Trilateral Joint Communiqué was published

Cyprus Peace Council (CPC), Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (EEDYE) and Peace Association of Turkey, held a trilateral meeting in İstanbul, at September 24-25, publishing a final declaration.

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We talked about Cyprus issue with the Greek and Cyprus peace lovers

We interviewed representatives of Cyprus Peace Council and Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace who came to Istanbul for the Trilateral meeting on the Cyprus issue.

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Peace Bulletin

Bulletin of the Trilateral Meeting of the peace committees of Cyprus, Greece and Turkey

24-25th September 2011, Istanbul

Greece and Cyprus peace organizations in Istanbul

Turkish, Cypriot and Greek peace lovers sang the peace songs in unison.

Hosted by Peace Association, representatives of the Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (EEDYE), the Cyprus Peace Council (CPC) and the World Peace Council (WPC) met in Istanbul on 24-25 September 2011. The first trilateral regional meeting were held last year in Lesvos in Greece, the second was held in Istanbul in this year. During the two-day meetings, many aspects of recent developments, such as the U.S. regional policies, the AKP government's new foreign policy, the so called 'Arab spring', Syria, Palestine, Cyprus were discussed.

The first session was held on 24th September. During this session, developments in three countries in the context of regional politics of imperialism and the tasks of anti-imperialist struggle of peace were discussed. Corresponding to the day of AKP's provocation towards Cyprus, the meeting regarding Cyprus was one of the significant topics. It is noted that the AKP's illegitimate reflect, as well as an extension of the expansionist policies of imperialism, is a parallel policy to put pressure on Christofias government and for destabilization of Cyprus. For the peace, the parties pointed out the importance of the establishment of Republic of Cyprus eliminating all the imperialist military bases and the occupation armies, bi-communal and bi-zonal, independent and federal.

In the first day's meeting, alongside Cyprus, the developments in the Middle East, in particular Syria and Palestine were discussed. Indicating that the anti-Israel rhetoric of the AKP government is a trap aimed to convince the peoples of the Middle East, the task to warn peoples of the three countries against imperialist restructuring in the region and possible war scenarios was highlighted.

Additionally some possible joint actions to escalate anti-imperialist struggle in the upcoming period were considered. The next trilateral meeting was decided to be held in Cyprus next year.

After the trilateral closed meeting in the first day, in the evening of September 24th in Nâzım Hikmet Cultural Center a panel took place in which developments in Greece and Cyprus was communicated to the progressive people of Turkey. During the panel which hosted representatives from KKE (Communist Party of Greece) and AKEL, apart from anti-imperialist struggle issues, developments like the economic crisis in Greece and class struggles were explained.

In September 25th Sunday, another panel was held in which developments in Turkey were explained to the guests from Greece and Cyprus. In the meeting which hosted speakers from Communist Party of Turkey, Cenral Committee member Aydemir Güler and Party Council member Doğan Ergün presented the background for the international attacks by AKP in the region, the new regime that is being formed in Turkey, and the position of the communist movement against it.

İstanbul hosted many peace lovers and artist from Grece as well as the representatives of peace organizations from Cyprus and Greece. Within this context, Greek musical group Vassilis Kasuras and Nâzım Hikmet Academy Student ensemble performed songs of peace. ■

Joint Communiqué of Cyprus Peace Council, Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace and Peace Association of Turkey

TRILATERAL JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

As anti-imperialist Peace movements of Cyprus, Greece and Turkey gathered together under such conditions while imperialism attempts to implement extremely dangerous plans both in our countries and the Balkans and particularly in the Middle East in Arabic Countries, we are conscious of the fact that establishing permanent and close coordination is a must along with contributing decisively to the anti-imperialist struggle. We call upon the working class and the popular strata for common struggle against the imperialist barbarity which results in crisis and wars. We furthermore call upon all peoples of the region to stay alerted and to create a counter-weight against the imperialist plans.

Cyprus Peace Council, Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace and Peace Association of Turkey held their second trilateral regional meeting on 24-25 September 2011 hosted by the Peace Association of Turkey and with the support of the World Peace Council.

As fraternal Peace organizations of three neighbouring countries, we address militant greetings and an anti-imperialist message of friendship and solidarity to the Greek labourers struggling against the offense mounted by the big capital, the EU and the IMF, under the pretext of global capitalist economic crisis.

In a historical moment the possibility of the reunification of the island of Cyprus comes to the political agenda, we express our solidarity with peace-loving Cyprus people of both communities, Greek-Cypriots and Turkish – Cypriots. It is our duty to decipher the attacks of imperialist powers which are responsible for the perpetuation of the Cyprus problem and of the nationalist forces which have accelerated their efforts to wear down progressive forces in Cyprus and have intensified the pressures on President Christofias.

We evaluate the efforts to present the growing aggressiveness of Turkey as a reaction against Zionist Israel and even some times as an independent line from imperialism's rivalries and the interests of its ruling class as aiming to disorient the peoples of the Middle East. We express our militant solidarity to the progressive popular anti-imperialist forces of Turkey in their struggle against expansionist and anti-people's regime led by the existing government. The initiative taken by the Turkish government to send warships to the Eastern Mediterranean is unacceptable and the pretexts are completely illegitimate.

The three peace movements express also their solidarity with Palestine who applied to the United Nations Security Council for full membership to UN, for the recognition of the Palestinian State by the international community. We condemn US and Israeli positions to block all bilateral negotiations since many years and the latest clear refusal of the demands of Palestinian people by US. We once again emphasize our position in favour of a two-state solution to the issue and salute the struggle of Palestinian people for an independent state on the basis of the June 1967 borders and relevant UN resolutions, giving an end to the occupation of the lands of neighbour countries by Israel, guaranteeing also the right of Palestinian refugees to return back to homeland. While warning our peoples on the hypocritical character of the tension between Israel and Turkey, we also condemn the strategic military and political collaboration between the governments of Israel and Greece.

As anti-imperialist Peace movements of Cyprus, Greece and Turkey gathered together under such conditions while imperialism attempts to implement extremely dangerous plans both in our countries and the Balkans and particularly in the Middle East in Arabic Countries, we are conscious of the fact that establishing permanent and close coordination is a must along with contributing decisively to the anti-imperialist struggle. We call upon the working class and the popular strata for common struggle against the imperialist barbarity which results in crisis and wars. We furthermore call upon all peoples of the region to stay alerted and to create a counter-weight against the imperialist plans.

In this context, we want to emphasize our decisiveness to keep on holding our trilateral meetings annually, the first one having been held in 2010 in Mytilini/Greece and the second today in Istanbul/Turkey, and we express our common intention to hold the third meeting in Nicosia/Cyprus next year.

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We held our trilateral meeting in a period when Syria is in the midst of bloody clashes. As the peace movements of three countries, we believe, that the basic cause of these dramatic clashes in Syria is the plans of imperialism, especially by the USA, to impose changes following the imperialist plan for the "New Middle East". As part of this plan the powerful imperialist forces have tried to support Turkey, to take advantage of the internal social problems in Syria, which are the result of the government's policies and mistakes, arming the reactionary forces and leading the country into a civil war. However, the argument that the opposition in Syria consists of those who defend the democratic liberties and the rights of labourers is totally unfounded. On the other hand, the representatives of the world capitalism do not even hide that Iran will be next in the line if the imperialist plan against Syria is successful.

As peace-loving anti-imperialist movements of Turkey, Greece and Cyprus who are struggling within the World Peace Council, we are warning the Turkish government not to participate in the militarist plans against Syria. A military operation against Syria could pave the way for a general conflict and bloody war in the region. The resistance expressed inside Turkey against these plans, which has been initiated and steered by the peace-loving forces in Turkey along with the anti-imperialist forces, is expressing the positions of the global anti-imperialist movement.

