

Editorial

Communiqué 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, first and foremost 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 generalized privatizations in all sectors are causing an increase in poverty, unemployment, hunger and misery. Social contradictions are on the rise. Today, ten percent of the world's population

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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 the only 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 postbellum 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 Pafilis, 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 G8 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 has allowed airports to be used for both civilian and military purposes. For example, this has occurred in Leipzig, Cologne and Rostock. The Rostock-Laage airport was built between 1979 and 1981 as an airbase for the NVA (Nationale Volksarmee). In 1990, the Bundeswehr (Western German Army) took over the airbase. Since then, MIGs and Phantom Airplanes have been stationed there. Now, Eurofighter aircrafts are located there. In 1992, the airport was opened

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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 dissolution 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 to 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

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 dismanteling 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.



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

In the recent period, authoritarianism, policing and the offensive against democratic rights and liberties have 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 innocent citizens are being made with the agreement of European governments, along with the use of European airports for their transport. Monstrous 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 \$1.2 trillion in 2006, and demands an immediate end to this absurd escalation. Only ten percent of this expenditure would 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 built and deployed. New satellites and satellite clusters are being deployed in space for surveillance missions and “security” control. 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 expendi-

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G8 SUMMIT IN GERMANY

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for a civil usage and became an important airport for cheap holiday flights and cargo planes. For example, DHL utilizes the airport. The G8 arrived at the Rostock-Laage airport. George W. Bush was expected on June 5. Peace activists were planning a suitable welcome for the G8 at the airport.

But on May 15, the whole region around Heiligendamm became a police security zone. As a result, fifty of sixty activities of 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 expression, as the police pointed out. 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 included both the civilian and the military entrances. 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 amicable: a demonstration at the entrance of the Rostock-Laage Airbase was still forbidden.

Also, the G8 made it difficult for the activists to plan demonstrations because the attendees kept changing their arrival date. At first June 5 was announced as the arrival day of the G8 but suddenly June 6 was announced as the day of arrival. All planning had to be changed and after a meeting, the peace activists decided to pay a visit to the places of militarism in the region. The destination was Warnemünde. This lovely coastal resort is not only full of historic houses and restaurants; it is also a naval port. The German navy describes the port as “a jewel among our naval ports.” Until 2011, they want to invest Thirty-six million euros to enlarge it. The naval port will get additional responsibilities. Five corvettes, purchased at 240 million euros each, will be deployed there in 2008. Two speedboats and a tender with a crew of approximately 150 soldiers was sent from Warnemünde to the coast of Lebanon in September 2006. These three ships are part of the German UNIFIL Contingent. Also located in Warnemünde is the European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company (EADS). It is a large European aerospace corporation that was formed in 2000 as a result of merging Aérospatiale-Matra of France, Construcciones Aeronáuticas SA (CASA) of Spain, and Daimler-Chrysler Aerospace AG (DASA) of Germany. The company develops and markets civil and military aircraft, as well as missiles, space rockets, satellites, and related systems. The best customer is the German army. In the last year they bought their weapons for 2.4 billion euros and EADS is expecting a similar amount of purchases this year.

At 12:30 am, the demonstration in Warenmünde at EADS started. Before arriving at the demonstration site, all participants were checked by the police. The demonstration was

followed by more than 2,000 young peace activists. Tobias Pflüger, a member of the European Parliament and a guest from G8 countries such as Italy and Japan spoke there. They were bringing a message from their peace movements and stressed that the G8 is not speaking in the name of the people of their countries. After the demonstration, the participants agreed to hold a demonstration at Rostock-Laage Airport in the afternoon. George W. Bush was expected to arrive there at 6:55 p.m. Many activists were stopped and pumped for details by the police. In the end, more than 1,000 activists reached the point of assembly. When the demonstration at the civilian entrance of the Rostock-Laage Airport started at 5:00 p.m. on June 5, it was surrounded by police forces. Armored carriers were brought up to the front of the airport’s gates. Two big police vehicles blocked the view to the airport’s entrance and prevented the visibility of the demonstration as well. The demand of the organizers for a clear view of the airport entrance was not met until the end. “This is a blatant example for much more incidents, where the police didn’t keep agreements with the organizers” the organizers’ lawyer pointed out.

At 6:55 pm, Air Force One approaches Rostock-Laage Airport. George W. Bush was welcomed by hail of catcalls that showed once again that he is not welcome. A short while after helicopters departed, Bush was on the 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 Airport and Heiligendamm were continued.

The G8 Counter Summit

While the demonstration at Rostock-Laage Airport was going on, the G8 counter-summit began in the city of Rostock. In the numerous panels and more than 120 workshops, alternatives to the G8 policy were 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. Their future role is to contain China and prevent it from competing with the US. Military bases will prevent the development of multilateral structures and the development the Asia-Pacific region. Walden Bello encourages activists in Europe to research the base and he informed us about a research project in the south of the Philippines.

Boris Kagarlisky from the Institute of Globalization Studies and Social Movements in Moscow advised the peace activists to be careful. President Putin has his own interests and the elites in Russia are becoming rich at the expense of the people, he said. It did not

come as much of a surprise when President Putin made the proposal for a common use of the Base in Azerbaijan by NATO and Russia.

Tadaaki Kawata from the Japanese Peace Committee also gave a lecture and reported that George W. Bush made the following declaration last year: “The Japan-U.S. alliance is not just an alliance for our two countries; it is an alliance for the world.” In the beginning of the year the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe took part in a NATO-Meeting for the first time. The government confirmed that Japan was in agreement with NATO about the Missile Defense. In various parts of Japan, there 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 actual fact Claudia Haydt from German Information Center Militarization? intended to speak at the workshop. In the morning she was in Rostock-Laage supporting the activists in the blockades and on her way back to Rostock-Laage, she was stopped at police checkpoints. Her part was taken over by Andrea Licata. He works in University of Trieste and is an expert in armament conversio. Furthermore he works with peace groups in Vinzenca and Aviano. In his lecture he showed that a shut down and a conversation of military bases are possible.

In the afternoon a meeting of anti-base activists took place. Jan Tames gave a report about the resistance against the planned missile shields in Czech Republic; he showed a film about the demonstration on May 26 in Prague. Roland Brinkman from the German Initiative FREI HEIDE spoke about the fifteen year long resistance against the Bombardon, an air force exercise place of the Red Army near Berlin that was closed in connection with the 4+2 agreement in 1990. The German Army, together with NATO has planned to recommission the air force exercise place. The resistance by the people prevented the recommissioning until today. He also introduced the slogan “Each target is a home.” Andrea Licata gave a report about the protest in Vizenca. In February 2007, more than 200,000 people protested against the enlargement of the US base.

Meanwhile, the activists returned home. In the preparation of the G8 protests, local groups came together and coalitions were founded. These local groups and coalitions are still working and planning activities. New networks with activists from all around the world came together and existing networks were strengthened. The next G8 Summit will take place in Hokkaido, Japan in 2008. Activists from Japan came to Germany to exchange experiences with the German and the European activists. They stated their consultations about the Hokkaido Toyako Summit. In this sense, the G8 Summit is not only a meeting of the club of the “eight;” it is also a gathering of activists who will protest against its unjust policies and seek alternatives. The G8 is becoming more and more afraid of this. ■



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- Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC)
- Senegalese Movement for Peace
- US Peace Council (USPC)
- Vietnam Peace Committee (VPC)



Communiqué of the Meeting of the Secretariat of the WPC

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tures and the rededication of these funds to social expenditures and combating poverty.

The WPC reaffirms its clear and principled position in favour of the complete abolition of all nuclear weapons in the world. The WPC cannot equate the responsibilities of the USA and its target countries. We are opposed to nuclear tests and consider them harmful. At the same, we condemn the “double moral and standards” of the US administration, which considers some of the states that hold nuclear weapons as allies and others as terrorists.

The World Peace Council notes with concern the continued division of Cyprus, which is a result of the Turkish occupation of 37 percent of the territory of the Cyprus Republic and that country’s intransigence. Turkey’s refusal to seek the reunification of the Island under UN auspices and the transformation of the Republic of Cyprus into a bizonal-bicomunal federation, which is largely due to the support of its NATO allies, especially the USA and the UK, poses a grave danger to peace in the region and prevents Greek and Turkish Cypriots from living together on a shared, peaceful and demilitarized island.

The WPC condemns vehemently the plans for creation of a NATO — or EU — protectorate out of the Serbian province, Kosovo, and demands a just, mutual and viable solution without foreign interference. The “Ahtisari plan” does not serve this purpose at all.

