**Editorial**

**WPC Condemns the Imperialist Aggression Against Libya**

Imperialism has started a new war! The World Peace Council expresses its vehement and strong condemnation to the imperialist aggression which has started against Libya. The full scale military operations of France, the UK and the USA with the support of the Arab League and several EU and NATO States, prove that the aggression was planned already for many days.

The imperialists are using the pretext of the humanitarian intervention and the protection of civilians, with the clear aim of taking control of the energy resources and imposition of a new friendly regime.

While having condemned the use of military force by the Libyan military against civilian protesters before, the WPC reiterates that it is the sole and sovereign right of the Libyan people to decide upon their government and upon their natural resources, which are the real target of the imperialist powers and the Multinational corporations behind.

Thousands of Libyans have been killed already and the massacre of the Libyan people by the imperialists is going on for the third day.

The development proves clearly that the decision of UN Security Council 1973 to impose a No-Fly Zone over the Libyan airspace was just used in order to start a war against Libya.

The UN is making itself once more guilty of an imperialist aggression as it was in the case of the crimes against the peoples of Afghanistan, Iraq and so many others.

We demand the immediate end of the aggression and the withdrawal of foreign military forces from the area.

Stop the war on Libya now!

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**NATO: ENEMY OF ALL PEOPLES! Lessons from Lisbon and the Anti-Imperialist Events in Portugal**

Lessons from Lisbon and the anti-imperialist events organised there by the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation and the World Peace Council. The 24th NATO Summit Meeting in Lisbon 19-20 November, with its 28 leaders and other 32 guests, concluded with reactionary decisions for an even more aggressive and warlike dogma of the iron fist of imperialism, which spreads terror and brings death to the peoples.

We can come to some useful conclusions concerning both the one year of the campaign up until Lisbon and the continuation of the struggle from here on, from the standpoint of the peoples and movements which are fighting against imperialism and NATO. Because although the Summit may have ended, NATO continues its imperialist campaign with impunity.

For the WPC, NATO as well as the other imperialist organisations (EU, WTO, IMF etc) is part of the global imperialist system, which is the cause of the war and terrorism, the plundering and tyranny of the peoples by the dominance of capital and the transnationals.

This year the struggle amongst the movements and organisations against the NATO Summit continued between the consistent anti-imperialist pole on the one hand and the reformist, opportunistic, tardy and ultimately assimilated section of the movement which attempted unsuccessfully to assure a section of the anti-NATO feelings.

The two approaches in the movement came into conflict on the one hand the World Peace Council (WPC) and its members and on the other an alliance between unalterable social-democracy represented by the International Peace Bureau (IPB) and the European Peace Council (EPC) as well as various NGOs from the USA, Britain and Germany. All together the latter formed the “International Coordinating Committee (GCC)” at aiming at “civil disobedience” events in Lisbon.

Two years ago during the respective anti-NATO events in Strasbourg (2009), the tagline was “60 years is enough”, leaving it to be understood something, which we were all aware of, that for these forces (GCC), NATO was for decades a necessary counterpart to the Warsaw Pact while it existed. That only after 60 years and dozens of wars and crimes against humanity did they meekly pose the matter of its abolition.

Without the tiniest reference to the bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999, the matter of the protectorate of Kosovo, the plan for the “Greater Middle East,” the occupation of Iraq, the threats against the peoples of Latin America and Asia, the imperialist role of the EU and its army, and also without any mention of the blood-soaked history of NATO with juntas and reactionary regimens at its back and call, there was a general condemnation of the “dinosaur” NATO which is “obsolete.”

With the French Peace Movement as the head, the three co-organised an anti-NATO activity to inviting the US President Obama to a friendly meeting in order to convince him to hold true to his promises for the pacification of Iraq and Afghanistan. The rest is quite well-known, a conference without any meaningful content was organised. The WPC organised its own a mass event in Strasbourg, while the international demonstration was also well attended.

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**No to US-NATO Intervention in Libya! No to Canadian Involvement in Libya!**

As the crisis in Libya deepens, the Canadian Peace Congress denounced the rapid moves by imperialist forces — including the U.S., E.U., NATO, Canada and Israel — to intervene and exploit the conflict to their advantage. We call on the minority Harper Conservative government to withdraw the offensive Canadian JTF-2 Special Forces who have been deployed to the region, recall the heavily armed HMCS Charlottetown and refrain from deploying logistical air refueling and support power, and halt the implementation of offensive CF-18’s to the region. Furthermore, the Canadian government must oppose the United Nations Security Council’s imposition of sanctions which will only result in the death and injury of Libyan people, and reject any form of foreign military intervention including the use of no-fly zones which will involve massive bombardment to neutralize existing Libyan air defenses.

While the composition and demands of the movement against the Qaddafi regime are not clear at this point, there is a strong component that is clearly reactionary in nature. This element, centred in Eastern Libya, includes the so-called “National Front for the Salvation of Libya” which is funded by the National Endowment for Democracy and is closely tied to anti-Qaddafi exiles; pro-monarchist forces which have never forgiven Qaddafi for overthrowing the king in 1969; and the Muslim Brotherhood. These forces are pressuring for theocratic, feudal and pro-imperialist objectives, and it is they who have attracted the keen interest and support of large oil corporations and the Western governments.

