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A Great Danger Threatens the Peoples

The NATO Council has decided to use atomic weapons

'The Council considered a report by the Military Committee on the most effective pattern of N.A.T.O. military defensive strength over the next few years, taking into account modern developments in weapons and techniques. It approved this report as a basis for defense planning and preparations by the N.A.T.O. military authorities.'

(Paragraph VI of the official communique published at the end of the thirteenth session of the N.A.T.O. Council, December 18, 1954).

Civil and Military Leaders Confirm their Intention to Use Atomic Weapons

Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery

'I want to make it absolutely clear that we at S.H.A.P.E. are basing all our operational planning on using atomic and thermonuclear weapons in our defence. It is no longer a question of "They may possibly be used." It is very definitely "they will be used — if we are attacked."

(From a speech to the Royal United Services Institution, quoted in the Manchester Guardian, October 22, 1954)

General J. D. Stevenson,

Commander of the 49th U.S. Air Division in Great Britain.

'Each aircraft to be seen here (*Bentwaters aerodrome near Woodbridge, Ed.*) today can carry a greater destructive punch to any one target than all the aircraft which were in these islands in the Second World War loaded with high explosives.

'Two and half years ago the 49th Air Division was deployed to the United Kingdom for the purpose of giving an atomic punch in support of N.A.T.O. forces.'

(The Times, December 11, 1954)

The N.A.T.O. Military Committee

'The annual review presented by N.A.T.O.'s military experts said they would swing into plans next year for the defense of the West with nuclear weapons.'

(New York Times, December 18, 1954)

U.S. Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles,

at a press conference, December 21, 1954.

'Tactical weapons such as atomic cannon are fast becoming conventional, Mr. Dulles said, and presumably would be used in the event of war. He said the North Atlantic Council had authorized the military commanders to draw up their plans and preparations on the assumption that nuclear weapons would be used.'

(The New York Times, December 22, 1954)

Mr. Henri Spaak, Belgian Foreign Minister

'This decision (*to use atomic weapons, Ed.*) answers the wishes of the military authorities completely, authorising them to get ready for an atomic war.'

(At a press conference after the session of the N.A.T.O. Council)

U.S. News and World Report

(December 24, 1954) commenting on the N.A.T.O. Council decision:

'Atomic and thermonuclear weapons will be used in a future war. The American armed forces will surrender no freedom of action in the use of these weapons from bases in this country or from aircraft carriers.

'The Allies will be consulted before atomic weapons are used, provided time permits. The Allies, however, will not be given a veto over new weapon use. There is to be no temporising, no shadowland of uncertainty about who can do what in time of emergency.'

According to the London and Paris agreements, the new Wehrmacht would have atomic and nuclear weapons.

'As nuclear weapons become more readily available the day approaches when they will be necessary and normal for all N.A.T.O. forces... The decision to plan on this basis seems, therefore, to bring nearer a decision to distribute such weapons to N.A.T.O. countries which do not at present possess them — for instance to Germany once she has become a N.A.T.O. member...'

(The Times, December 18, 1954)

The Consequences of an Atomic War

The explosion of the first atomic bomb over Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, killed more than 200,000 people and its terrifying effects on human life continue.

In Nagasaki, over which another bomb was dropped, recent statistics show that of the 30,150 babies born in the city during the last nine years, 4,282 are abnormal—a proportion of one in seven.

Even simple experiments, such as those carried out by the United States at Bikini on March 1, 1954, caused the death of a Japanese fisherman, Kuboyama, while 23 other fishermen were taken seriously ill. Further results were the radioactive poisoning of fish intended for food and a great deal of other material damage which constituted a real catastrophe for Japan.

The U.S. News and World Report of December 24, 1954, gave the following details:

'Today, nearly 10 months after the H bomb explosion, responsible Japanese doctors report these things:

- All of the fishermen who survived now are sterile.*
- The one who died after seven months succumbed to damages by radioactivity, primarily to the liver. Of the badly injured, all have liver ailments now.*
- Future delayed-action ailments are expected to appear, caused by radioactive substances now lodged in the bodies of the survivors.*
- Present condition of survivors seems to vary for unaccountable reasons. None has regained his normal health.*
- Damage by radioactivity apparently has centered in the generative organs, as well as the liver. Sterility, it now develops, became more and more complete.'*

'Palpably Suicidal'

From an article by the Alsop brothers

'One five-megaton Super-SUPER will not only kill the unsheltered human and animal population in a area of 6,000 square miles; it will also immobilize the sheltered survivors for more than two days. Two such bombs will put an area of 12,000 square miles out of action; and 100 Super-SUPERs could destroy most of our major cities and temporarily paralyze a large part of the productive area of the United States. Such are the toys the nations are now playing with, in the game of the cold war.'

(New York Herald Tribune, September 28, 1954)

Capt. B. H. Liddell Hart, military commentator and military editor of the Encyclopedia Britannica

'In the case of this country, (Great Britain, Ed.), where the vital targets are closely grouped, it has been estimated that as few as five thermonuclear bombs might suffice, and that 10 would almost certainly suffice to blot out all its main centres of industry — comprising half the population. Still fewer would suffice to paralyse the vital centres of France, Belgium and Holland. Moreover, paralysis and collapse can be produced by moral effect even where destruction does not take place...

'The supreme fact of the hydrogen bomb era is that war has become palpably suicidal.'

(Excerpts from a letter printed in The Times, January 3, 1955)

Eminent Scientists Warn Public Opinion

Albert Einstein

'We cannot stop warning continuously and repeatedly; we cannot relax our efforts to make the nations of the world and above all their governments realise the unspeakable disaster they are certain to provoke if they do not change their attitude to each other and their way of looking at the future.'

