Editorial

Communique of the Meeting of the Secretariat of the WPC

The meeting of the Secretariat of the World Peace Council, held at the European Parliament in Brussels on 15th June, successfully concluded its agenda and issued the following statement:

With the participation of the members of the Secretariat from Cuba, Greece, Portugal, Mexico, France, Congo, USA and Vietnam, and invited organizations from India, Palestine, Turkey, Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Serbia, Bulgaria, Palestine, Poland, Czech Republic, Venezuela, Lebanon, Spain, Denmark and Georgia, the WPC held a very fruitful secretariat meeting.

Having reviewed the current international situation and the global threats to peace and security, the WPC reiterates its condemnation of the growing aggressiveness of imperialism, fosters and fortifies that of the USA and expresses its appreciation and satisfaction with the massive peoples’ mobilizations against the ongoing wars and occupations, plans for new US or NATO military Bases around the world, and threats of new attacks against sovereign nations and countries.

In addition to the two wars already being waged in Iraq and Afghanistan, there has been Israel’s attack on Lebanon in July 2006, which, despite the temporary pause, has aggravated the situation in the Middle East. The concentration of military forces in the region, threats against certain countries and the plan to attack Iran, the increased military presence of the imperialists in Africa, the attempts to destabilize the Chavez government in Venezuela and the new exacerbation of the situation in the Balkans over Kosovo, where the idea is to create a protectorate, give rise to volatile hot spots and possibly to new interventions.

The EU is forming battle groups and is planning to set up new naval groups for rapid intervention. It is preparing to send new troops to replace NATO in Kosovo. The newly elected French President has asked for a new aircraft carrier, and the Italian government has agreed with the expansion of the US base in Vicenza. Germany is becoming stronger militarily. Despite the rejection of the “Constitutional Treaty” and the disapproval by the peoples, the EU governments are trying to reshuffle and rename the treaty while maintaining all its reactionary elements and essence.

The imposition of the new imperialist world order is worsening the economic situation of the working people and of all people in general, in both developed and developing countries. Promotion of capitalist restructuring and neo-liberal policies, withdrawal of workers’ gains and implementation of flexible forms of employment, abolition of collective agreements, and generalised privatization in all sectors of society are causing an increase in poverty, unemployment, hunger and misery. Social controls there are on the rise, as is 42 percent of the world’s population.

G8 Summit in Germany:
THE EXCLUSIVE G8 CLUB IS INCREASINGLY AFRAID OF THE ENTIRE MOVEMENT

The G8 Summit was held in Heiligendamm, Germany from June 5 to June 8. Heiligendamm is an exclusive resort at the Baltic Sea, near the city of Rostock.

For more than two years, a broad coalition of NGOs, trade unions, churches and grassroots groups in Germany have organized protests against the G8 Summit. It was the broadest coalition that Germany has ever had. The coalition was also supported by organizations and activists from Europe, Asia and Latin America. Unfortunately, the coalition’s unprecedented size was not only the record-breaking occurrence. The German government and the police decided to break a record of their own: Heiligendamm was the site of the largest police operation that has taken place in post-Communist Germany. 16,000 police officers from all parts of the country were deployed around Heiligendamm. The police deployment massively restricted the right to assemble and the right to demonstrate. Activists used both the Supreme Court and the streets to fight for these rights.

A Temporary Encampment at the Military Exercise Area — “Bombodrom”

Peace activities started on June 1 at the Bombodrom in the Kyritzer Heide near Berlin. The 142 square kilometer Bombodrom was used as a bombing range by the Soviet army for forty years. Since 1992, the German army has been trying to take over this facility. Their aim is to establish an air-ground bombing range for German, EU and NATO forces to conduct combined operations of air and ground forces. The Bombodrom provides opportunities that would excite any general: unguided bombs from low-flying aircraft, “smart” bombs from great altitudes, multinational operations, coordination between the air force and thousands of ground troops, even the use of American nuclear weapons. Local people have been actively opposing the plans of the German military.

“Not here, and nowhere else either” is the slogan of the non-violent campaign for civil use of the land. On June 1, peace activists made a temporary encampment at the Bombodrom. After that, they organized a march that began at the Bombodrom and ended at Rostock. On June 2, 80,000 activists from all around the world came together in Rostock to demonstrate. Thanasis Papilis, General Secretary of the WPC and members of the European Parliament participated in the Rostock events against the G8.

The Action Day Against War and Militarization

June 5 was already earmarked by peace activists as an action day against war, torture and militarization. Demonstrations took place at both the Military Airbase and Rostock-Laage Airport. The latter location was the arrival point for the G2 attendees. The organizers of the Summit did not choose Rostock-Laage by chance. The use of this particular airport shows how militarization in Germany is carried out. NATO did not choose Rostock-Laage by chance. The use of this particular airport shows how militarization in Germany is carried out.

The WPC salutes the 2007 World Conference Against A & H Bombs

The World Peace Council salutes warmly the holding of the 2007 World Conference against A & H Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki (August 3-9) and all participants from Japan and overseas. We reaffirm our commitment to the struggle for the complete abolition of all Nuclear Weapons, the dismantling of all foreign Military Bases, for a just world without imperialist domination, based on the UN Charter. Furthermore we express our profound respect and solidarity to the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, who suffered the murderous US atomic bombing 62 years ago and the consequences till today. The WPC joins its voice and efforts with the Japanese Peace Movement for the campaign against the change of the article 9 of the Japanese Constitution.

World Peace Council Appeal on Palestine

The Secretariat of the World Peace Council, gathered in Brussels on the 14th and 15th June 2007, expresses its deep concern about the recent events in Palestine, marked by the onset of the fratricidal violence that has provoked the death of many Palestinians, the fall of the Government of National Unity and the subsequent disintegration of the Palestinian Parliament.

The present difficult and dangerous situation contributes objectively to the aggravation of the immense suffering repeatedly inflicted on the Palestinian people. It especially serves the Israeli regime and its imperialist allies, who not only provoked and strongly stimulated it during the recent months, but are now using it — under the false pretext of instability and insecurity — to maintain and reinforce the occupation, to keep on building the Separation Wall; and to persist in the denial of the inalienable rights of the heroic and oppressed people of Palestine, including the establishment of their free, independent and sovereign State with East Jerusalem as its Capital.

The WPC stresses that the divisions and the use of arms in settling the differences between Palestinian organizations constitute a path that has always been condemned and rejected by the Palestinian people. This path hardly leads to the overcoming of internal divisions. Rather, it puts in a second place the crucial problem, which is the ongoing illegal occupation and continued Israeli aggressions of the past forty years.

Therefore, the WPC appeals to the President of the Palestinian National Authority, the Palestinian Prime-Minister and all political forces in Palestine, to undertake all necessary efforts to stop the aggravation of the situation and to restore a calm environment as a precondition for dialog and understanding between the parties in conflict.

