

New Tasks Set by WPC Session

A new tone has been set for the World Peace Council following a radical and critical appraisal of its work at the Sofia Session of the WPC held last month.

The session, in contrast to previous arrangements, was not held alongside a congress which discussed broader peace issues. Instead, four entire days were devoted to a concrete and practical assessment of the WPC, its structure, its approach and its role in the world movement for peace.

Over five hundred delegates including members of the WPC and representatives from mass peace organisations sat together to recommend how best the WPC can go forward with its work.

It was WPC President, Romesh Chandra's introduction to the session which set the pace and parameters for the discussion which followed.

In a detailed and thorough assessment of the present international situation and the main tasks of the peace movement, Mr. Chandra called for a new look at the role of the WPC and its forms and methods, taking into account the new conditions which now exist for the world peace movement.

He noted, "The profound changes in the political situation in the world have caused no less serious changes in

mass public conscience, and, consequently, in the very nature of the present day anti-war movement. The important practical conclusions which are of decisive significance for our activity, stem from these processes.

"The World Peace Council has a glorious history. We can and we do draw strength for the future, as we look back at the vast actions carried out by the movement over the last 37 years. But today's conditions are radically different from those of the past and, naturally, the question arises: in what measure has the movement changed, how fully have we taken into account what is taking place around us, how timely and effectively have we adapted our form and method of work to the new conditions and requirements?"

While acknowledging the pluralist and diversified nature of the international peace movement, Mr. Chandra stressed the need for the movement to find a way of working together for common goals. But, he emphasised, - "we must live, work, fight, defend our ideals in the conditions of the world as it is, with all its peculiarities and the special characteristics of each country".

It was from the "peculiarities and special characteristics of each country" that the Sofia session derived its strength. The pooling of different experiences and of various expectation of

the WPC contributed to the dynamic and constructive conclusions which came out of the discussions.

Commissions and working groups met to consider the campaigning aspects of the WPC, how best these can be carried out, and practical ways of making the WPC more effective and meaningful.

All of the deliberations and suggestions from the commissions and working groups are to be considered in detail by the appropriate bodies of the WPC.

And even these bodies themselves came under scrutiny. The President and Secretariat of the WPC were authorised by the session to prepare drafts for guidelines for the work of the various bodies of the WPC which include the Council, Presidential Committee, Bureau, Secretariat and standing commissions. These will be fully discussed by the WPC Presidential Committee before going to the Bureau.

One of the major changes to the structure of the WPC was the re-establishment of the post of General-Secretary. The current General Secretary of the Finnish Peace Committee, Dr. Johannes Pakaslahti was elected to this post in Sofia. It was felt by the session that this would further the day-to-day running of the WPC and strengthen its collective leadership. **See page 4-6**

Behind the Attacks on Libya

The act of aggression by the US against Libya was executed by F-111 jet fighters based in Great Britain. Apparently the Reagan Administration wanted to involve its allies in the operation from the outset, although it seems that Margaret Thatcher's approval was given without consulting her cabinet.

Almost all the victims of the raid were civilians, especially women and children. Reagan Administration claims that the civilian neighborhoods were hit accidentally have no credibility. Given the horrible results, the claim that the goal was to hit only military targets is similar to the language used during the Vietnam War when anything that moved - and many objects that didn't - became military targets.

The Reagan Administration clearly had a whole series of goals in mind

when it conducted this raid, which was a carefully planned operation both politically and militarily.

They hoped to assassinate Ghadafi by precision bombing, to replace his regime by one more subservient to Washington and in doing so strike a blow to movements of national liberation and governments seeking development independent of US multinational corporations.

They hoped to use the new political climate to win votes in the House of Representatives on aid to the CONTRAS of Nicaragua and against a house resolution that would freeze funds for nuclear tests.

They hoped to strengthen the position of Republican candidates in the upcoming and very important 1986 Congressional elections.

They hoped to change what is known as the War Powers Act which limits the President's ability to make wars without Congressional approval.

They hoped to strengthen Reagan's popularity after his having suffered in recent weeks in relation to the Soviet Union on nuclear disarmament, and after having expended alot of time and effort and red-baiting seranades to try to get the Congress to pass major funding for the Nicaraguan contras.

Against a Test Ban

But more than all of these considerations, the Reagan Administration wanted to divert the attention of people in the United States and throughout the world from the growing demand for a US-Soviet moratorium on the testing of nuclear weapons.

(Continued on page 8)

New General Secretary of the WPC

Dr. Johannes Pakaslahti, General Secretary of the Finnish Peace Committee, was elected to the post of General Secretary of the World Peace Council at the WPC session in Sofia.

Peace Courier talked to him about his background, his hopes for a peaceful world and how he perceives the struggle ahead.

See page 6

Demand to End Iran Iraq War

The statement issued at the International Conference to stop the Iran-Iraq war, 14-16 April, demanded:

An immediate ceasefire in the Gulf war.

An immediate end to all military operations.

The beginning of serious peace negotiations.

The withdrawal of troops to internationally recognised boundaries.

All countries to refrain from actions which lead to the prolongation or escalation of the war.

See back page

Please Note:

Our mailing lists are currently being transferred to a new computer. We apologise for any delay this may cause in updating and adding to these lists.

Pedal Power to end the Arms Race

A number of people from Canada, Czechoslovakia, the USSR and the US have joined together to hold an international Bike for Peace '86 tour to mark the cyclists Nations International Year of Peace.

