

THE NEWSLETTER

ALDERMASTON - WHAT NEXT?

Many of us who have been on this great march from the beginning are advocates of industrial action against the hydrogen-bomb and the construction of rocket bases. We believe that the Trades Union Congress and the executives of the trade unions concerned should 'black' this kind of work - that is to say, should openly declare that it is work no trade unionist should have any part in. We believe that this kind of leadership and this kind of action are necessary to put teeth into the campaign for nuclear disarmament.

Yesterday The Newsletter approached the organizers of the march to seek permission to put our point of view for ten minutes at today's meeting. This was refused, and that is why we are distributing this leaflet.

Many of our fellow-marchers, like ourselves, have been disappointed by the tone of some of the speeches made at meetings along the route. It is all very well condemning the H-bomb from a religious, moral or humanitarian standpoint. But what the Aldermaston marchers are asking for is a clear lead on what to do next. Where do we go from here? What can we do? Are we merely to pass pious resolutions - or are there ways of acting against this fearful weapon?

Look at what the West German workers are doing, in many cases spontaneously. They are demanding strike action against nuclear weapons. This shows what is needed here in Britain. The Aberdeen plumbers, the Liverpool Trades and Labour Council, Leeds Labour Party and a great number of other working-class organizations, have proposed similar action by the British workers.

We say quite frankly to our pacifist and religious friends: we admire your zeal against the bomb. But the churches of the world could not stop the dropping of atom bombs on Hiroshima or Nagasaki, - nor can this march by itself stop the manufacture of the H-bomb. It can at most help to create a climate of opinion in which really determined action will become possible. But one refusal by Electrical Trades Union members to wire up a rocket site, by Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers and Transport and General Workers' Union members to dig the foundations, would show the government that the opponents of the bomb mean business! Our campaign should now be turned directly to the trade unions and other organizations of the Labour movement. We must urge them to take the only sort of action that will give our rulers pause.

Not passive resistance, but active resistance, in the shape of go-slows, solidarity action, mass demonstrations by industrial workers, mass refusal to lift a finger to bring these weapons into being - this is what we need.

Let British Labour refuse to lift a finger to make the bomb, and the bomb will not be made. Let British Labour refuse to lift a finger to build the bases, and the bases will not be built. Let British Labour call for an international campaign on these lines - and the workers of America, Russia, Germany and elsewhere will respond. Of this we can be sure.

Some may call this leaflet Communist Party propaganda. It is not - as a matter of fact the leaders of the Communist Party are against unilateral renunciation of the bomb by Britain, a demand which they brand as 'hypocrisy' and a 'red herring'. Of course the British Peace Committee banner has made an intermittent appearance here, and individual members of the Communist Party, who are worried about their leaders' attitude, have taken part, along with others of widely differing views.

Yet those who call this march 'non-political' are deluding themselves. Of course it is a political act to march against the bomb in this way. Proof of this is the attitude of Tory-dominated Councils in boroughs through which we have passed. Proof is the way the millionaire newspapers have sneered at us. We have engaged in a political act of the most fundamental kind. We have marched against the Tory Government and against politicians of whatever party who support the bomb.

The time has now come for opposition to the bomb to be taken on to the industrial arena, into factories and mines and on to building sites, so that a great movement of working-class resistance will destroy both the bomb and any government or social system that insists on making it.

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