

## **Actions for Peace**

**I**NDIVIDUALS and unofficial social groups who mean what they say when they talk in favor of peace and against war can act for peace as well as think for peace. The first step in that direction is to live in a manner likely to arouse love and cooperation rather than hate and antagonism. Such a peaceable way of life begins in the daily routine of the home and the family and extends to every social contact.

Someone protests, "I am in business. In order to stay there, I must take every advantage of my rivals and competitors." Often this is true. In many of its aspects, business is economic war. The peace-minded individual who finds himself in such a situation will have to decide between his peace-mindedness and his business, or else he will be for peace on Sunday and for war on Monday and will end up as a tough-skinned hypocrite or a raving maniac.

People who want to live satisfying lives will try to make their beliefs tally with their practices. If they believe in peace, they will be wiser and better if they act that way.

Peace-minded people will have nothing to do with war. They will not help to prepare for it or to carry it on, nor will they profit by it in any avoidable manner.

That point raises the question, if the country in which I am living goes to war, must I leave the country and thus avoid taking part in the war-making? It is a close question. My answer to it is in the negative. Almost anywhere you go, you will be in a country that is either waging war or prepared to do it. Better stay where you are, provide an example of peaceful living, and organize peace-minded people to act peaceably.

Albert Einstein says we must disarm or die. A. J. Toynbee says that our civilized predecessors have perished through war. Are we moderns, individually and collectively, ready, willing and able to make peace?

*Jamaica, Vermont  
December 25, 1950*

*Scott Nearing.*