The recent, successful uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt have placed those countries at the delicate, opening stages of profound change. How these societies develop remains an open question, but two things are already clear: first, the events in Tunisia and Egypt have served as a catalyst for similar popular currents in the rest of the region. 2nd, the continued US military intervention including the use of no-fly zones will only result in the death and injury of Libyan people, and reject any form of foreign military intervention including the use of no-fly zones which will involve massive bombardment to neutralize existing Libyan air defenses.

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**US Peace Council Statement on Egypt:**

**Victory Achieved, but the Struggle Against Imperialism Continues**

On February 11, 2011, the heroic and united people of Egypt spearheaded by the deeply disenchanted youth of that country — dealt a serious blow to the interests and policies of the imperialist powers, especially that of the United States, in Africa and the Middle East. With this victory, Hosni Mubarak joined the rest of the deposed imperialist puppets, in the dustbin of history.

The US Peace Council congratulates the people of Egypt for this tremendous victory and expresses its deepest solidarity and support for their continuing struggles for independence, peace, freedom and social justice.

Yet, despite this great victory, the people’s struggle is far from over. Although Mubarak has departed, the entrenched military and security apparatus of the Egyptian police state is still intact. Power has been transferred to the Egyptian armed forces, which has had 30 years of subservient ties to the US military and which is charged with defending the interests of the United States and Israel in the Middle East.

However, with this popular victory, the continued on page 2

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**Lessons from Lisbon and the Anti-Imperialist Events in Portugal**

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Communiqué of the South Asian Peace Conference
Katmandu, 12-13 March, 2011

1. The South Asian Peace Conference organized by Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council was held in Kathmandu on 12-13th March, 2011. Delegations from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan attended this meeting. A four member’s delegation from CPAPD of China also attended the conference.

2. On the occasion of this conference a public meeting was held on 12th March. The Conference was inaugurated by H.E. Jalalath Khanal, Prime Minister of Nepal. It was also addressed by the Executive Secretary of WPC Mr. Iraklis Tsavdaridis and prominent personalities from Nepal and the leaders of the constituent country’s countries.

3. The Conference expresses deep shock and grief and expresses condolences to bereaved families who have been victims of the recent earthquakes and tsunami in Japan. The Conference calls on the international community to stand by the people of Japan in their difficult time.

4. The conference expressed deep concern over the continuing deterioration in international situation in general and particular in South Asia. This complex and dangerous situation in different parts of the world is due to the aggressive policies of imperialism led by USA aimed at achieving world domination by intensifying arms race, especially nuclear arms race, prolonging military conflicts and aggressive wars and expanding military bases in different parts of the world, thus endangering peace and security of the peoples throughout the world.

5. South Asia possesses the largest number of population forced to survive in poverty, hunger and underdevelopment has remained one of the explosive areas of the world. The South Asian countries have been in quest of a viable course of military provocations and armed conflicts as well as arms build-up and interference that have seriously threatened peace and security in this area. The present developments in this region have proved that the US and the NATO having more common imperialist strategies for South Asia. The ongoing US and NATO military intervention in Afghanistan and Pakistan is not only jeopardizing the peace and stability of South Asia but also strengthening the forces of religious fundamentalism and terrorism in South Asia.

6. The growing menace of religious fundamentalism of all shades and terrorist activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan and increasing intolerance among the Hindu fundamentalist organizations of India poses grave threat to the peace and stability of South Asia. In Bangladesh the activities of religious fundamentalists somehow have been contained by the state and through mass mobilization by all secular democratic forces.

7. The Conference takes note that while all nations in South Asia face common problems and challenges, the ruling governments have hardly any initiatives to meet these challenges jointly. On the other hand the lack of confidence building initiatives for building good neighborly relations among the nations are the main reasons for the continuation of mistrust among the nations.

8. In this context the conference underlined the important role of the peace and solidarity organizations of South Asia to build the friendship among the people of this area and to act in a way that the ruling governments continued on page 4

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(from p. 1)

marked by repression, destruction, anarchy and chaos.

The multi-coloured “movements” thought the process would develop in this manner in Lisbon. Both the dominant political forces and leaderships as well as the “International Coordinating Committee (ICC)” were deluding themselves. Those who were present in the Portuguese capital on the 19-20 November understood the reason why the initiative of the Portuguese Peace Council (CPPC), CGTP-Intersindical and 105 other mass organizations rallied and expressed all year round the anti-NATO sentiments which are deeply rooted in the Portuguese people and the reason why the mass demonstration had over 30,000 people (according to the estimates of the police and media), while the Portuguese “chapter” of the ICC, gathered only a few hundred demonstrators and in the last week joined the demonstration (which was in the end the only one), as its plans to hold a separate demonstration and to have a discrete presence failed.

The WPC, for its part, had a dynamic presence in Lisbon, as the culmination of its work, successfully organizing an international conference on the eve of the demonstration (with representatives from 19 countries), while on the demonstration it led a massive international bloc under the following slogan: “NATO enemy of the peoples and peace: Dismantle it!”

What is the thing which made Strasbourg (2009) different from Lisbon (2010), with its mass, protected, anti-imperialist march and rally? The answer is simple. In the case of Lisbon, both at the level of each individual country and internationally the following forces were responsible for the anti-imperialist events; those which rally together in the class-oriented trade unions, the movements which express the genuine anti-imperialist feelings of the peoples, which do not side with one imperialist or the other and which do not have illusions concerning the possibility of changing the nature of imperialism.