Starting this spring, the tour will run from Kiev- Prague- Montreal- New York under the motto of the IYP: To Safeguard Peace and the Future of Humanity. Other slogans adopted by the cyclists call for a halt to the arms race, the use of outer space for peace, and a nuclear weapon free world by the year 2000.

Canada CPA Campaigns to Stop Star Wars

At its spring meeting in Calgary, Alberta, the Canadian Peace Alliance (CPA) decided to initiate an ongoing campaign against any Canadian involvement in the American Star Wars programme.

The CPA campaign opposes any direct or indirect Canadian participation including Star Wars contracts to Canadian companies; formal Canadian government backing for the programme; integration of existing NORAD infrastructures within the wider Star Wars plans; deployment of comprehensive air defences in Northern Canada.

CPA alternatives to Star Wars include strengthening the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty between the US and the USSR; immediate agreement on a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban, and support for an International Satellite Monitoring Agency.

The campaign will use a petition directed to Prime Minister Mulroney; establish a Star Wars Watch Committee to monitor Star Wars contracts to Canadian companies, government grants to subsidize those companies, and any parliamentary developments related to Star Wars.

The petition was launched at the Vancouver Peace Festival in April with the deadline for the collection of signatures UN Disarmament Week in October.

Canadian companies awarded Star Wars contracts will be targeted by the CPA with vigils, letters and telegrams of opposition.

To Our Readers

For Peace Courier to provide a more complete picture of the work of various organisations working for peace and disarmament we need to receive regular information from our readers. We welcome your letters, photos, articles and graphics. Please indicate if you want the material back.

FRG NATO Missiles Deployed

The first batch of the 96 nuclear tipped cruise missiles to be deployed in the FRG became operational shortly after their installation at the beginning of April.

The missiles will eventually be based at a site near Hasselbach, 150 kilometres west of Frankfurt. According to defence minister Wörner, the FRG's full quota of US missiles will be deployed by the end of 1987.

FRG Women discuss peace tent

About 50 women from the FRG, El Salvador, South Africa and Northern Ireland met in Oberhausen to discuss the project of a permanent peace tent in the FRG and other countries. Women from all organizations in the FRG espousing peace in their programmes were present. The example of Nairobi's peace tent encouraged them all. Pilot projects will be initiated in Stuttgart, Mülhingen and Heilbronn to assess the peace tents' effectiveness.

GDR Chemical Weapons

The advisory board of the Peace Council on a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons and the Committee on Scientific Issues Relating to Peace and Disarmament met recently to examine ways of preventing developments in biotechnology and genetic engineering from being used for military purposes.

The participants discussed the issue with reference to the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, to be held in Geneva this September.

In addition, Werner Rümpel the first Vice President and General Secretary of the Peace Council reported on national and international activity in support for the UN International Year of Peace. He said that more sections of public opinion in all countries are joining the call against the militarisation of outer space and for an end to the arms race.

Greece Ten Days of Peace

The Greek Committee for International Detente and Peace (EEDYE) organized a Ten Days of Peace event 8-18 May, dedicated to the Greek peace martyr, Grigoris Lambrakis. Included were a peace relay of artists and athletes from Marathon to the tomb of Lambrakis; a peace race through Athens; a peace march of 210 kilometres from Kerasitsa, Lambrakis's birthplace, to Athens, and a four prong march from Marathon, Ellinikon, Pireus and Elefsina to the central square in Athens.

Que quieren hacer mañana?



VIVIR!

¡Luchemos por la Paz!

"What do you want to be tomorrow?", "Alive!" - "Let's Struggle for Peace." Poster from Honduras

Jamaica IYP Activities

A National Committee for the Commemoration of International Year of Peace (NCCIYP) has been formed on the initiative of the Jamaica Peace Committee, the Jamaica Council of Churches and the Young Women's Christian Association. It brings together over 20 national organizations under the theme of Human development, justice and peace.

A church service attended by representatives of the three political parties and addressed by Rev. Philip Potter, former general secretary of the World Council of Churches launched activities. As well a highly successful peace exhibit was mounted at Expo '86, a fair organized by the Manufacturers Association and the Exporters Association. Thousands of people saw the exhibit and 1,600 signed a petition calling for an end to nuclear tests and the arms race and for a Caribbean zone of peace. The Committee is also calling on the government not to involve Jamaican soldiers in war games or military manoeuvres staged to intimidate neighbouring states. This call comes in the wake of reports that the Jamaica Defense Force is to be involved in war exercises in May.

Nepal International Seminar

The Nepal World Peace Committee in cooperation with the World Peace Council is organizing an international seminar on development and peace to be held in early August in Kathmandu.

Poland National Conference in Warsaw

Jozef Cyrankiewicz chaired the national conference of the Polish Committee held in Warsaw 10-11 April. More than 400 people attended including members of regional and local peace committees, youth groups, social organizations and personalities in social, scientific and political life.

In plenary sessions and three commissions participants discussed Poles and peace; education for peace; social activity in defence of peace, and the forces on which war and peace depend up to the year 2000.

The conference adopted four documents: an appeal to the Polish nation; resolutions of the Polish peace conference; programme of action, and rules and regulations. The conference elected the Polish Peace Committee of 374 people, and its presidential committee of 85 people, and approved the nominations to the World Peace Council.

Jozef Cyrankiewicz was elected honorary president, a new post in the PPC structure, on his retirement as the president. Hieronim Kubiak, professor of sociology at Krakow University, succeeded him.