The WPC denounces the plans to destabilize the legitimate and repeatedly elected government of Venezuela, which is defending its right to independent and sovereign development in the face of the negative propaganda waged by the imperialists hand in hand with

that country’s oligarchy. All measures that ensure the people’s control over the mass media and real transparency must be supported.

The Secretariat expresses its deep respect for and solidarity with the Cuban people, who are continuously defending their revolution against all types of manipulation and the blockade. The WPC demands the release of the Five Cuban political prisoners held unlawfully in the USA.

The WPC expresses its full support to the Vietnamese people for the ongoing suffering of more than one million victims of the toxic



Agent Orange used by the USA in their dirty war against Vietnam. The Secretariat calls upon all members and friends of the WPC to join actively the international campaign for the compensation of the victims and a total ban on all chemical weapons.

The WPC expresses its firm solidarity with the people of Western Sahara, for thier decades of suffering and oppression. The Secretariat underscores its support for the right to

self-determination for the Saharawi people and calls for a political solution, mutually accepted between the Polissario Front and Morocco.

The WPC salutes the peace loving people of Japan and the Japan Peace Committee in their struggle for maintaining the article 9 of the Japanese Constitution.

Some of the Priorities in the Activities of the WPC in the Coming Period

- Express whole-hearted solidarity with the Palestinian people, who are suffering not only from the ongoing Israeli occupation and

delegation to Palestine and Israel.

- Promote and continue to be actively involved in the movement for the abolition of all foreign military bases, particularly the International Network (No Bases)

- Continue the initiatives for the elimination of nuclear weapons, particularly for the success of this year’s World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, to be held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 3-9 August 2007.

- Develop the WPC Campaign in relation to the ongoing violations of the United Nations founding Charter by the “new world order.”

- Hold an International Conference against Militarization of the EU, the deployment of new US military Bases in Europe and the growing military expenditures worldwide, on September 28-29, 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal.

- Hold the next Executive Committee Meeting of the WPC in November 2007 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

- Organize a Special Solidarity Conference with the Peoples of the Middle East and especially Palestine, in January 2008 in Istanbul, Turkey.

- Organize the Regional Asia & Pacific Meeting of the WPC in New Delhi, India, in January/February 2008.

- Organize a Balkan Conference of peace movements in Thessaloniki, Greece, in February 2008.

- **CULMINATE ALL OUR ACTIVITIES WITH THE HOLDING OF THE NEXT ASSEMBLY OF THE WPC, IN APRIL 2008, IN THE CAPITAL OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, CARACAS, FOLLOWED BY A BROAD INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE**

*The Secretariat of the WPC
15th June 2007*

Founding Declaration of the Czech Peace Movement

From the initiative of the citizens of the Czech Republic who have been active in a movement against construction of the military base of the USA on the Czech territory a Czech Peace Movement is created. Besides the participation in the movement against the construction of the US military base in the Czech Republic, the Czech Peace Movement is going to take part in a worldwide efforts for just peace, in support of international solidarity and in organizing resistance against all imperialist wars, aggressions and occupations.

The existence of the international peace movement is necessary today. The defeat of socialism in the Soviet Union and in other countries of Central and Eastern Europe at the end of 1980s and in the beginning of 1990s made possible a new wave of imperialist wars, aggressions and occupations. Attack against Yugoslavia, occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq, and military aggressions against Arab nations form a character of contemporary world.

In spite of disapproval of the majority of its citizens, the Czech Republic, today a part of an aggressive NATO pact, participates in a number of wars abroad. Members of the Army and other armed units of the Czech Republic are stationed in former Yugoslavia, in occupied Afghanistan and Iraq. Besides this, the Czech Republic gives significant logistic, political, propaganda and economic support to a number of war campaigns.

The consent to the establishment of a US military base on the Czech territory presents the culmination of support by the

Czech Republic’s government for war plans. Against the will of absolute majority of the country’s inhabitants, and in spite of the existence of impressive movement against the military base, the Czech government continues to negotiate with the US government, organizes a propaganda campaign based on lies and intrigues to push through the construction of the US military base. Moreover, the Czech government rejects the possibility of expression of the will of the citizens regarding this important question through an institution of direct democracy — through a referendum. The ruling political forces constantly use the term democracy in a deceptive way to justify their war activities, thus clearly showing their fear of a real implementation of democracy, which could endanger their interests and privileged positions of power.

A growing number of the Czech Republic’s citizens are convinced that it is necessary to change fundamentally and unconditionally this state of affairs. For these reasons the Czech Peace Movement has been established. As a part of the world peace movement, and in cooperation with organizations and movements associated in the World Peace Council, the Czech Peace Movement will join in the struggle for limiting the military budgets, against foreign military bases, for a worldwide prohibition of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, for just peace and international solidarity, and against all imperialist wars, aggressions and occupations.

If you agree with this Declaration, join the emerging Czech Peace Movement!

From the Resolution of the 20th Peace Assembly of the Portuguese Council For Peace and Co-operation (CPPC)

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 CPPC 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 whole world.

The hope for a world of peace has not died, despite the recent wars. Nor has those wars defeated the will of the aggressed 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 CPPC 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 war, the CPPC will contribute, within its possibilities, for that yearning to be transformed into action for peace.

The new millennium, which began with a war situation, may, if we transform **the hope of living in peace into a real struggle for peace**, become 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 stability 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:
 - o Nuclear disarmament
 - o Nuclear Non-proliferation
 - o Nuclear-weapon-free zones
 - o Establishment of a Nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East
 - o Security assurances
 - o Non-strategic nuclear weapons
 - o Nuclear danger
 - o Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty/CTBT

- o Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty/FMCT
- Other weapons of mass destruction:
 - o Chemical weapons
 - o Biological weapons
 - o 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:
 - o The Illicit trade in small arms and light weapons
 - o Other conventional weapons including any which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects
 - o Anti-personnel mines
 - o Sophisticated conventional weapons
- Regional disarmament and security:
 - o Regional disarmament
 - o Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region
 - o 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:
 - o First Committee of the General Assembly
 - o Conference on Disarmament/CD
 - o United Nations Disarmament Commission/UNDC
 - o Regional Center
 - o United Nations Department of Disarmament Affairs/UNDDA
 - o Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters
 - o Groups of Governmental Experts
 - o UNIDIR
 - o UN Disarmament Fellowship Programme
- Relationship between disarmament and development
- Peaceful uses of nuclear energy
- Other measures of the promotion of disarmament:
 - o Disarmament and non-proliferation education
 - o United Nations Disarmament Information Programme
 - o Cooperation with civil society and NGOs
- Related matters of disarmament and international security:
 - o Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security
 - o Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control
 - o Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament
 - o Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction
 - o Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures
- Disarmament concepts and terminology
- An agreed programme of action ■

WPC RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE 4th SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT — UNITED NATIONS

Whereas, the United Nations reports that *over one trillion dollars* are spent annually worldwide on arms, not including the costs of the illegal invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan and current conflicts; and further

Whereas, global expenditures amount to *two million dollars for every minute of war*, draining national treasuries and creating a crisis in funding for essential social services: health, education, infrastructure, food, shelter, environment, simple development, etc.; and

Whereas, the heightened tensions, exploding in civil strife, created by the arms race, have so burdened the undeveloped and developing world, are not leaving the developed world untouched; and hundreds of millions of people are suffering from lack of food and shelter, wandering the earth in search of employment; and nation-states in the South are either unstable or failing, wallowing in debt, in the main created by arms purchases; and

Whereas, while there has been recognition of the need to assist the impoverished South with sustainable development, namely, the United Nations Millennium Goals for alleviating poverty by 50 percent by the year 2015 through the contribution of 0.7 percent of gross national product by the developed world, only a few countries have complied; and

Whereas, increased expenditures for the development of new weapons of mass destruction, space weaponry, participation in the illegal wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and other areas, and the maintenance and expansion of the national militaries have rendered the pledges to contribute for sustainable development of the South as mere empty promises; and

Whereas, previous Special Sessions of the United Nations on Disarmament have inspired increased organization and demonstration by the global peace movement, including the one million demonstrators in New York City in 1982, which, in turn, has sparked a new level of peace activity against the dangers of nuclear war;

Therefore, the meeting of the Secretariat (Brussels, 15th June, 2007) of the World Peace Council, the largest organization of national peace organizations in the world, resolves with the global peace movement to wholeheartedly support efforts of the General Assembly of the United Nations to convene the 4th Special Session on Disarmament; urges the cooperation and participation of civil society in the discussions and planning for the Special Session; and urges the organization of a major public expression of support simultaneously with the Special Session; and

Therefore, a copy of this Resolution is to be forwarded to all heads of States, Secretary-General of the United Nations, all Missions to the United Nations, the Working Group for the 4th Special Session on Disarmament, affiliates of World Peace Council and peace organizations globally.

