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THE PEACE MOVEMENT AND THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE.

During the coming months intensive activity will be conducted among all sections of the population in preparation for the Congress of the People which will formulate a Freedom Charter for South Africa. The COP presents the Peace Movement with an opportunity of reaching thousands of new people and of establishing itself on mass basis throughout the country. In order to utilise this opportunity it is necessary for our movement to considerably improve its organisation and methods of work and correctly adapt the slogans of the Peace Movement to the particular conditions of South Africa.

Organisational problems are dealt with in Part 2 of this Report and the tasks of the Peace Movement in relation to the COP are dealt with in Part 1.

P A R T 1 :

The overwhelming majority of the people of South Africa are, whatever their views on other matters, opposed to war. At the same time the opinion is widely held that our country is so far removed from any possible war theatre, that our peace activities can have so little effect on the course of events, that, therefore, energies should be expanded on what are regarded as more urgent and pressing problems. The struggle for liberation is regarded as completely independent of the work for peace and the COP and the Freedom Charter as having no connection with the struggle for peaceful co-existence. Because our movement has failed to show this connection, has failed to show that the struggle for peace and liberation are indivisible, that all our aspirations for a better life can only be realised in a world at peace and that our activities with those of other people can prevent war, we have not succeeded in building a mass peace movement having its roots firmly implanted among the people.

While the peace movement must not usurp the functions of the liberation movement nor lose its independent character, it must start from the viewpoint that every conquest won in the course of the struggle for national liberation constitutes an advance of the peace forces over the forces of aggression and every success of the peace movement represents an advance for the forces of liberation over the forces of aggression and oppression. The tasks of the peace movement are to constantly put forward the policy of the world movement, to show the connection between peace and liberation, to win the support of the liberation movement and all sections of the population in the struggle for peace, to bring the people into action on specific peace campaigns and to show the people that their activities together with those of other peoples have a profound influence on the course of events.

Peace Depends on the Action of the Peoples:

Great events during the past 18 months have brought a new hope to the world and rewarded the efforts of all who are working for peace. These events have shown that peace ultimately depends, not only on the statesmen and politicians, but above all on the actions of the people in all countries and their determination to prevent war.

The signing of an armistice in Korea, the Four Power Conference in Berlin which paved the way for the Geneva Conference on Asian problems, the ending of the war in Indo-China as a result of the Geneva Conference, the rejection of EDC by the French Government, the increase in trade and cultural and other exchange between the East and West and the "Atom-for-Peace" proposals, have raised new hopes and have shown that problems can be solved by negotiation.

The proposals and campaigns of the World Peace Council made it possible to bring the peoples into action and organise their efforts. Millions of people in every country had a share in the winning of these victories which have led to a relaxation of international tension and opened the way to further successes.

These victories were not won without a most difficult struggle to overcome the activities of these circles who were determined to maintain the cold war, increase the division of the world into hostile groups and even plunge the nations into a terrible third world war. Only the actions of people everywhere prevented the U.S. from using the A-Bomb in Korea and ensured the success of the armistice negotiations. The attempts of the American Government to wreck the Geneva Conference by exploding the H-Bomb, threatening intervention and finally by proposing an aggressive military alliance in South East Asia were thwarted by the determination of the peace loving governments and the people to end the war in Vietnam. The H-Bomb experiments roused an unprecedented world wide protest strengthening the peoples' determination for peace, isolating the war mongers. The people of France forced the downfall of the Laniel Government and its replacement by a Government committed to peace in Indo-China, thus ensuring the success of the negotiations.

Threats to Peace:

Nevertheless, other dangers remain in the world which still call for the vigilance of the forces of peace. One immediate threat hangs over Europe and may well destroy the results already obtained. The reconstitution of a German Army as part of a military coalition, which still remains the objective of certain Governments, would perpetuate the division of Germany, sharpen the opposition between the two parts into which Europe has been arbitrary separated, and stimulate the

armaments race. Another threat hangs over Asia. The artificial maintenance of the aggressive Syngman Rhee Government and the supplying of arms to and support of the Chiang Kai Shek regime in Formosa continuously threaten to result in hostilities in the East.

The rearmament of Germany must be prevented and can still be prevented by the organised activities of the people in all countries supporting the opposition of the German French and other peoples and the proposal of the USSR for a European security Conference. The solution of this problem lies in the re-establishment of a democratic, peace loving Germany on the basis of free All-German elections. Germany must not be allowed to become part of any military alliance but must be included in a general European security agreement.

Peace in Asia can only be assured on the basis of the disarmament of Chiang Kai Shek, the return of Formosa to China, the recognition of China and its inclusion in the United Nations and the dissolution of the SEATO military alliance.

Military Alliances:

But these problems are only part of a much wider problem which has important implications for the whole world including Africa and South Africa. For the rearmament of Germany and the support of Chiang Kai Shek are aspects of the system of military alliances of a so-called defence nature which, in reality are techniques of maintaining the cold war and keeping the world divided into hostile camps. While these military alliances such as NATO and SEATO purport to be organisations for peace they in fact increase the danger of war because they lead to the intensification of the armaments drive, the establishment of war bases throughout the world - in Spain, Pakistan, Japan, Africa and elsewhere, the rearmament of Germany, the supply of arms to Formosa and interference in the affairs of different countries.

