

# YOU CAN'T BAN PEACE!

## We Swear . . . .

That the Communist Party did not establish the Australian Peace Council, does not control its policy or activities, and cannot use it for ends other than advancing world peace.

## We Welcome . . . .

The support of members of all political parties, without exception, who sincerely want peace and who are prepared sincerely to co-operate with others of different political and religious beliefs in working for peace.

## We Challenge . . . .

The action of the A.L.P. Executives of N.S.W. and Victoria in banning the Australian Peace Council and thereby dividing and confusing the Australian people at a time when all should unite in defence of peace, irrespective of political differences.

## We Invite . . . .

The A.L.P. Executives honestly to admit the accuracy of the facts stated in this folder, to lift this petty ban and to place no more obstacles in the way of the thousands of A.L.P. members who are actively supporting the work of the Australian Peace Council.

*Rev. A. M. Dickie*      *Rev. V. James*      *Frank Hartley*

REV. A. M. DICKIE  
(Chairman)

REV. V. JAMES

REV. F. J. HARTLEY  
(Joint Hon. Secs.)

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*Victorian  
Peace Council  
coll*

# To the Victorian Executive of the A.L.P.

With astonishment and concern we have read in the newspapers that your Executive has decided to ban the Australian Peace Council and expel any member of the A.L.P. taking part in its activities.

In the absence of any direct advice from your party, we must rely on newspaper reports for an explanation of your extraordinary action. According to these, your reasons are that the Australian Peace Council allegedly was established and is controlled or used by the Communist Party for Communist ends, and is therefore taboo as a "Communist Front" organisation.

We are at a loss to understand the basis on which you reached these conclusions, since no inquiries as to our constitution, membership, policy or activities were addressed to us.

The Communist Party did not establish the Australian Peace Council, does not control its policy or activities and cannot use it for ends other than advancing the cause of world peace.

These are matters of fact, capable of proof.

We sincerely hope that your decision was based on false information, and we have therefore decided to give you this full and true account of its establishment, personnel, policy, control and financial position. We ask you to reconsider your decision, failing which we will consider it our duty to place a copy of this letter in the hands of every member of the A.L.P. in Victoria.

## ESTABLISHMENT.

The Australian Peace Council was formed, and its objects defined, at a meeting held in the house of the Rev. Victor James, Cathedral Place, Melbourne, on Friday, July 1, 1949.

## PERSONNEL:

The original or foundation members of the Council were: Canon W. G. Thomas, Rev. F. J. Hartley (Methodist), Rev. A. M. Dickie (Presbyterian), Rev. V. James (Unitarian), Mrs. D. Blackburn, M.H.R., Messrs. Leonard Mann (author), J. F. Cairns (University lecturer), F. Dalby Davison (author), Brian Fitzpatrick (historian and journalist), C. B. Christesen (editor), G. H. Burchett (journalist), T. M. Gleeson (President, Victorian Clerks' Union), A. J. Cregan (President, A.R.U.), Dr. R. C. Traill (scientist), J. Rogers (Director, Australia-Soviet House), N. Rothfield (President, Jewish Council), M. C. Numan (Vice-President, Victorian Legion of Ex-Servicemen), J. W. Legge (scientist), W. F. Allen (Federation for Resistance to War), Mrs. R. Bell (President, New Housewives' Association), Heather Wakefield (Student Christian Movement), Judith Lyell (Student Christian Movement), Valerie Wadsworth (University International Co-operation Club), Rachel McLaren (Presbyterian Youth Organisation).

At the foundation meeting, an executive committee of six was elected, comprising Rev. A. M. Dickie (Chairman and Hon. Treasurer), Rev. F. J. Hartley and Rev. V. James (Joint Hon. Secretaries), Mr. J. F. Cairns, Mr. J. Rodgers, Miss Heather Wakefield.

Later, divisions of the Council were formed in other States, equally representative of the community at large, and to the national executive were added Canon W. G. Thomas, Mr. I. Turner (Australian Student Labor Federation), Rev. Gwyn Miller (Presbyterian), and Mr. A. Robertson (journalist). Miss N. Simpson (Vice-President, Woollahra State Electorate Council of the A.L.P.) was appointed Secretary of the N.S.W. Division, of which the Chairman is Mrs. Jessie Street, a very distinguished Australian and wife of the Chief Justice of New South Wales.

Can it seriously be argued that the Australian Peace Council is controlled by the Communist Party, or contains even a substantial minority of Communists?