The expensive campaign of the German “Die Linke” party (President of the ELP), which was the openly official sponsor of the efforts of the “ICC” and of the Portuguese “Left Bloc,” collapsed in Lisbon. The world anti-imperialist movement and the WPC have rich historical experience in the struggle against imperialism and NATO. In any case it is not the first time NATO has tried to present its own “Anti-NATO forces” in order to sow confusion.

By Iraklis Tsavdaridis
Executive Secretary, WPC
December, 2010

Organizational Members of the Secretariat:

- All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (APSO)
- Brazilian Center for the Solidarity with the Peoples and the Struggle for Peace (CEBRAPIAZ)
- Congo Peace Conference
- Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ)
- German Peace Council (BPR)
- Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (EEDYE)
- Israeli Peace Council
- Palestinian Committee for Peace and Solidarity (PCPS)
- Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC)
- South African Peace Initiative
- Syrian National Peace Council
- US Peace Council (USPC)
- Vietnam Peace Committee (VPC)
The international meeting of the Peace Movements from the Balkans and the Middle East, organized by the Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (EEDYE) with the support of the World Peace Council (WPC) took place during the 39th March in the city of Chania, Greece with the participation of delegates from the respective movements from Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Palestine, Serbia, Syria and Turkey.

The meeting concluded after a fruitful discussion and deliberation to the following communiqué:

The participants of the meeting express their serious concern about the increasing aggressiveness of imperialism in the broader region, the fostering of the competition and rivalry between the imperialist powers for the control of energy resources and means of transportation, the continuation of the imperialist occupation of foreign countries and as well as new threats surfaced to peoples and countries in the region. The ongoing economic and ecological crisis of capitalism will aggravate further the situation as it is shown now in Japan.

The peoples of the Balkans, since the early 1990’s a focus point of NATO and the aggressive strategy of the EU, are suffering from the imperialist intervention till today. The secession in violation of the international law of the Serbian province of Kosovo, the instigation of the so-called “Kosovo Base in Camp Bondsteel and the assembling of an EU- and NATO-protectorate alongside Bosnia-Herzegovina, prove the real goals of the NATO aggression of 1999. The meeting vehemently protests the military maneuvers in the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU recently taking place in the region, where “Battle Group” are in use to oppress future popular protests or uprisings anywhere.

The participants in this meeting also stated their readiness to confront and fight back the large-scale propaganda and blackmail moves of both NATO and the EU. The aims of these imperialist Organisations is the full integration of the Balkan countries to the imperialist plans, on the basis of the so-called “NATO’S New Strategic Concept”, which was approved in Lisbon in November 2010. The meeting underlined the fact that the fight against the imperialist military presence in Balkans against the so-called anti-missile shield, against the foreign bases and armies, against the participation of military forces from the Balkan countries in NATO and EU missions in other countries is of paramount importance especially now. Imperialism has been showing renewed “interest” for our region, carrying out militarised interventions. The reasons are both geostrategic and economic.

What is being sought is for settlements in all levels according the peoples’ needs. The meeting likewise expresses its support to the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their legitimate and inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent and sovereign state of Palestine on the borders of 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, as well as the right of return for all Palestinian refugees in accordance with U.N. Resolution 194 and the release of all political prisoners from Israeli jails. The meeting demands the lifting of the siege of the Gaza strip and the complete withdrawal of occupying forces from Palestinians, demolishing Palestinian houses, stealing away the land, water and resources that belong to the Palestinian people.

The developments prove clearly that the developments in the Arab world, the imperialist aggressors expose a No-Fly Zone over the Libyan airspace was just used in order to start a war against Libya. The UN is making itself once more guilty of an imperialist aggression as it was in the case of the crimes against the peoples of Afghanistan, Iraq and so many others. The meeting expresses its solidarity with the people living in Iran in their complex struggle for peace, democracy and social justice and rejects every foreign threat against Iran. The participants express their support to the Iranian progressive, popular and peace loving forces to find solutions for the internal problems faced by the country on the basis of preserving the sovereignty and independence of Iran. We reject any external interference, denouncing any plan for a military attack on Iran under whatever pretext.

We express our full hearted solidarity with the Palestinian people and their desires for an independent State. Forty four years after the occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip, Israel is violating international law, continues its expansionist policies continuing the building of settlements, colonising East Jerusalem and the West Bank, evicting Palestinians, demolishing Palestinian houses, stealing away the land, water and resources that belong to the Palestinian people.

We reaffirm our support for and solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their legitimate and inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent and sovereign state of Palestine on the borders of 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, as well as the right of return for all Palestinian refugees in accordance with U.N. Resolution 194 and the release of all political prisoners from Israeli jails. The meeting demands the lifting of the siege of the Gaza strip and the complete withdrawal of occupying forces from the Palestinian and Arab lands, including the Syrian Golan heights.

The meeting condemned the foreign military invasion to Bahrain, a country where the 5th US Fleet is based and where its people are in uprising against the authoritarian regime of the kingdom. Likewise the participants denounced the killing of dozens of demonstrators in Yemen by the State Security forces.

