

R.F. 24
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Bewysstuk No.
Gekry by *Ruth First*
Deur *H.S. Wolburg*
Te *Progen Gelow*
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DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

1. The decision to arm NATO forces with atomic weapons, the continued experiments with and development of such weapons and the stockpiling of Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs show that the Nato powers are determined to prepare for an atomic war. These actions lead to an increase in international tension and the grave danger of a war which will obliterate all mankind.

In this situation it is absolutely imperative that the peoples act to achieve the destruction of stocks of nuclear weapons and to put a stop to their production in order to eliminate the danger of an atomic war once and for all.

The fact that South Africa is a leading producer of uranium places a special responsibility on the South African peace movement to ensure that the uranium produced here is used only for peaceful purposes for the benefit of humanity.

The South African Peace Council welcomes the Vienna Appeal of the World Peace Council which calls for the banning of nuclear weapons and for the peaceful use of atomic energy. In order to popularise the appeal and win the active support of our people for it, the South African Peace Council resolves:-

- a) To approach outstanding people in all walks of life to sign the appeal and declare their support for it.
- b) To publicise the Appeal in the daily and weekly Press, in Trade Union, Political, Religious and other journals, at meetings called by the peace council and other organizations and by means of posters, stickers and leaflets.
- c) To organise a great campaign, to obtain the signatures of thousands of peace loving South Africans in support of the Appeal.

2. The South African Peace Council strongly condemns the American intervention in Formosa as an act of open aggression aimed at preserving a United Nations War base and at preventing the Peoples Republic of China from regaining control over her own territory. The establishment of Seato and the supply of arms to Chiang Kai Shek for use against the mainland, the so-called "Defence Pact" with Chiang Kai Shek, the authority granted by the US senate to President Eisenhower to order "defence" of Formosa and nearby islands and the despatch of the US Seventh Fleet and Jet planes to Formosa are acts which threaten to plunge the world into war.

Peace in Asia can only be secured by the removal of Chiang Kai Shek and the disbanding of his armies, the cessation of American interference in Formosa, the return of Formosa and the other islands to the Government of China. The dissolution of Seato and the admission of the Chinese Peoples Republic to the United Nations.

Great victories have been won by the peace forces - in Korea, in Indo China and in Europe by the defeat of E.D.C. These victories are threatened by the decision to arm Nato forces with atomic weapons, by American interference in Formosa by the determination to press forward with the rearmament of Germany and by the creation of new military blocs and alliances in the Middle East. *Ruth First*

These new developments endanger peace. They call for greater efforts on the part of the peoples; millions of people must be drawn with renewed vigour into the work for peace; all individuals and organizations interested in preserving peace must be united in this work and in the task of working out acceptable solutions of outstanding international problems.

To this end the World Peace Council has issued a call for a great World Assembly that on May 22nd 1955, Helsinki shall bring together representatives of tendencies and organisations for peace. The South African Peace Council fully support the calling of the World Assembly and resolves:-

- a) To bring the Assembly to the notice of all organisations and individuals interested in peace and to encourage their participation in the Assembly.
- b) To send as many of its own representatives to the Assembly as possible.
- c) To publicise and explain the significance of the Assembly as an important step in the work for peace as widely as possible.

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The South African Peace Council recognises that only through hundreds of peace circles situated all over the country can peace work be consistently carried out and developed among all sections of the people and winning their support in every locality by means of posters, stickers, leaflets, meetings, signature campaigns and other activities can be carried out regularly only by permanent peace circles.

To this end the South African Peace Council resolves that the activities in connection with the Vienna Appeal and the World Assembly will be carried out, wherever possible, by peace circles which shall be formed by the Provincial peace councils and those first tasks will be specifically concerned with the Appeal and the Assembly.

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The determination of the Western Powers to force through the rearmament of Western Germany by means of the London and Paris Agreements threatens the most dire consequences for the people of Europe and the world.

The re-armament of Western Germany will destroy the possibility of the peaceful reunification of the country, it will lead to the formation of two hostile blocs in Europe and of increase in tension; it will result in an intensification in the armaments race and a consequent lowering of the standards of life of the people. War will be brought closer if the London and Paris Agreements are carried out.

But the peoples of the world including the German people are opposed to the re-armament of Germany and can prevent it. In the countries where the treaties have been ratified it has been against the wills of the overwhelming majority of the people. Throughout Europe opposition to the treaties is growing daily and can prevent full fulfilment. The peoples of all countries must support this opposition.

A united, democratic and peaceful Germany is vital to ensure a lasting peace.
The South African Peace Council demands:

- a) The rejection of the London and Paris Agreements.
- b) A four-power conference of France, Great Britain, U.S.A. and USSR to bring about the establishment of a united Germany which shall not become a part of any military bloc and which will be committed to a policy of peace and whose security will be guaranteed.

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During the past three years the Nationalist Government, acting under a Statute designed to suppress communism, has banned a large number of persons from participation in the work for Peace in South Africa. Under the threat of long terms of imprisonment persons who established, led and built up the Peace movement have been prohibited from exercising their democratic rights to work for World Peace.

These shameful bannings expose the hostility with which work for peace is regarded by the Government. They align this Government with the Warlike forces in the world. ~~They are a disgrace to this country.~~

But the overwhelming majority of the people of South Africa desire peace and will not be silenced by these acts of the Government.

The South African Peace Council calls on all people to demand the repeal of the undemocratic Suppression of Communism Act as a step towards serving the right of all citizens to work for peace and for the benefit of the people of South Africa.

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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