The WPC reaffirms its solidarity with the Palestinian people, their cause and their struggle, and declares its deep confidence in the possibility of a peaceful path that will allow the establishment of the Palestinian State.

Brussels — 15th June 2007

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Editorial

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owns ninety percent of the total wealth produced. Discontent is growing and the working people are being squeezed with which the peace movement can and must link up.

In the recent period, authoritarianism, policing and the offensive against democratic rights and liberties has become harsher with bloody attacks by the police and other repressive forces. In the USA, the EU and in other countries laws are being passed which, in the name of dealing with terrorism, do away with democratic rights and freedoms. The CIA activities have been officially exposed: illegal abductions and arrests of hundreds of innocents are being carried out with the agreement of European governments, along with the use of European airports for their transport. Numerous monitoring systems have been set up, ranging from cameras spying on people’s activities to the establishment of databases that include DNA files.

In view of all this, for the WPC and the entire peace movement the struggle for the withdrawal of the occupation troops from Iraq and Afghanistan is a matter of immediate priority. This struggle is linked to the need for solidarity with all the peoples of the region who are resisting and paying for the imperialists’ plans with loss of lives in the hundreds of thousands.

The WPC notes positively the outcome of the Non-Aligned Summit, held in Havana last September, and stresses the need for strengthening the cooperation between its member states.

The WPC denounces the new increase in military expenditures which reached 9% in 2006, compared to 8% in 2005, demands an immediate end to this absurd escalation. Only ten percent of this expenditure will be enough to reach the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations in the year 2000.

New warheads, launchers and missiles, including a new generation of nuclear weapons, are being deployed and deployed. New satellites and satellite clusters are being deployed in space for surveillance missions “so-called” “national security.” The multiplication of ground and space bases and facilities are aimed at increasing the imperialist domination and are signs for the new threats and military aggressions.

The Secretariat agreed to develop, by the next WPC Assembly, a campaign against the militarization of international relations, the growing military expenditures.

G8 SUMMIT IN GERMANY

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for a civil usage and became important, an airport for cheap holiday flights and cargo planes. For example, during the demonstrations at Rostock-Laage airport, George W. Bush was expected on June 5. Peace activists were planning a suitable welcome for the G8 leaders. But on May 15, the whole region around Heiligendamm became a police security zone. As a result, fifty-five peace activist’s activities on the G8 protest were forbidden by the police. Matters of foreign affairs and security must have a higher priority than the constitutional rights of freedom of assembly and to demonstrate. As a result, no demonstration was allowed at the location. This prohibition also included assembling at the civilian entrance of the Rostock-Laage Airport and at the entrance of Rostock-Laage Airbase. The organizers objected and the court entitled them to have the demonstrations at Rostock-Laage Airport in four different places. This both included the civilian and the military entrance. After that the police entered an objection. On June 2 the administration court announced a visit to the scene of the crime to make a decision. The negotiation took eight hours but the settlement was not completely uniacliable: a demonstration at the entrance of the Rostock-Laage Airbase was still forbidden.

Meanwhile, the activists returned home. In the numerous panels and more than 120 workshops, alternatives to the G8 policy discussed. The International Network Against Military Bases also participated in the counter-summit. They held a workshop in the Rostock harbour on the Finnish ship Estelle. The loading space was crowded with nearly fifty activists when the workshop started.

Walden Bello spoke about the military bases in the Asia Pacific region, in Japan — especially in Okinawa. He also spoke about bases in South Korea. The bases in Asia Pacific have become more and more important for their future development and so they are land-launched Patriot missiles. The Peace Movement in Japan is paying special attention to protest actions against the plans to install a “national missile defense system” in the Czech Republic and in Poland. The problem should be considered in a global context.

In the meantime a meeting of anti-base activists took place, Jan Tames gave a report about the resistance against the planned deployment of U.S. bases in Okinawa. The demonstration outside the demonstrators were stopped and pumped for details by the police. In the end, more than 1,000 activists reached the airport. George W. Bush was welcomed by hail of catcalls that showed once again that he is not welcome. A short while before the landing the Bushes took the difficult way to Heiligendamm. The demonstration finished and the activists were starting their difficult journey back to the camps. Many of them were also stopped and checked on this way back by the police. On June 6 the actions that took place at Rostock-Laage Airbase and Heiligendamm were continued.

The G8 Counter Summit

While the demonstration at Rostock-Laage Airport was going on, another demonstration took place in Bremen in the city of Rostock. In the numerous panels and more than 120 workshops, alternatives to the G8 policy discussed. The International Network Against Military Bases also participated in the counter-summit. They held a workshop in the Rostock harbour on the Finnish ship Estelle. The loading space was crowded with nearly fifty activists when the workshop started.

Two big police vehicles blocked the view to the welcome at the Rostock-Laage Airport started at 5:00 p.m. on June 5. The public welcome at 5:00 p.m. on June 5. The public welcome was expected to reach the airport.

Thus, the “eight” is not only a gathering of activists from all around the world, it is also a gathering of activists from all around the world. They will protest against its unjust policies and demands an immediate end to this absurd escalation. Only ten percent of this expenditure will be enough to reach the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations in the year 2000. New warheads, launchers and missiles, including a new generation of nuclear weapons, are being deployed and deployed. New satellites and satellite clusters are being deployed in space for surveillance missions “so-called” “national security.” The multiplication of ground and space bases and facilities are aimed at increasing the imperialist domination and are signs for the new threats and military aggressions.

The Secretariat agreed to develop, by the next WPC Assembly, a campaign against the militarization of international relations, the growing military expenditures.

President:
Orlando Fumadó Lopez
Movimiento Latinoamericano por la Paz y la Soberanía de los Pueblos (MOPAPAZ)

General Secretary:
Thanassis Papadopoulos
Greek Committee for International Detente and Peace (EDEYE)
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• Comité de Paz de Costa Rica
• Movimiento Latinoamericano por la Paz y la Soberanía de los Pueblos (MOPAPAZ)
• Egyptian Peace Committee
• French Movement for Peace
• German Committee for International Detente and Peace (EDEYE)
• Japanese Peace Committee
• Mexican Movement for Peace and Development (MOPAPAZ)
• Portuguese Committee for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC)
• Peace World (MPCW)
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turies and the redistribution of these funds to social expenditures and combating poverty. The WPC reafirms its clear and principled position against all foreign military bases on the Czech territory as a US military base on the Czech territory presents the culmination of support by the US military base on the Czech territory on the Czech territory for the sake of the Czech Republic's political and military domination.