By integrating the opposition movements in the Middle East into its plans, establishing a new religionist and totalitarian regime in Egypt, by bombing Libya and using the opposition forces which were former collaborators of Ghaddafi, the imperialist powers USA, France, Great Britain, Italy, NATO and the EU are aiming at the full control over the region, in competition with other big forces.. The main responsible for the bloodshed is imperialism which tries to seek pretexts for military intervention.

* * *

The reunification of Cyprus is a much bigger necessity today where Turkey has enhanced the policy of altering the demographic character of the Island by increasing the number of settlers in Cyprus, thus turned Turkish Cypriots into a small minority in their own Country. The great need of reunification is expressed also by the intensification of the multiyear common struggles of the progressive Greek and Turkish Cypriots, for unity and peace. On the other hand, EU and US put pressure on Cyprus and seek ways by interfering to impose a solution that will serve their interests in the best possible way, so the imperialist status quo will be preserved. We condemn the recent pressure especially from inside but also from outside the island on the Cyprus Republic to apply for the NATO Project "Partnership for Peace", which was successfully blocked by the Presidency of Cyprus in accordance with the interests of all peoples of the region. We condemn furthermore the efforts to overthrow the democratically elected President Christophias.

At the same time Ankara's war threats and manipulation of the legitimate activities of Cyprus to search natural gas or hydrocarbons as a pretext to escalate the tension is unacceptable. We condemn these efforts to escalate tension while threatening Cyprus militarily. The problem is not in the accessibility to natural resources by Cyprus as a sovereign State, but in the ongoing for 37 years division and occupation of 37% of the Island. The Cyprus prob-

lem has not been created by the sister communities that make up the people of this country, nor by the peoples of Turkey and Greece, but by imperialism to keep its stronghold and to strengthen its hegemony in the region against the peoples.

Our trilateral meeting supports the solution of Bi-zonal Bi-communal Federation with political equality, as set forth in the UN Resolutions regarding Cyprus, top level agreements between the leaders of two communities in 1977 and 1979 and the principles of International Law.

It is necessary to intensify the struggle for a solution that leads in reunited Country with one Sovereignty, one citizenship and one entity that will ensure the fundamental freedoms, popular interests and humanitarian rights for all Cypriots; a Country free of all foreign armies and bases. We remind that this is the basic demand of both Greek and Turkish Cypriots, and the unique way for a just under the circumstances solution to the Cyprus problem. As emphasized also last year in our Lesbos meeting peace loving forces of Cyprus, Turkey and Greece should form "a culture of common struggle" among peoples of three countries, in order to contribute to the solution of Cyprus problem also.

* * *

As peace-loving and anti-imperialist movements of three neighbouring countries, members of the WPC, we observe the critical situation regarding Kurdish problem in Turkey and we do emphasize our support for a just and peaceful solution on the basis of equality and fraternity of all the peoples of Turkey.

First of all we call an end to the bloodshed by a mutual ceasefire. We express our solidarity with the elected Kurdish representatives both in the National Assembly and in the local councils, who have been arrested for political reasons and we demand freedom for them. We condemn the attitude of the Turkish government to raise barriers against the legitimate representatives of Kurds so to accelerate tension.

We consider that Kurdish problem can nevertheless be described as a problem between peoples who have lived together for centuries, but as one created by the ruling classes and imperialist forces. We call the peace-loving Turkish and Kurdish peoples to stand shoulder to shoulder for peace and equality, against nationalist and imperialist forces in attempt to divide them.

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As anti-imperialist peace organisations of Cyprus, Turkey and Greece, together with World Peace Council demand the abolition of all nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and every means of mass destruction, first of the ones all of the major imperialist powers. We are against the installation of the so-called "anti-missile shield" in Europe, promoted by USA, and to avert any possibility of the Aegean Sea being used for its reinforcement. We are also against the installation of nuclear power plants. We demand the implementation of the

International Convention of the Law of the Sea in 1982 and the definition of the EEZ - Exclusive Economic Zones. No involvement, no participation of our countries in the imperialist plans and actions against the peoples of the region. We fight for the immediate abolition and withdrawal of the NATO-US and all other foreign bases from our countries, for their disengagement from NATO and other imperialist organizations. We demand the return of all military troops and police forces from overseas. We expose and confront state terrorism and repressive mechanisms and laws against the peoples. We fight for the protection and real support of refugees and immigrants. We are alongside with all our brothers and sisters raising the struggle against the imperialist war, occupation and aggression, and resisting to the offensive mounted by the bourgeois classes and their governments.

In our common region from the Balkans to Middle East, the common demand and aim of our three organisations is the end of the imperialist occupation in Afghanistan and Iraq, the end of the aggression against Libya and of the blackmail and intimidation Syria is facing as well for the end of the occupation and division in Cyprus. We call on the international community to recognize the independent state of Palestine with the borders of the 4th June 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital.

EEDYE, Cyprus Peace Council and Peace Association of Turkey, having met in Istanbul in September of 2011 with the support of WPC, and decided to create a program of common action, do emphasize that the struggle for peace and against imperialist war and for the benefit of the peoples is inseparably tied to the struggle against the imperialist-capitalist system and call upon all the peoples of our region to strengthen solidarity and the common struggle for the overthrow of the imperialist plans, against the big capital and its representatives, against NATO and the EU.

The peoples shall resist with all their forces against the interests of their exploiters and open their way for the society which will satisfy their needs and interests. ■

As anti-imperialist Peace movements of Cyprus, Greece and Turkey gathered together under such conditions while imperialism attempts to implement extremely dangerous plans both in our countries and the Balkans and particularly in the Middle East in Arabic Countries, we are conscious of the fact that establishing permanent and close coordination is a must along with contributing decisively to the anti-imperialist struggle. We call upon the working class and the popular strata for common struggle against the imperialist barbarity which results in crisis and wars. We furthermore call upon all peoples of the region to stay alerted and to create a counter-weight against the imperialist plans.

The President of Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace

Stavros Tassos

"No submission to Imperialism"

Dear friends and fellow militants

Here in Istanbul, in our meeting which is held in the framework of the event of the Turkish Peace Association on the struggle of our peoples against the imperialist plans of NATO in Turkey, Greece and Cyprus and the wider region, -which is part of the campaign of the World Peace Council against NATO- we would like to thank sincerely our fellow militants from Turkey for their invitation and their hospitality and salute our fellow militants from the Cyprus Peace Council, Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots.

Our meeting takes place in the cultural centre Nâzım Hikmet where the words of the great militant-communist poet echo: "the peoples of Turkey and Greece have the same enemies: Anglo-American imperialism and its local lackeys. The peoples of Greece and Turkey, in friendship with one another and with the assistance of the peace loving peoples from all over the world, will eventually crush these enemies."

(Nazim Hikmet, Berlin 10/8/1951)

These words of Hikmet are extremely relevant as imperialism today has set new precedents of aggressiveness and barbarity. Our peoples but also the peoples all over the world have become the targets of the imperialist plans, rivalries and wars while they experience an unprecedented attack against their rights, their living standard, their pensions, the provisions in Health and Education and their working conditions.

A month and a half ago we honored the victims of the nuclear holocaust in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6th and 9th August 1945 which led to the death of more than 300.000 people. It was the biggest crime committed in the period of an imperialist war. Through this crime the USA sought both to safeguard their hegemony in the imperialist system and their interests in Far East as well as to display their strength to the USSR, socialism and the other people's movements in the world. The claim that it wanted to save the lives of the US soldiers accelerating the surrender of Japan was merely a pretext since Japan had already capitulated since April 1945 and all that remained was its official surrender. It is a crime which continues today with the "small" nuclear weapons of "depleted uranium", a crime that the USA and NATO threaten to repeat in its "proper" version, keeping for them the right to the first strike.

