

WAR RESISTERS INTERNATIONAL; WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT ADVOCATES

In many countries there are organisations of men and women who are pledged to refuse all war service. They are affiliated to an International Secretariat „Paco” Bilthoven, Holland. The basis of the international movement is simple but uncompromising. Members of the affiliated bodies are required to agree to this affirmation:

„War is a crime against Humanity. I have therefore decided to support no kind of war, and to strive to remove all causes of war.”

Holding these views War Resisters welcome the proposal of a General Strike whenever war is threatened. They urge that the Trade Unions should agree to declare a strike as soon as their Governments order mobilisation of troops, and that the strike should be continued until the order has been withdrawn and other steps taken to settle the dispute. They consider that the General Strike proposal should not be left as a vague idea. The organisation ought immediately to be prepared and the necessary finances raised. They propose that commissions should be appointed in all countries for this purpose, and that they should act in conjunction with the International Bureau of the Trade Union Conference.

At the same time the Resisters do not think that resistance to war should depend upon the decisions of National and International executives. If the resistance is to be effective it must come from the impulse of the rank and file. They therefore urge that propaganda should be conducted to make the members of the Trade Union Movement understand their individual responsibility. They wish to make the workers realise that to take any part in war or preparations for war is a denial of their international solidarity. They therefore urge individual refusal of all war service and of the manufacture of war materials.

Finally, the War Resisters propose that Commissions should be set up in each country to facilitate the transformation of war industries into productive industries, so that disarmament may be brought about as quickly as possible without distress being occasioned among the workers.

All absolutist war resisters are invited to the

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

to be held at Bilthoven (near Utrecht), immediately following the International Trade Union Congress, Saturday and Sunday, December 16th and 17th.

Please previously notify the Secretariat (address: „Paco”, Brotherhood-house, Bilthoven), which also will be glad to give any information.