

PRESS STATEMENT.

(3)

D

Eq 7.5.8

57

The South African Peace Council waraly welcomes the agreement to bring peace to Indo-China reached at the Geneva Conference between representatives of France, Vietnam, Britain, the Soviet Union, the United States and China.

This historic agreement ends the seven and a half years of suffering and ruin which this conflict has brought to the people of Vietnam. It has also served to avert an extremely grave crisis in which the war threatened to extend its scope to involve major powers and perhaps to engulf the whole world in a terrible large-scale conflict.

The Geneva agreement has yet deeper implications. Itself the fruit of the Berlin Conference earlier this year, it proves that the policy of negotiating differences between nations is capable of securing peace; that no matter what ideological differences may exist between statesmen it is possible for them to agree round the conference table without recourse to arms.

The South African Peace Council is convinced that these deeper implications and lessons will not be lost on the peoples of the world. Geneva has proved the possibility and necessity of a successful negotiations; given the same willingness on all sides to confer and make mutual concessions, there is no reason why all the conflicts which have poisoned the atmosphere with tension, suspicion and "cold war" should not be resolved.

The agreement at Geneva, therefore, opens up the way to further victories for the cause of peace: for the ending of the divisions and dangerous conflicts which still exist in many parts of the world, including a number of areas where open warfare still continues; for an all-round agreement of the five greatest powers -- Britain, the U.S.A., the Soviet Union, France and China -- leading to the outlawing of weapons of mass destruction to general disarmament and the beginning of an era of peaceful

(4)

1) 57

coexistence, trade and cultural interchanges between the nations of the world, whatever their different political and economic systems.

The South African Peace Council will continue its campaign to achieve these ends, and to lift the dreadful shadow of atomic war from the minds of men. We invite all men and women of goodwill to join us in this crusade.

Issued by South African Peace Council

Signed : .....

Secretary.