From the very first moment the world peace movement has been clearly against the use of nuclear weapons. The discussion on pros and cons of the peaceful use of nuclear energy for the production of electric power flared up after the nuclear accident in Chernobyl while the concerns intensified after the events in Fukushima. Chernobyl was a human error made while the safety systems were being tested. The Fukushima, by far the biggest nuclear disaster in human history that makes Chernobyl look like a Sunday outing, after a reactor at Chernobyl burned for 10 days, while in Fukushima and 5 reactors, 2 of them partially and 3 in total melt, burn out of control by March 11, 2011, and will continue to burn for at least 1-3 years, was the result of inadequate safety measures for earthquakes and tsunamis as well as the problems due to its old age as a nuclear power plant. The plant had a wall which could protect it from a tsunami with a height of 5,7 meters while the tsunami reached 15 meters. Furthermore, the 40-year old plant apart from being dangerous, due to radioactivity, was designed to withstand earthquakes of 6,5 on the Richter scale. Nevertheless, in both cases and irrespective of the causes that provoked the accident the impacts of radioactivity are not restricted in time and space.

Today the existing technology can minimize the danger from mistakes or natural disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis to a great extent. Whether it is applied to the greatest possible extent is related to the socio-economic system. In capitalism nuclear energy is the object of the speculative game of the monopolies, human life is just another commodity while every action is not determined by the security and the prosperity of the people and the workers or the protection of the environment but by its cost combined with its profitability. Only central planning and social control can ensure the full application of technology that minimizes the dangers so that the major accidents are merely the result of a human error or sabotage and not of a market-oriented perception of life.

For that reason the people's movement, the peace movement in Greece says a strong NO to the nuclear energy which is used for military objectives and demands the abolition of all nuclear weapons. It also says NO to the use of nuclear energy for the production of electric power under the conditions of our region which amongst other things has the highest level of seismic activity in Europe.

The capitalist and imperialist aggressiveness have one target: to safeguard the profitability of capital, with or without memoranda, within or outside the EU, under the supervision of the IMF or not. Everything, from the right to work to the right to live and the environment, is subjugated to this holy objective of capital. The imperialists are united when they declare war against the people but they fight for the division of the loot like wolves while their competition always lead to wars.

In 2006 the 400 richest Americans in the USA possessed 1,57 trillion dollars which is more than what 50% of the population possessed, that is to say 155 million people, which means a ratio of approximately 400.000 to 1. If we look at the 50 million of the poorest people in the soup-kitchens of the USA even more so at the children that die of hunger in Somalia the numbers lose their meaning. After the economic crisis this chasm has expanded as the richest 1% of the population of the US ended up possessing more than 70% of the financial assets which is an all time record. Correspondingly in 2010 10,9 million of the richest people in the world had 42,7 trillion dollars which is an increase of 9,7% compared to 2009 and a new record (*data from the study "The Economic Elite vs. People of the USA" by David Degraw and from the report of Capgemini/Merrill Lynch*). In Greece it is well known that several thousand private individuals have in Swiss banks alone 600 billion euros which is three times the size of the GDP and twice the public debt. The same amount is circulated each year by 10.000 Greek offshore companies.

The overthrow of socialism in Europe and the retreat of the movement have stoked even further the aggressiveness of imperialism and the monopolies at all levels, particularly after the capitalist economic crisis, creating a volatile terrain with dangers of new interventions even the use of nuclear weapons. More than 30.000 nuclear warheads continue to exist all over the world while the agreements between the USA and Russia concerning the reduction of the nuclear warheads do not seem to lead to the abolition of nuclear weapons. The threat continues to exist, the Americans realise their plans in the framework of the programme "anti-missile shield in Europe" and the armaments competition is increasingly intensifying the poverty of the people. We must bear in mind that the world's military expenditure is 60 times greater than the amount required to fully cover the world's needs for free nutrition and free healthcare.

As long as the wealth and real power is concentrated in the hands of fewer and fewer people, who today constitute no more than 10% of the population and together with their praetorians 10%, the remaining 90% will be driven into a situation where they are unable to meet basic contemporary needs and even into absolute poverty; into imperialist wars and massacres, because, due to scientific and technological progress, the plutocrats need fewer and cheaper workers in order to maintain and increase their profits. Those that are superfluous, the elderly, the ill and also others, who are not willing to become modern slaves, are expendable.

In the framework of the new "strategic doctrine" of NATO as the global gendarme and the imperialist plans and wars which the USA and its allies unleash against the peoples of Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans, Hilary Clinton visited Turkey and Greece on 15-16 and 17-18 July, respectively. In Greece the visit took place after the invitation of the PASOK government, the worthy partner of the imperialists in successive interventions against the peoples of the Balkans and the wider Middle East. The Secretary of State of the USA rewarded the barbaric policies of the government and promoted the greater involvement of the country, to the benefit of the Greek plutocracy, in the imperialist plans and wars which the USA and the European Union unleash against the countries and peoples of Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans. The creation of the NATO Special-Operations-Forces Coordination Center-NSCC is included in these plans, which in cooperation with the bourgeois governments target the enemy within, that is to say those who struggle against the NATO barbarity, in the member-states.

In addition, the New NATO administrative and command reforms for the Aegean mark an even deeper entrapment of the Greek sovereign rights, and of the country as a whole, in the imperialist cogs, as these are issues which have a direct relation with the Greek sovereign rights in the marine area of the Aegean and beyond, either concerning the new structure of NATO, or the so-called "anti-missile shield".

All these things refer directly to the operational-military control of the region and the right of the Greeks, and other peoples, to determine their affairs and also the right of Greece to defend its islands and marine area within its territories in combination with the emerging developments concerning issues which relate to the arrangements regarding the continental shelf and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The unified operational zone for NATO, without taking into account the national borders of the member states, has been scheduled from the mid 1990's, meanwhile the entrustment of security and defence responsibilities of the Greek sovereign space to the NATO staff is presented as the "reduction of friction" in Greek-Turkish relations.

After three decades of Turkish violations, the "greying" of the space extending east of the 25th Meridian is a fact with the approval of NATO. 25th Meridian is the imaginary dividing line in the Aegean which includes Greek marine space and Greek islands, and which the Turkish governments have included in their claims for airspace, marine space and the sea bed for years.

The political line of the Greek governments all these years, from 1984 with the "Lloyds Lists" concerning "the unclear situation in the Aegean" and the interference of the imperialist organizations have legitimised the demands of Turkey. Energy issues are at the centre of the attention of the inter-imperialist competition and predatory alliances, at the core of the strategy of imperialist general staffs, as well as in the plans of the multi-national monopolies –that is to say natural resources, oil and natural gas, their transport routes and sea routes, which as a rule are traced with the blood of the peoples, as well as the production of electrical energy from renewable sources.

Taking into account the escalating competition over the energy sources and routes our wider region includes certain of the more inflammable fronts, in which the imperialist contradictions manifest themselves, such as Greek-Turkish relations, the interventions and border changes in the Balkans, the situation in the Middle East and North Africa as well as in Cyprus and Palestine with the threats of the powerful imperialist countries and organizations against states and peoples, such as Iran and Syria.

In this context, the Greek-Turkish issues regarding the Aegean and also the Eastern Mediterranean, are being updated and directly linked to the new imperialist arrangements and the more general competition between USA-EU-Russia-China over the exploitation of the natural resources in the wider region, which has the interests of the domestic bourgeois class as its criterion and not, of course, the interests of the Greek, Turkish, and other peoples of the region. The ultimate goal is the paving of the way for the joint exploitation of the Aegean, and also of the wider region by multinational groups and private companies of the countries involved (e.g. the Vardinogiannis-Latsis group from Greece).