The Secretariat of World Peace Council

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 (conselhopaz@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 (huynhtu02@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 (baris@barisdernegi.org)**
- **January/February 2008, New Delhi/India — Regional Consultative Meeting of Asia/Pacific WPC. Hosted by the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (aipsohq@bol.net.in)**
- **February/March 2008, Thessaloniki/Greece — Balkan Conference of Peace Movements WPC. Hosted by the Greek Committee for International Detente and Peace (eedye@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 (yuljabour@yahoo.com)**



Final Statement of the Jerusalem Initiative: For Just Peace on the Basis of Two States: Israel & Palestine

Upon the invitation of the Palestinian People's Party (PPP) and the Communist Party of Israel (ICP), an international conference was held in East Jerusalem during the period 2–4 June 2007, to mark the 40th anniversary of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, and the 60th anniversary of the 1947 UN Partition Plan.

Twenty-seven delegations and members of parliaments attended the conference from 14 countries throughout the world: Palestine, Israel, Norway, Italy, Greece, Portugal, 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 President 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 the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and full compliance with the UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian territories.

In the afternoon, a general meeting was held at the Notre Dam Hotel in East Jerusalem. This place was chosen because it is located on the borderline between East and West Jerusalem. Several speeches and interventions were delivered by national and social figures. The delegations also had the opportunity to directly address the Palestinian and Israeli public who was attending the event.

The conference received a large number of letters of regards from several parties throughout the world.

Following is the full text of the statement:

Statement

We, participants at the international meeting in Jerusalem, express our solidarity with the Palestinian people and with all peace loving, anti-occupation and anti-settlement forces, in Israel and all around the world, in their struggle for a just Israeli-Palestinian peace based on ending the occupation and establishing an independent Palestinian state all over the land occupied in 1967.

We demand that Israel, the USA, the

EU and all states unjustly besieging Palestine lift their siege immediately. This siege exacerbates the deteriorating conditions of the Palestinian people, causes catastrophic effects on the Palestinian economy, deprives Palestinians of food and medicine, causes mass unemployment and poverty, and prevents any economic or social development, eventually destroying the prospect of building an independent Palestinian state.



We strongly support the right of the Palestinian people to elect their government and all institutions without any external intervention.

We demand all governments in the world to recognize the Palestinian national unity government maintain normal relations with it and allow it to function to serve the interests of the Palestinian people.

We reject the plan to establish a Palestinian state within temporary borders and consider that another destructive effort to postpone the final agreement that would put an end to Israel's ongoing occupation of the Palestinian territories since June 1967.

We stress on the responsibility of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and other countries to obtain Israel's implementation of international law and all UN relevant resolutions.

The Arab Peace Initiative, which has been adopted by all Arab states - if implemented as it stands, comprises the basic elements of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and between Israel and all the Arab states.

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:

Ending the Israeli occupation; complete dismantling of all settlements; removing the Apartheid Wall; establishing the June 4th, 1967 boundaries as a peaceful border between the state of Israel and the Palestinian state; East Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state; the co-existence of the capitals of Israel and Palestine in Jerusalem; the release

of all Palestinian political prisoners; and a solution to the refugee problem in compliance with the UN resolution no. (194).

This peace plan has been the historical plan of both the ICP and PPP for decades. It has also been accepted by the UN, the Arab League, and the international community. It is a plan, which has not been put into action so far, in spite of the fact that the principle of a two state solution was introduced by the UN General Assembly 60 years ago.

This Peace Plan represents the hope for ending repression and the bloodshed, and the beginning of an era of a lasting peace.

Palestinian People's Party; Communist Party of Israel; Communist Party of Greece; Communist Party of India-Marxist; Communist Refoundation Party, Italy; Communist Party of Britain; Communist Party, USA; Democratic Social Perspective, Australia; European Left Party; French Communist Party; Party of the Italian Communists; Portuguese Communist Party; Progressive Party of Working People-AKEL, Cyprus; Red-Green Alliance, Denmark; Socialist Left Party, Norway.

International Organizations:

Federation of Greek Women; General Trade Union of India; Italian Social Movement; Movement of Women-POGO, Cyprus; Norwegian Association of NGO's; Portuguese Council for Peace; World Peace Council.

Members of Parliament:

Agot Valle, Norwegian Parliament; Georgios Tousass, European Parliament; Jorge Mechado, Portuguese Parliament; Michael Leutert, German Parliament; Sitaram Yechuri, Indian Parliament.

“JERUSALEM INITIATIVE” Report of the CPPC/WPC Delegation

Two members of the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation, representing the World Peace Council, attended the “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. It ended with a public session in which political, civil and religious representatives from broad sectors of the Palestinian and Israeli societies participated. Highlights of the delegation's report are as follows:

1. This was the first time ever that an initiative promoted by the Israeli and Palestinian peace forces was held in Jerusalem, showing that there are partners for peace on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

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 announced — a wall to protect the Israeli population from eventual attacks from Palestinian territories — the Wall aims to divide the Palestinian communities, making it unfeasible for the future creation of an independent state in that territory and eliminating any possibility of East Jerusalem one day becoming the capital city of Palestine. The line marked for the Wall — which continues to be built — makes it impossible to implement any of the UN Resolutions pertaining to the creation of the Palestinian State.

The wall divides families, keeps children apart from their schools, farmers from their land, patients from their health centres, and shopkeepers from their shops.

3. The deployment of Israeli settlements in Arab territories has been intensified and continues at a frantic pace. Their construction implies the destruction of houses and buildings of the Palestinian community, and is developing in perfect articulation with the Wall's line mark in a clear strategy of seizing Palestinian territories, where Israel intends to occupy 25 percent of the West Bank.

4. The construction of the Wall, the installation of settlements, the building of roads that are not open to the Palestinian people, and more than 600 fixed and mobile military “check-points” will,

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.

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 consequences with the dismantling of health services, the education system and the proliferation of misery, already hitting 55 percent of the population in the West Bank and 80 percent of the population in the Gaza Strip.

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 worsening and the creation of their sovereign and independent state is being seriously 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 Israeli occupation,
- 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

Allow me to first of all to convey to you warmest greetings from the members of the Belgrade Forum for the World of Equals and sincere thanks for the invitation to participate at the Regional (Europe) Conference of the World Peace Council as well as to participate in the meeting of the Secretariat.

At the same time, I would like to congratulate to the leadership of the WPC, particularly to the Honorable Mr. Thanassis Pafilis, Secretary General of the WPC and member of European Parliament, to Mr. Iraklis Tsavdaridis, Executive Secretary, and of course, to Mr. Rui Namorado Rosa, chairman of the Conference, for the excellent organization of this important meeting.

It is important that this conference is held in the European Parliament building; those who have good ideas about peace, cooperation and progress for all of humanity have come to be heard by those who are supposed to make decisions.

Now, with your permission, I will comment on two issues. First, the consequences of the US-led NATO aggression against Serbia (FRY) eight years after, and second, the future status of the Serbian Province of Kosovo and Metohija.

The NATO aggression was undertaken without any justification and without approval of the UN Security Council. Therefore, it was a wholly illegal use of military force. During the seventy-eight days of aggression, approximately 3,500 to 4,000 persons were killed, mostly civilians, including children and disabled. The aggressors were using forbidden weapons such as: missiles with depleted uranium, cluster and graphite bombs. Missiles that contain depleted uranium are particularly dangerous; people can suffer from the radiation for decades or thousands of years. The economic damage to Serbia amounted to over 100 billion US dollars. Therefore, NATO aggression was a crime against peace and humanity. Unfortunately, it has not been sanctioned as such because international judiciary is neither independent nor impartial.

Although the NATO aggression primarily targeted Serbia and its citizens, it was in essence a war against Europe. Strangely, it was a war in which Europe itself actively participated. It was on European soil, destroying European people and goods, poisoning European environment and leaving destabilization and all the other consequences to be dealt with by Europe. In general, the 1999 NATO aggression held back European development and integration, including constitutional arrangements.

The aggression was conducted because of an unprecedented alliance between NATO and a terrorist organization known as KLA. The organization's ideology was influenced first by Enver Hoxa's brand Marxism and Stalinism and second by Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaida terrorist organization was established on mixture of two ideologies: first, of Marxism and Stalinism of Enver Hoxa and second, of Osaama bin Laden's Al Kaida. Toward the end of 1998, when the NATO-KLA alliance was made and an attack against Serbia (FRY) was imminent, no one imagined that the September 11 would occur. No one could imagine the subsequent terrorist bombings that took place in London, Madrid and elsewhere.