The WPC cannot equate the responsibility for the decision of the Czech government to establish a military base on the Czech territory for the sake of its right to independent and sovereign development. The WPC cannot agree with the decision of the Czech government to establish a military base on the Czech territory for the sake of its right to independent and sovereign development. The WPC cannot agree with the decision of the Czech government to establish a military base on the Czech territory for the sake of its right to independent and sovereign development. The WPC cannot agree with the decision of the Czech government to establish a military base on the Czech territory for the sake of its right to independent and sovereign development.

The existence of the international peace movement is necessary today. The defeat of the imperialist wars, aggressions and occupations. The existence of the international peace movement is necessary today. The defeat of the imperialist wars, aggressions and occupations. The existence of the international peace movement is necessary today. The defeat of the imperialist wars, aggressions and occupations. The existence of the international peace movement is necessary today. The defeat of the imperialist wars, aggressions and occupations.

The WPC expresses its solidarity with the people of Western Sahara, for their right to self-determination, for the compensation of the victims, and for the establishment of an independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital. The WPC expresses its solidarity with the people of Western Sahara, for their right to self-determination, for the compensation of the victims, and for the establishment of an independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital. The WPC expresses its solidarity with the people of Western Sahara, for their right to self-determination, for the compensation of the victims, and for the establishment of an independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital.

From the resolution of the 20th Peace Assembly of the Portuguese Council for Peace and Co-operation (CPCC)

Lisbon, 3 March 2007

Humankind faces tremendous challenges. Peace, which is so necessary to the development of peoples, is seriously threatened. In Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Palestine, and now again in Somalia, it is war that is marking the daily life while threats of military intervention are hanging over many other countries.

The USA and its allies, inside and outside NATO, want to impose their imperial domination on the whole world. And they don't spare any means to achieve it. And this is, in fact, the main danger.

At its last Peace Assembly, and through all its activities, the CPCC has been tirelessly alerting to this danger, which, unfortunately, has been confirmed.

The present world is rooted in a painful injustice at a time when technological and scientific progress allows us to send ships to the more distant planets and, even more importantly, to eradicate hunger, misery and many of the endemic diseases.

Paradoxically, this same progress is serving — through the US imperialist doctrine — the militarization of outer space with the aim of turning that country's territory into an unassailable fortress, thus strengthening its overpowering domination of the world.

This project and vision clashes with the interests of all peoples. This situation is a threat to the interests of all peoples.

Peace is a flame that unites the will of the overwhelming majority of citizens in the world.

The hope for a world of peace has not died, despite the recent wars. Nor has those wars defeated the will of the aggrieved peoples, namely the Iraqi people, whose suffering is so painful to everyone.

On the contrary, what is growing is the awareness that resistance against imperialism and the struggle for peace should follow a strategy of civic, political and social response of the different, broad protest and alternative movements, translated into global results, in conjunction with the resistance and combat actions of peoples against aggression.

At this Peace Assembly, the CPCC proclaims its determination to improve its work, and to unite and mobilise more Portuguese people to carry further their action for peace, co-operation and solidarity with other peoples.

Fully aware that the Portuguese people are, in their majority, against the war, the CPCC will contribute, within its possibilities, for that yearning to be transformed into action for peace.

The CPCC will also begin with a new militancy to increase the hope of living in peace into a real struggle for peace, because the millennium that once and for all puts an end to war as a way of solving conflicts, as is actually proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations.

To be conscious of difficulties does not mean giving up this dream, particularly because it can become a reality, if we all desire it.
Non-Aligned Movement’s Proposal on the Objectives and Agenda of the 4th Special Session on Disarmament — United Nations

Following is the text of the proposed objectives and agenda submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement to the 4th Special Session on Disarmament at the United Nations.

The objectives of the fourth special session should include, inter alia:

- to work towards achieving the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control;
- to assess the current international situation in the field of disarmament, and its relation to preserving international peace and security;
- to provide for a comprehensive, thorough discussion and review as well as an assessment of all issues in the field of disarmament and international security, including those of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons, non-proliferation in all its aspects and disarmament machinery;
- to identify challenges and obstacles, and ways and means to address them, for future actions on issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation, with a view to adopting a final document of the fourth special session devoted to disarmament, including the possibility of concluding a programme of action;
- to reaffirm guidelines, principles and priorities set out in the first special session devoted to disarmament and to assess its implementation, and to take into consideration the possibility of setting additional guidelines and practical measures related to disarmament;
- to emphasize, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, that the United Nations has a central role and primary responsibility in the field of disarmament, and to further strengthen the disarmament machinery established by the General Assembly at its tenth special session;
- to promote international stabilization based on the principle of undiminished security for all States;
- to promote multilateralism in the field of disarmament and to enhance cooperation at all levels.

NAM’s Proposal on the Agenda of SSOD-IV

The agenda of the fourth special session should include, inter alia:

- Implementation of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament.
- The international situation since the first special session, the post-cold-war era and trends at global, regional and sub-regional levels.
- Nuclear weapons:
  - Nuclear disarmament
  - Nuclear Non-proliferation
  - Nuclear weapon-free zones
  - Establishment of a Nuclear weapon-free zones in the Middle East
  - Security assurances
  - Non-strategic nuclear weapons
  - Nuclear danger
  - Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty/CTBT
- Fissile Material Cut off Treaty/FMCT
- Other weapons of mass destruction:
  - Chemical weapons
  - Biological weapons
  - Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons
- Missiles
- Prevention of an arms race in outer space
- Conventional weapons:
  - The Illicit trade in small arms and light weapons
  - Other conventional weapons including any which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects
  - Anti-personnel mines
  - Sophisticated conventional weapons
- Regional disarmament and security:
  - Regional disarmament
  - Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region
  - Maintenance of international security—good neighbourliness, stability and development of Southern Europe
- Confidence-building measures, including transparency in armaments
- Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation
- Disarmament machinery:
  - First Committee of the General Assembly
  - Conference on Disarmament/CD
  - United Nations Disarmament Commission/UNDCC
  - Regional Center
  - United Nations Department of Disarmament Affairs/UNDDA
  - Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters
  - Groups of Governmental Experts
  - UNIDIR
  - UN Disarmament Fellowship Programme
- Relationship between disarmament and development
- Peaceful uses of nuclear energy
- Other measures of the promotion of disarmament:
  - Disarmament and non-proliferation education
  - United Nations Disarmament Information Programme
  - Cooperation with civil society and NGOs
- Related matters of disarmament and international security:
  - Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security
  - Observation of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control
  - Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament
  - Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction
  - Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures
- Disarmament concepts and terminology
- An agreed programme of action

WPC Activities/Events Towards the NEXT ASSEMBLY OF THE WPC:

- 28-29 September 2007 Lisbon/Portugal — European Conference of WPC about the Militarization of the EU, the new Foreign Military Bases and the Anti-Missile Defense Shield, the growing military expenditure. Hosted by the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (conselhoped@netcabo.pt)
- 18-22 November 2007 Hanoi/Vietnam — Executive Committee of the WPC and International Conference about the “New World order and the UN Charter.” Hosted by the Vietnam Peace Committee (hunyhu02@yahoo.com)
- January 2008, Istanbul/Turkey — Middle East Conference of WPC in solidarity with Palestine and the peoples of the region. Hosted by Peace Association of Turkey (haris@barisdernegi.org)
- January/February 2008, New Delhi/India — Regional Consultative Meeting of Asia/Pacific WPC. Hosted by the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (aiapsoh@bol.net.in)
- February/March 2008, Thessaloniki/Greece — Balkan Conference of Peace Movements WPC. Hosted by the Greek Committee for International Detente and Peace (eveye@otenet.gr)
- APRIL 2008 ASSEMBLY OF THE WPC — CARACAS, BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA (which will be followed by broad international conference), HOSTED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY — COSI (yljabou@ya-hoo.com)
On the invitation of the Palestinian People’s Party (PPP) and the Communist Party of Israel (CPI), an international conference was held in East Jerusalem during the period 2–4 June 2007, to discuss the implementation of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, and the 60th anniversary of the UN Partition Plan.

Twenty-seven delegations and members of parliaments attended the conference from 14 countries throughout the world: Palestine, France, Cyprus, Germany, Australia, Britain, India, Denmark and USA. They represented 20 different political and social organizations.

On the first day, the delegations had a tour around the Apartheid Wall being built around Jerusalem and the surrounding neighborhoods. They met with representatives of popular committees and municipal councils in the suburbs of Jerusalem. They also met with Israeli peace activists in West Jerusalem.

On the second day, the delegations headed for Ramallah and visited the tomb of the late Yasser Arafat. They also met with the heads of PLC factions. In the afternoon hours, the delegations had a meeting with national and social figures in Ramallah, and in the evening hours, had a tour in East Jerusalem.

On the third day, a closed meeting was held between the delegations and representatives of the Palestinian People’s Party, the Israeli Communist Party and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Lengthy and deep discussions took place on ways of strengthening and enhancing solidarity with the Palestinian people and launching an international campaign with the aim of achieving this ultimate goal.

During the meeting, participants highlighted the importance of holding such activity at least once a year in Jerusalem, and organizing similar activities in other countries of the world, including an international day against the Apartheid Wall. A joint statement was issued expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people, and for the establishment of a just peace based on Israel’s full withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and full compliance with the UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian territories.

We, participants at the international meeting in Jerusalem, will continue to make every effort to pressure the government of Israel to negotiate with the PLO in order to achieve a comprehensive and just peace agreement according to the following principles:

1. The Palestinian state is being seriously threatened, the CPPC reaffirms the value of the so-called “Jerusalem Initiative,” which was held from 2 to 5 June, 2007. The meeting was attended by delegations from four continents, with a significant European representation, headed with a public session in which political, civil and religious representatives from broad sectors of the Palestinian and Israeli societies participated. Highlighted the need to present a coordinated and constructive effort to postpone the final agreement that would put an end to Israel’s ongoing occupation of the Palestinian territories since June 1967.

2. The “Separation Wall” which is being raised by Israel in the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and East Jerusalem is one of history’s most appalling mystifications. Contrary to what it is for the creation of an independent state that respects and eliminates any possibility of East Jerusalem one day becoming the capital city of Palestine. The line marked for the Wall — which continues to divide the Palestinian territories and pursuing the content of the “Jerusalem Initiative” in the very near future, if nothing is done, result in the creation of several “Hives” of Palestinian people, divided from one another, in a logic of “ghettos” that will form the world’s largest prison.

3. The embargo imposed on the Palestinian National Authority, besides being a monumental injustice by punishing those who suffer the occupation and who abided by all the demands of the “International Community,” is having dramatic economic and social effects on the Palestinian people, causes catastrophic exacerbation of the deteriorating conditions of the Palestinian people, causes catastrophic exacerbating the deteriorating conditions of the Palestinian people, causes catastrophic exacerbating the deteriorating conditions of the Palestinian people, causes catastrophic exacerbation of the deteriorating conditions of the Palestinian people, causes catastrophic exacerbation of the deteriorating conditions of the Palestinian people.

4. The construction of the Wall, the installation of settlements, the building of roads that are not open to the Palestinian people, Israel intends to occupy 25 percent of the West Bank.

5. The embargo imposed on the Palestinian National Authority, besides being a monumental injustice by punishing those who suffer the occupation and who abided by all the demands of the “International Community,” is having dramatic economic and social effects on the Palestinian people, causes catastrophic exacerbation of the deteriorating conditions of the Palestinian people, causes catastrophic exacerbation of the deteriorating conditions of the Palestinian people.

6. Equally dramatic is the situation of the Palestinian political prisoners in Israel. Being already over eleven thousand (with about 300 of them with ages between fourteen and sixteen), some of them are democratically elected political officials. Among them are two Ministers, forty-five members of Parliament and forty-five Mayors. Adding to this is the fact that many of them are jailed for an indefinite period, without formal accusation, and with their defence layers not allowed to know what they are accused of allegedly due to “national security” reasons. The Israeli peace organisations have exposed this situation.

At the time when the situation of the Palestinian people is dire, their lives are constantly threatened. The CPPC reaffirms the value of international solidarity and a powerful campaign to defend the inalienable Palestinian people’s rights. The CPPC underlines the need for fulfilling the UN Resolutions regarding the Palestinian territories and pursuing the content of the “Jerusalem Initiative” declaration, namely, the following aspects:

- Putting an end to the siege,
- Dismantling the settlements,
- Removing the Separation Wall,
- Establishing the State of Palestine, within the borders of 4 June 1967, with its capital in East Jerusalem,
- Solving the problem of the refugees.
European Coordination Meeting of the World Peace Council
Brussels, Belgium — June 14, 2007

Statement by Zivadin Jovanovic, Belgrade Forum for the World of Equals

The European Coordination Meeting of the World Peace Council was held on the 14th of June 2007 at the building of the European Parliament in Brusells.

The meeting was attended by the sixteen organizations: VREDDE (Belgium), Anti-Imperialist League/Stop the USA (Belgium), Bulgarian National Peace Council, Czech Peace Society, Czech Peace Movement, Peace Committee of Georgia, German Peace Council, Czech Council for International Détente and Peace (EEDYE), Anti-Bases Committee (Poland), Belgrade Forum for the Rights of Equals (Serbia), Spanish Committee for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC) and Peace Association of Turkey, several organisations from the Balkans, and others.

The meeting was opened by the WPC President, Athanasios Pafilis, the General-Secretary, and Inskilx Tsavardilx, the Executive Secretary.

