

END THE GULF WAR
AN URGENT CALL FROM TRADE UNIONISTS IN AUSTRALIA

- As Australian trade unionists, we are alarmed that the Gulf War has been allowed to happen. The war is already causing loss of life and will seriously affect the lives of millions of ordinary men, women and children on both sides of the conflict.
- We demand that Parliament immediately withdraw the Australian forces from the region. We also demand that the Australian Government take or support initiatives for the immediate cessation of war and for an negotiated settlement of all the issues confronting the Gulf and Middle East Nations.
- We support world public opinion which has denounced the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait. The action is a blatant challenge to national sovereignty and world peace. We support a continuation of sanctions and other non-military action against Iraq.
- In 'countering' the actions of Iraq, however, the Western alliance has mobilized massive military forces in the Gulf region, including nuclear weaponry, warships and troops. Other nations have been pressured to support the war using the United Nations to justify the military activity.
- A war cannot lead to a just and lasting settlement of the crisis. On the contrary, it will involve the entire world in a destructive and brutal war.
- Support for the U.S. Government's threats of war made a peaceful and lasting settlement unlikely. Their actions can be contrasted with the inaction over previous U.N. Resolutions regarding the invasion of other countries and territories.
- As citizens, we deplore the Australian Government's support for the military stance of the United States Government. Such support stands in stark contrast to the peace initiatives of other nations and to the relative silence of the Government on a number of other international conflicts, such as East Timor and Granada.
- The growing militarism in the Gulf has undermined the trend of recent years toward the easing of international tensions in the post cold war era.
- We refuse to allow the conflict to undermine the good relations that exist within our unions with Arab-Australians. We wish to express to them our goodwill as fellow workers and Australians.
- We encourage all workers and unionists to call for a cessation of the war and support a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis.

Tom McDonald, Stan Sharkey, Ernie Boatswain, Bill Ethell, Andrew Ferguson, Peter McClelland, Building Workers' Industrial Union; Jack Cambourn, Vic Fitzgerald, Federated Engine Drivers' & Firemen Association of Australasia; Marian Jacka, Actors' Equity of Australia; George Campbell, Brian Fraser, Don Cameron, Amalgamated Metals Workers' Union; Gavin Hillier, Australian Timber & Allied Industry Union; Ray Wann, Food Preservers' Union of Australia; Pat Roughan, Tom Hannan, Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union; Gordon Cooke, John McCarthy, Gordon Colquhoun, Tom Pollitt, Printing and Kindred Industries Union; Pat Geraghty, Wally Pritchard, A. Papaconstuntinos, K. McLeod, R. Chapman, J. Steele, M. Doleman, L. Stean, P. Crumlin, T. Tindale, K. McClelland, Seamen's Union of Australia; Marilyn Brown, Australian Telecommunications Employees' Association/Australian Telephone and Phonogram Officers' Union; Bernie Willingale, Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemen; Bob Gallegghan, Federated Ship Painters and Dockers' Union of Australia

This is a continuing process. Hundreds of others have already endorsed this statement, you can add your name to it by sending a signed copy to P.O. Box C337, Sydney NSW 2000