The imperialist war against Libya with the active participation of Greece highlights the inter-imperialist competition between the traditional imperialist powers the USA, France, Britain, Germany etc and also between the emerging ones Russia, China, India, over the oil and natural gas of this country. The naked imperialist intervention of the USA-EU-NATO who armed and guided the former associates of Gaddafi took place so that they could acquire absolute and direct access and control of the contracts for oil extraction and also for the installation of military bases in the region. NATO's butchery against the Libyan people has nothing to do with the protection of the democratic rights of the people. This is demonstrated by the excellent relations which were maintained by the leaderships of the EU and NATO countries with Gaddafi in recent years, when they co-signed contracts which expired in March 2011 with the oil companies.

Furthermore, there is the continuing imperialist intervention in Syria, and the threats of Turkey; the Israeli barbarity in Palestine, and the threats which Israel directs towards Egypt and Iran concerning its nuclear programme; the concentration of additional NATO forces in the Kosovo protectorate. These are only some of the pieces of the puzzle, which is dangerous for the peoples, being put together in the region.

As EEDYE we are also worried by the course of the exploratory contacts concerning the determination of the continental shelf and the more general developments in the region. In relation to the referral of this matter to the International Court in the Hague we would like to stress something that is well-known to all of you: That the IC of the Hague does not come to verdicts based on international treaties, but chiefly based on criteria which serve the new world order of the imperialists. Consequently, its decisions cannot safeguard the interests of the peoples.

Our position remains consistently in favour of a peaceful resolution of the differences between Greece and Turkey and we are looking forward and struggle for peace, friendship and cooperation between our peoples.

We struggle consistently against the NATO plans and "NATOification" of the Aegean, for the withdrawal of our countries from NATO and the removal of the foreign bases. We do not accept the plans for the anti-missile shield and the various commitments of our countries to NATO, the USA, and the EU, as regards Greco-Turkish relations, the Aegean, Cyprus and the wider region of the Balkans.

We are extremely concerned about the developments in the relations of our two countries since the challenges and claims of Turkey continue, as do its provocations in the Aegean, with the necessary support from NATO.

EEDYE remains consistent in its position and struggles for the strengthening of solidarity with the Cypriot people, for a unified Cyprus, independent, a sovereign and common homeland for Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots. We condemn the continuing Turkish occupation of a part of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus and we express our full support and solidarity with the Cypriot people, Greek and Turkish Cypriots, and with its struggle for the end of the occupation, and the withdrawal from the island of every foreign army, including the British base.

We support direct bilateral negotiations between the two communities, without arbitrations and time-frames, and the efforts of the President of the Cyprus Republic for the end of the occupation, for a Cyprus which will be a common homeland for Greek and Turkish Cypriots; without foreign bases and armies, without foreign guarantors and protectors; in the framework of a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation, which will constitute one international entity with one citizenship, based on the UN resolutions and high level agreements, which will ensure the human rights of all Cypriots and will create a real reunification of the country.

Our people and the peoples of every country, who are the only producers of the wealth, will have no benefits as long as the criterion for the development of the states is the profit of the capitalists and the participation in the imperialist plans. The deep, synchronised capitalist crisis has its basis in the sharpening of the basic contradiction capital-labour and demonstrates the historical boundaries of the capitalist system. Thus, the interests of the people, more than in any other instance, are connected to the struggle for their own power, for the organization of the economy with as its criterion the satisfaction of the needs of the people.

This can give a victorious impetus to the anti-imperialist pro-peace struggles of the peoples.

Friends and fellow militants

The line of Bertolt Brecht,

"Their War kills whatever their Peace leaves standing",

Is more timely than ever.

Based on the declaration of EEDYE against imperialism and for the peace of the peoples, where "All the world will breathe widely with all our dreams", as Giannis Ritsos wrote, we intensify our just struggle:

- For the abolition of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and every means of mass destruction, first of the ones all of the major imperialist powers.
- Against the installation of the bases of the so-called "anti-missile shield" in Europe, which the USA is promoting, and to avert any possibility of the Aegean being used for its reinforcement.
- For the implementation of the International Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982 and the definition of the EEZ- Exclusive Economic Zone.
- No involvement, no participation of our country in the imperialist plans and actions against the peoples.
- For the immediate abolition and withdrawal of the NATO-US bases from Greece.
- For the return home of all Greek military and police forces from overseas.
- To expose and face state terrorism and repressive mechanisms and laws against the peoples.
- For the protection and real support of refugees and immigrants.
- For the disengagement of our country from NATO and the EU and the other imperialist organizations.
- For a Cyprus as a common homeland for Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Without foreign bases and armies, without foreign guarantors and protectors. In the framework of a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation, which will constitute an international entity with one citizenship, based on the UN resolutions and the high level agreements.
- For the recognition of the independent state of Palestine with the borders of the 4th of June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

We call on the Greek, Turkish, and Cypriot people, the peoples of the Middle East, Europe, and the whole world together with the organizations of the anti-imperialist peace movement, and the organizations of the people's and labour movement in a struggle against the imperialist plans against the unjust wars. We call on them to create their own alliance, to choose their own path, to fight for the development which will satisfy their contemporary economic, cultural and environmental needs and their true peace and cooperation.

No submission to Imperialism ■

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* The text you have read is based on the speech of the President of the Greek committee for International Detente and Peace given in the first session of the trilateral meeting.

The President of Cyprus Peace Council

Giannakis Skordis

"Peace without Justice cannot exist"

Dear comrades in the struggle for peace in our neighborhood and the world

Dear friends,

The period that the second trilateral meeting of the Peace Movements of our counties is taking place may be characterized by the fact the "New World Order" shows its most cruel and repulsive face.

For this reason, I would like, before anything else, to thank on behalf of the Cyprus Peace Council, the comrades from Turkey, who undertook the responsibility of these meetings after the Greek International Commission for Detente and Peace despite the difficult conditions we face today.

I would also like to thank all of you, whose presence here gives meaning and strength to our common struggle for Peace and Justice. I would like to give you the message that the Cyprus Peace Council is present here with Greek and Turkish Cypriots in the same line of struggle with our Greek and Turkish comrades, as well as the progressive people all over the world. And we do not have the right to act otherwise. Humanity has no room for wars; our children have the right to a future.

When a few years back, the Socialist system was falling apart under the pressure of economic embargoes, undermining and mistakes committed, some people rushed to say that confrontations were over… a new democratic era, they said, was rising for Humanity.

And indeed, that new era and order was already before us. We taste the fruits of this order every day. The efforts for redistribution of influence zones between the imperialist forces are obvious even among the most ignorant. However, at the same time, hunger and diseases kill millions of people on planet Earth.

The region of the Mediterranean and its countries has always been and will continue to be at the centre of attention of the imperialists for many reasons. Due to the geostrategic position their natural wealth in resources and because of the existences of many diverse civilizations.

What do we witness today? After the imperialist status quo has preserved regimes for many years because they served their interests, now they decide to make changes and redistributions on the basis of new interests, because they know that when they let the peoples make decisions for themselves these will not be for their benefit.

They exploit the reaction of the people to oppression and injustice, with the aim to place new puppets who will serve them. And the flames of war fire start one after the other. With no care for the dead people; the orphans; the material and cultural disasters.

The beginning was made with Afghanistan, then Iraq, Egypt and Libya. And certainly other countries will follow, such as Syria, Iran and who knows what comes next. Let's not forget Cyprus, where their scheming had already started since the 1950's.

Israel has been playing the role of regional patroller of America's interests for years now. This role is pursued now by the current Turkish government. The result is obvious and reflects in the tension and the threats between them.