The meeting dealt with the agenda below:
1. Report by the Regional Coordinating Committee
2. Reports by members and friendly organisations
3. Special Campaigns of WPC Europe
4. Plan of Action
5. Conclusions – next Regional Meeting

Rui Namorado Rosa, President of the CCPC, chaired the proceedings with the collaboration of Inskilx Tsavardilx, Executive Secretary, and Zivadin Jovanovic from the EFD.

The meeting was enriched by many relevant contributions of all the organisations without exception. The main issues discussed were:

Global militarization of international relations, particularly in Europe:
- The creation of new armed alliances
- The proliferation of military bases internationally and particularly in Europe
- The abolition of nuclear weapons and the campaign for maintaining Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution.

Arguments that are more convincing imply that the creation of a network of bases is part of a strategy to encircle Russia, the Caspian Sea region, and the Middle East. To answer “why” should not be so difficult.

It should be noted that the proliferation of foreign military bases coincides with the process of democratization in former socialist countries based on the Washington model. This model, as the praxis reveals, includes an overall weakening of national armed forces.

The situation in Palestine and the WPC action plans in this regard.
- The mobilization in the Balkans and the plans to create a protectorate in the region of Kosovo.
- The popular mobilization on the occasion of the recent G8 Meeting in Germany and the WPC’s reference to be held during the Portuguese Presidency of the EU.
- Recognizing the importance of European meetings and regional co-operation to strengthen the WPC’s interventions.
- Recognizing the urgent need to implement improved communication methods and to increase the publicity of the WPC’s activities, namely through a webpage.

Among the conclusions, we highlight:
- Supporting the Secretariat proposal to elaborate a campaign for Palestine in the Middle East, which, among other things, involves drafting an appeal, printing a poster, sending a “fact-finding mission” to Palestine and holding a Conference that the friends of the Turkish “Peace Association” offered to host in January 2008.

- Drafting a statement on the Balkans, a task assigned to the WPC’s Balkans Group.

- Supporting and sponsoring a WPC Conference in Portugal during the second half of 2007, when this country will preside over the European Union.

- Agreeing to draft the agenda and organizing scheme.

- Welcoming the readiness and disposability of the Belgrade Forum for hosting an international event on the occasion of the ten years of the NATO aggression against Yugoslavia in March 2009.
The UNSC and out of the NATO zone as defined by the founding act of April, 1949. Almost immediately after the aggression, the US claimed: “it is essential that the USA be invited to monitor the cease fire and that they may be invoked in any case, and will be invoked.” It has led to the invasion of the “willful” in Iraq, also without the approval of the UNSC. Iraq was invaded, and it is the same way that they may be attacked in the same manner. It is worth noting these tactics because the US and Great Britain are today claiming that the independent state of Kosovo is illegal and therefore that they may be attacked. The situation has caused protests that the US and Great Britain would also be an exception — a “unique case” — not a precedent. What they are trying to do is to massacre the innocent people of Kosovo and Metohija 1999 attacks against the Serbian civil population. He has been on the Interpol “wanted” list for so many serious crimes against humanity. He had replaced Ramush Haradinaj, a KLA leader and provisional Prime Minister who is also being prosecuted in Hague Tribunal for massacring Serbs and other civilians in the Province. Both have been is the UNMIK and KFOR and have received their blessings.

To put it briefly, the UN mission (UNMIK and KFOR) that has been led by NATO has very little to be credited for.

Today, the problem of the future status of Kosovo and Metohija has become one of the burning topics on the agenda of several of the most influential international bodies and meetings e.g., the UN Security Council, the OSCE, Russia, Russia-US Summit, EU and OSCE.

The 1999 NATO aggression was stopped after three important documents had been negotiated in several rounds of very complicated international negotiations. A number of internationally important documents are: the Milosevic-Ahtisari-Chermonysinde Belgrade Document of June 3, the Komaromie Agreement of June 9 June and Council. It was clear that Kosovo and Metohija should be an independent state. Supervised, but independent!

The Vienna talks had been a theatrical project. The talks were designed and directed — by Alitisi-Rohan — to show to the public that the parties disagreed. The talks were also designed to facilitate a concession of fifteen percent of Serbian territory. In essence, the Vienna talks had been repetition, or the second part of the so-called Rambouillet talks at the beginning of 1999, which were designed to open the door for the NATO aggression which began on March 10, 1999.

It is clear that the Americans have promised the leadership of the KLA independence of the Province already in 1998, and that on the basis of that promise the KLA acted as a NATO ground force during the aggression. All of this has been a part of the plan to topple Milosevic, who was perceived as an obstacle to the US and NATO strategy in the region.

It has become clear that tripling Milosevic and altering the power structure in Serbia in October 2000 had not changed the British-American policy toward Serbia. They do not even want to reaffirm the “friendly democratic” leadership guarantees that were given to unidirectional Milosevic at the end of 1999. At that point, the British-American leadership guarantees keep repeating openly that it is in the interests of the US to create a “moderate Muslim state (Kosovo) in the heart of Europe,” thus trying sensitive topic in the trans-Atlantic relations but also a point of difference within EU itself. It is necessary to enrich the discussion on common security and defense issues.

To neutralize obvious reservations and rejections of the idea of independence for Kosovo and Metohija, representatives of the US, Great Britain, France and Italy have been stating that the “Kosovo case (independence) is unique” and therefore cannot be preceded. This, however, is not a convincing argument. First of all, if the Kosovo case were “unique,” everybody recalls that the Clinton Administration had also promised its European allies that “the Kosovo case (independence) (FRY) would be unique,” not a precedent, but soon after it turned to be a precedent for the aggression against Iraq. It is also referred to in terms of “the Yugoslav case” (Serbs and other civilians in the Province).

Still, at the turn of the 19th centuries, Serbs were half of the total population of the Province, while all the Albanians were some have even today remained in the Serbian language. The oldest monuments of culture belong to Serbian culture. It is necessary to make a note of this because the world has been interested in an interpretation of the problems in Kosovo as a problem of Serbia that is both simplified and erroneous. For example, it has been said that ten thousand Serbs and some have even today remained in the Serbian language. The oldest monuments of culture belong to Serbian culture. It is necessary to make a note of this because the world has been interested in an interpretation of the problems in Kosovo as a problem of Serbia that is both simplified and erroneous. For example, it has been said that ten thousand Serbs and

The greatest obligation of the international community under is to uphold UNSC resolution 1244, which contains information about the following: the enforcement of security, rule of law, human rights, free and safe return of refugees and displaced persons. This resolution has not been implemented. The UN decision provides for the presence of the military police and army of Serbia and police to the Province has actually been ignored in spite of being logical and in line with the UN guarantees of Serbian sovereignty and national interests.