Thus, the consequences of the NATO aggression are: the radicalization of the Islamic factor, the growing terrorist threat in South-eastern Europe and throughout the entire the Continent. This is in direct correlation with the spread of international organized crime — drug, arms and human trafficking, etc.

In the same period, we have witnessed the strengthening of separatist movements. This led to further fragmentation of states

and to the proliferation of puppet states. After the destruction of SFR of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was also split in two separate states — Serbia and Montenegro. The European Union formally supported a unified state that would contain both Serbia and Montenegro. However, in reality, the EU later abandoned its own principle and backed the separation of Montenegro. Now the West, primarily US, Great Britain and Germany, are engaged in the division of Serbia; these countries are trying to impose independence in both Kosovo and Metohija. The German Ambassador in Belgrade went even further. He said that if the Serbian Government refuses to accept the independence of Kosovo and Metohija, Hungary may claim separation of Vojvodina, which is the Muslim (Bosniaks) region of Raska (Sandzak). Albanians would claim three districts in the south, and so on. It is clear that the puppet states will be neither economically stable nor independent. However, they will be remarkably easy to manipulate. This, of course, goes against the interests of the peoples of the region; this plan will hamper stabilization and stymie the processes of integration in Europe.

The proliferation of puppet states has been accompanied by the proliferation of US and NATO military basis in Southeast Europe. After the NATO aggression, approximately about

fifteen such bases have been installed in the region, including the base “Bondstil” in Kosovo. The governments of Bulgaria and Romania have each accepted four NATO bases. Including the bases in Greece and Turkey, the Balkans has the highest density of foreign military basis in the world. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, NATO shifted part of its military forces from Central Europe to the Southeastern part of the continent. Is this really what the region needs today? Was the aggression against Serbia in 1999 just an excuse “to correct the wrong decision of General Eisenhower during the Second World War and station American troupes (in the Balkans) for strategic purpose”?

NATO and US bases in the Balkans are an integral part of the network of bases elsewhere in Europe (e.g. Germany, Hungary). There are plans to construct the anti-missile bases in Poland and the Czech Republic. There are also plans to have the NATO (US) basis in Ukraine and Georgia fit in the strategy of creating a “security line” from the Baltic Sea to Anatolia. However, it isn't clear what dangers either the US or Europe are facing. What threats exist in either the East or the Southeast? How can they justify unprecedented construction of bases? Prevention from the international terrorism can't be the only reason. Terrorism cannot be fought, much less eradicated, by the Northwest, as the front lines are the Southeast. Terrorism cannot be countered with intercontinental missile systems.

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, Central Asia 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 armies and the strengthening of police forces. Is this the “common defense system”?

Serbia is the country with the highest number of refugees and displaced persons in Europe. More than 500,000 of them are in no condition for a free and safe return to their homes, be they in Croatia, Bosnia, Kosovo or Metohija. Serbia has only received promises, plans and timetables, and nothing more. For example, in June 1999, when UNMIK and KFOR came to care about safety in the Province, there were approximately 40,000 Serbian residents in Prishtina. Today, there are only about one hundred of them, nearly all of which are aged persons. The situation is similar in almost all large cities there.

At the time of preparing for the aggression against Serbia (FRY), US obtained the support and participation of European allies after understanding that this would be an exception where NATO would act without the approval of

Conclusions of the European Coordination Meeting of the WPC

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 Brussels.

The meeting was attended by the sixteen organizations: VREDE (Belgium), Anti-Imperialist League/Stop the USA (Belgium), Bulgarian National Peace Council, Czech Peace Society, Czech Peace Movement, Cyprus Peace Council, Danish Peace Council, French Peace Movement, Peace Committee of Georgia, German Peace Council, Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (EEDYE), Anti-Bases Committee (Poland), Belgrade Forum for the World of Equals (Serbia), Spanish Committee for the Defense of Solidarity and Peace, Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC) and Peace Association of Turkey. Several organisations apologized for their absence.

Organizations from other regions were also present as guests. The groups were primarily from the following countries: Congo, Cuba, India, Lebanon, Mexico, Palestine, United States of America, Venezuela and Vietnam.

The following persons were also present: Orlando Fundora, the WPC President, Athanasios Pafilis, the General-Secretary, and Iraklis Tsavdaris, the Executive Secretary.

The meeting dealt with the agenda below:

1. Report by the Regional Coordinator CPPC
2. Reports by members and friendly organisations
3. Special Campaign of WPC Europe
4. Plan of Action
5. Conclusions – next Regional Meeting

Rui Namorado Rosa, President of the CPPC, chaired the proceedings with the collaboration of Iraklis Tsavdaridis, Executive Secretary of the WPC, and with Sandra Benfica from the CPPC. The meeting was enriched by many relevant contributions of all the organizations without exception. The main items discussed were:

Global militarization of international relations, particularly in Europe:

- The development of new armaments.
- 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.

— The situation and the developments in the following areas: The Middle East, Africa and Europe (Eastern Europe and the Balkans).

— The evolution of the current European Union Project, including its militarization and foreign intervention policy.

— The visit of US President Bush to Europe in order to promote the imperialist plans with his allies and the massive peoples' protests.

— The current situation in Palestine and the WPC action plans in this regard.

— The situation 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 conference 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 movements' activities, namely through a webpage.

Among the conclusions, we highlight:

— Support the Secretariat proposal to elaborate a campaign for Palestine in the Middle Eastern regional context. This includes: 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 friends of the “Belgrade Forum” (Serbia) and EEDYE (Greece).

— Organizing with EEDYE a Balkan Conference of Peace Movements in Thessaloniki in Feb/March 2008.

— Creating a website of the WPC European region as a tool to disseminate information and to support the inter-connection of the member organisations and the promotion of the WPC, which is a task assigned to the CPPC.

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

— Asking the CPPC to draft the agenda and organizing scheme.

— Welcoming the readiness and disposition of the Belgrade Forum, to host 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 clear that it was precedent which can be invoked any time, and will be invoked.” This has led to the invasion of “the willing” in Iraq, also without the approval of the UNSC. Iran and some other states are threatened 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 independence of Serbian Province of Kosovo and Metohija would also be an exception — a “unique case” — not a precedent. What they are really trying to do is to soften rejection and assuage the doubts of many states that reasonably fear that the “Kosovo independence case” will open the Pandora’s box and pull away the chain of separatisms all over Europe and the world. It is clear that should the US and Great Britain succeed in taking over part of the Serbian state territory, they would later try to exploit the precedent wherever it suits their interests and deny it wherever it is not the case. The question is: do the strategists of the unipolar world understand the changes in Europe and in the world after 1999, or not?

Coming now to the problem of the Province of Kosovo and Metohija it should be noted first that it is an old, deeply rooted problem. The capital of the Serbian medieval was Prizren. The seat of the Serbian Church was in Pec. The great majority of the population were Serbs, all the way up to the end of the 19th century. It is true, however that after the Ottoman Empire conquered Old Serbia at the end of the 14th century, there had been a process of pushing Serbs from Kosovo and Metohija towards the north, and settling Albanians. This process was accelerated by Austro-Hungary, Mussolini’s fascist Italy and by Hitler’s Nazi Germany. Still, at the turn of the 19th to 20th centuries, Serbs were half of the total population of the Province. Not to mention that all of the relics; 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 presented with an interpretation of the problems in Kosovo and Metohija that is both simplified and erroneous. For example, it has been stated that the problems in Kosovo and Metohija have arisen because Slobodan Milosevic abolished the Province’s autonomy and engaged in widespread violations of the rights of Albanians, et cetera. Courts in Germany, for instance, did not accept this interpretation.

After the Province came under the UN mandate in June 1999, terrorism and ethnic cleansing of non-Albanians continued. Approximately 300,000 of Serbs and other non-Albanians had been forced out. 150 Serbian medieval monasteries and churches were destroyed and close to 2,500 people were either killed or missing. Nobody has been found guilty and imprisoned for clear terrorist crimes. Today, eight years after, the remaining Serbs in the Province live under constant fear for their lives, without freedom of movement and without other basic human rights. Many of them live in enclaves fenced by barbed wire. The displaced, victims of ethnic cleansing, cannot return to their homes because nobody will guarantee their security.

The greatest obligation of the international community under is to uphold UNSC resolution 1244, which contains information about the following issues: the standards 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 providing for the return of a certain number of Serbian army 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 territorial integrity.