The pursuit for Democracy, Peace and Social Justice are noble and acceptable goals. These ideals, however, may flourish only if they are the fruit of the will of the people. Not of enforcement from the outside, and much less from the United States of America; a country where people beg to live, or live in box cartons in the streets, a country that has not yet abolished the death penalty, and whose economic management has brought the entire world to near destruction.

The setting of civil war conditions in each of the Mediterranean countries is almost identical. After years of arming regimes that they now wish to replace, they start arming those opposing the regimes. In this way, a major aim of the instigators of these confrontations in selling guns and accumulating profit is achieved.

Instigating trouble also leaves the economies of the victim countries under the control of the world capital. At the same time, people are distracted from their social and economic problems. Until when? Those who do not learn from the lessons given by history will never understand that oppression bears revolutions; that only a just and peaceful society may bring progress to humanity.

Pessimism does not fit in the Peace movements and progressive people of the world use their own undefeatable weapons. Friendship, cooperation and solidarity of the people, their love for Peace. Because no human can live alone in this world, because we do not know who their next target will be. And also because, no one can really be happy if everybody around them is miserable.

Because the fire of war and crime cannot be shut to boundaries. And Justice? How can we forget Justice and tolerate injustice? If our goal is, and should always be to have Peace, how can we ensure that without Friendship and Solidarity? While the motives of others are merely economic and obtaining power, the motive of the simple people is the understanding that wars only serve other interests and that Peace is a necessary precondition for a brighter future.

Today we stress the self-evident; that Peace without Justice cannot exist. That the economic games of the imperialist go in line with the existence of fascism and the neo-Nazi. They go together with promoting ignorance and a-political minds, of befuddlement and imprisonment of the spirit. We will tell them once more: the obscurantism, the attempt to obscure human mind and fascism will not pass!

The peoples today face a new form of war, apart from local wars conducted on the pretext of international terrorism and lack of democracy. A war that attacks the conquests that people have shed sweat and blood to obtain on the pretext of the world economic crisis. A crisis created by those who give lessons today on how to overcome it. They must rest assured that the dynamic reactions of the peoples will give them the answer.

I would like to repeat that, in order for Peace to flourish, there needs to be Ethics and Justice. Everyday food for children, education and covering the needs of each human being. These are the fundamentals of justice. Each bullet, each bomb, each war machine deprives humans of these goods.

For this reason, we struggle for Peace, we do not forget fascism and we repeat that we will not allow it to return. The duty of each consci-

entious human being today, for each person who wants peace, is not only to wish but also to act and demand. Because this struggle has to do with superpowers, either global or regional, things are not easy.

At times like these, where the dignity of humanity and the law are being shuttered, where peace is undermined and the merchants of war have the upper hand, the only weapon in the hands of the peoples is resistance against imperialism, the mobilization and cooperation between them, the international commitment to this struggle and solidarity.

So that we terminate wars and the bloodshed, so that we terminate interventions and disasters. In order for Peace to finally prevail in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine and elsewhere. We should solve differences with talks, on the basis of the principles of international law and international legitimacy. We should let people decide about their own fate.

Dear friends,

When a few years back, Demitris Christofias was elected president of the Cyprus Republic, a great myth that misled the Cyprus people was shuttered. A myth that described the Left as incapable of managing power. To the contrary, the government today, not only acted to the right direction, but has solved many long-standing problems that other governments had created.

At the same time, for the first time the negotiations process for the solution of the Cyprus problem became substantial and productive and the hopes of our people, Greek and Turkish Cypriots, for the achievement of an acceptable solution were rekindled. The target is to stop the national division of the people of Cyprus, and to stop violations of human rights that are still going on after 37 years.

The representatives of the Capital and the reactionary forces did not enjoy this at all. From the first moment ravaging attacks were made against President Christofias and the Left. It was not possible to accept and allow the great success of the management of the government work to become known by those who thought of the Left peo0ple as incapable.

At the same time, after the change in the leadership of the Turkish Cypriots, as well as some negative positions of the Turkish government, things have become difficult in relation to the Cyprus issue. While the will to find a solution is common among the Greek and Turkish Cypriots, the process reaches dead ends and is not fruitful.

Two other events have come to complicate the situation even further and add to the sufferings of our people. First, the world economic crisis which has inevitably affected Cyprus as well. And second, on the 11th of July, a huge explosion of gun powder containers occurred in its storing place. An explosion, whose roots may again be traced to the conflicts that imperialism had inflicted in the region. The confiscation of these lethal gun powder containers was an act we were forced to proceed to after the instructions of the UN Security Council. On the other hand, as it appears in the investigations, those who undertook the task of keeping these containers safe did their job badly.

As a result of the explosion, 13 people lost their lives. At the same time, the biggest electricity plant that was nearby was utterly destroyed. It becomes obvious that the mere existence of war material, or the army itself, bears risks for human lives. At the same time, the purchase of electricity from the Turkish Cypriots proves once again that the wish for peace and prosperity is in both sides.

However, the event of the explosion, gave the pretext to those opposing the government, as peculiar as it sounds, to attack cruelly president Christofias, the government and all the progressive people in Cyprus. They exploit the natural pain of the families of the victims and they attack on a daily basis, demanding that the president resigns; something without logic or justice.

The leading heads of these events are neo-Nazi fascist groups who think they have found a way to come to the surface. They terrorize, they mock and they swear. The legal state naturally cannot respond with violence; a fact they use to their advantage.

Under these conditions, a second dramatic scene is underway, with Turkey as the protagonist. In the search of finding solutions to its financial problems, Cyprus decided to use its legitimate rights deriving from International Agreements and start drilling the sea territory of its Exclusive Economic Zone so as to find natural gas. Ankara came to oppose this decision and rushed to make threats and blackmails against Cyprus.

I have repeatedly heard the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister to speak of the zero conflict policy with neighboring countries. I will not forget a statement of Mr. Davutoglou he made while I was present that his vision is to solve the Cyprus problem in such a way that with common action and cooperation, Turkey, Greece and Cyprus will become decisive forces for peace in Eastern Mediterranean.

I admit I was impressed by that statement. However, does it go in line with the current attitude of Turkey against Cyprus? The long-standing wish of the progressive Cypriots is the solution of the Cyprus problem in the most just way possible. In such a way that sea wealth of the island will be the property of all the residents of the island. The non solution however, cannot stand as a problem to finding solutions to the economic problems of our island.

We struggle and we ask that Turkey, Greece and Cyprus as well as all the other peoples in this neighborhood of the world, find ways to live peacefully together. Respecting each other's rights and culture!

Unity and Solidarity, which arise from this event here today, may comprise a decisive step that will prevent any negative treacheries, and will lead our people to their final destination. Because when the people have the will they have the way. Because peoples, are stronger than imperialism and its war machines.

Because only with peaceful co-existence we can achieve happiness, since it is impossible to have happiness selectively, for some people only. This may be our little brick to the world struggle for peace.

Because Cyprus is divided for 37 years now, and because I was born in the occupied today Famagusta as many others and do not have the opportunity to live there, I would like to end my speech with the lyrics of the Turkish Cypriot Neshe Yasin, who express vividly the feelings of all the Cypriots for our homeland

They say that man should love his country
So does may father very often
My homeland is divided in two
Which part of the two should I love?
Which part of the two should I love?

Long live Peace in the Mediterranean, in Europe and the World! ■

* The text you have read is based on the speech given in the trilateral meeting by the President of Cyprus Peace Council, Giannakis Skordis.