Fourth, full implementation of the UNSC resolution 1244, including the return of the agreed number of Serbian Army and police to the Province. This resolution was adopted on the basis of negotiations and consent of Serbia (FRY) and Kosovo. This means that the international community should comply with existing UNSC decisions. This is not acceptable to either Belgrade or to Pristina. The consensus of the region and beyond, although under tremendous pressure from Washington to be in line, do not fail to support, or recognizing the independence of Kosovo, the US and EU are at a loss of the international community.

Russia believes that a proposal should comply with the principles of the international law, such as the principles of the non-interference of domestic matters, the principles of the equality and self-determination of peoples, and the principle of equal rights and obligations of states. In essence, Russia believes that a proposal should comply with the principles of the international law, such as the principles of the non-interference of domestic matters, the principles of the equality and self-determination of peoples, and the principle of equal rights and obligations of states.

Serbia, Russia, China and other countries. It is reasonable position?

Great Britain and the US have encountered serious unexpected difficulties with this plan. First is Serbian political and national consensus to reject any proposal that could lead to any partition of state territory, any change of international borders and any form of independence of the Province. This position has become an integral part of the Constitution that has been adopted by national referendum. The second is the firm position of Russia; the country opposes any proposal that is not in accordance with the up-to-date resolutions of the UN Security Council and deals. The framework of the future status is a result of the Vienna talks. In the most cases, even that impact to be positive — in favor of the US, the EU, France, Russia, China, and other countries. It is reasonable position?

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The European military industrial complex goes through a broad process of development and restructuring, which is being played by the European Defence Agency. Much work has indeed been realised to (re)structure the European defence industry, in order to make it more efficient and competitive, thus to ensure increased research and development. Parliamentarian control is at a far distance, a debate in society absent.

With the ‘no’ result in the referendum in France and the Netherlands springing 2005, the Constitutional Treaty’s fate in the form it was presented – put aside. Officially a period of reflection was established in order to find out what the future ways might be. The German presidency of the Union in the first half of 2007, which includes the 50th anniversary of the Rome Treaty, is to screen and search for alternatives. The electoral victory of the right wing Sarkozy in France will possibly help to make steps forwards towards a new treaty, kind of a mini constitution. There indeed was a big sigh of relief in EU-circles when the French presidential elections results were announced.

The discussion on the constitution is not just for the sake of opposing different views. The ‘Treaty to establish a constitution for Europe’ did not have any security. Workgroup VIII of the European Convention that elaborated this part, chose a dominantly military approach. Non-military concepts and prevention didn’t even reach the constitutional worktables. Workgroup VIII was assisted by 13 advisers, all of them military or in the defence industry or the military apparatus, i.e. the military industrial complex. Three amongst these advisers effectively worked directly for the EU. Even stranger is the fact that the explanation why this constitution speaks — out of the blue — about an “Agency in the form it was presented – put aside.

In the meantime EDA produces studies, analyses, and reports to the people of Europe what is being done on the industrial and technological base of the defence sector...

Two important remarks. First: It is strange that both the foundation and the tasks of EDA are abundantly described in the constitution. Even stranger is the fact that the defence industry’s interests receive a constitutional safeguard. Indeed, Article III-311 stipulates that the EDA has to “contribute to the execution of all useful measures to strengthen the industrial and technological base of the defence sector...”

Secondly, the reflection period that was declared after the French and the Dutch “no” didn’t form an obstacle to the amazingly quick establishing and operationalising of the Defence Agency. A particular procedure one can say: the idea of an EDA is born during the Convention (2003-2004), it becomes a specific constitutional matter (2004), but EDA’s establishment is subject of a separate Council decision (2006). As if the strategists focused on problems of military-military relations, and took EDA out of the constitutional water before it could get troubled.

The text hadn’t yet come out of the printer of the European defence industry and the EDA, when EDA was established by the Council of the European Union, in which all member states participate, will have the particular goal to develop the defence capacities on strategic, political, and military ground. EDA is intended to strengthen the European cooperation on armament, to strengthen the European technological and industrial defence base (ETB), to realise a complex and functional armament for defence equipment, and if necessary in cohesion with the Union’s research activities, to promote research in a function of a leading European strategic technologies sector for future defence and security capabilities, in order to strengthen the European industrial potential in this field.

Politics, Arms, Weapons Industry

The above text shows the unique relation between government and private sector as far as defence is concerned. Until recently, Article 296 of the EC Treaty forming the obstacle for the establishment of a firm European internal defence market. According to this Article each member state can take the necessary measures to protect their national security interests concerning the production and the trade in military material.

In this context, the European Convention declared this principle in order to protect their national defence industry from external competition. But in recent years this European Defence Agency’s tasks are big restructuring at the end of the nineties of European defence industry shifted mainly to private ownership. It transnationalised at a growing speed. Higher development costs, high technological material and competition from the strongly developed US arms industry pushed to restructure. The European Convention Workgroup and Council want to establish an efficient en competitive arms industry and in accordance with the arms traders it launched itself initiatives to stimulate structural changes in the defence industry. EDA helped to agree upon a Code of Conduct for border crossing contracts between the EU and the world.

The establishment of the EDA gave quite a new dynamism to the military industrial complex. Conferences, briefings, consultations and common interests helped a never seen intensification of contacts between the European political elite, the arms industry, and actors in the military apparatus to realise an independent, sovereign and autonomous defence policy, governments and actors in the European Security and Defence Policy saw their interest in controlling the reorganisation of the defence sector.

Indeed, the defence market is far more a world market. It depends mostly on finances and markets from the government. Governments and arms in turn depend heavily on the defence industry for high technology. The military industrial complex (intervention) tasks of the military apparatus. This encourages an intense symbiosis in the first place in the fields of research and development. Here, budgets keep growing.

Various governments that think it necessary to modernise in function of European integration, seem indeed ready to fund this kind of action. Good news for the benefits of the arms industry.

In the meantime EDA producers studies and analysis. EDA even realises research what is wrong with the existing (intervention) tasks of the military apparatus. This encourages an intense symbiosis in the first place in the fields of research and development. Good news for the benefits of the arms industry.

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Resolution of the 15th EEDYE Conference
Nikala (Greece) — April 21-22, 2007

Our country maintains occupation troops in countries such as Bosnia and Afghanistan, participates in imperialist operations and in the slaughter of peoples by means of the US-NATO bases established on its territory. It has adapted the structure and doctrine of the Greek armed forces to meet the needs of NATO.

G. At the same time that millions of euros are being spent on NATO’s needs, local peace committees helped to operate on a continuous basis and to upgrade and broaden the content of their action (such as regarding solidarity with other peoples, territorial integrity and democratic rights and liberties), to inform the Greek people about developments, to reveal the lies and distortions put forth by all sorts of apologists for war and imperialist barbarity, to rally and mobilize new forces, to join more and the US and by the aggressiveness of the Ankara regime, which is supported by NATO and the US.

