. The National Committees are therefore given the opportunity of making the World Council of Peace better known in the course of their preparations for this Meeting. It is considered to be very important that the great principles on which the World Peace Movement has always based its activity should be brought out during the anniversary, which should also help to strengthen the Peace Movement itself.



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The commemoration ceremonies already planned and the various activities which can be undertaken with the participation of the members of the World Council, the leaders of the National Movements and representative public figures invited to join in the commemoration, will undoubtedly contribute to this end. The Peace Movement is therefore presented with a favourable opportunity for assimilating the accumulated experience and thus improving its methods of work and strengthening its organisation at all levels.

Our Secretariat has decided to take certain steps likely to be of help in the commemoration of this Fifth Anniversary. In particular, it is preparing a series of publications specially planned for this occasion.

It intends to publish a collection of the speeches and reports of Professor Joliot-Curie who has done so much personally to strengthen the prestige and efficacy of the World Peace Movement. A booklet entitled "Documents and Resolutions", containing all the official texts adopted by the Peace Movement since its foundation, will appear at the beginning of April. Lastly, a popular booklet on the World Council of Peace, its origin, structure, principles and aims, as well as its main activities, will be published, also in April.

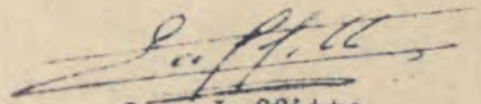
We are sure that your National Committee will take the most appropriate measures to give the commemoration of this anniversary the maximum publicity in your country.

Would you please inform us of your plans and the results you obtain.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

For the Secretariat of the  
World Council of Peace



Jean Laffitte

General Secretary



WORLD COUNCIL  
OF PEACE

E 306

SECRETARIAT

Vienna, March 30th, 1954

PALAIS SIA PRAGUE

42)

Dear Friends,

Please find enclosed copies of the Appeals and the Resolution adopted by the Bureau of the World Council of Peace at its last meeting in Vienna, March 28th-30th.

As you see, the Bureau has decided to convene an extraordinary session of the World Council in Berlin at the end of May. We shall send you more detailed information later.

We are communicating this information to the members of the World Council in your country by the same post. We should be grateful if you would send us as soon as possible your proposals for invitations and let us know which World Council members and guests will represent your country at this extraordinary session of the Council.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

For the Secretariat of the  
World Council of Peace

Wykaz No.....  
Kry by *S.A. Peace Council*  
ur. Nr. *20819 (Y)* / *1/2 sent* *AJK*  
*Somerel House, 110 Fox St. N.B.*  
tum. *28-9-1955*  
wysings No. *Lyo Nr. 2 - 8(42)*

  
Jean LAFFITTE  
General Secretary



SOUTH AFRICAN PEACE COUNCIL

E. 60

P.O. Box 10528,  
37 Nevada Court,  
Von Brandis Street,  
JOHANNESBURG  
3rd April, 1954

TO ALL BRANCHES & PROVINCIAL COUNCILS

Dear Friend,

This is a special circular on the H-Bomb and other weapons of mass destruction.

There is no doubt that the recent American experiments have aroused the fear and horror of people throughout the world. The determination of the US Government to forge ahead with the development of ever more frightful weapons can only lead to a situation in which, in the words of Professor Joliot Curie, "all life on our globe would become impossible." The criminal irresponsibility of the US Government was clearly revealed when it undertook, in response to world wide pressure, to delay the next experiment while it in fact, on the very same day, was actually exploding a second bomb. The H-bomb in the hands of the aggressive US Government which has stated its determination never to "lose Indo-China at the Conference table, but to win it on the battle field" constitutes a frightful threat to the future of all mankind.

The fact that these bombs can destroy vast areas at one blow, that radioactive dust can be swept distances of 400 and 800 miles in one hour according to the size of the bomb, and that South Africa is one of the major producers of uranium, brings this country, as never before, into the front line of any future war. One bomb could wipe out the whole of the Witwatersrand and more, destroying all life, vegetation and buildings.