All participants express their vehemence and strong condemnation to the imperialist aggression which has started today against Libya. The full scale military operations of France, the UK and USA forces in the Arab League and several EU and NATO states, prove that the aggression was planned already for many days. The imperialists are using the pretext of the brutal intervention and the protection of civilians, with the clear aim of taking control of the energy resources and imposition of a new friendly regime. While having condemned the brutal use of military force by the Libyan military against civilian protesters before, the meeting reiterates that it is the solemn and sovereign right of the Libyan people to decide upon their government and upon their natural resources, which are the real target of the imperialist powers and the Multinational corporations behind.

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Declaration of the Lisbon Rally Against NATO

The Campaign “Peace Yes! NATO No!” and the men and women taking part in the Demonstration “Peace Yes! NATO No!” Declare:

- NATO is an aggressive military alliance which presently represents the greatest threat to international peace and security.
- NATO, bent on crushing the rights of the people, violating national sovereignties and undermining international law, holds the world hostage to the arms race, the threat of a nuclear war and terror.
- NATO is responsible for heinous crimes, for ending innumerable human lives, for the destruction of countries and resources.

While thousands of human beings die of hunger and preventable diseases and with the excuse of the crisis and combat against the deficit attack the living conditions and rights of the workers, military spending keeps on growing — the military budgets of the NATO member countries together represent around 70% of the world’s military spending.

Those mainly responsible for the worsening of the economic and social situation at the national and international level are the same who promote the arms race, the militarization of international relations and war.

Portugal, a founding member of NATO through the hands of the fascist regime, has for more than 60 years bowed before this bellicose alliance and the interests of the US and great powers of the European Union.

The commitment of the Portuguese authorities clashes with the fundamental principles of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic and the United Nations Charter, of which Portugal is a signatory, such as: sovereignty, independence, non-interference, non-aggression, peaceful resolution of conflicts, equality among States; abolition of imperialism, of colonialism and other forms of aggression, domination and exploitation; disarmament, dissolution of political and military blocs.

Following the line of the previous Portuguese soldiers to serve their aggressions.

The defence of peace and the struggle against war is an integral part and necessary condition to ensure the progress and social justice of the peoples.

It was with the April Revolution that the workers and the Portuguese people conquered fundamental rights, such as the end of the colonial war and the beginning and establishment of relations of peace, cooperation and friendship with all the peoples of the world.

The campaign aims at established peace and defends, for example, that “All have the right to work” that «All have the right to social security», that «All have the right to healthcare», that «All have the right to housing», that «All have the right to education and culture», is the Constitution that could not leave out that all people are sovereign and have the right to decide their present and future.

The conquest of peace by the Portuguese people is linked to the struggle for better living conditions for the Portuguese workers.

It is because of this awareness that we salute the great General Strike called by CGTP-IN for November 24 and invite all Portuguese men and women workers to follow it.

Valuing the several initiatives, the wide participation and the great experience of unity represented by the Campaign in defence of peace and against the NATO Summit in Portugal — the Campaign “Peace yes” NATO no!” affirm their commitment to continue to strengthen the peace and anti-imperialist movement, persisting in an active intervention for:

- Opposition to NATO and its bellicose goals;
- Withdrawal of Portuguese forces involved in NATO’s military missions;
- An end to foreign military bases and NATO’s installations on national soil;
- Dissolution of NATO;
- Disarmament and the end of nuclear and mass destruction weapons;
- Demand respect and compliance of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic and the dispositions of the United Nations Charter, of international law and the sovereignty and equality of the peoples.

Lisbon, November 20, 2010

The conference supports the demand of the war-criminals of 1971 liberation war of Bangladesh and condemn the attack on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by the fundamentalist or religious fundamentalism and weapons of mass destruction.

1. The conference recognizes to form a broad based South Asian Peace & Solidarity Network in proper consultations with member organizations of WPC, other likeminded peace and solidarity organizations and groups from South Asia. Conference believes that the functioning modalities of above network will be finalized later on by the member organizations of the network.

15. The conference expresses its solidarity with those Bhutanese people who are fighting for returning to their own homeland.

16. The Conference calls upon all peace and solidarity organizations all mass organizations of students, youth, Trade Unions and other civil society organizations to build a strong movement against the policies of imperialist globalization and war and to build South Asia a region of peace, stability, democracy, human rights, justice, equality and developments as well as get rid of foreign bases, occupation, terrorism, religious fundamentalism and weapons of mass destructions of all kinds.

17. To achieve the above objectives, the conference recommends to form a broad based South Asian Peace & Solidarity Network in proper consultations with member organizations of WPC, other likeminded peace and solidarity organizations and groups from South Asia. Conference believes that the functioning modalities of above network will be finalized later on by the member organizations of the network.

18. The Conference expresses their sincere gratitude to the Nepal Peace & Solidarity Council for hosting such important meeting and hospitality they have extended to all participants.

Bangladesh Peace Council demonstration against US-NATO aggression in Libya
Strange Democratization of Authoritarian Regimes

Standpoint of the Civic Association of Soldiers Against War — Prague

F or several years, Libya has brutally exposed to air and missile strikes of the armed forces of several NATO countries. The action of the United Nations Security Council Resolution No.1703's hands to attack. The resolution in the past several relief entities signed in March last year. Article 2 of the Charter, which gives the Council the power to decide on non-procedural matters, is an interpretation that is a far cry from both the letter and spirit of the Charter.

