PEACE NEWS

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DEC. 9 — IN GERMANY...

...AND IN BRITAIN

Russell comments—

[The following statement was issued on Sunday by Earl Russell on behalf of the Committee of 100]

THE forces of the Establishment are congratulating themselves on what they regard as a victory against the demonstrators on December 9th. What does this "victory" amount to? It amounts to a proof that the police, the RAF, the army, together, are physically **stronger than some thousands of unarmed men and women pledged to non-violence. The weakness of the Establishment is shown by their rejoicing in so shabby a "success".**

What did the demonstrators risk? Prison, loss of livelihood, not improbable physical injury. Those of us who are on their side are proud that so many were willing to suffer so much for a principle which we believe vital to national, and even human, survival. The demonstrators stood for the survival of Britain and Western Europe and for the prevention of an unparalleled disaster to the whole world.

What is the judgement of the world on the British Government and on the movement for nuclear disarmament? In the eyes of almost all outside NATO, the moral estimate of Britain has sunk very low. The Suez expedition, our support of the French infringement of the nuclear test ban, our support of Portugal in spite of the atrocities in Angola, our vacillating policy as regards Katanga, are only some of the reasons for the adverse judgement of other nations and for the feeling of shame from which all truly patriotic Britons suffer.

Almost everywhere, outside NATO, it is only the unilateralist movement and particularly the Committee of 100 movement of civil disobedience—making unmistakably evident the gravity and width of the movement—that preserves some respect for Britain.

While so many thousands have been willing to suffer without any hope of personal gain there is reason to hope in the ultimate victory of reason and humanity.

I profoundly believe that, in no very long time, if mankind is to survive, the efforts of such dedicated people will prevail.

TOP: *German war resisters mustered* 120 *demonstrators outside the British barracks in Duisburg to protest against British rocket bases in their country and to support the Committee of* 100*'s action at US bases in Britain, of which the Ruislip sit-down is shown left.*—See also pages 3, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

DECEMBER 9 IN BRITAIN

Above : After the Wethersfield coaches were cancelled. Right : Sitting at one of the entrances to the base.

Below : Police move a girl at Wethersfield. Below right : Passing a look-out tower at the Brize Norton base.

Photo : Austin Underwood