

COMMITTEE OF 100

13 Goodwin Street London N4

ARChway 1239



Appeal to Trade Unionists

Brothers and Sisters,

DEADLOCK

The Great Powers are caught in a rat race that can only end in atomic war. Working people have nothing to gain from such a conflict. They can be a party no longer to the quarrels of their rulers.

All means whereby we can effectively make our feelings felt are closed. Hundreds of thousands are opposed to the Government's nuclear strategy. But both major parties support the use of the nuclear "deterrent"—sometimes against the wish of their own members. Other political parties support the manufacture and testing of the Russian Bomb, objecting only to British or American ones. None can honestly speak in the name of humanity.

OBJECTIVES

The politicians have no mandate to reduce Britain to a radio-active graveyard. Their bases and rocket sites do not "protect" us. They convert these islands into an enormous target.

The peril is so great that we have initiated a campaign of massive civil disobedience. Our aims are to draw people's attention to the dangers that confront them and to compel the government either to abandon its nuclear policy or else to get out.

DIRECT ACTION

You are all familiar with situations of industrial deadlock. The employers will not yield. All the usual channels have been exhausted. What do men then do? How do they act when they feel strongly on

the matter? They take their problems into their own hands. They resort to various forms of industrial action.

The struggle against nuclear war should be seen in much the same way. And surely now is the time to act.

THEIR LAWS . . . AND OURS

Some will denounce our methods as "undemocratic." We would reply that all our basic rights (to assemble, to organise, trade union rights, rights of free speech) were won by struggle and through direct action, often in the teeth of bitter opposition. Working people need no reminding of this. Even today major gains in industry are often won at job level, by direct action, whether "official" or "unofficial."

The millionaire press will distort our aims or present us as cranks. Mediaeval laws will be used to intimidate us. We will not give in. We refuse to be bound by a legality that has lost all meaning. What is at stake is the future of the human race. This is the only law we recognise.

YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED

The Committee of 100 calls for the support of all workers. We would like you to discuss with us and within your own ranks the aims of the campaign. We would like you to participate in the demonstrations which will take place on an increasing scale. We would like above all for you to consider what *you* can do to develop the campaign along effective lines.

Only when large sections of the working class support our objectives and are prepared to struggle for them will it be possible to avert the threat of war. Workers make the weapons of mass destruction, transport them, handle them, install them. They supply and equip those who use them. When they no longer accept to do so, the politicians will have to fight their own wars.

An effective struggle against the bomb, mobilising thousands of industrial workers, would have immense repercussions. It could challenge and defeat the Establishment. The road would then be open to a just and sane society, in which war would for ever be eliminated.