Under the UN mandate, with KFOR as military and UNMIK as civilian UN presence, the Province has become a “safe heaven” for all kinds of criminals and a springboard for terrorism of Islamic extremists towards

Europe. It has also become the biggest concentration of illegal armaments in Europe, and probably in the world. This alone, poses a serious threat to peace and stability. However, it is being ignored. The provisional government in the Province is led by Agim Ceku, one of KLA leaders, and former artillery commanders in Croatia during the 1995 attacks against the Serbian civil population. He has been on the Interpol “wanted” list for serious crimes against humanity. He had replaced Ramus Haradinaj, a KLA leader and provisional Prime Minister who is also being processed in Hague Tribunal for massacring Serbs and other civilians in the Province. Both have been installed by 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 G8 Summit, Russia-US Summits, EU and OSCE.

The 1999 NATO aggression was stopped after three important documents had been negotiated in several rounds of very complicated negotiations and finally adopted. These documents are: the Milosevic-Ahtisari-Chernomyrdin Belgrade Document of June 3, the Kumanovo Agreement of June 9 June and



the UNSC resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999. In all of them the international community, including permanent members of the UNSC, EU, NATO, OESC and G8, had unanimously guaranteed full and lasting respect of territorial integrity and sovereignty of Serbia (FRY). The international community also gave essential autonomy to Kosovo and Metohija.

The US and Great Britain are trying to neglect and even hide these documents and guarantees, in spite of the fact that they were the impetus behind the decision to end the war against Serbia (FRY) in June 1999. It should not be too late yet to emphasize that these documents and guarantees, that have been approved by the UN Security Council, remain the basis for peace and stability in the region today and also in the future. These powers are trying today, in the “democratic environment” to achieve more by manipulations and two-faced games, then what they achieved eight years ago by unprecedented military aggression. Contrary to the clear cut guarantees of sovereignty and territorial integrity for Serbia, they claim today that Milosevic had lost the Province and that the present “democratic” authorities in Serbia have no responsibility for this —they are expected only to formally recognize this fact! Or, at the very least, accept the seizure of fifteen percent of the state’s territory. Yet, the same powers had initiated the Vienna negotiations about the future status of the Province with Marti Ahtisari as the UN interlocutor. The talks lasted almost a year. Marti Ahtisari and his deputy, Austrian diplomat Albert Rohan, managed to find the time and the energy to deal with all issues except for the main one; the future status of the Province. Nevertheless, they presented the proposal to the UN Security

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 Ahtisari-Rohan — to show to the public that the parties disagree. The talks were also designed to facilitate the secession 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 1988, 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 Slobodan Milosevic, who was perceived an obstacle to the US and NATO strategy in the region.

It has become clear that toppling Milosevic and altering the power structure in Serbia in October 2000 had not changed the British-American policy toward Serbia for the better. They do not even want to reaffirm the “friendly democratic” leadership guarantees that were given to unfriendly Milosevic at the end of 1999 aggression. A number of American politicians 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

to prove that the US is a friend of Muslims. For the same purpose, the US has been trying hard to revise the Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement on Bosnia and impose a unitary, Muslim dominated state. Serbia is reduced to small change that can be used to settle accounts with the Muslim world. Serbia rejects such treatment with indignation. Is Europe happy about the US policy of installing a new “moderate Muslim states in the heart of Europe”?

Great Britain and the US have encountered some 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 universal principles of the international law. Furthermore, Russia believes that a proposal should comply with existing UNSC decisions. This is not acceptable to either Belgrade or to Pristina. The countries of the region and beyond, although under tremendous pressure from Washington to be in line, do fear that supporting, or recognizing the independence of the Province, against the will of Serbia, would lead to a very dangerous precedent for many other countries faced with the separatist movements of minorities. Such movements are active not only in the Balkans and so called post-soviet regions, but also in a number of countries that are part of the EU. This is why it would be very difficult to secure consensus within EU on imposing separation of the Province from Serbia. Thus, the status of Kosovo and Metohija may become not only a

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 foreign policy!

To neutralize obvious reservations and rejections of the idea of independence for Kosovo and Metohija, representatives of the US, including President George Bush, have been stating that “the Kosovo case (independence) is unique” and therefore cannot be precedent. This, however, is not a convincing argument. There are so many “unique” cases. In addition, everybody recalls that the Clinton Administration had also promised its European allies that the 1999 NATO aggression against Serbia (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 over Iran’s nuclear program. During his recent visits to Albania and Sophia President Bush, in a typical American style, publicly offered a deal Belgrade: Belgrade should accept independence of Kosovo and support Serbia’s membership to NATO and EU!

What should be main elements for the reasonable position?

First, the Ahtisari proposal is not a result of negotiations; it is a dictate from a position of force. It violates the basic principles of international law, such as the principles of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final document (OSCE) and the UNSC resolution 1244 (1999). This proposal therefore, has been rejected by Serbia, Russia, China and other countries. It cannot have the approval and support of the Contact Group, the UN Security Council, the OSCE, the EU, the Movement of Nonaligned Countries and other organizations. Therefore, it should be abandoned. Real and meaningful negotiations should start between the Government of Serbia and provisional institutions in the Province, under the auspices of UN SS, with the objective of a reaching a compromise without prejudice and artificial time limits.

Second, respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Serbia is beyond any discussion and deals. The framework of the future status of the Province is essential autonomy and self-government within Serbia as envisaged by UNSC resolution 1244. As to the form, substance and guarantees of the autonomy the European examples and standards should be seriously examined and presuming good will of both parties, adjusted and applied (South Tyrol, Aland Islands or the others). The Province will be demilitarized.

Third, parallel with negotiations, concrete steps should be taken toward the timetable that was approved by the UNSC for the free and safe return of approximately 250,000 displaced persons to their homes in the Province. Reconstruction of destroyed houses, monasteries and churches in cooperation with the competent international organizations and donors.

Fourth, full implementation of the UNSC resolution 1244 (1999), 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) recognized therein and therefore, may not be abolished, replaced nor changed without consultations and consent of Serbia

Fifth, only decisions of the UN Security Council based on compromise reached through negotiations will be considered legal, valid and binding for all. Any decisions or steps, be they unilateral or multilateral, contravening the basic principles of the international law, or concrete decisions of United Nations, such as UNSC resolution 1244, will be considered null and void.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that the solution of the future status of Kosovo and Metohija will definitely have an impact not only on the stability of Serbia and the Balkans but on the whole world. I would like that impact to be positive — in favor of peace, stability and progress for all peoples. It will be so if the law and justice prevail over arrogance and dictate. Thank you. ■



European Defence Agency Fuels the Military Industrial Complex

Ludo De Brabander, VREDE/Belgium

The European military industrial complex goes through a broad process of expansion. An important role is played by the European Defence Agency. Much work has indeed been realised to (re)structure the European defence industry with growing means for military research and development. Parliamentary control is at a far distance, a debate in society absent.

With the ‘no’ result in the referenda in France and the Netherlands spring 2005, the European constitution was – at least 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 viewpoints. The “Treaty to establish a constitution for Europe” focused quite a lot on European security. Workgroup VIII of the European Convention that elaborated this part, chose a dominantly military approach. Non-military concepts as conflict-prevention didn’t even reach the constitutional worktables. Workgroup VIII was assisted by 13 advisers, all of them in one or other way linked to arms industry or the military apparatus, i.e. the military industrial complex. Three amongst these advisers effectively worked directly for arms companies. This is at least a part of the explanation why this constitution speaks — out of the blue — about an “Agency in the field of development of defence capacities, research, purchase and armament.” In the first version of the Constitution which was written by the European Convention it was put more bluntly: “European Armament Office.” Article 1-41, section 3 indeed pushes towards more armaments: “The member countries engage to gradually improve their military capabilities.”

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....”

Second. The reflection period that was declared after the French and 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 (2004). As if the strategists foresaw the problems with the constitution, and took EDA out of the constitutional water before it could get troubled.

The text hadn’t yet come out of the printer or the European Council of Ministers took the initiative to establish the EDA. In the preamble of the section on common operations of the Council it is worded like this: “The European Defence Agency, that falls under the authority of the Council and in which all member

states participate, will have the particular goal to develop the defence capacities on crisis management, to stimulate and expand the European cooperation on armament, to strengthen the European technological and industrial defence base (DITB), to realise a competitive European market for defence equipment, and if necessary in cohesion with the Union’s research activities, to promote research in function of a leading position in the strategic technologies sector for future defence and security capabilities, in order to strengthen the European industrial potential in this field.”

Politics, Army, 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 formed the obstacle for the establishment of a firm European internal defence market. According to this Article each member state can take the necessary measures for the protection of its essential national security interests concerning the production and the trade in military material. Some European countries used this Article to protect their national defence industry from external competition. But in recent years things have changed rapidly. Through the big restructuring at the end of the nineties European defense 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 Commission and Council wanted an efficient and competitive arms industry and in accordance with the arms traders it launched itself initiatives to stimulate structural changes in the defense industry. EDA helped to agree upon a Code of Conduct for border crossing contracts between the 24 subscribing countries.

