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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
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COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
WASHINGTON

FRANK S. TAVENNER, JR., COUNSEL
LOUIS J. RUSSELL, SENIOR INVESTIGATOR
JOHN W. CARRINGTON, CLERK OF COMMITTEE

*Peace
petition*

REC'D AUG 10 1950

August 9, 1950

Dear Colleague:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Committee's statement regarding the "Peace Petition" which is being circulated throughout the country. In the event that you receive inquiries regarding this Communist campaign and wish to send this information to your constituents, we have copies available.

Sincerely yours,

John S. Wood

Enclosure

JOHN S. WOOD
Chairman

SEN. L. C. HUNT
ACC. NO. 270

THE COMMUNIST "PEACE PETITION" CAMPAIGN

ISSUED BY THE
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
(INTERIM STATEMENT)



JULY 13, 1950

Prepared and released by the
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SEN. L. C. HUNT
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UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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JOHN W. CARRINGTON, *Clerk of Committee*

THE COMMUNIST "PEACE PETITION" CAMPAIGN

INTERIM STATEMENT

The Committee on Un-American Activities has in preparation a report on the recently initiated Communist world-wide "peace" offensive with particular reference to its significance in the United States. In connection with this report our attention has been called to a Nation-wide drive now being conducted by the Communists at meetings, on street corners, in shops, homes, and churches, in communities throughout the Nation, to secure signatures to a so-called "peace petition."

We were particularly struck by the fact that Marcel Scherer, an individual with a long public record of Communist Party affiliation and activities, who has been identified as closely associated with a Communist atomic espionage ring, appeared before our committee on June 21, 1950, and admitted that he was one of those in charge of this drive in the city of New York.

Pending the publication of our full report which will take some time to prepare, it would be unfortunate if many Americans, unaware of the insidious aims and purposes of this drive, should be misled into lending their names and signatures to this spurious "peace petition." In conformance with its tradition of alerting the American people to current Communist practices, the committee has decided to issue this preliminary note of caution so that all may be properly forewarned and forearmed.

It should be noted at the outset that the petitions are intended to confuse and divide the American people and paralyze their resistance to the march of Communist aggression. The petition drive is part of the present Soviet cold war against the United States to prepare the path for treason.

Americans should not affix their signatures thoughtlessly to this appeal and should be aware of the implications and seriousness of their action. The names and addresses gathered by Communist solicitors will constitute a gigantic and invaluable **RED MAILING LIST** for the Communist Party, USA, and its headquarters in Moscow and numerous Communist-front organizations. This list will be used not only for the distribution of subversive literature throughout the country, but it will also serve as a means of blackmailing for years to come, those who may have innocently lent their names to "peace petitions."

Strange as it may seem the present "peace petition" drive occurs simultaneously while Soviet-made planes, tanks, and artillery are being used to launch a furious and unprovoked attack upon the peaceful republic of South Korea, an attack which President Truman has characterized as part of an effort to "conquer independent nations" through "armed invasion and war."

The text of the "peace petition" as adopted in Stockholm on March 15-19, 1950, by the so-called World Peace Congress at the

third session of its Permanent Committee, is announced to the world in the March 24, 1950, issue of "For A Lasting Peace, For A People's Democracy!" official organ of the general staff of the international Communist conspiracy, the Information Bureau of the Communist and Workers Parties (Cominform). In conformity with this directive, the Communist Party, USA, formulated its own "peace plan" in the Worker for June 11, 1950. Calling for a "Nation-wide drive for millions of signatures," every Communist is notified that he "has the duty to rise to this appeal." On June 20, 1950, the "peace petition" received the official stamp of approval from the Supreme Soviet of the U. S. S. R.

The petition itself is worded most deceptively. Oddly enough, its sponsors who condone, defend, and support the present outrageous onslaught against the peaceful South Korean Republic, as well as every form of totalitarian tyranny and brutality, address themselves to "all people of good will." Thus they hope to entrap individuals who are uninformed about Communist wiles. At the bottom of the document is a quotation from Trygve Lie intended to give the false impression that the Secretary of the United Nations has given his approval to the petition. The appeal is backed by no reputable organization or individuals. It carries union label 209 which is to be found on numerous pieces of Communist Party literature.

It carries a post-office-box number rather than a well-known address, for the obvious purpose of concealing the fact that the proposed recipient of the mail is a person identified before a congressional committee as an active member of the Communist Party, namely, Elizabeth Moos, the mother-in-law of William Walter Remington, now under indictment for perjury relating to his Communist Party membership.

Well aware that the United States, for its own protection against Soviet aggression, has established superiority in the development of atomic weapons, the Communists in their petition hope to paralyze our Armed Forces by demanding "the outlawing of the atomic weapons as instruments of aggression." The demand flies in the face of the fact that our Government, being answerable to the American people and bound by constitutional processes, cannot and does not unloose surprise acts of aggression as dictatorships have done repeatedly in recent years, and as the Communist forces did recently in Korea.

The second misleading demand in the petition is for "strict international control" of atomic weapons. Authorized representatives of the American Government in the field of atomic energy have pointed out that international control is impossible without provision for international inspection of plants within each country by an international authority. Under these conditions, the United States generously offered before the United Nations to turn over to the international authority all the materials, facilities, and know-how in our possession, as well as the disposal of all atom bombs and other atomic weapons. Every nation in the world except Soviet Russia and her satellites accepted the American plan as fair, generous, and workable.

It is to incite Americans against their own Government and to tie its hands in the face of the aggression designs of a foreign nation that the petition demands that "any government which first uses atomic weapons against any other country * * * should be dealt with

as a war criminal." The position of the United States is that it does not intend to give up its atomic weapons except under a system of control sufficiently effective to guarantee that other nations do not have, and cannot secure, these weapons. Though they may not be aware of it, those who sign the "peace petition" are in fact proposing that our country commit national suicide.

Though labeled as a "peace petition," the document is actually intended to be the entering wedge for a campaign of civil disobedience and defiance of our Government, in the interests of the war effort of a foreign nation. Commenting on this "peace movement," Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, ranking woman leader of the Communist Party, tells Daily Worker readers: "Don't be nervous about signing your name and address. You're on J. Edgar Hoover's list of 1,000,000 already. You ought to be insulted if you are not."

The Committee on Un-American Activities desires to acquaint the American people with the facts in regard to the most recent and active effort of the Communist Party in this country. We have every confidence that, knowing the facts, Americans will treat this latest manifestation of Communist chicanery with deserved contempt.

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SEN. L. C. HUNT
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