



STATEN ISLAND COUNCIL FOR PEACE & JUSTICE

P. O. Box 509 • Staten Island, New York 10314

MAY DAY: A DAY AGAINST WAR

Since 1891, May Day has played an important role in the struggle to end imperialist wars. Who has a greater stake in the question of peace than the working men and women who make up the armies, and in whose blood the histories of wars are written?

Today a bloated military budget lies like a glacial sheet of ice over all our needs and aspirations. We are told by high authorities that there is no money for schools, health care, industrial safety, libraries, day care centers, cheap transportation, social security, welfare benefits and old age pensions.

But the money is there. It is available, but it is swept into the giant and growing military budget. The billions we need to improve our daily lives are siphoned off to pay for the

Neutron Bomb, the MX missile system, the cruise missile, and for terror propaganda to whip us into line to accept the weapons that may cost us our lives.

The working people of the world have everything to gain by the spreading and deepening of detente. Only the weapons-makers profit from the arms race, which impoverishes the many as it enriches the few. Production to meet the need of our cities and towns provides many more jobs than war production. We wish no harm to the people of the socialist nations and they hold no ill-will toward us. It is the Pentagon and the monopolies, who feed off the defense industries, who continue to whip up war hysteria in order to keep themselves on the dole of government spending.

AGAINST RACIST AND POLITICAL REPRESSION

The deepest threat to unity within our ranks is racism. The struggle for the full economic, political and social rights of Black people and other oppressed national minorities has always brought with it an advance in democratic rights for all people.

This year, our May Day celebration points to the Bakke Case, now before the Supreme Court, as a legal battle which, if lost, could set back the civil rights of all Americans by decades. Equality of opportunity for men and women of all colors and races depends on defeating "Bakke."

Those who defend the racism imbedded in our institutions cry "reverse discrimination." It is not reverse discrimination to strike the chains that still hold back millions of people in our society from equal opportunity and the chance for achievement. We cannot speak of enjoying democracy as long as racism (or male supremacy) dictate the kind of lives our people live.



International Anti-Apartheid Year

LABOR DONATED