



COMMITTEE OF 100 - INDUSTRIAL SUB-COMMITTEE

BERTRAND RUSSELL'S MAY DAY APPEAL

to all workers

Another round of nuclear testing has just started. The rulers of the Pentagon, the Kremlin and Whitehall are prepared to explode bombs that will cause millions to die of leukaemia, children to be born dead, babies to grow up idiots or monsters. The callous disregard they show for the lives and health of other people is not confined to the tests in Christmas Island or the Soviet Arctic. The whole nuclear policies of East and West are leading inevitably to war.

The entire planet is covered with rocket-bases, all poised on a hair-trigger. H-bombers are continually in the air. Submarines - some based in the Holy Loch in Scotland - patrol the oceans with the power to obliterate cities. The present situation, unless radically changed, can have only one end. Whether it is the temporary madness of a United States Air Force pilot or a Red Army colonel, the mechanical failure of a radar system, or the deliberate aggressive act of one side or the other, there will be no time for second thoughts. The human race can be exterminated in a matter of minutes.

The sheer size of the peril makes it hard to imagine. If a quarrel between America and Russia, over whether American fighters could fly at over 10,000 feet in the Berlin air-corridors, was going to lead to a small war, we should be very indignant. If it meant that there was going to be an air-raid every week in which a few houses in our street would be hit, if it meant that bread was to be rationed and there was to be no tobacco, if it meant that thousands of young men were to be called up and killed in the trenches, we should say: 'This is very silly. The politicians must be told to stop and come to an intelligent agreement.'

But when it means, as all the scientists not employed by governments say it does, that EVERY SINGLE PERSON IN BRITAIN, AND HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD, are to be incinerated after a four-minute warning, then we say that it is too terrible to think about, and that it could never happen.

(cont'd)

It could happen, and unless we do something to stop it, it will. I do not believe we shall get anywhere by traditional means. We can pass resolutions at branch meetings, we can even win Labour Party Conferences, and they will put our resolutions into the waste paper basket. The peril is too great and too immediate to leave to Labour Party and Trade Union leaders. It was a Labour Government which first manufactured the British Bomb. It was the trade union leaders who supported it. The Transport & General Workers' Union has been unilateralist for several years, and has done very little about it except pass resolutions and make speeches.

When traditional methods have been exhausted in an industrial dispute, workers take direct industrial action. We have tried the traditional methods in the struggle against the Bomb, and we have exhausted them. It is time for each one of us to consider how best to take DIRECT ACTION.

Every time a docker unloads a shipment for Aldermaston, every time an engineer makes components for H-bombers, every time a grocer supplies food to an American base like Wethersfield, every time a lorry-driver carries goods for a rocket site, on each occasion he helps the men of power to carry us nearer and nearer to war. Each one of us is responsible for the present situation because we allowed it to come about. Each one of us is responsible for doing something to prevent the Third World War.

It is time for ordinary people all over the world, in London and New York and Moscow and Peking, to say 'NO' to the power-mad politicians. There are powerful interests opposed to us. The leaders want to stay in power. The arms industries want to keep up their dividends. Nuclear war is very profitable, provided it does not occur.

Today is May Day. Let it be a day when we start a campaign of industrial action against the headlong rush to nuclear death. The men in control of Washington and Moscow care very little for our wishes, our hopes, and our fears. But they rely on those who build and transport their bombs and aircraft and instruments. They rely on those who unload their ships and those who provide goods for the bases and food for the men who will drop the bombs. WHEN ORDINARY PEOPLE IN THEIR MILLIONS REFUSE TO HELP THEM IN THEIR MAD POLICIES, THEY WILL BE FORCED TO STOP.

Bertrand Russell.

If you would like further information about the Industrial Sub-Committee, please write to us. We can supply speakers for trade union branch or factory gate meetings. We would like YOUR help to carry the campaign where it matters most - into the docks, workshops, building sites and railway-yards. Financial support is urgently needed. Please send what you can to Bro. P. Turner, (ASW), Treasurer, at 9 South Block, Peabody Estate, Lawrence St., S.W.3. All moneys received will be acknowledged.