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 the military apparatus. In order 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 from a normal commercial one. It depends mostly on finances and orders from the government. Governments and armies in turn depend heavily on the defence industry for high tech military material suitable for the new (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 find the extra financial means. Good news for the benefits of the arms industry.

In the meantime EDA produces studies and organises conferences to proof how bad budget allocations are distributed inside the defence sector. One conclusion emerges over and over again: proportionally too much money goes to personnel and too little is used for equipment. The example on the other side of the Atlantic is constantly referred to. In 2005 the member states of the European Union spent 193 million euros (1,8% of BIP) for defence compared to 406

million euros (4,06% of BIP) in the United States. Costs for personnel are much higher in Europe, and research and development are badly financed (4,7% of total defence budgets against 13.1% in the US). The European defence industry’s demand for more means is welcomed by the European Council and the Commission. Günter Verheugen, European Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry, announced recently during an EDA Conference (February 1, 2007) that the European budget for security related research in the seventh framework program would be increased with factor 13, from 15 up to 200 million euros per year. During that same EDA-conference the High Representative of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, head of EDA, was emphasizing that more money should go to equipment, research and development. “We should spend more, better and more together” was his conclusion. Of course this would mean a reconduction of the defence allocations of each member state, and put at the same time heavy pressure on the members in order to increase the defence budget itself.

As stated above in the Union ‘only’ 1,8% of BIP goes to defence, while the NATO standard lies at 2%. A quick comparison: Belgium is even ‘worse’ a pupil as it reaches only 1,09% of BIP for defence. According to Solana: “The bottom line we never may forget is that we have to increase defence investments. This means that we have to dedicate more means to research, development and purchase of military equipment, either by an increase in the defence budgets themselves, or by shifting means from current affairs towards investments, or by both mechanisms.”

Long-term Vision

In order to avoid ineffectiveness in research and development of military equipment, the European Ministers of Defence agreed upon a long-term vision for the EDA on October 3, 2006. The aim is to define European defence capacities and capability needs till 2025 so that security research and development may be streamlined.

This report really is a vision document where amongst other the strategic context is taken into account. One of the most important assessments in the report is that Europe has grown more dependent from the rest of the world “particularly in the field of energy”. In this context “China and India will push world oil demands upwards and will seek for new sources in Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East”. This means a real “direct and indirect challenge for European defence interests”. The role of the military is continuously changing, influenced by revolutionary developments in science and technology. The report sees 4 fields of attention concerning the military capabilities:

1. **Synergy.** “Joint forces composed of land, air, space and maritime elements will increasingly use precision firepower, intelligence and focused logistics in order to deliver military effects in a more discriminate way. And the capabilities of other agencies and actors, including non-governmental organisations, will contribute to the management of conflict.”

2. **Agility.** “This refers to the ability to achieve rapidity of reaction, tailorable force packaging and deployability.”

3. **Selectivity.** “The selective use of kinetic and non-kinetic means to generate the desired lethal or non-lethal effects will

be essential for future operations. Future forces need to be able to graduate and vary the application of force as necessary, and in accordance with legal and political constraints. Therefore, future capabilities may also effectively incorporate such non-kinetic capabilities as computer network attack, electromagnetic or directed-energy, offensive counter-space, military deception and psychological operations.

4. **Sustainability.** Being equipped to guarantee a sufficient longer presence in conflict zones.

EDA states that equipment should be adapted to the actual information era. Being informed is crucial in present warfare, and therefore supremacy in this field is necessary: further development of satellite systems, unmanned UAV planes and of information networks is needed. Quick exploitation of new technology is vital. The report repeats the basic EDA refrain that European defence investments should be increased (they represent 20% of European defence expenses compared to 35% in the USA)

Democratic Deficit

Social debate on the future of European military forces is totally absent. The Solana document for a European Strategy of December 2003 that was slightly adapted before it was approved by the European Council, didn’t raise much debate neither in parliaments nor in public media in the member states. It deals though with a fundamental strategy pushing for more European military involvement in an ever more globalised world. In this strategy defence challenges are spoken of in a narrow and selective way, and the common answer is one that wants to spread ‘our stability to the rest of the world’. In other words, our armies should be transformed into flexible battle groups capable of rapid action against threats from outside the Union. There isn’t the slightest move of thought that we ourselves could ever be the cause of growing instability in the world, or that intervention armies easily could slide downhill towards colonial operations for classic imperial interests.

Evolutionary are kept away from public debate so that MIC-structures can be strengthened at ease. This is shown by the European strategy document itself, by the work of European Convention Workgroup VIII on security and defense policy in the Constitution, by the mere existence of the European Defence Agency, and by the way of exclusiveness and prioritisation of business interests in the European security research. All kind of decisions are taken without control of parliamentary representatives in a sector that evolves at high speed. Lack of attention, complexity of the matter, but certainly also the secrecy MIC attitude help to keep away social debate on the future and the development of the defence apparatus.

In the Statewatch and TNI report “Arming Big Brother” Ben Hayes warns: “We witness the emerging of a security-industrial complex dominated by profit driven conglomerates with a particular narrow vision on security, i.e. based upon military power.” It is to hope, says Hayes, that European and national parliaments will take up their responsibility and will thoroughly screen costs and benefits of this security research, and of all military expenditures in the Union. Civil rights movements and anti-militarist campaigners should challenge current developments and explain to the people of Europe what is being done in their name. ■

Resolution of the 15th EEDYE Conference

Nikaia (Greece) — April 21-22, 2007

1. *The 15th Conference of the Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (EEDYE) held in Nikaia on 21-22 April 2007 notes:*

A. The Greek people and all of humanity are experiencing the escalated aggressiveness of imperialist forces in all sectors of social life. The threats and preparations for new wars against Iran, Syria, the DPR of Korea, Cuba, Venezuela and other countries are being intensified, while the crude interventions of these powers in the domestic affairs of other states are on the daily agenda. Protectorates like Kosovo and Bosnia are being established and entire countries are being subjugated. The peoples' toil and wealth are being looted. There is an exacerbation in differences amongst the strong imperialist powers, mainly the USA, the EU and its leading member-states and Russia to control zones of influence and oil transport routes and to drain the planet of its wealth-producing resources. The decision taken by the German government to send troops outside its borders for the first time since World War II and correspondingly the rearming of Japan, along with the installation of the "Missile Defense Shield" in Poland and the Czech Republic being pushed by the United States complicate the situation yet further.

B. Based on the decisions taken during its recent sessions, NATO is extending its range of activity all over the world, with the forming of new rapid intervention forces. Within the framework of the so-called "Partnership for Peace" (PFP), NATO is striving to bring new countries of the Mediterranean, the Far East and the Pacific into its ranks, in conjunction with the US's alliance of the willing, with NATO and the US turning into global gendarmes and invaders formally as well.

C. The EU is being militarized at a quick pace so as to lay claim to a greater share of the imperialist booty worldwide. In addition to the European Army, it has set up battle groupings for rapid intervention and is planning to expand them. It maintains occupation forces in Bosnia, replacing NATO troops and is preparing for Kosovo. It is intervening in Africa (e.g. the Congo). It has adopted pre-emptive war and, linking external with internal security, is seeking to quell popular movements in Europe. Parallel to and in cooperation with the USA, it is building a network to keep files on citizens and is instituting unchecked repression, butchering democratic rights and freedoms.

D. In both war and peacetime, the environment is being sacrificed by the imperialists on the altar of the multinationals' super profits, with particularly dangerous consequences for mankind.

E. At the same time, the imperialists and their propagandist general staff are falsifying and distorting history in order to erase imperialist crimes and anti-fascist and anti-imperialist struggles from the peoples' memory, with the objective of dominating ideologically and preventing the people, especially the younger generations, from contesting them.

F. The various Greek governments, partners and allies of the USA, NATO and the EU, captives of the mighty domestic financial interests of the oligarchy, which is laying claim to its own share in the looting of the peoples, have taken part in imperialist plans.

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 mercenary army to serve warlike imperialist plans.

— To prevent the establishment of bases for the so-called "Missile Defense 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 UN into an instrument to legitimize the new imperialist order through the recent reform of its principles. To resist the plans to bring aggressive, murderous NATO into the machinery of the UN so that it may be used as a "legitimate" tool for imperialist intervention.