The validity of this statement does not alter the fact that in the past been under pressure from the U.S. and its allies repeatedly abused this interpretation to cover their actions, which lacked any legal basis. Maybe that is why this procedure is euphemistically known as Resolution or “UN mandate” and not as a Security Council decision. Adoption of a resolution as justification i.e. protection of civilians, ensuring the securing of humanitarian aid, securing good hostilities and respect previous resolutions of the Security Council embargo on supplying arms and other materials of an essentially military nature to Libya. To achieve these resolves should result in an immediate ceasefire, end to the stop of violence, attacks against civilians and the landing of humanitarian flights — in Libyan airspace. The Security Council also authorized Member States to take necessary steps to protect civilians threatened by attacks in the territory of Libya. Only totally mindless person could believe that it is a step to protect civilians and ensure compliance with a ban on all flights. The only explanation contained in the prohibition does not apply to all flights on Air Force combat actions of the three, and possibly all “aligned” countries.

Over the past year, many cases of 4 democratization “authoritarian regimes” with military force — Yugoslavia, Iraq and Afghanistana — now Libya. The scenario is also almost identical in the Libyan State, caused by the economic situation, harassment, critical fighting that may threaten the security and peace in the region. In doing so, not just evidence, but not least the expression of political and military elements of the U.S. and its allies, continued by external influences on the induction of instability Gadhafi regime. According to these observations and reports actions against Libya have been long and carefully prepared, even with the help of foreign special troops deployed in the territory of Libya before starting the crisis. There is no doubt that in any case a peaceful, convoluted protest of the people of Libya has not been possible in the face of a violent and insistent assault that have apparently grown into a civil war. The embargo on supplying arms and military equipment, the requirement to stop foreign influences in the region by a Libyan government bodies. Combat Operations rebels, financed, armed and even militarily supported from abroad continue.

Over the past year, many responses resemble the situation during the civil war in Spain before 2 World War II. Also, if the government was deprived of the possibility of legal means to protect its territory, the Libyan government has been forced to decide on the use of force in any manner inconsistent with the objectives of the UN. According to the Charter, the application of Article 2, “no member of the Charter gives the UN the right to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state. Inadmissibility of interference in internal affairs and concerns of all Member States.” These things will undoubtedly include the maintenance of peace and order in the country, including the actions of armed operations against insurgents, intrudes country into civil war. Armed intervention in the civil war on the rebels is a gross violation of this and other binding rules of international law. Instead of international law binding on all states of the international community is forced “the sound-law.”

The question arises whether the outpouring of apparent mass popular support for storm protection of “human rights”, protect civilians and put an end of violence is hiding another, far more substantial, partly hidden agenda and objectives. Whether this is really prepared for a long time elimination of Libya’s erratic regime, or from the moment of its creation, the regime that may threaten the security and peace in the region. It will create a precedent for other globalized military action against all progresive leaders who seek to ensure that their peoples are capable and dignified life. In this regard we had already heard the President of France.

It is widely recognized that the air space is not sufficient to ensure the security of any state. Although the UN Security Council and does not explicitly exclude the presence of foreign occupying forces in any form in any part of the territory of Libya. Numerous experiences of ancient and very recent past, however, show that after very long time, it may happen that the attainment of the targets pursued operations against Libya by its initiatives, can be attained only by air and missile strikes and going strong pressure on the deployment of ground forces. Even under the pretext of ensuring the protection and equitable distribution of international humanitarian aid. And of course with the consent or even at the invitation of “revolutionary” rebel government could serve as a justification of “revisions” where if the Security Council considers the landing of armed forces of member states to be in 2009. It further constitutes a provocation to the historical memory and will of the peace loving people of Cyprus, which is opposing wrongly NATO, its old and especially the new concept after Lebanon 2010. Especially Cyprus with its panarctage proximity to the Middle East would be used for the offensive plans and threats of imperialism and NATO in particular for this region.

The WPC express its solidarity with the Cypriot people and the Cyprus Peace Council in its fight and firm opposition to the entry of Cyprus to the “Partnership for Peace” of NATO. The people of Cyprus, both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots are well aware of the role of NATO with its many and various war maneuvers in history, the invasion and partial occupation of Cyprus itself is a result of a NATO backed plan in 1954, which is lasting till today. The recent maneuvers of certains political forces in Cyprus to create a nato in the Cyprus Parliament for the incorporation of the Cyprus Republic into NATO’s “constitutive” structures has to be condemned as an act of submission to the imperialist plans. It is for the second time that the matter is raised after the rejection of such an attempt by the President of the Cyprus Republic Dimitris Christofias in 2009. It further constitutes a provocation to the historical memory and will of the peace loving people of Cyprus, which is opposing wrongly NATO, its old and especially the new concept after Lebanon 2010. Especially Cyprus with its panarctage proximity to the Middle East would be used for the offensive plans and threats of imperialism and NATO in particular for this region.
I t is not an exaggeration to say that the Middle East and the world are heading for a major disaster, while gripped by a deep multi-faceted crisis. This is a crisis whose ripple effects are felt across the entire global region, touching on almost every aspect of the life of the people of the world and also the opportunity for achieving sustainable peace and progress.