The facts make the demand for the outlawing of weapons of mass destruction a matter of life and death for every man, woman and child in every corner of the globe. This is an issue, therefore, on which everybody can be rallied. All that is required is that the facts and our demands be brought to the people. We must organise a gigantic campaign so that the voice of every South African is raised in protest.

The South African Peace Council, as a first step, is issuing a leaflet. The heading of this leaflet is "We want to live," for this is simply and clearly the issue involved. We are printing initially 10,000 leaflets but we are determined to print and distribute 100,000 and more leaflets. This requires money and therefore once again we earnestly appeal to you to send us every penny you can muster. For our part in the Transvaal we have already initiated steps to raise large sums of money.

In addition the Council has sent telegrams to various members of parliament. The telegram reads: "Urge you request immediate debate on recent dangerous American H-Bomb explosions. Developments of H-Bomb and other weapons of mass destruction constitute a perilous threat to future of all mankind. Urge you demand production of uranium for peaceful purposes and that Government support calling of immediate meeting of great powers to negotiate outlawing of nuclear weapons."

Furthermore, the Council has issued press statements both to Advance and other papers. In due course you will receive copies of these statements.

We propose that all provincial and local Councils should immediately organise public discussions on this question. This month, for example, the Council is attempting to organise a meeting to be addressed by Prof. Bleksley, Prof. Gillman and ~~Mr. ...~~. This will be a big central meeting.

/But in addition we are....



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But in addition we are making contact with churchmen, the Congresses and other organisations and individuals to get them moving. We are setting up, wherever possible emergency committees to carry on the campaign (we hope that these will later continue to function as peace branches). We suggest that you also try and get every organisation to call meetings to hear speakers on the Bomb, that you organise big public meetings and thousands of small household meetings.

These latest threats to world peace from the US Government present a challenge to the peace movement. We must not fail to meet this challenge.

Please inform us of the steps you take.

Yours sincerely,

*Harold Lidge*

Secretary

GA (7)



E. 327

Bowysatuk No.....  
Gekry by *S.A. Peace Council*  
Deur *NR 2009 (1) 10/10/55*  
Te *Somerset House, 110 Kasaba, J.M.B.*  
Datum *22 - 4 - 1955*  
Verwysings No. *Lys NR 2 - 8 (34)*

5th April, 1954

The Secretary,  
Natal Peace Council,  
P.O. Box 700,  
Durban

Dear Friend,

We cannot understand why you have received no letters from us. Your letters of 15, 17 and 19 March were replied to in a letter dated 28th March. In this letter we pointed out that there had been some difficulty with our box which has now been rectified and also that the reason for the delay in replying to you was the fact that I was out of town. We hope this clarifies the position.

We are very pleased to receive the completed forms of support from the various trade unions. However, we feel that you should go further. We would like similar support from other organisations and individuals. What about Lithulie, the NIC, Dr Naicker etc. etc. Please also get people who have not in the past supported our movement.

In our last letter we replied to all the points raised in your earlier letters.

With regard to the exhibition material I must, unfortunately inform you that it has been absolutely impossible to collect anything. The reasons for this are as follows. Firstly, financial difficulties have prevented us from either buying or printing photographs. Secondly, we have been busy preparing the H-bomb campaign and thirdly we have been moving our offices. We must point out again that in order to keep a supply of exhibition material it is necessary to have money. While your Council continues to fail to send us financial assistance it will be exceedingly difficult to collect this material.

Bulletin: We have just re-organised our work in this connection and from this month on you will receive regular copies. Please inform us how many you require for distribution in Natal. We hope to bring the bulletin out in printed form in the near future. This again depends on what financial support we receive from the centres. We would also like to increase the circulation by atleast another 2,000.

