

VERTROUWELIJKINTERNATIONALE CONFERENTIE TEGEN DE ATOOMBOM EN TEGEN DE OORLOG

Op initiatief van het "International Sub-Committee" van het Britse "National Committee of 100" is van 10 t/m 12 november jl. in Krasnapolsky te Amsterdam een besloten, internationale conferentie gehouden, ten doel hebbende om door het uitwisselen van ervaringen, gedachten en plannen te komen tot internationale uitbreiding en coördinatie van de niet-gewelddadige directe actie tegen de atoombom en tegen de oorlog in het algemeen.

De gedachten gingen daarbij o.m. uit naar het vormen - ingevolge het Engelse voorbeeld - van comité's van 100 in de landen op het continent en van een internationaal overkoepelend comité.

Hun aanvankelijk voornemen om een internationale anti-oorlogsorganisatie op te richten - zoals was voorgesteld door de Japanse studentenorganisatie Zengakuren - hebben de initiatiefnemers, na besprekingen met de War Resisters International en de Europese Federatie tegen kernbewapening, laten varen.

Aan de conferentie is deelgenomen door ongeveer 60 individuele personen en afgevaardigden van vredesorganisaties, zowel Nederlanders als buitenlanders. Daaronder bevonden zich geen communisten of communistisch georiënteerden.

Deelname door tot deze laatste categorieën behorende personen zou trouwens moeilijk te rijmen zijn geweest met de opzet van de conferentie, die beoogde te zijn een bijeenkomst van figuren uit echte, onafhankelijke vredesorganisaties. In een schrijven van Peter Cadogan van het "National Committee of 100" wordt dienaangaande ter verduidelijking gesteld dat het hier betreft: "those (organisations) that are equally opposed to all weapons of mass destruction and to military alliances East and West alike".

In dit verband kan nog worden opgemerkt dat Mevrouw Minnaert-Coelingh van de (communistische) Nederlandse Vredesraad aan de vooravond van de conferentie contact opnam met het "Comité 1962 voor de Vrede" en verzocht als toehoorder de conferentie te mogen bijwonen.

Genoemd comité had daar aanvankelijk geen bezwaar tegen, doch toen bleek dat men vooral van Engelse zijde sterk gekant was tegen de aanwezigheid van communistisch georiënteerde personen, werd haar

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verzoek afgewezen.

De algehele leiding van de conferentie berustte bij Peter Cadogan voornoemd; de organisatie van de ontvangst was verzorgd door het "Comité 1962 voor de Vrede".

Blijkens uitlatingen van Cadogan heeft de conferentie niet beantwoord aan het doel dat het "Committee of 100" zich had gesteld. Zo was het de bedoeling geweest dat de conferentie naar buiten een demonstratief karakter zou hebben, doch het "Comité 1962 voor de Vrede" had hem te verstaan gegeven dat zulks voorlopig onmogelijk was. Bovendien was er niets gekomen van het oprichten van overeenkomstige comité's in andere landen. Cadogan betitelde de bijeenkomst als een praatconferentie, die als een nachtkaars was uitgegaan.

De conferentie heeft in de vorm van aanbevelingen een aantal resoluties aangenomen. (Zie bijlage no. 1.)

In het bijzonder moge worden gewezen op hetgeen daarin wordt gezegd inzake het op internationaal niveau inschakelen van bootwerkers bij acties tegen schepen met nucleaire ladingen. In vertrouwde kring werd hieromtrent nog gezegd dat men met het oog hierop een waarschuwingssysteem wil ontwerpen, waarbij in iedere Europese haven dient te worden beschikt over één of meer personen, die een waarschuwing zullen moeten doorgeven naar het land waar deze schepen hun ladingen zullen moeten lossen. De Westduitse afgevaardigde Kloppenburg deelde hieromtrent mede te weten dat in zijn land de havenarbeiders zullen weigeren schepen met nucleaire wapens te lossen.

In zeer vertrouwde kring werd reeds een aantal contactadressen verstrekt, alsmede een centraal adres in Liverpool, waaraan de bewegingen van schepen met nucleaire lading onverwijld dienen te worden gemeld.

30 januari 1963

Bijlage 1

THE PROPOSITIONS.

1. Today we see our primary object as total opposition to nuclear weapons and nuclear bases and from this standpoint we have built and are building a peace movement of a new kind and of dimensions without precedent. Given this primary object it is apparent that the thinking of many of us has moved and is moving from an anti-bomb to an anti-war position, but this does not alter our starting point and the ground for a movement of the widest character that this makes possible.

2. We ask our friends in the peace movements of every country in the world to consider what they might do to promote non-violent direct action against the bomb and the danger of a third world war. This is the more important because:

- a) traditional forms of political action are proving incapable of meeting the dangers produced by powerpolitics.
- b) the failure of official disarmament talks has proved that we cannot rely upon government initiatives.

By non-violent action we mean:

- a) that in our opposition to the bomb we should use means that in themselves express our answer to the Bomb i.e. human values, personal insistence on peace.
- b) the use of methods of expression and demonstration that enables us to communicate our case to police and troops who might be used against us.
- c) to accept the fact that if we used the methods of the other side we would in any case face inevitable defeat.

By direct action we mean:

- a) the acceptance of personal responsibility for what has to be done.
- b) the creation of new forms of organisation in which personal responsibility eliminates the old distinction

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between leaders and led and makes for a new creative association of equals.