Member of General Council of Cyprus Peace Council and United Cyprus Party Organization Secretary

Abdullah Korkmazhan

"Final goal: United Socialist Cyprus"

Dear friends,
Dear Comrades,
Starting to my speech, I would like to underline this first of all. Some fractions attempt to reduce the Cyprus problem into an intersocietal problem. However, Cyprus problem is actually a problem between the people of Cyprus and imperialism and the best solution will be found through the joint struggle of Turkish, Greek, Armenian, Maronit and Latin Cypriots against imperialism.
Our home Cyprus is situated where the three continents meet and where the East and the West start/end; it is the cradle for first civilizations in Middle East and a small island but whose strategic importance is crucial. Being at the centre of economic-politic-social developments because of its strategic location, the island has been both in ancient ages and in modern era the target of capitalist-imperialist powers.
Our island which grew in importance as capitalist colonialism started to invade the world has been the target of imperialist and colonialist powers since 1500s. The importance of Cyprus increased when India and Africa started to be plundered and especially when the Suez Canal opened which fostered the transport of commerce between the East and West. Towards the end of 1800s, exactly when capitalism was evolving into imperialism, the biggest colonialist power then England annexed our island in 1878 to its empire "on which the sun never sets".
After the industrial revolution, especially at the end of 19th century and 20th century when petroleum appeared as the fundamental energy resource, Cyprus was regarded as the means for capitalist – imperialist powers to invade, capture and control the Middle East and Arab world. Colonialism and Neo-colonialism left negative impacts on Cyprus which has been facing similar sufferings since then.
Imperialist British Empire pursued a policy of divide and rule by digging out and making the ethnic and regional conflicts bleed in every region it penetrated. American imperialism set the peoples of island against each other in order to protect its interests and exploit Cyprus which literally turned into a buoyant aircraft carrier as 8 airports exist in the island. While Cyprus Republic was founded in 1960, the island was first divided into Cyprus' land and 99 square miles of "Sovereign Bases". In 1964 it was divided into "Green Lines" and this time the peoples were separated.
Set against each other every ten years, the peoples that form the main population of Cyprus was plunged into deep separation as Greek junta conducted a military coup ensued by Turkish military intervention, a shooting-war which deepened the geographical division of the island. While these developments aggravated the attempts to establish the island as a "Shared Home", they also allowed and encouraged the retrogressive and chauvinist fractions to set up conspiracies to make the separation of the island permanent. The plans and deeds of American imperialism which took part in the Greek coup and Turkish military intervention directly or indirectly still continue with an accelerated intensity.
Conducting the division by taking advantage of nationalist-chauvinist movements in both societies, the imperialists are able to prolong the division and prevent Cypriots from solving the problems and restoring the peace.
While the authorities in the North of the island believe themselves to be at the top of the administration, the political will of North Cypriots is confiscated, and our economic, political and social life is sentenced into the lips of Ankara and American imperialism. Controlling the north of the island through its military force, Turkey does not allow Turkish Cypriots to make their own decisions and hold power by themselves.
Especially during AKP government period, imposed neo-liberal economic packages, our society, particularly the working class is exposed to large amount of exploitation, poverty and forced to emigrate from the island. AKP government confiscates our net assets and public institutions through the collaborationists in our country and turn them over to "Islamic green capital" in the name of privatisation.
In addition to neo-liberal impositions, Turkish Cypriots were rendered a minority in their own country through systematic immigration to the north of the island, a violation of Geneva Conventions. The policies of population transport aims to assimilate Turkish Cypriots and change the demographic structure as well as colonize Cyprus. In the present state of things Turkish Cypriots face the threat of destruction. It is unacceptable to annihilate a society, its identity and culture at the centre of Europe in 21.Century. This is a crime against humanity. Tens of thousands of Turkish Cypriots have organised popular demonstrations against these practices by taking to the streets. Turkish Prime Minister Erdoğan insulted and attacked Turkish Cypriots by insulting as they stood upright against abovementioned practices.
The invasive policies of AKP against Cyprus are not limited thus. AKP government almost endeavours to drag Cyprus into a new war by implementing plans to explore oil and gas in its Restricted Economic Zone, giving justification to those plans through International Law and UN Maritime Law Contracts. Though it has no right to claim natural resources in and around Cyprus, AKP government is warmongering and it deploys its war ships, aircrafts and helicopters to the region to claim rights over the natural resources, which results in detrimental impact on the efforts to find solution for social relations of both communities.
The mountains, stones, petroleum and natural gas of Cyprus belong to Cypriots. Only Turkish Cypriots who are the equal partner of Cyprus Republic have the right to claim the natural resources of Cyprus. Therefore, AKP government must abandon policies of conquest and invasion, and contribute the island to be a place for peace rather than warmongering.
In order to get rid of the negative consequences surrounding our country as soon as possible, our main goal is to restore a democratic and modern structure and reach Federal Cyprus with our people based on 1960 agreements, UN Security Council and General Assembly and 10977-79 high-level agreements. The ground to the solution to be found should be based on two-region, two-people and one-sovereignty, one-citizenship United Federal Cyprus which will represent itself in international platform. The solution should respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms, should reject any foreign country's desire to grant guarantees and should grant Cyprus unconditioned independence. Creating a peaceful Cyprus is possible only through the eradication of imperialist bases, soldiers and weapons.
Our priority is to restore peace by solving the problems between two peoples and to restore United Federal Cyprus and our final goal is the United Socialist Cyprus.
I want to end my speech by touching upon the global crisis of capitalism and international developments.
Capitalism is a system of crisis. In other words, the crisis is structural within the capitalist system. Despite this phenomenon, capitalism's victory was announced with the dissolution of Soviet Union and the ebb of socialist wave. Imperialism

and its collaborators claimed that socialism is faded into history and history itself ended. However they were wrong! As the flames of the economic crisis which started in the USA spread all over the world, the global crisis proved that those claims are unfounded. Those who keep praising capitalist globalization and the end of Marxism tried to save insolvent banks and companies through socialist methods by nationalizing them.

Capitalists ignore the fact that capitalism created its own global crisis and they lie when they claim that the responsibility for the crisis does not belong to the system. They attempt to gain their loss by treading on working class. Nationalising insolvent companies, they laid the burden on the poor. They tried to hit the historical acquisitions of labourers. By deregulating the work life, they dissolved social state. In addition to all of this; they strengthened social and class division and as Marx said they created their own grave diggers. Today from Europe to Asia and Latin America, social movements rise on the basis of anti-capitalism and strengthen our hopes of another world.

The stock markets are now upside down because of the crisis. Giant financial institutions were destroyed. The argument that capitalism is unshakeable and the USA is invincible is once again proven to be unfounded. Capitalism is on the verge of destruction. If it is not defeated, it is inevitable that it will save itself. Therefore the task to leftists all around the world is to hit capitalism with a fatal blow and laying the foundations of another world.

Recently the USA and other imperialist thugs have become more and more aggressive. Wars against peoples of the world are being carried out in various parts of the world. Especially imperialist interventions and wars in our region demonstrate how dangerous it is for humanity to bear with imperialism any longer. We will continue to support free, sovereign and united revolutions, independence movements which aim to establish administrations so that they can govern themselves without foreign intervention. However, we will absolutely stand against NATO interventions and invasions as we have seen in the Libyan example which is advertised as revolution.

The role attached by American imperialism to Cyprus and in this context the US Great Middle East Plan, its bloodshed and the blood lake it created is unacceptable.

Based on gaining more and more profit, capitalist exploitation system and its cruelties and massacres will not last forever. Human dignity and honour will destroy that regime of cruelty and the struggle of freedom will create classless and independent world.

The sole hope for social justice, peace and democracy against the barbarity of imperialism is the union of world leftist movements who struggle for socialism.

Socialism will be the first step for universal peace and barbarism will be defeated. ■

* The text you have read is based on the speech given in the trilateral meeting by the member of Cyprus Peace Council and Organization Secretary Abdullah Korkmaz.