Portugal New House of Peace

The Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation has launched a national fund-raising campaign for a new House of Peace in Lisbon. The government ordered the Council's removal from the building which it has occupied since the Revolution of April, 1974. The Council is sponsoring the Lisbon Handicraft Fair 15-30 June to raise money for the new House. Friends are invited to contribute handicrafts, and barring that, to make donations. These should be sent to Conselho Portugues para a paz e cooperacao, Largo da Trindade, 16, Sobrelajo, Esq. do, 1.200 Lisboa, Portugal.

Vietnam IYP plans

In celebrating IYP the Vietnam Committee for the Defence of World Peace has played an active role in every mass action in the country. The Committee is sponsoring a contest to run from January to July called Question and Answers on Peace. In June there will be a cyclists' tournament to take place in Da Nang City which will feature "peace" prizes for the winners.

Swedish Peace Movement Initiates Palme Appeal for Test Ban

In the wake of the tragic murder of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, a group of peace organisations in Sweden issued what it called the "Palme Appeal" in an effort to keep alive the spirit of a man who worked hard for peace and was committed to reducing the threat to humankind of nuclear annihilation.

The Palme Appeal takes up his call, made on the day of his death, for a nuclear test ban. In an interview he gave on that fateful day, Olof Palme declared, "1986 is the year of opportunities for obtaining a general moratorium."

Swedish peace organisations launched the Palme Appeal just days after his death as a way of channelling much of the country's sorrow into a permanent memorial to him and as a step towards international peace. The appeal was written conjointly by the Swedish Peace Committee, and other Swedish peace organisations supported by the chair of the Swedish Peace Council, Bishop Lars Carlzon.

But before issuing the appeal, the Swedish Peace Committee first consulted with the United States peace resource organisation, the Center for Defense Information based in Washington in order to co-ordinate their action with the American demand for a test ban.

The Center for Defense Information had just completed a proposal for an agreement which could be signed by the USA and the Soviet Union, calling for a one-year moratorium and negotiations during that time toward a comprehensive test ban treaty. The Center's director, Admiral Gene La Rocque, expressed his desire to have this draft proposal dedicated to Olof Palme

and asked the Swedish Peace Committee to seek the approval of the measure by the Swedish Foreign Department, which was subsequently done.

La Rocque then called a meeting of 30 organisations in the US to seek mass support there for a campaign behind the proposal. SANE, Freeze and many others responded in a most favourable way ensuring that the call for a test ban under the name of Olof Palme has parallel support in Sweden and the United States.

Peace Trampers

In another development in Sweden around the test ban campaign, a group of young peace activists called the "Peace Trampers", most of whom are also members of the Swedish Peace Committee, initiated a broad appeal for a test ban which found wide support among artists, athletes and peace organisations. Within ten days, it had collected enough funds to publish nearly a full page advert in the leading Swedish newspaper. Now, plans are afoot together with other sectors of the Swedish peace movement, to place similar adverts in the New York Times and Washington Post to make the American public conscious of the Swedish demand for a moratorium on nuclear tests.

And in Denmark, a daily picket of the United States Embassy has been operating to keep the call for a test ban alive and forceful. Each day a different peace group has gathered outside the embassy in order to keep up the 24-hour vigil.

Alongside the call for a test ban, support for a Nordic Nuclear Free-Zone is

also growing in Scandinavia.

At a meeting of Scandinavian Prime Ministers at the beginning of April, the call for establishing an ad-hoc committee for working towards declaring a Nuclear-Free Zone throughout the Nordic countries was on their agenda thanks to the persistence of a Danish Peace Group. The topic was, however, vetoed by the Norwegian Prime Minister.

From Norway, an ex-military man, Major Augustus Hellebust, declared his support for a nuclear-free Scandinavia at a peace seminar held in Stockholm.

And a Danish former Chief-of-Staff, Colonel Christiansen, while arguing that Denmark should remain in NATO, also argued that his country leave NATO's nuclear planning group. He also supports the idea of a Nordic Nuclear-free zone.

The Palme Agreement

The text of the Olof Palme Agreement, initiated by the Center for Defence Information includes the following points:

1) It seeks to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time and to continue negotiations to this end.

2) Recognises that a treaty banning all nuclear weapons tests would make a major contribution to restraining the nuclear arms race, curbing the spread of nuclear weapons and strengthening international peace and security.

3) Suggests that all nuclear explosions should be suspended during the negotiation of a treaty.

4) Each of the Parties who are signatories to the Olof Palme agreement (the USA and the Soviet Union) would undertake to prohibit, to prevent and not conduct and y test explosions of nuclear weapons for a period of a year.

5) Each of the Parties would also refrain during this period from causing, encouraging or participating in test explosions.

6) National technical means of verification should be used by each respective Party without interference from each other.

7) Negotiations for a permanent treaty to end all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time should resume immediately.

8) The Parties would undertake to explore all possible means of verifying compliance with the treaty, including but not limited to all co-operative measures described in the *Tripartite Report of the Committee on Disarmament, Comprehensive Test Ban July 30 1980*. Placement of tamper-proof seismic monitoring stations within the territories of the Parties and on-site inspection.

9) The Parties should consider the adoption of offers by third party states to assist in verification of compliance with the treaty.

The Olof Palme Agreement would be signed by both Ronald Reagan on behalf of the Government of the United States, and Mikhail Gorbachev on behalf of the Government of the USSR:

Congress of Finnish Peace Committee

"Ydinaseeton maailma vuonna 2000" was the slogan under which the Finnish Peace Committee held their annual Congress at the beginning of April.

The Finnish language may be one of the more obscure languages in the Western world, but the sentiments aren't. "For a Nuclear Weapon-free World in the year 2,000" is a slogan which peace movements all over the world support.