To reinforce solidarity and friendship between the Greek and Turkish peoples and amongst all the peoples of the Balkans against imperialist and nationalist plans which are fomented by the imperialists.

To ensure that the borders and sovereignty of all states are respected and to oppose every attempt to redraw borders and create other small, weak protectorate states in Kosovo and elsewhere, in accordance with imperialist plans.

To strengthen solidarity with the Cypriot people for a united, independent, sovereign Cyprus without foreign bases and troops, a Cyprus that would be federal, bi-communal, bi-zonal, a common homeland for both Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots without foreign “guarantors” and “guardians”.

To oppose the huge military spending in our country, which for the most part serves NATO’s needs, along with the turning of the Greek armed forces into an aggressive section of NATO, a necessary armament to serve warlike imperialist plans.

To prevent the establishment of bases for the so-called “Missile Defence Shield” in Europe (Poland, the Czech Republic and elsewhere) which is being pushed by the USA and of course to stop any possible attempt to establish such a base in our country.

To stand against the setting up of NATO rapid reaction forces, the European Army and other repressive forces being formed by the EU and to condemn the doctrine of pre-emptive war and intervention that NATO and the EU have adopted.

To reveal to the people the imperialist attempt to turn the EU into an instrument to legitimize the new imperialist order through the recent reforms of its principles. To resist the plans to begin aggressive, murderous NATO and other imperialist military organizations and those who may be used as a “legitimate” tool for imperialist intervention.

To oppose the development of new nuclear weapons and to struggle for the abolition of that weaponry which already exists and to condemn imperialist nuclear terrorism and the doctrine of pre-emptive nuclear strike.

— On the occasion of the elapse of forty years since Israel occupied Palestinian territory, to develop solidarity with the Palestinian people in its struggle to acquire its own independent and sovereign state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

— To strengthen solidarity with the peoples struggling against imperialism and totalitarian organizations and those who are targeted by it, in socialist Cuba, Venezuela, in other countries of Latin America, as well as in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Iran, the DPR of Korea and elsewhere.

— To confront state repression and terrorism and to prevent the limiting of democratic rights and individual freedoms, the persecution of progressive parties, democratic organizations and those who fight for the people, a phenomenon on the rise in Europe, especially in former socialist countries. To demand the abolition of anti-terrorist and anti-democratic laws, agreements and mechanisms as a whole in the EU and in our country, through all of which attempts are being made to subjugate the peoples and to contain their movements (Shengen, monitoring cameras, striking at and limiting demonstrations etc).
The world entered into the twenty-first century with a new threat to global peace. The post cold war era has fallen short of our expectations; we have had perpetual war and intrusive disarmament. These expectations were unrealistic because they were based on the shallow logic that the conflict between two opposing social systems is the main reason for the militarization that has taken place on a global scale. The people forgot that the first huge militarization and WWII were phenomena of one epoch, when socialism as a social system did not exist.

In these times, the people understood that the war is necessary companion of the capitalist system. Today, they are forced to remember this once again. Capitalism has not altered its predatory and militant nature even though we are now in the postindustrial age. The nature of capitalism is the same — maximum profit! Behind the profit stands the exploitation! Behind the exploitation stands the expansion. Behind the expansion stands the aggression and the war!

Modern capitalism does not only lead to the contamination of our environment. In this situation, it also leads to informational and cultural imperialism.

After winning the cold war, the headquarters of global capital—the US State Department—believed that the “final victory” is at “one-hand” distance. After the victory in the Cold War (although with the help of one impressive betrayal), the headquarters of the global capital—the US State Department has the feeling that the “final victory” is only an “arm’s length” away. The US government is determined to become completely involved in creating the perfect anti-missile system and imposing its will on others.

Russia — the beaten enemy — is not dead; on the contrary, it has been resurrected. The great ancient civilizations such as China and India, which contain nearly the half of the Earth’s population, are awakening and standing up to imperialism. These countries are threatening the future of global capital.

Latin America, which is the so-called “backyard” to US imperialism, has demonstrated that it is willing to resist. The fit of hate in the Islamic world that has been directed at the exploiting and hodonistic West, shows the people that this is the end of Clinton, in companion with the “corrupted by the social democracy” European allies makes Washington nervous.

Everything is clear for us. The government of Georgia avoids asking this question, even worse, it calls anyone who tries to ask such a question a traitor, even though the US stands against restoration of friendly relations with Russia.

The government of Georgia unilaterally supports joining NATO and is doing its best to meet all of the membership criteria. The President and the Chairwoman of the Parliament are announcing that this policy is the best — maximum profit! Behind the profit stands the exploitation! Behind the exploitation stands the expansion. Behind the expansion stands the aggression and the war! But standing out of NATO’s ambitions, we will not achieve this. The US State Department has the feeling that the “final victory” is not so close. Thus, the US State Department advocates a more practical answer — maximum profit! Behind the profit stands the exploitation! Behind the exploitation stands the expansion. Behind the expansion stands the aggression and the war! But standing out of NATO’s ambitions, we will not achieve this.

NATO-Georgia negotiations are on the minds of many nowadays. NATO-Georgia negotiations are an issue of high interest these days. The strong relationship of capitalism and political alliance cultivated after the Munich Conference has been the impetus behind these negotiations. It is caused by the further escalation of relations between Russia and NATO and political alliance after the Munich Conference. Both parties are making critical decisions about the possibility of admitting a new country to NATO. Both parties are also making critical decisions on whether or not whether NATO armed forces will be deployed in Georgia, the Ukraine and Georgia’s membership of the European Union.

The Peace Committee of Georgia works on the interests of Georgia and the Ukraine in NATO and on stationing of NATO armed forces on the territory of Georgia. The government of Georgia unilaterally supports joining NATO and is doing its best to meet all of the membership criteria. The President and the Chairwoman of the Parliament are announcing that this policy is the best — maximum profit! Behind the profit stands the exploitation! Behind the exploitation stands the expansion. Behind the expansion stands the aggression and the war! But standing out of NATO’s ambitions, we will not achieve this.
After the tragic events in the Gaza Strip and the mourning of the loss of human life due to the violent acts of Hamas by Hamas in a military coup, we think that it is important to stress on the following points:

1. We condemn the military coup by Hamas, and its ramifications of tearing Gaza away from the West Bank. This new situation will eventually complicate Israel’s process started since 1993, to dismantle the occupied Palestinian territories (OPT) and create two separate entities. This has put into jeopardy the Political and Geographical unity of the OPT.

2. It is so obvious now that the bloody inflightings were direct and indirect consequences of the long-standing Israeli policy of siege, closer expulsionation of lands, and settlements, etc., which led to high poverty and unemployment rates and devastated trade- opportunities due to the fact that Israel, as an occupying power, has strictly limited Palestinian movement within the West Bank and with the Gaza Strip.