The Middle East region is con-

cerned, the continued presence and operation of occupying forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, the tensions in and around nuclear Pakistan, the challenge of the rise of radical forces in the region. A new flash point in Libya is the political realities in the region. Also, despite dramatic changes in the world in the past 20 years, the people of this region are still suffering, as a result of the ag-

gressive and war-mongering policies of the Israeli government backed by the U.S. and E.U.

We totally reject the US, French and British action against Libya and state that, irrespective of our political evaluation of the Libyan government, we believe that no foreign interventions in Libya or any part of the region can be justified. [We totally condemn the military invasion of Bahrain by Saudi military forces and the direct intervention of the U.S.]

We believe that this could not have happened without at least the tacit agreement of the US, whose 5th Fleet is based in Bahrain. [We totally condemn the US presence in the region.]

We believe that the protests are by the leaders of the Arab League, who have colla-

olated with NATO in providing the fig leaf for masking the real intent of the NATO forces in attacking Libya.

We hope that during the course of this conference a better understanding will be achieved of the role of the protests and the nature of events in and around the Middle East and of the factors influencing the situation in this sensitive area of the world. These include: violence, the interference of the imperialist powers; and internal divisions in the region (in particular Israel);

• The role that reactionary regimes in the region and their proxies play;

• The strength and potential of the demo-

cratic forces to influence the international balance of forces towards attainment of a peaceful future for the region.

The controlling role of the U.S. in some countries of the region enables it to gain ac-

cess to oil and gas reserves and gives it crucial economic and political advantages in a region that is the connecting bridge between three continents and their resources. The location of many countries including Libya and the high costs of transportation of its vast oil and gas reserves to both the East and West. By gaining and maintaining complete control over the produc-

tion of natural gas, the U.S. can potentially put pressure on its economic rivals such as China, Russia, Japan and the European Union.

The events of recent decades have demon-

strated time and again that the U.S. adminis-

tration is not a force for peace and development in the Middle East. The wars that devastated Iraq and Afghanistan, the opening of military aggression against Libya, the continued US support for the Israeli government in the region, the occupa-

tion of Palestinian lands and the threats of further attacks and interference aimed at pressuring countries like Iran all demon-

strate that what the U.S. brings is the opposite of peace and development in every case.

By contrast, what peace activists have to offer are their plans, policies, solidarity, and their power to mobilize people to achieve a very different and peaceful future. It is in this connection that we should elaborate in our policies the links be-

tween the struggle for peace and progress and the fight for democracy and human rights.

As peace-loving people, we are also democrats. Peace can best be maintained un-

der democratic conditions, and our campaign for the realization of democratic conditions will be most successful under peaceful conditions.

The key to understanding the reality of the situa-

tion in the Middle East is to understand the particular political and military advantages of the imperialist powers. It is the only way to understand the logic of the international interference. It is the key to understanding the reasons why the international community, with overwhelming U.S. support, has sent heavily armed warships to a naval armada to stand off the coast of Libya.

It is the sole right and task of the people of Libya to determine the course of their country. The protesters are demanding change, results by the regime, protests have swept the region. The protesters are demanding change, results by the regime, protests have swept the region.

NO TO US-NATO INTERVENTION ...

protests throughout the Middle East and North Africa; second, the emergence of pro-

democratic forces to influence the international 

region are playing; and

sensitive area of the world. These include:

• Opposes any foreign military interven-

tion in Libya;• Calls on the Canadian government to put an end to the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan;• Demands the withdrawal of all foreign military forces from the region;• Expresses solidarity with the Libyan people in their struggle for democracy and human rights;• Demands the withdrawal of all foreign military forces from the region;• Expresses solidarity with the Libyan people in their struggle for democracy and human rights;• Demands that the occupation of Iraq is an illegal occupation and a violation of the right of the people of Iraq to self-determination;• Supports the right of the people of Libya to determine the course of their political and economic development, free from foreign interference. As the World Peace Council, we join the overwhelming demand of the people of Libya to express their anger and agony and their demands for change in the social and economic field and to halt the imperialist efforts to crush the popular movement.

The events of recent decades have demon-

strated the danger of providing imperialism with the excuses it needs to intervene.

The progressive and peace-loving forces have a unique responsibility not to oppose U.S. plans but to use them to further mobilize people on a broad, anti-intervention program directed at building the foundations for peace, democracy, de-

velopment and social justice. Clearly the struggle to put an end to the military adventurism of the U.S. and its allies in our region is important. In particular, an immediate end to the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, the opening of military aggression against Libya.

International solidarity with the ordinary people of Libya can very effectively put extra pressure on the regime for change. Such solidarity is vital in ensuring that the Iraqi people know that they are not alone in the stand they are taking against the anti-dem-

ocratic practices of the theocratic regime.

Our position against imperialist inter-

vention is imperative to reiterate that the crisis on the ground in Libya is a direct result of the international tension and escalation of friction in the Persian Gulf region genuinely concerns the progressive, left and patriotic forces in Iran and that it is our firm belief that the struggle for dem-

ocracy and the removal of the imperialist forces in Iran’s domestic affairs. We have, at the same time, stated that Iran’s theocratic regime is taking advantage of this issue simply as a means to further its internal political, economic and military interests. If there is any way for international solidarity with the people of Iran and divert public opinion from escalating domestic problems, the aggression of the US and its allies in the region, which has led, under various guises, to the military occupation of two neighboring coun-

dies, its unprecedented military presence in the Persian Gulf and to the crisis in Bahrain and Libya demonstrates the danger of providing imperialism with the excuses it needs to intervene.