The thirty thousand-strong Peace Committee brought together over 400 people in the Northern Finnish city of Oulu to discuss the struggle for peace and strategies for the peace movement.

Opening the two-day session, chair of the Finnish Peace Committee, Matti Ruokola declared "Patriotism in the 1980's is patriotism which has internal dimensions.

"We must ask ourselves in the 1980's whether patriotism can mean not being a member of the peace movement."

In a speech which aroused much controversy in Finland, Mr. Ruokola hit out at the West German decision to co-operate in Star Wars research and reminded people of the Finnish-Soviet treaty which states that in the event of a military threat from West Germany, the Soviet Union would come to Finland's aid.

General Secretary, Johannes Pakaslahti stressed the dangers of Finland being drawn into high technology European research projects such as the "Eureka" project which has close links with Star Wars development.

This, he emphasised, could threaten Finland's neutral status in Europe. "Economic and technological co-operation has to be developed" he told the congress, "but Finnish national and political identity has to be maintained."

In far-reaching discussions running through the congress, the issues of neutrality, national security, nuclear disarmament and how to build the peace movement dominated.

The question of how far the peace movement should involve itself in the domestic policies of the country was also a topic for discussion following the Finnish Peace Committee's experiences earlier in the year over the country's proposed investment in a Chilean copper mine.

News was leaked to the press of the state-owned mining corporation's intention to buy a copper mine in Chile which sparked a spontaneous and effective campaign initiated by the peace committee to prevent this happening.

Pertti Vuotilainen, General Director of the company which is called Outokumpu Oy, reacted by publicly denouncing the Finnish Peace Committee as being comprised of "terrorists."

On other issues, such as South Africa, Nicaragua, and the situation in the Middle East, the Finnish Peace

Committee has been outspoken in its demands for justice and peace. International appreciation for their support was reflected in the presence of guests from these countries and regions at the congress.

In a series of final declarations at the close of the congress, the Peace Committee stated clearly that it sees mobilising opposition to Star Wars as one of its central tasks.

The Committee demands that the political leadership of Finland should condemn the SDI programme and do everything possible to oppose it in international arenas. They should also ensure that corporations in Finland do not participate in any way with Star Wars development.

In a further declaration, the Peace Committee reiterated its support for economic co-operation between Finland and the Soviet Union. This co-operation is, in the words of the Finnish Peace Committee, "practical everyday peace politics."



Participants in the WPC Session, Sofia 24-27 April, examined the most pressing concerns of the peace movement in five commissions which were held on the second day of the meeting.

The commissions dealt with questions of disarmament, space weapons, regional conflicts, detente and development. From the outset the intention was to gear discussion towards actions and campaigns in order to provide a basis for more effective by the peace movement. Published below are reports on the key findings of the commissions.

Commission 1

Campaigns to Achieve Total Disarmament and Create a World Free of Nuclear Weapons

"The World Peace Council has a big job to do in helping us to communicate" stressed Marilyn Olsson, a Swedish Peace activist. She was making the point about strengthening the links between peace movements all over the world in order to make the call for nuclear disarmament overwhelming.

The commission concentrated heavily on active campaigning and how this is best achieved. The exchange of experiences and ideas about how this could be done was the central focus of the commission.

Clement Rohee from Guyana spoke of the large degree of demoralisation felt in the peace movement after missiles were deployed in the Caribbean and other parts of the world. "The peace movement tended to see preventing deployment as the be-all and end-all in the struggle for peace instead of looking for other components in the struggle" he pointed out. He felt that the force of the World Peace Council should be more visible in the campaigns which take root in various countries.

Speaking on her home territory, Zoravka Peeva from the International Department of the Central Council of Bulgarian Trade Unions stressed that organised workers are coming to play an important role in the struggle for peace. She noted that trade unions have not always acted in unity owing to what she called "a history of differences", but, she said, "It is necessary more than ever, to build a strong peace front."

With 'action' being the key word, Mark Solomon from the United States told the commission that peace activists have to recognise a profoundly new situation. "This means confronting one major ideological reason for increasing the arms race - anti-Sovietism. The Peace movement should be arguing that there is no external reason for not wanting peace." He emphasised that it was vitally important for people in the U.S. peace movement to have the support of the European movement.

All the participants agreed that in the age of nuclear weapons, peoples and governments need a new approach and a new way of thinking which would include basic concepts such as the fact that human society cannot survive a nuclear war and that national security cannot be based on nuclear weapons. They also agreed that the Helsinki Final Act is a sound basis for political and military cooperation in Europe and elsewhere.

Among the specific suggestions which emerged from the commission was that the WPC should enlarge its contacts with parties and peace organisations of different political leanings everywhere and particularly in Western Europe and North America where links are weak at present.

There was also a suggestion that the UN International Year of Peace this year should be extended into a UN International Decade for Peace. The WPC should also cooperate more with specific professional groups, trade unions, women's organisations and other specific interest groups of mass character.

A great deal of strength was derived from the discussion of the Commission. One of the first speakers was Yuri Zhukov, Chair of the Soviet Peace Committee, who made a plea for overcoming the demoralisation in certain Western European peace movements. "Tenacity is needed" he told them. But there was no lack of tenacity and determination among those taking part in the commission. They effused an optimistic and positive approach to the struggle before them - the struggle for total disarmament and a world free of nuclear weapons.

Commission 2:

The Campaign Against Star Wars for Star Peace

"I think our education has to draw more upon the people who are the ideological whips, the drivers of Star Wars, - the far right", said Mark Solomon from the US Peace Council.