You no doubt received our telegram and circular on the H-Bomb Campaign. We have printed 30,000 Leaflets. Yesterday we sent you 1000 leaflets of the first 4,000 we received from the printers. Please inform how many more you require, but do not ask for more unless you accompany your request with a contribution towards the costs. These leaflets have already cost about £50 and we hope to be able to print another 70,000 atleast.

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It is important that your Council conduct a really energetic campaign on this question. We are preparing a letter to be sent to individuals and organisations in connection with the campaign. A copy of the leaflet will be enclosed with each letter. In the letter we ask for their support, that they should help with money, call meetings and pass resolutions. We will send you copies of the letter for distribution in Natal. Try and get every possible organisation to pass a resolution on the demands incorporated in the leaflet; even Branches of organisations should have talks on the subject and pass resolutions

The S.A. Peace Council wired various members of parliament to raise the question in the House and we also published a press statement.

Please get more Trade Unions to pass resolutions. Keep us informed of all developments and particularly of the text and details of all resolutions by organisations, house and public meetings.

Thank you for your Council minutes. I hope you will continue to send them.

Incidentally, the H-Bomb campaign should be linked with the Africa for Peace and World Meeting campaigns. With regard to the latter it is clear that a relaxation of tension will assist a settlement on atomic power questions and that such a world meeting will assist in bringing about a relaxation.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary



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8(56)

Bewysstuk No. ....  
 Gekry by... *J.A. P... 6/1/54* ...  
 Deur... *Na. 3039 (1) 1/5/54* ...  
 Te... *Journal House, 110 York St. T.M.B.* ...  
 Datum... *28 - 9 - 54* ... 6th April, 1954.  
 Verwysings No. *Zyok 2 - 8(56)* ...

The Secretariat,  
 World Peace Council,  
 Palais Sia,  
 PRAGUE

Dear Friends,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 19th March and copies of the resolutions of the Bureau sent by you on March 30th.

WORLD PEACE MEETING

In this regard we unfortunately have to report that our progress continues to be very slow. We think it would be useful if you were to write immediately to the people mentioned by us in an earlier letter.

We are able to report that support for the summoning of the Meeting has now been given by the following:

- South African Indian Congress
- Twine and Bag Workers Union - Durban
- Food and Canning Workers Union - Durban
- Natal Box, Broom and Brush Workers Union - Durban
- Natal Chemical and Allied Workers Union - Durban
- Natal Dairy Workers Union - Durban.

We hope to be able to report much better progress within the next two weeks, we are continuing with our approaches. We do not think it will be possible to set up a national preparatory committee but we will try to get a joint statement issued when we have obtained the support of broader elements.

HYDROGEN BOMB CAMPAIGN

We have initiated a nation wide campaign on the demand to cease H-Bomb experiments and for the banning of weapons of mass destruction. As first steps we have issued 30,000 copies of the enclosed leaflet which are being distributed at bus ques, factories and houses. We hope to print another 70,000 of these shortly. In addition the question is being raised in many organisations. During the last few days, for example, resolutions of protest against the experiments and for the banning of H and A Bombs were passed by the Twine and Bag Workers Union, a Conference of Festival workers called by the Transvaal Youth Festival Committee for Peace, Friendship and Racial Harmony and a meeting of a branch of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress. Hundreds of other organisations have been sent leaflets and other material and many are helping in the distribution of leaflets.



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Statements on the question of the Bomb are being obtained from prominent people such as Professor Bleksley of the University of the Witwatersrand. Telegrams demanding that the question be raised in parliament were sent to some Labour, Liberal and United Party members of parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary



E 329  
WORLD COUNCIL  
OF PEACE

8(45)  
SECRETARIAT

PALAIS SLA PRAGUE  
CR.

Subject No. ....  
Copy by *S.A. Peace Council*  
Date *12. 2019 (4) / 12/12/54*  
To *General House, 110 Fox St. 2008*  
Datum *28 - 9 - 1955*  
Verwysings No. *Lyo No. 2 - 2 (45)*

Prague, April 12th, 1954.