(L'Express, Paris, November 27, 1954)

Frederic Joliot-Curie

'As for hydrogen bombs, whose power can be increased to a diabolical extent, it can even be foreseen that their use would risk making all life on our world impossible.'

'When one talks about world war today, that is what is implied. How then is it possible to remain indifferent in the face of such dangers? The simple instinct of self-preservation must make all mankind unite now to demand more than ever the prohibition of these fearful weapons.'

(Speech in Paris, October 4, 1954)

J. Robert Oppenheimer

'You can certainly destroy enough of humanity so that only the greatest act of faith can persuade you that what is left will be human.'

(New York Herald Tribune, January 6, 1955)

Charles Noel Martin

(in a report presented to the French Academy of Sciences)

'Since nuclear bombs were first exploded ten years ago, the earth has been used as a laboratory and everything living, man included, as guinea pigs. The consequences will be spread out over years, even generations.'

(L'Express, Paris, November 27, 1954)

E. H. S. Burhop

'Thermonuclear weapons, used "tactically" on the Elbe, may produce death and injury due to radioactive "fall-out" on Oslo, Amsterdam, Paris and London. Over vast areas of Europe the ground will become so contaminated that life will be insupportable and over a very much wider area the grain and vegetable crops and the fish of the sea will be in danger of radioactive contamination. The "tactical" use of nuclear weapons as planned by the Western powers in the event of war will mean death, immediate or delayed, to countless millions of European civilians.'

(In a specially written article on the effects of the N.A.T.O. Council's decision)

Public Outcry against Preparations for Atomic War

The Dean of Canterbury, Dr. Hewlett Johnson

'Has the Christian idea of God sunk so far behind the pre-Christian idea, that Christians are not prepared to utter protest at the command of the Atlantic Pact Ministers last Friday to the Western Powers' Generals: "Go ahead with your plans for the hydrogen bomb war with all available atomic and nuclear weapons."'

*(Sermon in Canterbury Cathedral,
December 19, 1954)*

22 Million Signatures against the Atomic Bomb in Japan

The Japanese National Council against A and H bombs announced in December 1954 that, to date, 22 million Japanese had signed the petition demanding the banning of atomic weapons. This petition has been presented to the government.

(From the press)

The Coventry-Stalingrad Joint Appeal, sent to U.N.O. in November 1954:

'We consider that it is our moral duty and right to call on the United Nations Organisation to take necessary measures to secure the banning of atom and hydrogen weapons, to prohibit their production and secure their complete removal from the armaments of states ...

'We are firmly convinced that the outlawing of atom and hydrogen weapons would contribute greatly to the peace of the world and result in the immediate release of the tension between the countries.'

Walter Reuther, President of the C.I.O., in an interview:

'I believe that world problems cannot be solved by military means. On the contrary, an atomic war could not lead to victory but only to general destruction.'

(Arbeiter-Zeitung, Vienna, December 19, 1954)

Message sent to the United Nations in 1954 by the doctors of Rosario in Argentina

'Can we who, when we adopted the medical profession, took the oath to preserve life and relieve the sufferings of men, go about our business with a clear mind and tranquilly draw up plans for the future when weapons capable of killing many millions of men and women in a few hours are being prepared and stockpiled?'

Neuer Vorwärts, newspaper of the German Social Democratic Party, in its editorial of December 31, 1954

'The new scientific knowledge resulting from the splitting of the atom opens two prospects before the human race: either it succeeds in placing atomic energy at the service of peaceful construction, thus creating the possibility of overcoming in a comparatively short space of time, through new and revolutionary methods of production, the poverty and famine from which many peoples of the earth are still suffering; or else atomic energy will remain in the service of the policy of military strength, in which case a future war will end in the destruction of civilisation ...'

Pravda, December 16, 1954

'The whole Soviet people have indignantly condemned the sabre-rattling of the American militarists with their atomic weapons, and demand a ban on them.'

The Peoples' Action Must Stop Atomic War

Today, when a great number of atomic weapons have been produced and when even more powerful weapons have been perfected and tested — with what tragic results — an attempt is being made to override the censure of public opinion and to lead it, by stages, to accept the possible use of tactical atomic weapons, then strategic atom bombs, and finally thermonuclear bombs. It would appear that henceforth discussion should only bear on how nuclear weapons should be used, whereas the first and only problem is the very principle of the use of these weapons.

In short, these recent decisions of the Atlantic Council are the final touch to the preparations for unleashing atomic war.

Once nuclear war began, it would be waged with the full range of existing weapons. Think of the deserts that are Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Think of the unfortunate victims in the Pacific *who were hundreds of miles away* from the explosion on March 1, 1954. Tell yourself that nowhere will you be safe and that effective civil defence is an illusion. Understand that the nuclear bombing of any target in the world will sow immediate or delayed death even in places very far away.

The problem that is raised is not that of the level — General Staff, Minister, or meeting of Ministers, with or without veto, — at which atomic war will be decided on. The problem is: will mankind accept the ruins and destruction, the death of hundreds of millions of living beings, wretchedness for the survivors and the probable birth of freaks, and even the possible annihilation of all life on our planet?

*From a statement by the President of the
World Council of Peace, Frédéric Joliot-
Curie, January 13, 1955*

Appeal against the Preparations for Atomic War

Today, certain governments are preparing to let loose atomic war.

They are trying to make the peoples accept it as inevitable.

The use of atomic weapons would result in a war of extermination.

We declare that any government that lets loose atomic war will forfeit the trust of its people and find itself condemned by every people of the world.

Now and in the future, we shall oppose those who organise atomic war.

We demand the destruction of all stocks of atomic weapons wherever they may be and the immediate stopping of their manufacture.

Vienna, January 19, 1955

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RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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