"One leading apologist for the far right argues quite openly that the dream of Star Wars is to render impotent and obsolete the deterrent potential of the Soviet Union therefore making arms control unnecessary. In other words the quest for superiority through negating the other side's retaliatory ability is designed not to bring about a golden age of peace but a golden age of US military superiority which in turn could be used to dictate the political behaviour of other nations. And thus as the public begins to become increasingly aware of the imminent military danger and potential of Star Wars through our educational work and through the efforts of people in the scientific and technical field it will be possible to build an even more powerful majority against Star Wars."

It was concerning the strengthening of public opposition to Star Wars that many of the interventions made during the commission. A number of suggestions were presented for campaigns to make known the danger of the SDI and to bring pressure on the US and its allies to stop the development of space weapons.

Defend ABM Treaty

Several speakers stressed the importance of working to defend the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Unamended and intact it is the most important international agreement which can prevent a space weapons race. The commission suggested the convention of an international forum in support of the Treaty.

International Signature Campaign

Speakers from Denmark and Britain suggested the launch of an anti-Star Wars signature campaign along the lines of the historic Stockholm Appeal of 1950.

Stop SW Funds

Emphasis was placed on directing opposition to Star Wars against the funding of the programme, in the US, Canada, Britain and the Federal Republic, and to highlight the extent to which money for space weapons is allocated at the expense of vital social security programmes. Campaigns against the funding of the SDI must above all be directed at academic institutions, scientific research centres and private companies which are prey for the Star Wars advocates and are rapidly being sucked into the vast and lucrative space weapon infrastructure.

Publicise, Inform

Practically all speakers called for better and more accessible information to be produced on the dangers of Star Wars. This should include material on the decisions of the United Nations which have repeatedly opposed the SDI. Information seminars conducted by specialists should be sponsored. Argued open letters need to be circulated and sent to scientists, parliamentarians and government leaders appealing for no support for Star Wars.

Test Ban and SW

A call was made to place greater emphasis on the importance of nuclear testing for the development of Star Wars laser technology. The growing campaign for a comprehensive nuclear test ban should pay attention to halting Star Wars research by such a ban. As many as 200 nuclear tests a year may be carried out under the orders of the SDI Organisation. A test ban would effectively hinder the Star Wars programme.

Several space experts, including a Bulgarian cosmonaut, briefed the commission on the technical aspects of the US space weapons programme and the dangers it represents. The view frequently expressed emphasised the urgency of halting space weapons

Campaigns for WPC

development whilst there is still time. The Star Wars drive is gaining momentum, it may soon become too late to stop it.

Commission 3:

Peaceful Political Solutions to Regional Conflicts

Speaker after speaker denounced neo-globalism as a policy that makes state terrorism the principle on which the US bases its international relations. This brutal policy is imposed on those peoples who oppose American hegemonic designs and is closely linked with the arms race the US perpetuates in defiance of world public opinion.

Five areas of intense conflict and tension were specifically identified in 48 delegates' interventions. The first was the terrorist actions of the US Sixth Fleet against Libya which the participants denounced as totally unwarranted. They recommended that the WPC organize an international event of solidarity with the Libyan Jamahiriya. Preventative actions by national peace movements should be taken in response to any imminent military attacks. The bombing of the Libyan Jamahiriya should be presented in a poster as the Guernica of 1986 and available internationally.

Continued aggression against the people's struggles for independence and self-determination in South Africa

demand increased support for the African National Congress (ANC) and the South West African Peoples Organization (SWAPO) which spearhead the struggle for liberation. National peace organizations should join in pressing their governments to implement effective economic sanctions and totally isolate the apartheid regime, also to implement UN General Assembly Resolution 435 to free Namibia, and enforce the withdrawal of South African occupation forces from Namibia and Southern Angola. The arming, training, transport and logistical support to the pirate bands of UNITA (Angola) and MNR (Mozambique) must cease.

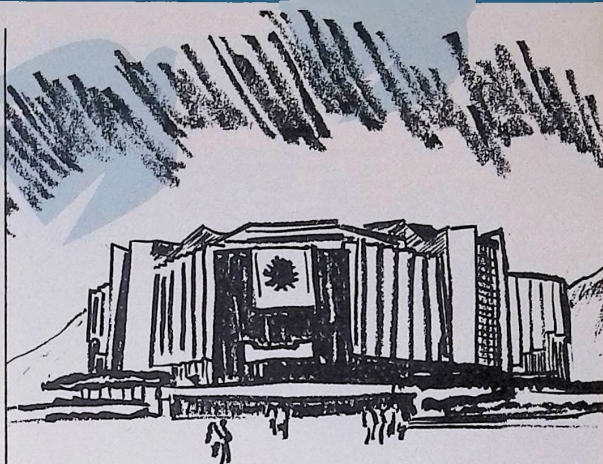
For ten years Moroccan forces have occupied a part of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic and the delegates saw that the application of the

ing plan on detente and international security; informal meetings between representatives of youth organisations active in East-West cooperation in the 1970s to exchange ideas on how to work in the present period.

Attention was not only focused on Europe. Taking into account the dangerous developments in Asia and the Pacific, the commission proposed the formation of an ad hoc working group for actions by the peace movement in these regions.

Suggestions were made for increased cooperation between trade union, womens' and youth organisations through the peace movement in Africa and Latin America so as to promote security in these areas.

More joint work should be undertaken with the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation.



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African peace plan in UN General Assembly Resolution 40/50 will solve the problem and it should be enforced.

Since its decimation of the New Jewel Movement in Grenada the US has spent billions in Latin America, specifically in trying to subordinate Nicaragua, keeping El Salvador's true patriots from completing their revolution, turning Honduras into a military enclave for American forays into Nicaragua and other countries, and violating Costa Rican neutrality.