South African Peace Council  
(South Africa)

Dear Friends,

We hope that the letter containing the texts adopted by the Bureau of the World Council at its last meeting in Vienna has reached you. It was sent off on March 31st.

As you will have seen, the Bureau decided to convene an Extraordinary Session of the World Council of Peace in Berlin at the end of May. Following consultation with Professor Joliot-Curie it has been decided to hold the session from May 23rd-28th.

A very thorough examination of the international situation led the Bureau to stress, in its General Resolution, the importance of such a meeting at this time and to emphasise the need to ensure that the maximum number of Council members attend. Furthermore, the Bureau considered that a special effort should be made at this Council to bring all the forces of the Movement into action for Peace and that to do this it would be necessary to make sure that representatives of the main national and international popular organisations which support the Movement take part.

We are sure that you will do everything possible along these lines to enable your country to send a good delegation to this session.

Since time is short, we should very much like to receive as soon as possible the names and addresses of such people as you think should be invited by our Secretariat or by the President himself. We propose to send a number of invitations out immediately and we shall shortly be sending you the list of those we are inviting from your country.



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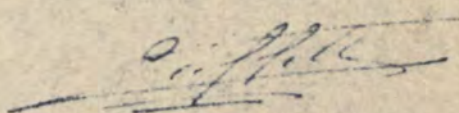
In addition, we thank you for your letter of 6th March and for the useful information it contains on your activities. In a few days time we shall be sending you a letter explaining the main ideas discussed by the Bureau relative to the International Meeting. We will also write to the Reverend Blawhall, as you have suggested.

We hope for an early reply.

With good Wishes,

Yours sincerely,

For the Secretariat of the  
World Council of Peace



Jean LAFFITTE  
General Secretary



(9) N9 SA PC  
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SOUTH AFRICAN PEACE COUNCIL.

Bewysstuk No..... P.O. Box 10528,  
Gekry by..... S.A.P.C.O.D. JOHANNESBURG.  
Deur..... Johannesburg  
Te..... 12th April, 1954.  
Datum..... 27-5-55

Dear Friend,

Verwysings No. 17.

This was the warning issued last October by Professor Joliot-Curie, eminent French scientist :

"It is after having thought at length and in weighing my words that I speak of a terrible danger. All of us here have still fresh in our minds the havoc wrought by the last war, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki ... Believe me, I can assure you that the atomic and hydrogen bombs which have been perfected and produced for some years, represent a considerably higher power of destruction... With hydrogen bombs, the power of which can be increased to a diabolical degree, it can be foreseen that their explosion would risk making all life on our globe impossible."

The recent H-bomb experimental explosions in the Pacific, and the opinions of many other leading scientists, amply support this grave warning.

Two years ago, when the H-bomb was dropped on an island in the Pacific, it carved a cavern capable of containing the corpses of the entire human race. On March 1st a more powerful bomb was dropped - six hundred times more powerful than that dropped on Hiroshima, and equal to 6 million tons of T.N.T. - in devastating power, equivalent to all the T.N.T. bombs dropped in World War 2. The new tests will end with an explosion of a bomb 2,400 times as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb, reaching a force of about 50 million tons of T.N.T.

The March 1st and 26th experiments conducted by the U.S. Government have revealed concretely the terrible force of H-bombs. The reports show that fishermen many hundreds of miles away have incurred radioactive burns; that radioactive dust can be swept by winds, at a height of 27 miles, a distance of 400 miles and more in an hour; that if a bomb were dropped on Johannesburg the world's leading uranium producer, towns as far distant as Warmbaths and Standerton would be destroyed.

On March 31st, Mr. Lewis Strauss, Chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, stated: "The nature of the hydrogen bomb is such that it can be made as large as you wish - as large as the military requirement demands. It can be made large enough to wipe out the entire population of the metropolitan area of New York - an area with a population of more than 15,000,000."