Executive Secretary of World Peace Council Iraklis Tsavdaridis

"Turkey, Israel and USA, a win win win triangle"

We have been faced with a tension in Turkish-Israeli relations, followed by a warmongering along with threats against Cyprus after her drilling activities. We discussed this issue with Iraklis Tsavdaridis, Executive Secretary of World Peace Council, who was in İstanbul for a meeting organized by Peace Association. According to Tsavdaridis during Blue Marmara report of the UN and the process following, all three of Israel, Turkey and USA won.

"*Israel, owing to harassment by Turkey has seized an opportunity to masquerade as the oppressed first for quite some time, and thanks to that guaranteed a backing in the Palestine voting in UN by countries in Europe and some more. Turkey gained prestige in Arab streets using an anti-Israel rhetoric powerfully. USA was longing for just such a situation.*" said Tsavdaridis.

After the mutinies were turned into pretexts for imperialist interventions one by one our region has confronted with large scale wars again. But the world peace movement have not succeeded into generating crowds comparable to the millions in streets before Iraq intervention in 2003. According to Tsavdaridis, this situation has roots in errors of some parts of general peace movement.

"*For example, French peace movement have not objected to assaults on Libya, but called for an intervention 'Not by NATO, but by UN'. It is not possible for peace movements to gain strength with such an attitude.*" Tsavdaridis denotes that conversely, World Peace Council, founded in 1949-50 and has active organizations in more than 100 countries has a clear mind. "*We are against imperialist interventions in all circumstances.*" Greek peace activist, comparing days of Iraq intervention and today, reminding Yugoslavia says "*In those days some alleged 'peace lovers' backed NATO bombing of the country*".

Tsavdaridis also mentioned that stances of countries like China and Russia cannot escape condemnment. "*The UN resolution that declared flight ban zone over Libya might just prevent plane flight on paper, but everybody knew that it was a green light for occupation. Those that backed that decision or those that did not veto while they could are responsible for what happened in Libya just as well.*"

According to Tsavdaridis people of Libya did not associate themselves with Qaddafi, but does not associate at all with the flag for monarchy, USA flag and converse sneakers. WPC is sharply against a similar intervention against Syria. Tsavdaridis argues that the situation in Syria must be handled separately than all the other countries that were stirred. "*Bashar Assad had many faults, especially in the last years. But a 'colored revolution' in Syria will do well to no one: neither to Syrian people, nor Palestinians, or people of Egypt. In fact such a step wills open doors to an imperialist intervention against Iran.*"

Tsavdaridis also mentions the crisis in Greece. Pointing that the people know that the crisis stems from the system, and that the largest two parties PASOK and New Democracy add up to a mere 40 percent in recent polls is an indication for just that. He notes that the problem is to make sure that no causer of the crisis is acquitted and conversely nothing should be blamed on the people. Saying "*Today everybody condemns the troika decisions and the EU*", Tsavdaridis points out those delusions like merely quitting the euro zone or similar steps might bring solutions must be confronted.

According to Tsavdaridis those in Egypt, Spain, Britain, and Tunisia have something common with the protests in Greece: "*anger against the capitalist system*". He also thinks the events that took place in the Arab land "*obviously not a revolution, but genuine people's uprisings each*". Tsavdaridis notes that although it has a common anger against capitalism, those that take place in Europe must be addressed differently than the ones in Arab land.

What about the war that is prosecuted against Kurds? He points that to grasp that Turkey is getting stronger in the region in parallel with the requirements of imperialism and that she would not disobey is important for this issue as well. When Turkey attacks Northern Iraq, she asks for the consent of USA: "*Either I enter alone, or we go together. You choose*". USA tells her to wait. Iraklis underlines the active role of imperialism in all the tensions with a risk of war in the region. ■

** This interview was published on "Sol Portal" in 26 October 2011.(www.haber.sol.org.tr)*

Representative of the Peace Association of Turkey and member of the Central Committee of Communist Party of Turkey

Aydemir Güler

AKP government plays the role of the hit man for the imperialists

I want to thank you all for your valuable contributions to this Trilateral meeting in Istanbul, but first of all to our comrade Iraklis Tsavdaridis, executive secretary of WPC, who has been the first to put forward the idea to hold the Trilateral under the hosting of the Peace Association of Turkey, and also his support and presence in Istanbul on behalf of WPC. Considering that there is no need to repeat the assessments made by the representatives of the peace committees of Greece and Cyprus, I will limit my speech only with our positions about the issues concerning Turkey's involvement in some of the international affairs under discussion in relation with the primary changes occurring in our country. Then I will try to focus shortly on concrete issues of collaboration between our three committees.

It is obvious that the general attitude of Turkey towards the border region has practiced a shift and Ankara has assumed an expansionist policy. It was just unimaginable that Ankara might enter in a race with European powers over a market in the region as in the case of Libya and the competition with France. Turkey looks to lead the international intervention to Syria, has tried to have an influence over the new Arab regimes, etc. However it will not be convenient to attribute to this policy shift autonomy with regard to the imperialist po-wers, mainly US. In our view Turkey adopts a new role within the US strategy and the domain of manoeuvre is limited in this context.

What has been changed is Turkish traditional "defensive" position. During many decades Turkey gave the priority to protect herself, and entered into military conflicts only if there existed guarantees and plans offered by major forces. This was the case for the involvement of Turkey into the war of Korea in early 1950s; this was the case for the occupation of Northern Cyprus, which consisted, as we all agree, of an imperialist plan to liquidate the anti-colonialist, anti-imperialist struggle of progressive forces of Cyprus. Apart from these examples Turkey during all the republican period had adopted a defensive position based on an equilibrium between western imperialism and the socialist and third world countries, or a position of logistic support for imperialism.

Under AKP government Turkey has become step by step an expansionist country, a regional force depending upon imperialist centres and has integrated this new tendency in foreign policy with the ideology of neo-ottomanism. This development was accompanied with the establishment of a totalitarian, pro-fascist and islamic regime in the country.

Shortly, US imperialism is in need to intervene to the Middle East from inside, with the help of a so-called protector of oppressed and muslim peoples of the region. So now, Turkey leaves her appearance as an ordinary NATO member and her unwillingness to intervene in others' affairs, and tries to present herself as a global force able even to challenge Israel, EU or US.

As you know, we had the general elections in June this year, and AKP won almost the half of the votes, what was a very high rate for Turkish standards. We analysed the situation as the "collapse of the first republic" and the rise of the second which is obviously islamic inside and expansionist in the region. We are very sensitive on the continuing dependency of Ankara upon imperialism, mainly US, and it is very important for us to warn our friends in the region and all over the world about the hypocrisy related with the events as Erdoğan's Davos show, or Turkish boat attacked by Israel, etc. I want to emphasize that Turkey has recently opened her territory to NATO missile shield system, which will surely serve Israeli interests and will function against the peoples of the region. This measure was taken in the midst of rising tension between Ankara and Tel-Aviv.

It is also very important to know that major privatizations have been accomplished under the government of AKP, social state has been liquidated and working and living conditions of the toiling masses of Turkey went backward dramatically during the same time period. So it is impossible to agree with such views on the developing democracy in Turkey, just because of the decreasing role of the military. In fact new regime creates his own militaristic and anti-democratic organs...

In Cyprus recently it has been generally thought that Turkey would open the way for a peaceful solution, as Ankara looks to be a member of EU and thanks to the democratization in internal poli-tics. This was an illusion. Turkey now wants to make use of the tensions with Cyprus government to have a pretext to send navy in the Eastern Mediterranean with absurd objections to the right of Cyprus to access to her natural resources. We think that Turkish pressure over Cyprus is also related with imperialist unwillingness to share a peaceful solution with the existing progressive government and president Christofias.