In Asia the danger of nuclear war is manifest in US stockpiling of nuclear weapons in the Philippines, South Korea, Diego Garcia and some Pacific Island countries. Asian peace movements must spark public awareness and mobilize public opinion against widespread US incursions of troops and weapons. French nuclear tests in the Pacific must stop.

The members of the third commission urged that national peace movements intensify their support of all Front-line States.

Commission 4:

To Promote Detente and Peaceful Cooperation

Numerous suggestions were made for increasing the work of the WPC in the field of detente. They included meetings of peace movement representatives from the CSCE countries; activity by the WPC to produce a work-

Commission 5:

Disarmament and Development

Disarmament and the reallocation of funds from military spending to peaceful purposes could contribute to the eradication of poverty, disease and illiteracy, the reduction of the economic disparities between developed and developing countries and to the establishment of a New International Economic Order.

Speakers stressed the need to conduct the WPC programme of action within the frame work of specific campaigns. In this connection preparatory work for the UN conference on disarmament and development, the General assembly Special Session on economic and social problems in Africa and the Copenhagen World Congress devoted to the International Year of Peace should focus on the problems of disarmament and development.

Suggestions were made for the establishment of a commission to sensitise public opinion to the violations of the Charter on Economic Rights and Duties of States.

A request was made to study the role of the peace movement and other non-governmental bodies in the proposed World Congress on Problems of Economic Security.

Emphasis was given to the importance of the peace movement producing information and educational materials on the central issues of disarmament and development.

From the Working Groups

Down-to-earth and practical suggestions emerged from the Working Groups held during the WPC Session.

The working group on furthering peace movement cooperation stated that representatives of the WPC should participate more often in events organised by other organisations on both national and international levels and that the leading bodies of the WPC should initiate and coordinate well-chosen actions and campaigns.

Greater coordination between national organisations and the WPC with the United Nations and other inter-governmental bodies was stressed in the working group dealing specifically with this issue. Particular attention was paid to the current problems which face the UN and how the WPC should mount a counter-campaign, emphasising the importance of the UN as an international forum.

Without money, none of the work of the WPC would be possible and one of the most essential Working Groups discussed ways and means of promoting the fund-raising activities of the WPC and national movements.

The principle of sustaining the WPC through voluntary contributions from all its constituent organisations was reinforced.

To this end, money-raising measures such as issuing membership cards for individual members, organising fund-raising events, issuing special peace stamps, postcards and badges etc. were suggested. During the Session, money rolled in from peace organisations in various countries including Switzerland, Britain, and the Congo.

A recurrent theme running through all the working groups and commissions was the role of the WPC Information Centre and its publications. Ways in which this could be improved was discussed in depth at the working group on Information activities.

Among the suggestions was the setting up of a telex network, developing a data bank on peace organisations and more efficient means of producing and distributing publications. The call for more information about peace activities in individual countries was made time and again by delegates.



"In this nuclear age of ours, the monstrous threat to civilisation and life on earth looms large over mankind with unparalleled force. That is why the preservation and strengthening of peace constitutes the number one problem for all people. We are deeply convinced that irrespective of any political, national, racial and religious differences all people of good will have one common enemy: the danger of nuclear catastrophe, and one common task: to eliminate this danger." From the address of Todor Zhivkov, the President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, to the participants in the WPC Session.

Working Together

The new General Secretary of the WPC talks to Peace Courier

Dr. Johannes Pakaslahti has been involved in the struggle for peace for over half his 41 years. It is a struggle he learned to recognise through experience and the events taking place around him.



He started work as a journalist in his early 20's and rapidly became involved in international affairs where it soon became apparent that the struggle for peace was of paramount importance. In the late 1960's he became involved in the Vietnam solidarity movement which taught him of the tremendous obstacles a Third World nation has to overcome in order to achieve peace and independence.

By the early 1970's, Pakaslahti began to take part in World Peace Council activities and in the peace movement of his native country, Finland. Eventually, he was elected as the Deputy General Secretary of the broad-based Finnish Peace Committee and a year later took the post of General Secretary, a position which he retains today.

Only three weeks before the Sofia Session, Johannes Pakaslahti was unanimously re-elected as General Secretary for another three years at the annual congress of the Finnish Peace Committee and he explains that there will be a period of transition between giving up his post within the Finnish Peace Committee and working full-time with the World Peace Council.

His contribution to the committee was far-reaching and earned him the respect, not just of the various political forces within the Finnish peace movement, but also among the international movement.

Pakaslahti welcomes the Sofia Session and describes it as encouraging and analytical. "General guidelines for our work were derived from this meeting and of course, I will be trying to make my own contribution to making the WPC's work more effective and working for the cooperation of various peace forces."

"The WPC has a unique character when we compare it with other international peace movements. It is a platform which unites different kinds of peace forces from

all over the world, from the socialist countries, from the Third World, and from the developed western countries."

He stresses the importance of dialogue and cooperation between peace movement and forces while respecting their particular standpoints. "They must work together or parallel to each other" he says.

For Johannes Pakaslahti, the peace movements in the Western world are of utmost importance, but so too are those in Third World countries. He is critical of Eurocentrist trends within some Western European peace organisations and emphasised that the world is inter-related. "Everything that happens in one part has a relationship to what happens in other parts" he says.

He believes the WPC must find ways of uniting countries in their common demands for peace, for instance, in the call for a test ban which is already a focal point for peace movements in many countries. He points out that because of its prominence within the peace movement, many reasonable statesmen in Western Europe now see the idea of a test ban as attractive and important.