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STOP THE WAR IN KOREA!
CPC CALLS FOR DIPLOMACY AND PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

The political crisis in Korea deepens, the Canadian Peace Congress calls on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to immediately distance Canada from the war-mongering actions of South Korea and the United States, and to work toward a peaceful and diplomatic solution. Furthermore, the Congress reiterates its call for the Canadian government to work through the United Nations to normalize relations between the United States and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), based on non-interference, cooperation and peace.

The history of the crisis in Korea is the history of imperialist interference and aggression, in which the United States has consistently employed a policy of military build-up, provocation and war. This policy has been implemented both directly and indirectly, through the South Korean government. In pursuit of a protracted conflict, the United States has utilized outright provocations – such as the massive troop presence in the peninsula, and also deception – such as the Bush government’s selling of the agreement to supply the DPRK with oil to replace electricity production lost by abandonment of its nuclear energy program. The objectives of this policy are to prolong the Korean war and the attendant US military presence in the region, to prevent the re-unification of Korea, and to encircle and contain China.

Despite the well-rehearsed statements in the commercial media that ascribe full responsibility for the current flare-up to North Korea, there is much evidence suggesting that the provocation was from the South. Even the New York Times acknowledged in a November 24 editorial that the DPRK’s “attack on Yeonpyeong Island occurred after South Korean forces on exercises fired test shots into waters near the North Korean coast.” Clearly, such a tense situation requires restraint by all parties; however, it is dangerously hypocritical for the United States or South Korea to demand restraint from the DPRK while continually subjecting it to aggressive postures and provocations.

The Canadian Peace Congress noted in a June 2009 statement regarding the crisis in Korea: “The basic threat to peace in the Asia-Pacific region is not from the DPRK, but stems from the continued provocative interference by US imperialism. The United States was the first state to develop nuclear weapons; it remains the only state to have used nuclear weapons against a population and is the only state to have developed weapons outside of its own borders. It is the United States which deploys 250,000 military personnel in the Pacific region, including nearly 30,000 who routinely practice ground invasions of the DPRK, in order to protect its commercial and security interests. And, it is the United States who has refused to follow through with its commitment to dialogue with North Korea and instead raised the spectre of sanctions, regime change and, now, military confrontation.”

As the danger of war continues to grow, it is fuelling by US and South Korean plans to conduct massive joint military exercises in the Yellow Sea. These manoeuvres – which follow on the heels of NATO’s Lisbon Summit – are also intended to demonstrate imperialist might to China, and are therefore doubly provocative. The United States and NATO both maintain policies of first strike with nuclear weapons, and the Korean conflict may very well be a pretext for a demonstration of this policy.

Furthermore, the United States has signalled its willingness to internationalize the conflict by noting that Canada and other countries could be drawn into a war against the DPRK, citing the absence of a permanent peace to end the ongoing United Nations military mission to Korea.

Against these aggressive and dangerous responses, the Canadian Peace Congress joins with the World Peace Council and its member organizations in condemning this US-NATO provocation. The Congress calls for:
• The cessation of military exercises and provocations, and for constraint and diplomatic talks to address the current crisis;
• The immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops and their weapons – in particular those from the United States – from the Korean peninsula, and the dismantling of all US military bases in the region;
• South Korea to demilitarize the four disputed islands;
• The United Nations to immediately engage in meaningful talks with the North and South Korean governments to establish a permanent peace – ending the armistice and formally ending the UN military mission to Korea;
• Concrete steps to bring existing nuclear arsenals – in particular of that of the United States – onto the immediate agenda of the United Nations, with a commitment to dismantle those arsenals as a concrete prerequisite for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament;
• The immediate end to the sanctions against DPRK and for the provision of UN-sponsored assistance to the DPRK, in the spirit of international cooperation and respect for sovereignty and the right to self-determination.

Furthermore, the Canadian Peace Congress calls on all peace organizations and peace-minded people in Canada to demand that the Canadian government oppose the drive to war and pursue concrete, diplomatic and democratic efforts to bring peace to the Korean peninsula. The Canadian people have consistently and overwhelmingly rejected war as an option for settling international affairs, and the Canadian government must reflect this view to the United States and the international community.

Canadian Peace Congress
Executive Council
5 December 2010

USPC STATEMENT ON EGYPT

The Secretariat of WPC announces the holding of the meeting of the Executive Committee on April 29-30, 2011 in Havana, Cuba, hosted by the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ), followed by the International Seminar Against Foreign Military Bases, to be held on May 4-5, 2011 in the Cuban province of Guantanamo.

Announcement of the Secretariat of WPC

The Egyptian military, with the acquiescence of the US and French governments, is to launch an all-out attack on the Egyptian people. The US Peace Council declares its full support for the Egyptian people, as it is in support of their just cause and denounce the discrimination and harassment of the Egyptian people by the regime because of their political support to the Palestinian cause.

The meeting took place in Chania, city of Crete, where the US military base of Souda Bay is located, from where the imperialists have operated various times in the past military attacks against peoples of the region. The meeting denounced the planned joint military exercise of Greece-Israel-USA for April 2011 starting from Souda Bay, as signals for a possible military attack on Iran and calls for a massive participation in the protest demonstration on 20th March in front of the US base of Souda Bay.