Following international protests the American Government announced, on March 26th, that it was postponing further hydrogen bomb tests pending the institution of "safety measures." On the very same day the United States military authorities set off a second hydrogen bomb explosion in the Pacific.

We cannot delude ourselves by thinking that the very power of this horrifying weapon will prevent it ever being used. In fact, the atom bomb has been used twice in war and President Eisenhower stated at the United Nations Assembly last December: "Atomic weapons have virtually achieved conventional status within our armed services." As long ago as 1951, he declared he "was concerned at the apparently growing opinion that the United States should never drop the atom bomb first", and continued:

/ "To my...



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"To my mind, the use of the atom bomb would be on this basis. Does it advantage me or does it not when I get into war? If I felt the material destruction I was going to accomplish was not equal to some moral or great reaction the other way, then I would abstain. If I thought the net advantage would be on my side, I would use it instantly."

On the eve of the Berlin Conference, Field Marshal Montgomery proclaimed: "I would never refuse any weapon ... I hope that if anyone attacked us we would use everything we had at the outset... I think you can assume, if war starts, that both sides if they have got atomic weapons will use them." While Marshal of the R.A.F., Sir John Slessor broadcast during the Berlin talks: "If there were another world shooting war, the atom and the hydrogen bomb would be used beyond any shadow of doubt."

BEYOND ANY SHADOW OF DOUBT. Those words should be impressed on all of us.

This question is not one that can or should be left to the politicians and scientists alone. This question is the direct concern of every man, woman and child in the world. It is a matter of life and death to you - whatever your class, race, colour or political outlook.

It lies within our power, in the hands of the millions of ordinary people to prevent the use of H-Bombs and above all to prevent the outbreak of a new world war, if only we raise our voices sufficiently strongly. We call on the people of South Africa, on every organisation, church, society, trade union and individual to speak up.

There are many things which can be done in this dangerous situation: You can talk to your friends and explain why and how everyone is affected. You can get the Peace Council to send a speaker to address any society to which you belong. You can get your organisation to adopt a resolution demanding - An immediate stop to dangerous Hydrogen bomb tests and experiments; the banning, under strict international control, of atomic weapons; an immediate meeting between Britain, America, the U.S.S.R., France and China, to settle their disputes by negotiation and conclude a lasting pact of peace open to all other countries; - and you can send your resolution to the press and to the Peace Council. You can get the Peace Council to send you copies of the enclosed leaflet for distribution to your friends. You can send a donation to the Peace Council and you can join in the work of the Council.

"We want to live" is the simple demand of all of us in the face of threat of the H-Bomb. ~~No-one dare remain silent.~~ We are sure you will play your part.

Yours sincerely,  
*D. C. Thompson*  
Rev. D.C. Thompson  
CHAIRMAN

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SOUTH AFRICAN PEACE COUNCIL

P.O.Box 10528  
 3b Somerset House  
 110 Fox Street  
JOHANNESBURG

12th April, 1954

STATEMENT BY PROFESSOR BLEKSLEY ON THE HYDROGEN BOMB

"A single hydrogen bomb is capable of devastating the biggest city in the world. The effects would be almost indescribable.

"A very considerable proportion of the population would be killed outright. The fate of the immediate survivors would be little, if at all, better. Terribly burned, crippled or buried beneath fallen rubble, there would be little hope of their being rescued. Medical and other services are bound, as in Hiroshima, to be hopelessly disrupted. All normal activity would be brought to a standstill, and great numbers of homeless, destitute people might die of hunger and exposure.

"If a great city were devastated the whole surrounding countryside would be also thrown into unimaginable ruin and distress.

"There is no effective defence against such weapons.

"Even if it were possible, which it is not, to carry out an effective policy of the dispersion of populations, where could they be dispersed? The lesson of the Japanese fishermen is clear. You cannot tell where the deadly radio-active debris would land. If lonely fishermen in the vast expanse of the Pacific were affected, how much more terrible would the effects be in populated areas?

