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A MESSAGE FROM THE WORLD COUNCIL OF
PEACE TO ALL ORGANISATIONS AND
PERSONALITIES WHO DESIRE A RELAXATION
OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION

The armistice concluded in Korea has given an uneasy world the hope at last of seeing a decrease in tension between the Great Powers. Negotiations which were opened, however, have come up against renewed obstacles.

Agreement is proving difficult on other questions vitally important for the peace of the world.

Nevertheless, the peoples long for a relaxation of international tension. The economic shackles and political pressures accompanying this tension are becoming increasingly difficult to bear.

We believe it is possible to rescue the world from this condition.

Today, a wide range of political and social forces in all countries are working for an improvement in international relations.

New voices among eminent scientific, religious and political authorities are condemning the use of weapons of mass extermination. Public opinion is becoming alarmed at the growing accumulation of armaments of all types.

All people of good sense realise that it is not possible to settle problems of world importance or guarantee fulfilment of any agreement made, without the participation of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Responsible representatives of all political groups in most West European countries have made a public stand against the rebirth of German militarism in any form.

In these conditions, we think an opportunity should be given for all organisations or personalities who are striving for the relaxation of international tension, to concentrate their efforts on this question. The resolution, passed in Vienna by the World Council of Peace on November 28th, 1953 is an expression of our point of view on this matter.

The joint preparation for a meeting allowing the free exchange of all viewpoints and the examination of possible solutions is now necessary.

A meeting of this nature, to be held as soon as possible, would in itself be an important factor in the relaxation of international tension.

World Council of Peace
(Vienna Session, 23rd—28th November 1953)

The General Resolution of the World Council of Peace

The Budapest Appeal for negotiation, launched by the World Council of Peace, has had profound repercussions and has won the widest support. As a result of this campaign, the idea of settling international differences by agreements acceptable to all is daily winning ground and bearing fruit.

The end of hostilities in Korea was a victory for the cause of Peace.

The latest exchange of Notes between the Great Powers proves that the holding in the near future of a Four Power Conference on the German question is possible.

The idea of ending hostilities and reaching a peaceful solution in Indochina is making progress both in France and in Viet-Nam.

But forces opposed to the easing of international tension are using the word "negotiation" to veil plans for prolonging the Cold War. Negotiations cannot be realised if one party is confronted by the other with accomplished facts; the desire for negotiation cannot be present if conditions are created to make it fail.

In Asia and in Europe, there are situations and conflicts which are especially endangering World Peace.

In Korea, negotiations are in danger. The intention to exclude neutral nations, especially India, from a Political Conference dealing with specifically Asian interests, could cause the failure of negotiations. The peoples will not allow hostilities in Korea to be resumed.

The interests of European security demand the quickest possible settlement of the German problem. This settlement is only possible by agreement between the Four Powers — the United States, the U.S.S.R., Great Britain and France. The main obstacle which stands in the way of this agreement is the intention of one side to rebuild German militarism and to bring Germany into the war coalition directed against the other.

The World Council of Peace calls upon the peoples of Europe to prevent the ratification of the Treaties concerning the European Army and the revival of German militarism in any shape or form. This would open the way to agreement on the German problem between the Four Powers, thereby offering the German people the prospect of a peaceful future and giving to all the peoples of Europe a guarantee against the revival of aggressive forces in Germany.

For the last seven years there has been war between France and Viet Nam which can only be ended by direct negotiations between the belligerents.

The World Council of Peace welcomes the proposal made in this direction by the Vietnamese delegation supported by the Chinese delegation. This proposal, to which the French delegation made a favourable reply, could serve as a basis for a settlement.

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The World Council of Peace has always affirmed that foreign interference, occupation by foreign troops and the establishment of military bases on foreign soil, constitutes a threat both to the peoples independence and to Peace.

Such a policy is also being developed in the Near and Middle East, Latin America and Africa. It shows itself in Europe, particularly by the plan for the European Defence Community and the installation of atomic bases in Spain, in Asia by the foreign occupation and the intensification of the rearmament of Japan, and in Pakistan where the United States is trying to set up military bases. This latest effort threatens to create a war psychosis amongst hundreds of millions of people in yet another part of the world.

The armaments race and the manufacture of ever more powerful weapons of mass destruction impose an intolerable burden on the world and constitute a frightful menace.

The World Council of Peace, has drawn the attention of the world to this problem by its campaign for the Stockholm Appeal and its Warsaw resolutions. It regrets that the United Nations Organisation has not yet reached agreement on these matters, and hopes that steps will be taken to bring about the absolute prohibition of atomic and biological weapons and a substantial reduction of all armaments under effective control.

The World Council of Peace finally emphasises that, whilst negotiation is necessary on each particular problem, it considers, as it always has, that a Five Power Conference is still the best method for achieving a relaxation of international tension.

This Conference would be able, on the initiative of each of the Powers, to take up any problem felt to be a cause of international tension, and could seek general agreements acceptable to all.

The persistent refusal to grant the People's Republic of China her rightful place in the councils of the world is an obstacle to this Five Power Conference. This refusal is contrary to the interests of all states and is judged more and more severely by world opinion.

The Charter of the United Nations gives the peoples an instrument able to bring about lasting peace. The peoples should strive to ensure respect for the Charter. The infringements of the Charter have plunged the world into great difficulties. A return to the letter and the spirit of the Charter would help the peoples to ensure their security and independence. It would allow real co-operation between the nations to develop their economic resources, their wellbeing and their culture.

The anxiety and fear, the poverty and the difficulties of everyday life imposed upon the peoples by the Cold War and the armaments race, can and must be eliminated by the action of the peoples.

In the last resort, Peace depends upon the people.

World Council of Peace
(Vienna Session, 23rd-28th November 1953)

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