

PEACE - NEWS - LETTER

Published by and for the New York State Peace Council, No. 52-16

SPC No. 168

50 cents per year

October 16, 1952

FEET COLD? "Give us clear vision that we may know where to stand and what to stand for, because unless we stand for something we shall fall for anything. ... Save us from hot-heads that would lead us to act foolishly, and from cold feet that would keep us from acting at all." (Peter Marshall, late Chaplain to the US Senate.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Because of the growing current interest and concern for ending the killing in Korea, expressed in our correspondence, we are devoting a major part of our space this month to this subject. Note the suggestion for your action.

FORM OF FIRE Recently, Secretary for Defense Lovett declared that the napalm (jelly) bomb is only a "form of fire" and that fire has been used as a weapon since Biblical days. A group of British scientists, not satisfied with this sanction, issued a pamphlet in September and called for vigorous protest against the use of this weapon "in the name of humanity and the good repute of science." (Here science and religion meet. See "In God's Name," below.) The burst of a napalm bomb produces a cloud of burning petroleum which expands to a diameter of 50 to 100 yards, engulfing and penetrating buildings and creating temperatures high enough to soften steel.

The typical result of a slight exposure to napalm is described as follows:

"The subject is hairless, due to loss of scalp. His face is a uniform scar, with running and infected eyes which he can never close. He is probably blind. His hands, if exposed, are reduced to contracted claws. Ears, nostrils, lips and fingertips are likely to have been lost. Painful scars will also occur on any part of the body reached by the burning material."

The pamphlet points out the indiscriminate nature of the damage caused. Close to the center of the burst the result is "almost instantaneous death by incineration of every man, woman and child."

"IN GOD'S NAME..." A group of nationally known clergymen, including Dahlberg, Crane, Poteat and Stamm, well-known in this area, have issued "An appeal to the conscience of mankind for peace in Korea." They say, "Let us join in (1) an appeal to BOTH sides in the conflict to cease killing in Korea now; (2) request that negotiations be taken out of the hands of the military and that all remaining issues be committed to civilian representatives. They quote:

"Even if no agreement is signed, the fighting should stop... We should stop aerial bombardment or any other action not strictly of a defensive character. We should stop threatening, and any officer who talks of bombarding or blockading the Chinese coast should be recalled. We doubt whether there will be peace in Korea for a long time, but that does not necessarily mean that we are therefore condemned to war." --The Christian Century, May 21, 1952.

"Christians should demand the outlawing of the use of weapons so horrible and destructive to all who come within their range, whether soldier, civilian, man, woman or child." --The Archbishop of York, Dr. Cyril Garbett.

"Nothing could be more disastrous than a fatalistic acceptance of the inevitability of World War III. It is the most ominous specter that hangs over the life of our generation. To envision it is to dash to the ground every climbing hope for a more Christian world." --Episcopal Address of the Bishops of The Methodist Church to the General Conference, San Francisco, 1952.

They invite your endorsement to be gathered with others and sent to the President, the State Department, the Congress, and the present candidates. This office will forward all expressions received here to Dr. Dahlberg.

FOR SUFFERINGS "Meeting for Sufferings," this time the appropriately named executive body of the Society of Friends in Great Britain, has made proposals to Prime Minister Churchill for ending the stalemate in Korea:

"(1) First, then, we suggest the establishment of a cease-fire immediately,

Friends 9/4/52
Peace Cpn. 1/52
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Phila. 2

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"A Plea for Peace"
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New York 11 Co. N.Y.
Dr. T. Dahlberg
1528 Peace St. Phila.

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"(1) First, then, we suggest the establishment of a cease-fire immediately, on the conditions already agreed upon by the negotiators at Panmunjom, leaving the unresolved issues, especially the matter of the release of prisoners, to fresh negotiations after the fighting has stopped.

"This suggestion we make for two reasons.

"First, even if it causes some delay on both sides in the return of prisoners to their homes, it means an earlier cessation of the carnage and destruction. The daily continuance of war measures is, in our opinion, constantly embittering the situation and endangering world peace generally.

"Further, it seems to us high time that the negotiators at Panmunjom be released from their exacting and exhausting labours, and that fresh minds be brought to bear on the problems that remain unsolved.