"A mass of radio-active dust could be carried and do damage up to three hundred miles away from the explosion. If a bomb were dropped on Johannesburg, deadly dust could settle on lonely Free State farms and the people there fatally affected without even knowing what was happening to them until it was too late for medical science, if available, to assist them.

"The tests that have been carried out will have served a useful purpose if they bring home to thousands of millions of people the terrible menace of war, to every single man woman and child.

"Previously, when war came, we comforted ourselves with the thought that "the other bloke will get it." The last war brought the danger back from the front line to the big industrial cities.

"Today, the front line is where the wind blows.

"It is no service to science or to humanity to conceal the extent of the danger. Every scientist knows that the hydrogen bomb can destroy man.

"I would like the common man to be aroused, to be determined to preserve peace. So determined that he will not tolerate leaders who talk war.

Johannesburg 13th April, 1954.

For Secretary S.A. Peace Council,

*J. Bleksley*



## SOUTH AFRICAN PEACE COUNCIL.

P.O. Box 10528,  
JOHANNESBURG.

12th April, 1954.

Dear Friend,

This was the warning issued last October by Professor Joliot-Curie, eminent French scientist:

"It is after having thought at length and in weighing my words that I speak of a terrible danger. All of us here have still fresh in our minds the havoc wrought by the last war, the bombing of Hiroshima and Hagasaki ... Believe me, I can assure you that the atomic and hydrogen bombs which have been perfected and produced for some years, represent a considerably higher power of destruction... With hydrogen bombs, the power of which can be increased to a diabolical degree, it can be foreseen that their explosion would risk making all life on our globe impossible."

The recent H-bomb experimental explosions in the Pacific, and the opinions of many other leading scientists, amply support this grave warning.

Two years ago, when the H-bomb was dropped on an island in the Pacific, it carved a cavern capable of containing the corpses of the entire human race. On March 1st a more powerful bomb was dropped - six hundred times more powerful than that dropped on Hiroshima, and equal to 6 million tons of T.N.T. - in devastating power, equivalent to all the T.N.T. bombs dropped in World War 2. The new tests will end with an explosion of a bomb 2,400 times as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb, reaching a force of about 50 million tons of T.N.T.

The March 1st and 26th experiments conducted by the U.S. Government have revealed concretely the terrible force of H-bombs. The reports show that fishermen many hundreds of miles away have incurred radioactive burns; that radioactive dust can be swept by winds, at a height of 27 miles, a distance of 400 miles and more in an hour; that if a bomb were dropped on Johannesburg the world's leading uranium producer, towns as far distant as Warmbaths and Standerton would be destroyed.

On March 31st, Mr. Lewis Strauss, Chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, stated: "The nature of the hydrogen bomb is such that it can be made as large as you wish - as large as the military requirement demands. It can be made large enough to wipe out the entire population of the metropolitan area of New York - an area with a population of more than 15,000,000."

Following international protests the American Government announced, on March 26th, that it was postponing further hydrogen-bomb tests pending the institution of "safety measures." On the very same day the United States military authorities set off a second hydrogen bomb explosion in the Pacific.

We cannot delude ourselves by thinking that the very power of this horrifying weapon will prevent it ever being used. In fact, the atom bomb has been used twice in war and President Eisenhower stated at the United Nations Assembly last December: "Atomic weapons have virtually achieved conventional status within our armed services." As long ago as 1951, he declared he "was concerned at the apparently growing opinion that the United States should never drop the atom bomb first", and continued:

/ "To my...



"To my mind, the use of the atom bomb would be on this basis. Does it advantage me or does it not when I get into war? If I felt the material destruction I was going to accomplish was not equal to some moral or great reaction the other way, then I would abstain. If I thought the net advantage would be on my side, I would use it instantly."