Military Alliances, Peace, Independence and Liberation:

The establishment of military blocs is not a question affecting only remote parts of Europe and Asia, it is a question which affects all people. Such alliances, in order to ensure the security of their war bases and the continuity in supply of strategic materials must see that sympathetic governments control those countries or that foreign rule is maintained. Thus follows interference in those countries, the crushing of movements of national independence and liberation. Recent history has shown that no people are exempted from this interference and deprivation of liberties. A few months ago the democratic government of Guatemala was crushed; today repression is mounting in Cyprus in order to maintain that island as a British base. The whole of the middle East is suffering the same fate.

Africa has not been left out of this process. Under the guise of crushing 'terrorist' movements France is sending troops to North Africa where there are numerous American naval, military and air force bases. The Emperor of Ethiopia, whose people have been deprived of all democratic rights and whose country is regarded as safe, has been invited to England to discuss the establishment of military bases in that country. In Kenya, a possible gigantic military base and a rich source of strategic materials, the peoples movement for liberation is being violently and brutally crushed.

To prevent the triumph of those who are seeking national independence and liberation, the aggressors are trying to mobilise other peoples and drag them into their military adventures. That is why they sign military pacts which are pacts for war and colonization. That is why they rearm countries and force them to bear the weight of military expenditure. With their hateful propoganda, they corrupt the minds of young people and the conscience of men and women; they

foster local and regional hatred; they stir up political, racial and religious discrimination, and in a word, rob these people of their right of freely choosing their national and international policies. A war policy designed to stifle these national liberation movements, means, for many other people, although far removed from the centre of hostilities, the threat of being dragged into the fighting. For this reason, repression of national liberation movements is a direct threat to world peace. That is why national liberation and the struggle for peace proceed along the same path.

South Africa:

The Government of South Africa is part of the war camp and system of military alliances; an ally of those intent upon crushing liberation and independence movements and preparing for war.

As soon as the war in Korea broke out the Government sent troops to assist the aggressors against the people of North Korea. The Government has declared its readiness to join the proposed Middle East military pact, and is actively engaged in the efforts to prepare Africa for war. Recently Minister Erasmus held talks in other African territories and in England on questions of "defence". Then followed the proposal for the formation of a military alliance on Nato lines for Africa. The Government continuously suggests the need of co-operation with the ruling circles in other territories in order to preserve white supremacy in Africa - in other words co-operation to suppress the movements for independence and liberation if necessary by force as in Kenya. Thus racialism as preached and practised in South Africa contains all the seeds of war. The herrenvolk theories of the Nazi regime were used directly to create the atmosphere in which war could be waged. The Nazis used racialism as an excuse to occupy other countries in order to "save" Germans living in those countries.

In the same way it is suggested that troops be sent to Kenya and the Protectorates be incorporated in order to save the White people and preserve White Civilization. Huge quantities of uranium are being supplied to the USA for the production of weapons of mass destruction. The Government declares itself ready to supply manpower and materials in the event of a war against the Socialist countries.

Realising that the people of South Africa do not want war and will not become a party to an aggressive war or, to interference in the affairs of other countries the Government suppresses and bans all those working for peace and liberation, propogates vicious racialism and attempts to stir up hostility between the people of South Africa and other peoples.

While the Government participates in the war preparations which are being made on the pretext of defence measures against the alleged aggressive intention of the USSR, China and the Eastern European countries, it uses the Suppression of Communism Act at home in order to suppress the liberation and peace movements on the pretext of combatting communism. There can be no doubt that in the event of war the Government will even more rigoutously oppress the people and attempt to destroy their organisations.

The South African Government is thus committed to a policy at home and abroad of preparing for war of aligning itself with military circles in order to defeat the movements for national liberation and independence, in order to prevent the victory of the forces of liberation and peace.

It follows, therefore, that every blow struck against the present Government and its replacement by a peace loving government would represent an important victory for the peace forces. At the same time the struggle for peace, the struggle to prevent the formation of military alliances the setting

up of war bases, the struggle to outlaw propoganda which tends to divide people and make them hostile to one another, and the struggle to end foreign occupations and interference in various countries weakens the aggressive forces and aids the movement for liberation.

The Congress of the People:

The GOP through the Freedom Charter will express the deepest aspirations of the people to live in a democratic South Africa free of racialism. During the course of the preparations on the local, regional and national level the people will raise hundreds of problems and suggest the solutions to them.

It must be our task at all levels to show the link between these problems and the struggle for peace; to show the people how the Government is part of the war camp and that their aspirations for a better life can only be realised in a world at peace, where our people can live in friendship and co-operation with other peoples.

Thus it is the specific task of the Peace Movement to ensure that the demands for peace and friendship between all peoples is written into the Freedom Charter. And in our campaigning on this we must put before the people our demands for: -

- (a) The settlement of all international problems by negotiation.
- (b) An end to military alliances and their replacement by security arrangements designed to ensure peaceful co-existence, security and independence for all states.
- (c) The outlawing of weapons of mass destruction and agreement on General Disarmament.
- (d) The closing down of war bases, withdrawal of foreign troops.
- (e) The immediate ending of the brutal wars in Malaya and Kenya with recognition of the rights of the people;

and more particularly the peaceful unification of Germany and the return of Formosa to China and the expulsion of Chiang Kai Shek.

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