

3 Ledge Terrace
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
September 20, 1981

Staten Island Council for Peace and Justice
172 Coventry Road
Staten Island, NY 10304

Fellow Peacemakers:

As a former Staten Islander who is still with you in the fight for peace and justice, I want to voice my concern for the step some of you are considering -- disaffiliation with the U. S. and World Peace Council.

I cannot think of any situation where separation would be advantageous. Some would argue that since Staten Island is a conservative community, a low-key moderate peace movement would be more effective than the activist U. S. Peace Council and its international affiliates.

To those I would say: There is nothing moderate about the adversaries of the peace movement; they are, as you know, united and aggressively pursuing a policy and goal of nuclear superiority. The mass media carries little of our message to the people of Staten Island while it carries a barrage of pro-military anti-detente propaganda. These constant alarmist allegations about weakened defenses and the Soviet buildup misleads public opinion and gives the false impression that the majority is not adaptable to peace activities.

In fact most people do not make up their minds independently, they do not get a good balance of information and information is heavily biased in favor of the Military Industrial Complex. So it is our responsibility in the peace movement to make information more balanced. If we can do this, we can reach out and mobilize more of the so-called conservatives.

This is a big assignment and no doubt the Staten Island Council can do a good job with its able personnel, but it is doubtful if they can achieve much alone. Unity with the World Peace Movement is our best hope for World Peace.

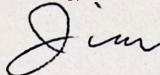
We have not very far to look back in history to find inspiration. In the early sixties the tide of war and military adventurism was widely accepted; the voice of peace was weak and rarely heard. Gradually, it grew stronger and stronger until it swept the world, and the agents of war were routed.

(Continued)

Today we are in a position of much greater strength than the movements at the time of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. Many of the forces that so effectively turned the tide in Viet Nam can be mobilized on a world scale. This was made evident by the large and broadly-based demonstration against Secretary Haig as he tried to sell the neutron bomb to the Europeans.

Together we can turn the tide against these latter-day Hawks and win peace and justice for the world and all of its people.

Yours for Peace and Brotherhood,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim".

Jim Brennan