

WALTER P. REUTHER LABOR DAY MESSAGE
USIA

On this Labor Day of 1966, it is again a pleasure to send fraternal greetings to workers and their unions in other countries. In doing so, we of American labor hold fast to the hope and expectation that the peoples of this troubled planet will yet overcome the great difficulties that now beset us, and will mobilize the will and the means to establish world peace on the durable foundations of political freedom and economic and social justice.

We hold this hope, and shall continue to strive to bring it to fruition, because there is no alternative that reasonable men can contemplate without despair. For in the age of thermonuclear weapons of overkill, peace is the absolute condition for human progress and human survival.

The human family stands at a crossroads. Until our time, proposals for world peace and for establishment of a world community transcending and curbing the anarchy of national states could be dismissed as utopian dreams. Two world wars and the prospect of a third fought with nuclear weapons have converted utopian dreams into the most tough-minded of practical solutions to a life-or-death dilemma.

Man's own creative genius - and his considerably folly - have brought us to this turning point. The revolutionary advances of

science and technology in our era have opened up to all peoples unprecedented dangers and exciting opportunities. We can squander these great advances in knowledge and power in a nuclear Armageddon that will destroy what progress we have already made and put an end to the human enterprise; or we can use them to usher in an age of unheard-of abundance and well-being.

Clearly this choice in itself does not constitute the real dilemma, since the reasonable and sane do not opt for their own extinction. The dilemma consists in our willing the end - peace - without willing the means; of stopping at good intentions and not following through with good works.

We in the UAW, one of the largest free trade unions in the world, are not content to dream of peace while acquiescing in the arms race, the spread of nuclear weapons, and the drift toward nuclear disaster. We believe all nations and peoples must wage peace with the determination and dedication that until now have gone only into the waging of war. We favor actions, large and small, calculated, in the phrase of the American President, to "build bridges" of communication, understanding and cooperation uniting all the peoples of the earth in common efforts to keep the human race from self-destruction.

Within the trade union sphere, we are undertaking such actions, in cooperation with the free labor movements of the world joined together in the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the International Trade Secretariats. We are assisting young and struggling unions in developing countries, so that their members in turn can play a leading role in the building of nations and economies in which all men can enjoy both bread and freedom.

We call upon all governments and peoples to join this struggle for peace - to mobilize the great energies and resources now available to the human community to win the only war that mankind can hope to win - the war against poverty, hunger, disease, ignorance and misery.

We call upon our own country to spare no effort in exploring new initiatives to bring the tragic conflict in Vietnam to the conference table. Elections will be held in South Vietnam and when they are held the people's choice must prevail. Above all, all nations should cooperate in creating a peaceful and more abundant life in Southeast Asia. The United States, through the Asian Development Bank, has already laid the foundations for a cooperative effort at reconstruction and development that can do for that part of the world what the Marshall Plan helped make possible in Europe. President Johnson has announced an ambitious program of United States aid to help the economic development of that beleaguered part of the world. We call

upon the Soviet Union and Red China and North Vietnam to let this more hopeful future be born in the Mekong Delta.

The same challenge, the same alternatives face all of us everywhere: the negative challenge of the arms race or the affirmative development of alliances for cooperative and peaceful development; more Vietnams in resistance to aggression, or a concentration of our energies and resources on bettering the lives of working and struggling people on all continents.

On this Labor Day of 1966, we of the American labor movement send our fraternal greetings to all our brothers, and pledge to them our unremitting efforts to wage and seek peace and to join all men of good will in the world-wide struggle for justice and freedom.

August 23, 1966

Walter

Irv

Labor Day Message - USIA

Attached is a draft of the Labor Day message suggested for USIA distribution.

This should be transmitted promptly and I would appreciate your recommendations.

IB:lm
oeiu42
att.

AUG 4 1966



UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

WASHINGTON 20547

August 1, 1966

Wed

Dear Mr. Bluestone:

I spoke to Ed Torres at the UAW International Affairs Office here, and he suggested I get in touch with you about a Labor Day message from Walter Reuther addressed to free world labor.

Every year USIA supplies its posts with Labor Day statements from American labor leaders, from the President and others whose comments would be of interest to foreign unionists. These messages are in addition to the Labor Day statements usually issued by these notables for domestic consumption.

We would like to have up to 500 words from Mr. Reuther in hand by August 17. This will give our posts time to prepare suitable publication of the messages on or before Labor Day.

Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Norman C. McKenna

Norman C. McKenna
Labor Specialist
Press and Publications Service

Mr. Irving Bluestone
United Auto Workers
Solidarity House
8000 East Jefferson
Detroit, Michigan 48214

N. McKenna, IPS/ET, Room 504
UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20547

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We hold this hope, and shall continue to strive to bring it to fruition, because there is no alternative that reasonable men can contemplate without despair. For in the age of thermonuclear weapons, peace is the absolute condition for human progress, and quite possible for human survival itself.

The human family stands at a crossroads. Until our time, ~~many~~ proposals for world peace and for establishment of a world community transcending and curbing the anarchy of national ~~states~~ states could be dismissed as utopian dreams. Two world wars and the prospect of a third fought with nuclear weapons have converted utopian dreams into the most tough-minded of practical solutions to a life-or-death dilemma.

Man's own creative genius - and his considerable folly - have brought us to this turning point. The revolutionary advances of science and technology in our era have opened up to all peoples unprecedented dangers and unique opportunities. We can squander these great advances in knowledge and power in a nuclear Armageddon that will destroy what progress we have already made and might conceivably put an end to the human enterprise; or we can use them to usher in an age of unheard-of abundance and well-being.

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We in the UAW, one of the largest free trade-unions^e in the world, are not content to dream of peace while acquiescing in the arms race, the spread of nuclear weapons, and the drift toward nuclear disaster. We believe all nations and peoples must wage peace with the determination and dedication that until now have gone into the waging of war. We favor actions, large and small, calculated, in the phrase of the American President, to "build bridges" of communication, understanding and cooperation uniting all the peoples of the earth in common efforts to keep the human race from self-destruction.

Within the trade-union sphere, we are undertaking such actions, in cooperation with the free labor movements of the world joined together in the International Confederation of Trade Unions and the International Trade Secretariats. We are assisting young and struggling unions in developing countries, so that their members in turn can play a leading role in building nations and economies in which all men can enjoy both bread and freedom.

We call upon all governments and peoples to join this struggle for peace - to mobilize the great energies and resources now available to the human community to win the only war that mankind can hope to win - the war against poverty, hunger, disease, ignorance and misery.

Over twenty years after the end of the last world war, the winds of change are blowing strongly everywhere. Ideologies, alliances and blocs that stand in the way of men's need for peace and peaceful development are bound to lose their relevance and their appeal. The real division in the world today is not the division between East and West but between North and South - between the relatively rich world of the most industrialized nations and the third world of Asia, Latin America and Africa where the enemies are poverty, hunger and the threat of famine. We say to all of the nations: let us beat our guns and missiles into plowshares and get on with the real tasks of the human family, the infinitely complex and urgent tasks of peace.

We call upon our own country ~~and on all the nations~~ ^{to continue its efforts} to bring the tragic conflict in Vietnam to the conference table, ~~to still the guns, to hold the~~ ^{we must find the way} ~~elections, to abide by the people's choice and to cooperate in creating a~~ ^{elections should} peaceful and more abundant life in Southeast Asia. The United States, through the Asian Development Bank, has already laid the foundations for a cooperative effort at reconstruction and development that can do for that part of the world ^{and President Johnson has announced an ambitious program of United States aid that} what the Marshall Plan helped make possible in Europe. We call upon the Soviet Union and Red China and North Vietnam to let this more hopeful future be born in the Mekong Delta.

The same challenge, the same alternatives face all of us everywhere: ^{the} ~~more~~ ^{negative challenge of the arms race or the affirmative development of} ~~Vietnam or other Marshall Plans; alliances for mutual destruction or alliances for cooperative and peaceful development.~~ ^{Vietnam in} More aggression and resistance to aggression, or a concentration of our energies and resources on bettering the lives of working and struggling people on all continents.

On this Labor Day of 1966, we of the American labor movement send our fraternal greetings to all our brothers, and pledge to them our unremitting efforts to wage and seek peace and to join all men of good will in the world-wide struggle for justice and freedom.

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to help the economic development of

belonged part of the world



Inter-Office Communication

August 8, 1966

To Dick Kelly
From Irv Bluestone
Subject

Attached is the usual request from USIA for a Labor Day message. Would you please prepare a message which we could send on in Walter's name.

IB:lm
oeiu42
att.

Inter-Office Communication



August 23, 1966

To Walter
From Irv *I*
Subject Labor Day Message - USIA

OK

copy to WPR

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