"(2) In the matter of re-screening and release of prisoners of war, we suggest that the negotiations be put into the hands of a commission either representing a few Asian Governments in which both sides have confidence, or a mixed commission of two appointed by each side.

"A Plea for Peace" 105 College St. Ed. by Dr. Dahlberg

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"We realize that adherence to the strict letter of the Geneva Convention involves the return of all prisoners without question. At the same time it should be recognized that the main purpose of the Geneva Convention was to safeguard prisoners, and in the days when it was adopted it was hardly anticipated that some soldiers might be reluctant to be repatriated. . . .

"We hope, therefore, that the spirit of the Geneva Convention rather than its letter may be respected in this instance. Those prisoners who do not wish to be repatriated should, we suggest, be given asylum in areas where they cannot be used in any further fighting.

"(3) We trust that the good offices of India may be fully used in all negotiations for the restoration of peace in Korea.

"(4) Finally we trust that all governments will urge upon the Press and radio in their respective countries--and will themselves practise--restraint in all comments on the dispute, and that they will not impute evil motives to the other side.

"(5) We appreciate that some or all of these suggestions may have been considered already but we renew them in the earnest hope that along such lines agreement may be found, the fighting be brought speedily to an end and the foundations laid for a true peace."

GOOD SPORTS Phillip J. Noel-Baker, Olympic runner for Great Britain in 1912, member of Labour Cabinets, and leader of the British contingent to Helsinki this summer, writes of the Games:

"There were people who thought that the Helsinki Games involved a serious risk. The Russians, the Germans, the Japanese, were here for the first time since the war. Korea had a team, who performed extremely well. . . All the countries from behind the Iron Curtain sent large contingents. With the present international tensions, could 'incidents' be avoided? Could politics be kept out?

"There have been no politics; and no incidents worth the name. Neither Russia nor Germany won gold medals in any of the track or field events for men. But both did extremely well not only on the track but in other sports also; both are genuinely proud of their achievements. . . . The Russian athletes, clearly, have not only learned sport; they have learned sportsmanship as well.

"Even in the most 'difficult' sports--boxing, basketball, water polo--the Russians were a model both in spirit and in behavior. They were very friendly with other teams; and it was genuine, not put on. Their entry into the Olympic Games was a success in every way. The same is true of the strong team from Western Germany. They did extremely well on the track; they were modest, unassuming, sporting, friendly. . . ."

REVISION? One of our alert readers (we are grateful for evidence of such reader interest) challenges the characterization last month of Mossadegh as a dictator; and submits in evidence the following quotation from a New Republic article by Justice W. O. Douglas.

"Let me tell you about Mossadegh in Persia.... He was opposed on all sides by two groups: the British and landlord groups and the Communist group. Out of two million votes the Communist group got 25,000 votes; but out of the first 80 candidates, the Communists in Persia didn't get a single candidate into the parliament.I say he's a man who should be respected and supported.

"Mossadegh is a wealthy man--an aristocrat. He has a land program that calls for the break-up of the feudal estates of Persia, for a sale of that land to the peasants, so that Persia will have the kind of land program that we, thank God, have had in this country, even before the Civil War, when all the land of the West was opened up to our people and nobody got too much. Mossadegh would limit the holdings in Persia. The land problem is the heart of the problem of Iran. Mossadegh is out to solve it. Mossadegh in Persia presents an opportunity that is rare. There aren't many political leaders that you can back in the Middle East because they're largely the status quo group, the feudal group, the landlord group. And why spend American taxpayers' money financing them?"

BOOK END A British review of PEACE, WAR AND YOU by Jerome Davis, on sale at this

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555 Ocean Ave., Brooklyn 26,
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10-8-52

BOOK END A British review of PEACE, WAR AND YOU by Jerome Davis, on sale at this office. \$3.00, postpaid. Dr. Davis has traveled long and widely throughout the world; his contact with Russia dates from 1917 when he undertook Y.M.C.A. war work there. His book is addressed primarily to American readers to arouse them to a sense of individual responsibility. It is a courageous book in that he tries to understand and to express points of view which run counter to the strong current of opinion in his country and to the bitterly antagonistic propaganda through the Press, radio and other means. He opposes totalitarianism whether it be in the U.S.S.R., South America, Spain or in the U.S.A.

One World, London
Aug. - Sept. '52
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