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The following Press Statement was issued by the Transvaal Peace Council on May 21st in connection with the letters sent by the Minister of Justice to Mr. M. Harmel and Mr. I. Wolfson instructing them to resign from the Peace Council:

STATEMENT BY REVEREND D.C. THOMPSON
(CHAIRMAN) ON BEHALF OF THE TRANSVAAL
PEACE COUNCIL.

Two members of the Transvaal Peace Council, Messrs. I. Wolfson and Michael Harmel, have been instructed by the Minister of Justice to take no further part in the activities of this body. They have also been forbidden to attend any gatherings or to leave this Province for a period of two years.

It is with the gravest consternation that the Transvaal Peace Council has learnt also of notices issued by Mr. C.R. Swart, in his capacity of Minister of Justice, to certain other individuals, ordering them not to participate in the activities of the Council or those of the Cape Town Peace Council, or to resign from these bodies.

Both of these bodies, in common with many similar organisations, throughout the world, have been called into existence by the menace which hangs over mankind - the threat of a new world war. Such a war today, with the development of atomic weapons and bacteriological means of mass destruction, may cost countless millions of human lives, and place the survival of mankind, in jeopardy.

It is for the sole purpose of preventing such an untinkable disaster that the Transvaal Peace Council was formed, and that it carries out its public activities in favour of a Pact of Peace among the great powers of the world. THE PEACE COUNCIL HAS TAKEN NO SIDES IN THE POLITICAL CONFLICT OF SOUTH AFRICA. We aim to unite men and women of all parties and races in this non-partisan campaign. We are opposed only to those forces which aim at war. BY ITS ATTACK UPON THE PEACE MOVEMENT THE GOVERNMENT IS IDENTIFYING ITSELF WITH THE PROTAGONISTS OF A THIRD WORLD WAR.

We cannot allow ourselves to be intimidated in our work for world peace by threats from the Nationalist Government or anyone else. We believe that it is our duty to work for peace; and we publicly state our intention of continuing this work whatever the consequences may be.

for: REVEREND D.C. THOMPSON.
CHAIRMAN.

TRANSVAAL PEACE COUNCIL.
P.O. Box 525. Johannesburg.

May 21st, 1952.

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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