## POLICY:

The objects of the Australian Peace Council were adopted at the inaugural meeting in July, 1949. They are:

To mobilise public opinion in support of the United Nations Charter and against the idea that war is inevitable.

To support the principle of the peaceful co-existence of different social systems and to oppose all military alliances and acts of aggression which violate the United Nations Charter and render ineffective the United Nations organisation.

To demand the immediate limitation of armaments and the outlawing of atomic energy for war purposes.

To make known the facts concerning international relations, the causes of war and the problems and aims of people of other countries.

To expose and counter all forms of war propaganda and all appeals to race hatred and prejudice.

To advocate self-determination and national independence for all peoples.

To co-operate fully with all genuine Peace Movements at home and abroad.

To collaborate with other bodies in defence of our democratic liberties and institutions.

Subsequent to the adoption of these objects, the Council, after full discussion, declared its opposition to the involvement of Australia in a military Pacific pact and its opposition to conscription.

Does your Executive disagree with us on questions of policy? If so, we should be interested to know which points of our policy you oppose.

## MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL:

All questions of policy and all activities of the Council are decided by Council members themselves, meeting monthly. Between meetings, its affairs are managed by an Executive Committee whose members are listed above. There is not, nor can there be, any outside control.

## FINANCE:

The Australian Peace Council has neither sought nor received, either directly or indirectly, one penny from the Communist Party, or any other political party. What funds we have are raised by the sale of peace buttons, by voluntary donations from individuals and organisations, and from functions and meetings organised by the Council.

## THE PEACE COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY:

Your spokesmen have pointed to the fact that we receive support from the Communist Party and from its paper, the "Guardian," as proof that we are a "Communist front" organisation.

We welcome the support of any section of the community. We do not apologise for the fact that the Communist Party and its paper have urged their members to support our activities; we welcome it, and regret that your Executive has not given a similar lead to the hundreds of A.L.P. members who are individually assisting us.

## CO-OPERATE FOR PEACE:

We do not ask our supporters whether they are Communist, Labor or Liberal. The only question we ask is: "Do you sincerely want peace, and are you prepared to work for peace with others, regardless of differing beliefs?" War, if it comes, will be no respecter of fine political distinctions.

The terrible catastrophe of an atomic war can only be met and defeated by one force—the united determination of the peoples, especially the working peoples. Any action which hinders or limits this can only bring war closer.

In the name of peace, of life itself, we ask you, again to consider your responsibility in this matter.

## ABOVE AND BEYOND PARTY POLITICS:

We urge you to acknowledge that the Australian Peace Council consists of men and women of differing political and religious views, who are united on this—that we must work now as never before for peace.

We sincerely believe that the general policy of our Council is the only policy which can guarantee a lasting peace; we ask you to judge us on this policy and on our actions for peace.

We do not seek the official endorsement of the A.L.P. or of any other political party, but we do earnestly ask you to place no obstacles in the way of the many thousands of your members and supporters who wish to be active in the cause of peace. In fact, we ask more—we ask that the members of your Executive, as individuals, give their sympathetic support to our activities for peace.

We enclose a number of Peace Ballot papers, which we ask the members of your Executive to complete and return to us, together with any comments you may desire to make, so that we can give your vote the widest publicity.

May we hope that your Executive will receive this appeal sympathetically, and will co-operate fully in this great work—the preservation of peace and of a happy, secure future for the Australian people.

Yours faithfully,

**AUSTRALIAN PEACE COUNCIL,**

(Signed) Victor James, F. J. Hartley (Joint Hon. Secs.)

## ***Here's What You Can Do For***

# **PEACE:**

- Vote in the Peace Ballot
- Join a local or job auxiliary
- Send delegates to the Australian Peace Congress  
(April 16-19, 1950)

### **CONTACT THE PEACE COUNCIL IN YOUR STATE:**

**MELBOURNE:** Sec., A.P.C., 2nd Floor, 330 Lit. Flinders St.

**SYDNEY:** Sec., A.P.C., 1st Floor, 175 Hay St.

**BRISBANE:** Sec., Queensland Peace Council, Box 2095 W, G.P.O.

**ADELAIDE:** Sec., A.P.C., Box 1494, G.P.O.

**PERTH:** Sec., A.P.C., Box N 1073, G.P.O.

**HOBART:** Mr. D. C. Jacob, "Innisfræe," Pillingers' Drive, Fern Tree, Tas.

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