

it whole, while its organizers and directors lurk in the background. That is the reason why I intend to take a little time tonight to analyze the arguments and motives of the Canadian Peace Council, which has become, though some of its members may not know it even yet, the agent of a foreign aggressive imperialism.

One convenient way of exposing this "peace" programme is to consider some of the representations which this Council wished to make to the Government recently. In the first place, they wished to present the final results of the "petition for peace", the so-called Stockholm Appeal, on the question of outlawing atomic weapons. At the risk of giving even wider currency to this misleading and dishonest appeal, I propose to quote it in its entirety:

"We demand the total banning of the atomic weapon, the arm of terror and the mass extermination of populations.

We demand the establishment of strict international control to ensure the implementation of the ban.

We consider that any Government which first uses the atomic weapon against any country whatsoever would be committing a crime against humanity and should be dealt with as a war criminal.

We call on all men of good-will to sign this appeal."

You will notice that beneath the demands of the Peace Congress that the atomic bomb should be outlawed lie two assumptions: first, that this is the only weapon of war whose use would be criminal and second that even if attacked no country is justified in defending itself by this means. We maintain, on the other hand, that the cardinal crime in international relations is armed aggression, no matter what weapons may be employed by the aggressor. A victim is just as dead whether he is killed by a bayonet or an atom bomb. War - aggressive war - is the supreme crime - not the use of any particular weapon.

I have said on a number of occasions that I regard the atomic bomb as the ultimate weapon and that it should be considered as such and not used except when there is no other course possible. On the other hand, it would be unrealistic and dangerous to outlaw the use of the atomic bomb until an international system of inspection and control had been established. It is true that those who defend the Stockholm Appeal demand "the establishment of strict international control". We who have argued these matters out with the Russians at Lake Success know what is meant by this. They mean the inadequate Soviet plan for control of atomic armaments which the Partisans of Peace promote so zealously while refusing to accept the much more precise and complete proposal which was overwhelmingly supported by all the members of the United Nations with the exception of the Soviet Bloc. The purpose of this Communist-sponsored petition demanding the total banning of atomic weapons now is purely and simply to eliminate the most important deterrent weapon possessed by the West at a time when the Soviet Union and its friends and satellites have such a great superiority in other types of military power.