- c) forms of action in which responsibility is undertaken by those who volunteer rather than by those who are elected.

3. We want to see the demonstrations of Easter 1963 given a new international character by the presence of much larger international contingents. We urge people everywhere to consider what they might do personally and through their organisations to make this possible.

4. We welcome the proposal that we understand is coming from the German Easter March Committee that in the World Campaign International (or whatever it is to be called) there be provision for a section of those whose special interest is in non-violent direct action. We suggest that in the preparation of the agenda of the January Conference there be provision for a full discussion of individual responsibility and reliance upon the growth of popular movements as distinct from Governments and established political machinery.

5. That marches in East and West European countries which are focused in achieving disengagement in Central Europe should:

- a) where possible start from or end at NATO & WARSAW pact bases
- b) make the demand that their governments should each immediately start to implement plans for the disengagement and not wait for reciprocal agreements and negotiated treaties on disarmament.

6. That we put it to our friends in Germany that they consider simultaneous West & East German marches to the East-West German border without attempting to cross it i.e. we do not suggest action that can be interpreted as provocation.

7. To organize an exchange of information between the movements and groups participating in the conference according to the principle that each movement and group taking part should commit

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itself to sending to the other movements and groups taking part a copy of each publication, bulletin, circular, pamphlet, appeal, etc. published by that group.

8. We propose that the January Conference called by the European Federation consider the world wide message intended by the demonstrations of Easter 1963 with a view to recommending to national peace organisations suitable slogans to be used in demonstrations.

For our part we suggest:

"We will not have nuclear bases in our country"

"Dismantle foreign bases everywhere now"

"Against nuclear weapons East and West"

"Against military alliances East and West"

"People of the world, unite for Peace"

"We want exchange of people and not of bombs"

"No East-West division in the struggle for peace"

"Bombs of East and West - No East or West"

"Violence has failed - use non-violence"

"Non-violence is good for East and West"

"Youth of East and West want to live"

"Join us to save mankind"

"Bombs destroy - they do not protect"

"Scientists for social progress, not for better bombs"

"Children of the world need, not bombs, but love and care"

"Seek with us for non-violent means"

"Disengagement begins at home"

9. That since the W.R.I. headquarters are able to provide telephone and office facilities we ask them to consider acting as a continuation and liaison committee for this conference and non-violent direct action groups throughout the world and help to recall this conference as and when it is considered necessary.

10. We ask the peace organisations all over the world to try to establish a study and training centre in their country and to try to see that young people, especially conscientious objectors, visit these centres for some time to become trained volunteers in non-violent action.

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11. The Amsterdam Conference is convinced of the value of holding another meeting of the participants to this conference in, say, the spring of 1963. It therefore recommends to those who will be in charge of keeping in contact with the peace organisations represented here that they carry on the work and call this further meeting.

12. The Conference invites the organisations represented here to avail themselves of the opportunities which the London conference will offer of meeting again to carry on the debate started here.

13. Action precedes the organisation of a movement. Because in the course of action individuals create a genuinely human and democratic movement, we encourage the development of local and national initiatives of direct actions for peace and see these leading eventually to a substantial anti-war International.

International direct action has already occurred in the San Francisco-Moscow march, the Everyman project, etc. and such international action can be furthered best by developing functional rather than administrative structures. For example, if there were docker groups in several countries, these could develop the telephonic convener's system suggested by Pat Arrowsmith as an effective device of direct action against nuclear cargoes.

14. This conference believes that it is not necessary at this stage to set up another new formal organism to co-ordinate direct actions and demonstrations internationally conceived.

Direct contact can be established between the various organisations and local groups through established sympathetic and co-operating bodies such as W.R.I., Zengkakuren, W.P.B., Peace News, Committee of hundred etc. The W.R.I. has an information service which could be developed if it is provided with news from all interested groups, and we urge all direct action groups to use this facility.

15. We commend the idea of demonstrations of a dual character i.e. with direct action being taken by those who believe in it and with associated forms of conventional action taking place at the same or related places and at the same time. We urge that in the planning of such demonstrations the organizers of both sides of the demonstration work in the closest contact throughout - if possible on a joint committee.

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16. This meeting has taught us that to know each other better is a necessary prelude to common action. We trust that this Conference will be only the first of frequent contacts between the peace movements of our several countries.

17. The non-violent struggle against nuclear weapons must be not only an end in itself, but must carry with it its positive aspects. We must develop several forms of service and constructive association and so demonstrate from the start this aspect of our ultimate end.

18. Recognising the permanent crisis in which we live we shall by direct action seek to express the feelings of the millions of people throughout the world who would be effected by modern war. We consider that the wealth of the advanced countries involves them in responsibility for the poverty of the less advanced countries and that this, not re-
armament, should be their immediate concern.

19. We shall try whenever possible to emphasise the positive and constructive aspects of our struggle and its intimate relation to the struggle against poverty, hunger and want. For example perhaps the most successful demonstration held recently in England had as its declared aim the reconversion of an air-base to peaceful uses. It was intended to plough up the airfield and plant food for War on Want. A plough was taken to the base and land immediately outside the perimeter was actually ploughed and sown. We believe that similar positive actions, even if the force of circumstances compels them to be purely symbolic, are of great value to the movement everywhere.