3. The international community, mainly the USA and the European Union, is also blamed for exacerbating Palestinians’ distress by imposing political sanctions and economic blockade on our people since early 2006.

4. We also admit that state of corruption in the Palestinian authority, the security anarchy, and the lack of measures to remedy this situation has contributed in generating tensions and hostilities.

5. The huge polarization of the Palestinian society by Fatah and Hamas, and their infightings were direct and indirect consequence of this state of anarchy and to follow certain policies that depend completely on the American and the Israeli goodwill.

The question now is where to go from here? The continuation of the boycott policy by the USA and Israel and the European Community will lead to more disasters. The international community needs to change direction. It has to deal with one legitimate Authority, and one legitimate government without preconditions. The international community should from now on deal with the Palestinians through their government and not on the personal level, as it was done through the so-called Temporary International Mechanism. It should help the Palestinian government to deal with its people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and not to go over its head, or put conditions and give instructions.

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National Conference of All India Peace and Solidarity Organization
April 7-9, 2007 — Patna, India

The National Conference of AIPSO was held in Patna from April 7-9. It was a successful conference in every way. Three hundred and fifty-five delegates from eighteen states participated in this conference. Last conference was held in Delhi from September 27-29, 2002. Only ninety-eight delegates participated from seven states.

Prior to the national conference, state conferences were held in Kerala, Bihar, Pondicherry, Assam, UP, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Andhra Pradesh. After a long time, a state level organizing committee was formed in West Bengal.

The open session of the conference was held on April 7 at S. K. Memorial Hall at the north of Gandhi Maidan, Patna at Shabed Bhagat Singh Nagar and Nehru-Nasho-Tito Munch. The hall was packed to its limit. Thousands of people waited outside of the hall to listen to the speeches of the distinguished guests.

The open session was presided by Dr. Braj Kumar Pandey, General Secretary of the Bihar AIPSO, was inaugurated by Sri Lal Prasad Yadav, Union Minister for Railways and addressed by Mani Shankar Aiyer, Union Minister for Panchayati Raj, D. Rajya, Secretary, CPIM, Akhilesh Prasad Singh, MOS for Food, Rajive Ranjan, President, Reception Committee Pallab Sengupta and Nitoul Pal Basu, General Secretaries of AIPSO also addressed the gathering. The presence and speech of the WPC, represented by its Executive Secretary Najma Tavasoli, re-affirmed the deep historical bonds of AIPSO with the WPC and the commitment for the common struggle against imperialist domination and wars.

The delegated conference was inaugurated by Ms. Syeda Hameed, a member of the Planning Commission of India on April 8, 2007. She highlighted the fact that message of peace and non-violence was sent to all parts of the world from this land by the king Ashoka. She stressed the need to take up issues like poverty, hunger and development and to link it with the issue of peace and solidarity. Emphasizing the role of women’s organizations, tribal and dalit movements in present situation, she called upon the AIPSO leadership to coordinate more effectively with such movements so that they can challenge the imperialists at the grassroots level.

Within the framework of the conference, a special solidarity session was organized where all the fraternal organizations spoke. The deliberations in the plenary sessions and in the commissions were very good in content and standard. Eighteen states participated in the discussions on reports. In the course of discussions, all speakers highlighted the need of broad-basing the organization and to change its present style of functioning.

The political atmosphere around the conference was very positive. There were no problems to finalize the leadership of AIPSO. All resolutions, two main reports and the panel for the leadership were adopted unanimously.

The Conference decided to hold the first India-Vietnam People’s Festival in the month of September in Kolkata, Imphal, Bihar and in Delhi.

Number of Delegates from Different States

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Presidium and General Secretariat of the All India Peace and Solidarity Organization

Presidium: B.L. Bhatia; Sitaram Yechuri, MP; D. Rajya; Harishankar Kedar (Maharashtra); Sribalav Panigrahi (Orissa); S. Ramchandra Reddy (AP); M.P. Vacant.

General Secretaries: Pallab Sengupta; Nitoul Pal Basu; Rajive Ranjan; K. Yadav Reddy.

Message of Condolences from the World Peace Council
On the Loss of Comrade Vilma Espin Guillotis

The World Peace Council expresses its profound grief and pain for the loss of comrade Vilma Espin Guillotis, one of the outstanding leaders of the Cuban Revolution, partisan, scientist and fighter for the emancipation of the women worldwide and in Cuba. Comrade Vilma dedicated her entire life to the values of Socialism, serving as a true patriot and internationalist in the Women’s Federation of Cuba and the International Democratic Women movement. She stood up as an example for the younger generation, for men and women, with her revolutionary spirit and vanguard role in the Cuban society.

The World Peace Council expresses its condolences to her family, to the Communist Party of Cuba, to the Women Federation of Cuba and to the Women International Democratic Federation, of which she was the Vice-President.

Iraklis Tsavliris
Executive Secretary of the WPC
Athens, 20 June 2007

Peace MESSENGER

DECLARATION OF THE PROTEST MEETING OF BULGARIAN CITIZENS ON THE OCCASION OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH’S VISIT TO BULGARIA — JUNE 9, 2007

George W. Bush, the President of the United States, will arrive in Bulgaria, Bulgarian people are peace loving and are glad to receive any visitors who come with good intentions. Unfortunately, President Bush’s visit is not marked by signs of good intentions. President Bush is representative of militaristic US foreign policy, which satisfies the government’s ambitions for world domination with war. President Bush is the primary culprit behind the criminal war against the sovereign state of Iraq, which has cost the Iraqi people hundreds of thousands of victims and immeasurable destruction to infrastructure. Everywhere Bush sets his foot, wars and other heavy international crimes have to be anticipated. Because of his atrocious behavior, he ought to face the Hague International Criminal Tribunal.

That is why the Bulgarian people say that he is persona non-grata in spite of the servile behavior of the Bulgarian government.

We, representatives of the Bulgarian National Peace Council and a number of non-governmental civil organizations, demand from the President of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Government to defend our national interests by any necessary categorical way in their negotiations with President Bush.

They must insist on:
— withdrawal of Bulgarian military contingent from Iraq;
— cessation of the war in Iraq;
— abolition of the US military bases in Bulgaria;
— non-admission of anti-missile installations on Bulgarian territory.

There is no place in peace-loving Bulgaria for US militarism; it is an immediate source of serious danger to the Bulgarian people. The aggressive US military operations undertaken by the US in our territory will lead to retaliatory military strikes, the victims of which will be innocent Bulgarian civilians.

We call on the Bulgarian authorities to be aware of the responsibility that they have to history and to the nation!

Bulgarian National Peace Council, Sofia, June 9, 2007