The participants salute the Peace Committees of Crete and the peace loving people of the island and thank them for their warm hospitality and for hosting this meeting.

Participating Organizations:
Bulgarian National Peace Council
Anti-fascist Committee of Croatia
Cyprus Peace Council
Egyptian Peace Committee
Association of Defence of Peace, Solidarity and Democracy in Iran
Peace Committee of Israel
Lebanese Peace Committee
Palestinian Committees for Peace and Solidarity
Belgrade Forum for the World of Equals
Serbia
Syrian National Peace Council
Peace Association of Turkey
THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL

COMMUNIQUE OF BALKANS AND THE ME
(from p. 3)

and the Lebanese Shebaa Farms.

We express our solidarity to the peace loving forces inside Israel which are struggling side by side with the Palestinian people for their just cause and denounce the discrimination and harassments of Israeli citizens by the regime because of their political support to the Palestinian cause.

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PEACE MESSENGER
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 6, SPRING 2011
QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL
WWW.WFC-IN.ORG
INFORMATION SERVICES

President Obama immediately issue an executive order to stop all financial aid to the Egyptian military.

• Mubarak’s bank accounts be immediately frozen and all the monies taken from the country he returned.

• Trials be held for those who have committed crimes against the Egyptian people, including those who are still in power.

• An end to the US-endorsed blockade of peaceful exchange between Egypt and the Palestinian people.

• The United Nations guarantee the integrity, impartiality and freedom of the upcoming elections in Egypt.

For genuine democracy to be established in Egypt, the people must be able to exercise their right to vote in a freely, fairly and impartial election. Unfortunately, such an election cannot be carried out by a government that is controlled by the military and the officials of the Mubarak regime. This makes the immediate transfer of power to a new pro-people interim civilian government necessary.

The US Peace Council declares its full support for the struggle of the Egyptian people to achieve true democracy in their country.

February 12, 2011
The Cyprus Peace Council Statement

The Cyprus Peace Council welcomes the initiative of political parties to undermine the institution of the President of the Cyprus Republic, violating the principle of powers parity, plotting at the back-stage for the entrance of our Country to the Partnership for Peace, which comprises a pre-chamber of NATO.

We deem that the stance and behavior of the Parties: Democratic Rally (DISI), Democratic Party (DIKO), the Socialist Party (EDEK) and the European Party (EUROKO) is unacceptable, as they schemed and planned the submission of a resolution plan in the Parliament charging for the entrance of Cyprus to the Partnership for Peace; a fact which quickly leads our divided country to the bloodshed military-political alliance of NATO.

As it seems, the memory of certain people has faded. Therefore, we remind them that the twin crime realized at the expense of the Cypriot people was planned during the spring Meeting of NATO in Lisbon, in 1971. Turkey, taking full advantage of the Athens Junta and EOKA B coup d’état, invaded the island, divided the island and spread death, destruction and refugees. The occupation forces of Turkey comprise a powerful pillar of NATO with an upgraded role in claiming a bigger share in territories division and peoples’ exploitation in our region.

We therefore wonder: what is the patriotic duty that certain persons serve – persons who claim to be among the democratic resistance forces – when they proceed with such plannings that will, in essence, place Cyprus at a pre-accession stage to the warlike NATO, which comprises an enemy of the peoples and of peace?

We, in Cyprus, contrary to any voices and planning of politicians and Parties, will continue tenaciously to resist, by the side of the Government, not only to the entrance of Cyprus in NATO, but also to the Partnership for Peace, which is the European pre-chamber leading to NATO.

We therefore call all progressive, peace loving people to condemn all those who plan our entrance to warlike integration and warlike integration forces.

We call every Cypriot to honor the dead of the coup d’état and of the Turkish invasion, and to resist the plans for our accession to the military camp of the guilty parties for the Cyprus tragedy.

The CENTRAL SECRETARIAT
Nicosia, 19 February 2011

Speech by the Executive Secretary of the WPC at the PAN Event in Dublin, Ireland

U nfortunately, the report of the WPC’s Action Committee on the Appeal of 6 February 2011 for a Peaceful Resolution of the Cyprus Conflict, has not received any significant attention from the mass media. The new US administration would maintain its policy of appeasement towards the imperialist forces in both the Middle East and the Balkans. We are therefore renewed in our determination to continue the struggle for a peaceful resolution of the Cyprus conflict.

We join in solidarity with the Palestinian people, who are suffering from the Israeli occupation and the colonialist regime. We applaud the announcement of the new government of President Al-Maliki and the independence of Iraq from the United States and other imperialist forces. We condemn the refusal of the United States and the United Kingdom to withdraw their military forces from Iraq.

We call on the international community to support the Iraqi people’s struggle for independence, sovereignty and democracy.

We are deeply concerned with the situation regarding peace and security worldwide. The precarious situation of the UN and the international community, due to the interference of the United States and other imperialist forces, is leading to a new round of conflicts and wars.

We are determined to continue our struggle for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and around the world.

The WPC will keep on its firm positions and actions on the side of the peace and the oppressed, till the workers and the peoples will defeat imperialism in all countries and worldwide. The future of mankind is threatened by the increasing imperialist wars, occupation and social injustices.

The struggle continues the victory will be ours!