I do not mean that Turkey is against to any new status quo and she will just block any initiative to solve problems. Just the opposite; even in the case of Cyprus, there exist a minor possibility that Turkey assumes a positive role in the sense of reunification of the Island. This would nevertheless make invalid the context described above. The new Turkish regime may make some sacrifices if it has more a promising future, always within the imperialist strategy and policies. So expansionism is nowadays a principle in Ankara's foreign policy and it is completely compatible with US imperia-lism.

For the concrete collaboration between our organizations; we consider these trilateral meetings as an important step forward, as a valuable opportunity to share and discuss our positions. However after this second meeting we are holding here and now, we may make another step and take into our agenda new ways of collaboration, as to contribute each other for the bulletins published by our committees, to give interviews, to share news etc.; and also to plan the next trilateral with a larger cultural and political program, with concerts, exhibitions etc. By the way, we do also thank to comrade Vassilis Kasouras, and his music group for their performance Saturday night. This was a nice coincidence, the arrival of a large group of peace-lovers from Greece, including Kasouras group. I think we may easily make much more developed programs together with the next Trilateral.

Thank you all ■

* The text you have read is based on the speech made in the closed session by the representative of Peace Association of Turkey and Member of Communist Party of Turkey's Central Committee Aydemir Guler.

An interview with Cypriot and Greece peace lovers on Cyprus problem

The Peace Association of Turkey hosted a common organization among Cypriot, Greek and Turkish Peace Committees meeting in İstanbul. "Sol Portal" interviewed the representatives from the three Peace Committee; Cyprus Peace Committee Council General Secretary Christos Kortellaris, member of General Council of Cyprus Peace Council and United Cyprus Party Organization Secretary Abdullah Korkmazhan and the president of Greece Peace Committee Stavros Tassos. Representative of the organizations answered the questions about the current situation in the North and South of Cyprus, the interventionist and militarist policies developed by Turkey on behalf of imperialist interests and the increasing aggression of imperialism.

Stavros Tassos

What do the peace lovers and the progressive people of Greece think about the Cyprus issue?

President of Greece Peace Committee, Stavros Tassos, approached the Cyprus problem as part of the interventionist policies for the entire region. He also emphasized the importance of the common struggle of peoples in the region against the US, NATO and EU's imperialist policies.

Condemning the imperialist aggression against Syria and underlined that they support Palestinian's struggle of being a sovereign state. Pointing out to the aggressive policies that has been increasing day by day because of the deepening crisis of capitalism, Tassos expressed that because of the importance of energy sources and energy transmission lines in the region, imperialism intervenes Cyprus just as they do the whole region.

Emphasizing their support on a united, sovereign and bicommunal Cyprus, Tassos expressed that the Republic of Cyprus has a right to utilize its energy resources, and that they support this right. Calling attention to the fact that the company carrying out the drilling is a US-based monopoly, Tassos stresssed that the natural resources belong to the people of the country, so should be utilized for the benefit of the people.

Recalling that the foreign policy of Turkey, developed during AKP government claimed to be the protector of the Muslims in Middle East, Tassos remarked that this policy is shaped for the interests of imperialism, and its results is observed in Syria.

The common struggle of Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots

On behalf of the Cyprus Peace Council, which represents the whole Cyprus, both the General Secretary Christos Kortellaris and the member of General Council and the United Cyprus Party Organization Secretary Abdullah Korkmazhan have answered the questions.

Christos Kortellaris

Kortellaris informed about the regional policies of imperialism and on the current developments in Cyprus. As he emphasized Cyprus was divided within the framework of the NATO plan, and also occupied by Turkey within the framework of the NATO plan, for an independent, sovereign, unified, and a bicommunal Cyprus, the common struggle of the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots is very crucial. Mentioning that imperialism has been increasing its aggression in our region just as in the whole world, Kortellaris stressed that the progressives in Greece, Cyprus and in Turkey need a cooperation more than ever.

Kortellaris stated that in Cyprus, following an explosion the breakdown of the r largest power plant in the country caused severe problems, resulting in 3 billion dollars of loss and an energy crisis for the country. The right-wing opposition and nationalist groups exploited this situation to press AKEL and trying to bring down the government.

Kortellaris added that right-wing opposition and nationalist groups used this situation to compress AKEL and tried to throw out of the power.

Referring to the tension between Israel and Turkey, Kortellaris said that two countries compete with each other in the interests of big capital and there is not-hing beneficial for the interests of the peoples from this tension.

"Natural resources belong to all Cypriots"

Providing information about the activities of drilling and natural gas and hydrocarbon exploration Kortellaris pointed out that the related region is within the "exclusive economic area" and the activities on exploration is the sovereign right of the Republic of Cyprus.

Stating that the company called Noble Energy is a US firm, but they would never sell their sovereign rights to such a company, and that the natural resources belong to all Cypriots, and in case of a solution to the Cyprus problem all Cypriots would benefit from the earnings of these resources.

Indicating that Turkey has no right to claim any right on the resources of Cyprus, Kortellaris condemned Turkey because of policies escalating the tension and sending seismic research ship to Cyprus.

Kortellaris also stated that they do not expect military intervention of Turkey for the present adding that Ankara is trying to obtain rights over the resources of Cyprus by escalating tension.

What do the Turkish Cypriots say?

As the member of Cyprus Peace Council and the United Cyprus Party Organization Secretary General

Abdullah Korkmazhan stressed that some groups obstinately belittles Cyprus problem as an intercommunal problem despite the fact that it is a problem between the people of Cyprus and imperialism. Stating that the solution will come from the common struggle against imperialism of Cypriots, whether Greek, Turkish, Armenian, Maronite or Latin, he also shared his views on the issues of drilling and Erdoğan's speech calling Cypriots "fed" (by Turkey).

Mentioning that the energy exploration effort of the Republic of Cyprus are perfectly in accordance with international laws and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, stressed that these resources belong to all Cypriots. Stating that AKP deals with Cyprus in a colonial and conqueror manner, condemned AKP for arrogating rights on the natural resources of Cyprus.

Claiming that the political will of Turkish Cypriots are seized by Ankara and Washington, remarked that AKP imposes neo-liberal and reactionist policies on Northern Cyprus. Explaining that population have been transferred from Turkey to Cyprus for decades, continuing in AKP period as well, that they are reduced to a minority in their own land, and that nearly 80 percent of Northern population migrated from Turkey.

Abdullah Korkmazhan

Reminding the claim to be "fed", Korkmazhan denoted that exports from Northern Cyprus into Turkey amounts to 700 million dollars, while imports from Turkey amounts to 1 million 700 thousand dollars. Furthermore AKP plunders Northern Cyprus via their henchman capital groups. For example the public airway has deliberately been bankrupted and sold to Atlas Jet, and the land of Eastern Mediterranean University made a present to Doğa College, belonging to Gülen sect, thus AKP has been exploiting Cyprus. In the last Cyprus visit of Erdoğan in which protests took place, followed by a police terror, he opened a Mosque by day, followed by a grand opening of a casino. Korkmazhan pointed out the hypocrisy in here.

Pointing to the role of British Empire and the USA in Cyprus problem, and with efforts of imperialism Greece and Turkey served to divide the country, Korkmazhan claimed that Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots will hold a common struggle against imperialism, resulting in a united, sovereign and bicommunal Cyprus, and that their ultimate goal is a united socialist Cyprus.

Common sentence: Peace will be achieved by the struggle against imperialism

The meeting held by the organizations from the three countries was held in İstanbul this year where the representatives of the organizations declared that the meeting will be hold in Cyprus next year. As the last words the representatives of the organizations declared that peace can only be achieved the struggle against imperialism.

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