— To oppose the development of new nuclear weaponry, 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 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). ■



public education and health care as well as other necessary social allocations are being squeezed by the lack of rudimentary funding and are being gradually surrendered on the altar of the market and profit. On the other hand, the Conference has noted with satisfaction that there are strong popular reactions and resistance to the aggressiveness of imperialist forces. The imperialists are finding that implementation of their various plans is no "piece of cake", as they encounter the powerful resistance of the peoples, as is happening in Iraq, Afghanistan, Cuba, Venezuela and other countries of Latin America, in Palestine and in Lebanon. Imperialist wars and interventions are rejected by the peoples in their majority and are condemned in mass demonstrations on all continents, even in the US itself and in other large imperialist countries.

I. Under these conditions, the 15th Conference of EEDYE declares its readiness and determination to continue its dynamic, persistent effort so as to give fresh momentum to the anti-war, anti-imperialist movement in our country, to take new steps in order to contribute to the forming of a powerful anti-imperialist front in Greece and internationally to fight against war and the barbaric policies of the new world order as a whole and to create the prerequisites to overthrow it.

For this task to be advanced, it is imperative that the work of the Secretariat is improved and that the members of the National Council are deployed more effectively.

District meetings should be held and

closely with the workers' movement and especially with the youth movement, using multiform types of action. By means of meetings with mass organizations in their areas and by bringing fresh blood into their ranks, local peace committees must constitute points of reference and action for the popular anti-war, anti-imperialist movement.

Holding 2008 Peace Olympics could help in this direction, with good use being made of the experience from the corresponding event organized in 2004.

2. For the upcoming period, we have decided to hold militant mobilizations, popular demonstrations and make interventions of various types in step with the workers' movements and other social movements, with the following objectives:

— To militantly honor the peoples' victory over fascism on May 9th 1945, the day marking the end of World War II, and to uncover the attempts being made to distort history and celebration of this day by turning it into "Europe Day".

— To demand a halt to any participation of our country in imperialist plans and the return of all Greek military forces from all relevant missions (in Bosnia and Afghanistan)

— To rid our country of all US-NATO bases (Souda, Aktio, Araxos) and to prevent the establishment of new bases or other types of military installations (such as the port of Nea Peramos in Kavala)

— To safeguard our country's sovereign rights, which are being violated, contested and threatened by our participation in NATO



Global Capital and its New Allies against World Peace

Contribution to the WPC Secretariat Meeting — June 15, 2005

Ivan Dimitrov, Bulgarian National Peace Council

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 neither peace nor intensive 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 WWI 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 economic and political imperialism, it also leads to informational and cultural imperialism.

After winning the cold war, the headquarters of global capital—the US State Depart-

ment—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 invulnerable by 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” of 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 hedonistic West, whose brilliant representative was Clinton, in companion with the “corrupted by the social democracy” European allies makes Washington nervous.

In this situation it was logical to search for new allies. Some eager allies were the newly-converted capitalists who were former “communists” from Soviet-bloc states. These new allies are not reliable. They do, however, have

several qualities that are useful to the West in general and Washington in particular: corruption, servility and cowardice. Intellectually and morally, they are Marxists who have devolved ideologically and wholly embrace neoliberalism. In the intellectual and moral plain, they are mutants from Marxism to the neoliberalism. The neoliberal ideology is a common language that both the masters and their new servants can understand. Their main slogan is: “less and less state, more and more market.” Under this slogan, the economies of former socialist countries were plundered. The robbery was a joint project that was organized by both the masters and the servants; the big bites are for the masters and the smaller bites are for the servants. The people are not important! They are servants free of charge for the master. In the mature age, they have to become retail traders (if at all possible). For reference: the population of Bulgaria in 1989 was nearly 9 million, now it is 7.5 million! The average salary is below 200 euros and average pension is below 50 euros.

At the same time, it turns out that Bulgaria is the most militarized country in the EU! The war budget for the 2007 is 2.4 percent of the gross domestic income, as compared to 1.1 percent for the health services, 0.7 for education and science, etc. In addition, there

is a budget surplus of more than 2 percent under the command of the IMF and the EU! The details are unknown!

According to the instructions of Uncle Sam, Bulgaria must cancel Iraqi debts of \$2 billion! Bulgaria must also continue to support its military units in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo! On its own expenditure — from this same budget — there are no funds for pensions, health services and education! Unfortunately, that is not all; Bulgaria must buy F16 planes from the US for three billion dollars and French frigates for 700 million euros. In the last year US military bases were established in Bulgarian territory in spite of the protest of common people and our peace movement.

Bulgaria is becoming a springboard for aggression against the Middle East and Russia. Bulgarian politicians go along with this in order to satisfy US ambitions for world domination. Sovereignty and national safety are not important! Why do politicians do this? Because they can convert the national wealth into their private property! They can exploit the people with impunity.

This is the image of the new and unreliable ally that is working for capitalism and against world peace. ■

Further Escalation of NATO-Russia Relations and the Domestic Political Situation in Georgia

Peace Committee of Georgia

The NATO-Georgia negotiations are on the minds of many nowadays. NATO-Georgia negotiations are an issue of high interest these days. The strong relationship that Russia and this military 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 this military and political alliance after the Munich Conference. Both parties are making critical decisions about the possibility of admitting the Ukraine and Georgia to NATO. Both parties are also making critical decisions on whether or not NATO armed forces will be deployed in Georgia, the Ukraine and Georgia, on possible membership 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 can scarcely contain their anticipation; they will not know if Georgia has been accepted or rejected until 2009. Both of the aforementioned leaders are pushing our destroyed country toward NATO membership. Neither they nor NATO have asked the opinion of the Georgian people. The main arguments that have been articulated by those who are in favour of membership are as follows:

—Russia is our enemy; Georgia needs NATO to protect it from this dangerous foe.

—Entering this “guarantee of democracy” is necessary for the final establishment of “democracy” in Georgia.

But standing out of NATO’s ambitions for coming closer to the Russian borders,

on one hand, and ebbing the influence of Russia on Georgia and South Caucasian in general, on the other, raise a more practical question: can NATO be the guarantor of the territorial integrity of Georgia? The Government of Georgia avoids asking this question, and even worse, it calls anyone who tries to ask such a question a traitor, even though he/she stands against restoration of friendly relations with Russia.

Everything is clear for us. The government is scared of dealing with this question, as it knows quite well that NATO will not be able to become the guarantor of peaceful solution to ethnic conflicts and territorial integrity of Georgia. The only aim of NATO is to become closer and closer to Caucasia for further successful expansion of its policy in this region, which is rich in power resources, and to use the geographical position of Georgia in order to make serious problems for Iran and Russia. It is clear that the government will not prevent but intensively promote the development of such occasions.

Georgia’s woes are caused not only by the aggressive plans of NATO and the USA, but also by the strange and dark policy of the governors of Russia, our great historical and natural neighbouring country. Very often it seems that Russian government is not greatly interested in good neighbourliness. On the contrary, step by step it mars relations and the much kinder attitude that have been established for ages between the Georgian and Russian population.

By observing the domestic and foreign policy of the Russian government it becomes clear to us that such a policy is not fully in phase with the interests of the working population of Russia, and even more do with the population of Georgia. Russia is doing

its best to restore its influence in Caucasia. The interest of Georgian, Abkhazian, Ossetian and Russian working population is in the closest and fastest integration among the former Soviet Republics. The current Government of Russia, being the main among the former Soviet Republics, is not using the maximum of its abilities in this historical process. It is economically pressing Byelorussia and is losing its influence and authority in Georgia and the Caucasian region as a whole.

Proceeding from the above, the working people of Georgia must worthily stand against the enemies of the country. Any additional step toward NATO membership means losing the perspective of integrity, and the perspective of survival in general. The latter is

possible only through close integration with brotherly peoples of Russia and other former Soviet Republics.

NATO is the enemy of Georgia and the Georgian people. So, by leading the country into this aggressive block, the government of Georgia and its so-called opposition are very dangerous enemies of Georgia and Georgian people. Accordingly, it is necessary to consolidate the political and social forces of the country who see the danger in NATO membership.

The Peace Committee of Georgia works for the unity of the opponents of NATO membership and against this military-political block and its Georgian Government.

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A national demonstration against installation of US military base in the Czech republic took place on May 26, 2007 in Prague, in which more than 5,000 people participated. The Czech Peace Movement (CMH) actively participated in the demonstrations under its banner and distributed hundreds of leaflets. The citizens of the Czech Republic disagree with the presence of a US military base in their country.

GAZA AND AFTER ...

Hanna Amireh*

After the tragic events in the Gaza Strip, and the complete takeover of Gaza 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 complete Israel's process started since 1991, to disintegrate the occupied Palestinian territories (OPT) and create two separate entities. This has put in jeopardy the Political and Geographical unity of the OPT.