He also attributes the Soviet Union's offers of a moratorium to their willingness to listen keenly and carefully to what the international peace movement has been demanding. He notes that "Unfortunately, the USA hasn't done this and is obstructing the process."

"The danger is that perhaps the peace movement may give up the issue, but despite the USA's negative responses, the call for a test ban should continue to be one of our main demands."

Besides the specific goals of the peace movement, Pakaslahti also believes that it must be a forum for discussion and be able to give a new perspective on the future of humankind. In this respect, he emphasises the importance of the Gorbachev proposals for a nuclear free world by the year 2000 made on January 15th this year.

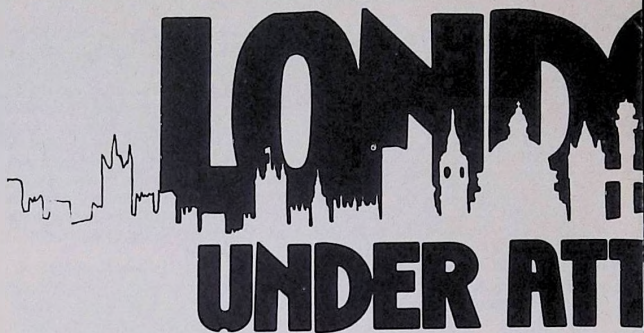
"But," he says, "it is not only a Soviet proposal. If you analyse it carefully, you can find many elements taken directly from the peace movement together with proposals from different heads of state both in the Western world and the Third World."

"We in the Finnish Peace Committee have always stressed that we are ready and willing to support any concrete, far-reaching disarmament proposal which comes from any direction. The Soviet proposal is just such a one. It gives us perspective and a vision of a better, safer future."

To illustrate his point, Pakaslahti relates his encounter with a peace worker who has been active in the movement for over thirty years.

He told Pakaslahti, "OK, now I have a perspective - it is the Gorbachev plan 2000, and you know why? Because in the year 2000 I will be a pensioner and I want to be a pensioner in a world without nuclear weapons!"

Johannes Pakaslahti joins the World Peace Council as its General Secretary, with the commitment to ensure that hopes like this become a reality.



Civil Defence the Best Defence

We all have a vague idea of the horror that a nuclear war would mean. But thinking about it in detail seems less important than working to ensure it never happens.

Western governments, intent on stockpiling nuclear weapons and pouring money into the coffers of the military-industrial complex, profess to believe that nuclear war is winnable and survivable. They advance a notion of "civil defence" which is little more than an effort to fabricate a popular myth that somehow society will continue in a familiar, orderly fashion on the sounding of an "all-clear" signal.

This idea is central to much of the propaganda surrounding the rationale for possessing nuclear weapons. It is meant to dispel fear that nuclear war would really mean the end of civilisations as we know it - and to invite people to resign themselves to living with nuclear weapons, rather than fighting for their abolition.

Protect and Survive?

Nowhere has this tactic been employed more in recent years than in Britain, where under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government, the issue of civil defence has been given a great deal of publicity.

Under the slogan "Protect and Survive" the government's educational pamphlets and audio-visual material have flooded the public with ludicrous and impractical suggestions about what to do in the event of a nuclear war. In addition, local authorities and public health officials have been urged to draw up plans for civil defence operations following a nuclear attack.

A few have done their best to fulfil this request. Others, taking a more realistic viewpoint, flatly refused, arguing that it was an impossible task.

Major Study

In London, the Greater London Council went a step further and commissioned a study of the effects of war on a major city in the nuclear age, using London as a model.

The results of the study, entitled The Greater London Area War Risk Study, or "GLAWARS" for short, was one of the council's many bequests to the nation's capital before it was abolished at the end of March by central government because of its progressive social and political stand on many issues.

It is heralded as the most detailed and complete study ever made of a war scenario in a major city since nuclear weapons came into existence.

Not surprisingly, in the final paragraph of the 400-page GLAWARS report, it concludes,

"Survival will not be St. Paul's amidst the smoke and flames, nor Buckingham Palace, nor the BBC, nor the National Anthem - nor the voice of the Prime Minister. Survival will not be delegated powers, the 'all-clear', a working telephone, stirrup pumps and ration books. Survival will not be home and family, nor neighbours, lovers, colleagues and friends. Survival is not health, hope nor happiness."

"Survival will be fear, exhaustion, disease, pain and long, lonely misery."

"Avoiding a nuclear war is still the only way of avoiding such a fate."

International Line-up

An internationally respected line-up of scientists, military strategists and disaster-relief experts took charge of the study to ensure its total independence and credibility.

Among them were Vice Admiral John Marshall Lee, former Assistant Director, US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and Dr. Peter Sharfman, Director, National Security Program Office, Office of Technology Assessment, United States Congress. Also Dr. S. William Gunn, former head of Emergency Relief Operations, World Health Organisation and Dr. Frank von Hippel, Physicist and Professor of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, USA.

These commissioners in turn appointed a team of 44 independent scientists medical experts and economists from all over the world to work on GLAWARS.

War Scenarios

The study warns that during a period of international tension, political and military leaders with their fingers on the nuclear button would be operating under intense strain leading to a greater chance of a snap decision to give the go-ahead for a nuclear attack.

The experts suggest that a nuclear war would be preceded by a period of attacks using "conventional" weapons which would escalate rapidly into a nuclear confrontation.

