

THERE SHALL BE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP!

War is nothing short of a disaster, benefitting nobody but those who want to dominate other countries and the people who make money out of wars - the bosses. The workers and ordinary people get nothing out of war - they are the ones who give their lives, but get back nothing in return.

WHAT WAR MEANS:

During the Second World War 12,364,200 soldiers and 20,062,800 civilians lost their lives. And during this war no atomic weapons were used, except right at the end in August, 1945 when two atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and 200,000 people lost their lives in a matter of seconds. This atomic bomb destroyed all buildings over an area of one square mile - the entire centre of Cape Town. The hydrogen bomb used in the Bikini test in March, 1954 destroys buildings over 12 times this area and since then even stronger bombs have been developed. If one of these bombs were dropped on Paarl, it would destroy an area including the whole Peninsula on one side and the whole town of Worcester on the other side.

Scientists, statesmen and ordinary people all over the world are all agreed that a world war with the use of atomic weapons will mean the end of civilisation as we know it to-day. Yet some statesmen still talk about starting a war in order that the other side may be prevented from attacking first! And, of course, they intend using all the newest atomic weapons. One does not hear this sort of talk from the Soviet Union or China or the People's Democracies. One does not hear it from the people of Britain and America. But one hears it from certain sections of the British and American ruling class - the warmongers.

Our own Government, which in the last war supported Hitler and was against South African troops fighting against the Hitler terror, has now aligned itself with Britain and America. They are prepared to take a stand over the question of Egypt, and they have undertaken to fight against the forces of liberation in Kenya and Cyprus. Although they did not want to interfere with Hitler, they are quite prepared to interfere in the legitimate struggle of the Africans in Kenya and the people of Cyprus. To further these aims our Government is spending £25,250,000 on Defence in the 1956-57 Budget. But our people go short of houses, schools and hospitals. The amount allocated to housing in the same budget is £764,000, to health it is £5,572,500 and to social welfare it is £3,184,000. These figures speak for themselves.

IS PEACE POSSIBLE?

The possibility for peace is very strong. At the talks in Geneva in 1955 the heads of the Governments of the Soviet Union, Britain, the United States and France were all agreed that we MUST NOT have another war. Eisenhower, in his final statement at this meeting, said: "It is my judgment that the prospects of a lasting peace with justice, well-being and broader freedom, are brighter! The dangers of the overwhelming tragedy of modern war are less."

The Soviet Government has presented concrete proposals for world disarmament, the outlawing of atomic weapons and the threat of war. At the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mr. Krushchov said that the countries which are working for peace have become such a mighty force, that they, together with the world peace movement, could now prevent world war.

It is not enough for us to wish for peace. We must explain to the people that war can be prevented, that in any case it does not solve the problems which cause it and that a war with atomic weapons will mean the end of civilisation as we know it to-day.

At Bandung, Chou en-Lai and Nehru set out five principles for peace which were subsequently adopted by their respective countries and by 25 others, including the Soviet Union, People's Democracies and, ofcourse, many others. These five principles are:

1. No country shall interfere with another country's territorial rights.
2. No country shall attack another country.
3. No country shall interfere in the internal affairs of another country.
4. All countries shall be treated equally and shall trade together and benefit one another.
5. There shall be peaceful co-existence. (the living together of two systems side by side: capitalism and socialism).

In spite of the large number of countries showing their support for peace, there are still forces which are driving towards war. These forces have aligned themselves in three pacts, covering three different territories. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (known as NATO), covers Europe and includes the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Turkey and others. The South East Asian Treaty Organisation (known as SEATO), covers the Middle East and includes the United States, Great Britain, Thailand, Pakistan and the Philippines. The Bagdad Pact covers the Far East and includes Great Britain, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan.

These pacts must be broken for they are directed against the socialist countries and against the people of the colonies who are struggling for liberation. And once these pacts have been broken, the Warsaw pact which was signed by the socialist countries after NATO was agreed to, will also fall away.

PEACE AND NATIONAL LIBERATION:

In a country like South Africa where race discrimination is the order of the day, it is sometimes difficult for us to see the broad issue of peace and recognise how important it is. But we must not forget that to-day it is co-existence or no existence, as one scientist has put it.

We must also remember that one of the causes of friction is race discrimination and our fight to end race discrimination in this country is a contribution to peace. Apartheid and everything that it stands for must be wiped out.

FORWARD TO FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR ALL THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA!!!

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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