2. It is so obvious now that the bloody infightings were direct and indirect consequences of the long-standing Israeli policy of siege, closer expropriation 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 and agony by the imposition of 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 tension and hostilities.

5) The huge polarization of the Palestinian society by Fatah and Hamas, and their policies before and after the Mecca accord to divide and monopolize power between them, paved the way for the exclusion of all the political factions and the civil society from being real partners. and this complicated more negatively the internal scene, and encouraged the internal infighting.

We are now deeply concerned about four issues:

1. The assault on the legitimate authority and the military takeover by Hamas in Gaza.

2. The complete separation of the Gaza strip from the West Bank.

3. The large-scale humanitarian crisis in Gaza, especially if Israel implements its threats to cut off vital services and supplies.

4. The upcoming situation under Hamas control, as to what will happen to the secular civil society, individual and public freedoms, women's rights, etc., taking into consideration certain declarations by Hamas leaders that they are going to establish an Islamic Authority in Gaza.

Now, if there is a lesson to be learned from the events in Gaza here it is: starving, drying up and blocking a whole population does not sear their consciousness and does not weaken political or ideological movements. On the contrary, after one year and a half of the policy of international boycott on the Palestinian Authority, Hamas has become stronger, and the boycott policy has failed. The American notion that it is possible to topple an elected government by applying external pressure on the population has ended in complete failure.

On the other hand, it was an unwise behavior by certain elements in Fatah and the Authority to count on the external pressure, and to follow certain policies that depend completely on the American and the Israeli good will.

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.

Only through giving the Palestinian Government and President Abbas the full responsibility over the people and the political, financial, economic and security matters without any external intervention, will President Abbas be able to make a breakthrough and restore the status quo anti in the Gaza Strip.

The so-called policy of strengthening President Abbas should be based on a real political approach and substantial steps towards a final resolution of the Palestinian Problem, not mere financial aid and the removal of some military check points.

As a preliminary step, there should be a complete mutual ceasefire, a complete withdrawal from the Palestinian populated

areas, the removal of all military check points, massive release of prisoners, and the dismantling of the illegal "settlements posts." Such measures could create a new environment and give hope to the Palestinian population that the political path has not failed. All efforts to confront Hamas without undertaking a dramatic step such as pushing for an accord based on the Arab peace initiative will be meaningless. Without offering a genuine political alternative, extremism and fundamentalism will continue to succeed.

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The Israeli Occupation Violations during June 2007

Department of Arab International Relations / PLO — Press Report 02



During the month of June, the Israeli Occupation Forces escalated their daily violations and incursions against the Palestinian civilians and properties, especially in Gaza Strip and Nablus city. Dozens of Palestinians have been killed and dozens have been injured. Civilian properties and houses are ruined, many Palestinian citizens are detained, more Palestinian lands are confiscated to expand Israeli settlements and finish the Apartheid Segregation Wall.

Meanwhile, Judaization of Jerusalem is continuing; Gaza strip is isolated from the whole world; and the Israeli siege imposed on the Palestinian Occupied Land through its military checkpoints and barriers is still preventing the movement of the Palestinians between the Palestinian cities, towns and villages.

The IOF incursions into the Palestinian areas during June 2007 caused the following casualties:

* Thirty-eight Palestinians, including eleven children, were killed by the IOF, and a Palestinian prisoner passed away in the Israeli jail of Jalboo';

* One hundred twenty Palestinian civilians were injured by the IOF;

* Five Palestinian houses were demolished by the IO Authorities in the Occupied Jerusalem city;

* Twenty-seven Palestinian families were driven away from their houses by the IOF to transfer them into military sites;

* Twenty houses were destroyed in the city of Nablus;

* One hundred eighty Palestinian civilians were arrested by IOF;

* Four hundred olive trees were uprooted and stolen, to be replanted in different Israeli settlements;

* Two hundred fifty planted dunums and 2,000 different sorts of trees were burnt by Israeli fanatic settlers;

* Thirteen dunums of Yatta's land in He-

bron were expropriated to expand the illegal Afgal settlement near the town.

Along with the Israeli policy of silence migration, 1,363 Jerusalemite identity cards were confiscated from their Arab holders. According to the Israeli Ministry of Interior the number of confiscated cards is five times higher than it had been in 2005. Since 1967, 8,267 Arab Jerusalemites have lost their ID cards and 9,600 had to leave their residences and move to the outskirts of Jerusalem.

During the period between September 29, 2000 and June 30, 2007, the IOF killed 4,829 Palestinians; 925 of the martyrs were children, 297 were women, 360 were members of the Palestinian National Forces. 523 were assassinated in cold blood, 148 of the martyrs were ill and died at Israeli Military checkpoints, 67 were killed by the Jewish settlers, and six were foreign volunteers from the ISM. Ten of the martyrs were journalists, 220 were athletes and 36 were Palestinian paramedic members.

During the same period, 39,097 Palestinians were injured, 7,600 of whom were children and young men who were left with permanent disabilities. 50,000 Palestinians were detained, 11,000 are still in the Israeli jails, including 112 women and 383 children. A Palestinian prisoner passed away in the Israeli Jalboo' jail due to medical negligence. The number of Palestinian prisoners who died in the Israeli Jails escalated to 189 Palestinians, since 1967.

The total number of the busted Palestinian houses is 65,775 — 7,807 of which were demolished leaving thousands of the Palestinian citizens with no shelter.

Agriculture, as the main resource of living for the Palestinians, was badly affected but the Israeli measures as soldiers and settlers caused the uprooting, burning and sweeping away of more than 1,300,000 trees.

Ramallah, Palestine — July 1st 2007

Appeal of Vietnamese Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin

The Vietnam War has passed for almost 30 years, yet several million Vietnamese are still suffering physically and mentally from diseases caused by the U.S. sprayings of dioxin laced toxic chemicals, particularly the Agent Orange. This responsibility, as a matter of course, should rest on the U.S.

On the occasion of the oral argument to be held in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit on Monday, June 18th, 2007 in New York, for the lawsuit filed by the Vietnamese victims of these toxic chemicals, we, along with our representative organization, the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin (VAVA), earnestly call upon all governments, organizations and our friends, far and near, all over the world, to raise strong voices, to make every effort in demanding this U.S court rise above any illegal and immoral pressure, to make a truly fair and just decision that results in affirming the liability of the U.S. companies, manufacturers and suppliers of these toxic chemicals, and hence due compensation for all their victims.

Our pain is a common, universal pain of all of humanity — Justice for the Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin is justice for all other chemical victims in other countries, including the U.S.

This struggle for justice depends on all of us!

Hanoi, June 1, 2007



Press meeting with General Vo Nguyen Giap and the Agent Orange victims delegation heading for New York Court of Appeals. June 6, 2007

Peace NEWS

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

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, Chhatisgarh, 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 Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar and Nehru-Nashe-Tito Manch. The hall was packed to its limit. Thousands of people waited outside of the hall to listen the speeches of the distinguished guests.

The open session was presided by Dr. Braj Kumer Pandey, General Secretary of the Bihar AIPSO, was inaugurated by Sri Lalu Prasad Yadav, Union Minister for Railways and addressed by Mani Shankar Aiyer, Union Minister for Panchayati Raj, D. Raja, Secretary, CPI, Sitaram Yechury, Politbureau member, CPI(M), Akhilesh Prasad Sing, MOS for Food, Rajive Ranjan, President, Reception Committee. Pallab Sengupta and Nilotpal Basu, General Secretaries of AIPSO also addressed the gathering. The presence and speech of the WPC, represented by its Executive Secretary Iraklis Tsavdaridis, reaffirmed 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. Syeeda 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

Assam	-	010
Pondechery	-	009
Delhi	-	003
West Bangal	-	035
Jammu & Kashmir	-	003
Maharastra	-	003
M.P.	-	001
Chhatishgarh	-	007
Uttarakhand	-	006

Rajashthan	-	009
Orissa	-	016
U.P.	-	009
Andhra Pradesh	-	016
Manipur	-	027
Tamilnadu	-	014
Kerla	-	015
Bihar & Jharkhand	-	172
Total	-	355

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

Presidium: R.L. Bhatia; Sitaram Yechuri, MP; D. Raja; Haribhau Kedar (Maharastra); Sriballav Panigrahi (Orissa); S. Ramchandra Reddy (AP); M.P Vacant.

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

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

The World Peace Council expresses its profound grief and pain for the loss of comrade Vilma Espin Guillois, 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 Tsavdaridis
Executive Secretary of the WPC
Athens, 20 June 2007