On the eve of the Berlin Conference, Field Marshal Montgomery proclaimed: "I would never refuse any weapon ... I hope that if anyone attacked us we would use everything we had at the outset... I think you can assume, if war starts, that both sides if they have got atomic weapons will use them." While Marshal of the R.A.F., Sir John Slessor broadcast during the Berlin talks: "If there were another world shooting war, the atom and the hydrogen bomb would be used beyond any shadow of doubt."

BEYOND ANY SHADOW OF DOUBT. Those words should be impressed on all of us.

This question is not one that can or should be left to the politicians and scientists alone. This question is the direct concern of every man, woman and child in the world. It is a matter of life and death to you - whatever your class, race, colour or political outlook.

It lies within our power, in the hands of the millions of ordinary people to prevent the use of H-Bombs and above all to prevent the outbreak of a new world war, if only we raise our voices sufficiently strongly. We call on the people of South Africa, on every organisation, church, society, trade union and individual to speak up.

There are many things which can be done in this dangerous situation: You can talk to your friends and explain why and how everyone is affected. You can get the Peace Council to send a speaker to address any society to which you belong. You can get your organisation to adopt a resolution demanding - An immediate stop to dangerous Hydrogen bomb tests and experiments; the banning, under strict international control, of atomic weapons; an immediate meeting between Britain, America, the U.S.S.R., France and China, to settle their disputes by negotiation and conclude a lasting pact of peace open to all other countries; - and you can send your resolution to the press and to the Peace Council. You can get the Peace Council to send you copies of the enclosed leaflet for distribution to your friends. You can send a donation to the Peace Council and you can join in the work of the Council.

"We want to live" is the simple demand of all of us in the **face** of threat of the H-Bomb. ~~No-one dare remain silent.~~ We are sure you will play your part.

Yours sincerely,

*D. C. Thompson*  
Rev. D.C. Thompson  
CHAIRMAN



*with annexes.*

# SOUTH AFRICAN PEACE COUNCIL



P.O. BOX 14528

JOHANNESBURG

*file*

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Bewysstuk No. ....  
 Gekry by..... *S.A.P.C.C.* .....  
 Deur..... *W. W. W. W.* .....  
 Te..... *Box No. 110* .....  
 Datum..... *27-9-55* ..... 12th April, 1954

*Q. 345*

Dear Friend, Verwysing No. *S.*

A few weeks ago we wrote to you in connection with the proposed international meeting of all persons and organisations who desire a relaxation of international tension.

Since our last letter it has become clear that the proposal of the World Peace Council has been given support by pacifist, religious and other political organisations both internationally and in many parts of the world.

The recent H-Bomb explosions have revealed very clearly the terrible fate which lies in store for all of us if another war should break out. It is clear that the need to still further bring about a relaxation in international tension in order to lay the basis for a lasting peace and for the possibility of international agreement on the banning of nuclear weapons, has become even more imperative.

In these circumstances, the proposed world meeting assumes an even greater importance. There can be no doubt that such a meeting, allowing for full and free discussion, will in itself be an important factor in the relaxation of international tension.

In our last letter we enclosed a form to be returned to the South African Peace Council. We have not yet received any reply from you. May we once again ask you to complete the form and return it to us. If you no longer have the form and you would like further information please communicate with us at the above address.

Yours sincerely,

*Abraham Walden*

SECRETARY



54(22) 38(29)

THE BRITISH PEACE COMMITTEE

81 CITY ROAD, LONDON, E.C.1

Telephone : CLErkenwell 0383-5

①

12th April, 1955.

South African Peace Council,  
P.O. Box 10528,  
Johannesburg,  
South Africa.

F. 20.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your letter of 22nd  
March requesting photographs for your  
exhibition. Perhaps you would let us know  
what sort of photographs you require?

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*William Wainwright*

William Wainwright  
Secretary.



**Collection Number: AD1812**

**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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