If a war situation "goes nuclear" the effects would be much more destructive than previously believed. According to GLAWARS projections, a total of 85 percent of Londoners would be killed or seriously injured in the days immediately following an attack and four out of every five homes would be destroyed.

"Prospects for outside help would be zero" says the report. "Looting of ruined

"I see 1986 as a Year of Great Possibilities" - Palme's Test Ban Legacy

Some time was given over in the WPC Session to honour the peace work of the late Prime Minister of Sweden, Olof Palme, who was assassinated on 28 February.

Shortly before he was slain, Mr Palme spoke about the need for an end to nuclear tests. He said, "Let us hope for a mutual and controlled halt to all nuclear tests. Such a halt would give an opportunity for consultation

and thorough consideration...It is evident that we can live in greater security if all nuclear weapon tests are stopped. I see 1986 as a year of great possibilities."

Participants in the Session issued a statement supporting the call by a large number of Swedish peace organisations for the intensification of mass actions in support of a test ban as a tribute to the memory of Olof Palme.



ence?

housing for fuel and improvised shelter, and scavenging for food, might sustain individuals or even groups for a period—but the inventories of food would be quickly exhausted, and there would be competition from rats and mice. The abandonment of London for a devastated countryside perhaps gripped by the frozen hand of nuclear winter, would be inevitable."

Devastation and Social Anarchy

A frightening picture of devastation and social anarchy is described in GLAWARS. There would be no emergency services, no communications, a lack of food and water and horrendous casualties. On top of all this, the psychological effects on survivors are estimated to be insurmountable.

Using a combination of scientific projection and extensive public opinion polls, the GLAWARS team were able to produce a credible and detailed assessment of a war situation.

Their evaluation of current government plans for civil defence can be summed up in one of the report's main conclusions: "All forms of civil defence would be useless."

According to GLAWARS, plans for evacuation would be unworkable once there was an imminent threat of a nuclear attack. Shelters would also be useless in the long run, since "those who survived in the shelters would probably die later due to the combined effects of nuclear winter, food shortages, and social and economic chaos".

Effects of a Warscare

And, even if war were somehow avoided at the last minute, the panic and disruption during a war scare would paralyse London and cause lasting damage.

"There would be widespread panic and confusion, a scramble to acquire food, a mass exodus from the capital, the desertion of most workers from their jobs, whether or not these were in the public services and whether or not they were vital to the running of the city... during a war scare, surprisingly high numbers of Londoners would protest, some violently, against the prospects of the UK becoming involved in a war."

But protesting during a war scare and at a time of extreme international tension may be too late. The time to protest is now.

GLAWARS expounds the futility of civil defence and the British government's slogan "Protect and Survive." It reinforces the alternative call from the peace movement: "Protest and Survive."

B. M.

Towards a New Information Order Kabul Welcomes AAPSO Conferees

The declaration of principles of the Non-aligned Movement's Council for Cooperation in Information and the UNESCO MacBride Commission report, *Many Voices, One World* dealt with the possibilities of a new international information order.

These initiatives encouraged the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization to undertake serious consideration of its realization. The result has been the convening of two AAPSO conferences in Kabul, the latest 9-14 April 1986 when about 150 delegates, including 15 women, from nearly 50 countries met to discuss the dimensions of the new information order.

The conference venue in Kabul embodies the quintessential expression of the need for a new information order. The Western media have utterly distorted the Afghan fact. Afghanistan is assiduously following the course of her revolution while fending off the counter revolutionary forces that assail her borders almost every day. That an Association of Mothers and Widows of the Martyrs of the Revolution was founded 31 March 1986 attests to Afghanistan's difficulties. Many thousands of Afghans have died defending her right to independence.

The AAPSO secretariat saw three issues influencing the information process: the projection of the Western model for emulation in the Third World; the changing perception of terrorism; "heating up of the cold war" by the West. These issue underlay the 45 presentations made on six sub themes during intensive discussion.

Western Media Onslaught

"World imperialism spends billions of dollars annually to misinform the public. The United Press International has 7,000 subscribers in 90 countries and more than 14 million words are sent to them daily. Associated Press, another American agency, has ties with 10,000 foreign organizations to whom it despatches 17 million words of imagination daily.

"The Voice of America broadcasts more than 1,000 hours in 42 languages, relayed by 115 stations to another 5,000 stations around the world. Radion Free Europe and Radio Liberty, known as CIA stations, broadcast 1,017 hours to the socialist countries in 15 languages of the people of the Soviet Union and six languages of the other socialist countries.

"The main propaganda organization of the US the US Information Agency, has 214 officials in 1129 countries. Through this network more than 12 magazines are published in 22 languages and a large number of television programmes are broadcast. The USIA publishes more than 5 million books in 35 languages and distributes them in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

"The Pentagon owns 250 radio stations and tens of television stations in and outside the US. The US Defence



This defense group at Charasyp, a small town 20 km. from Kabul, includes a patriarch of 80 who could not stand aside when his home was attacked by counter revolutionaries. Women delegates visited the headquarters of the Association of Mothers and Widows of the Martyrs of the Revolution, situated in this community, during the AAPSO conference on the new international information order held in Afghanistan in April.

Department produces more than 1,450 daily and weekly newspapers, 4000 magazines and tens of bulletins, with a total circulation of 2 million copies. In the last 20 years the budget of the Defence Department for propaganda increased 15 fold. The US spends \$5 billion for, foreign propaganda alone and employs 350,000 people for this purpose.

The above statistics were gathered by the Afghan Bakhtar Information Agency on the proportions of the American media onslaught. Comparable statistics from Reuters and Agence France Presse only compound the amount of Western news penetration.

Effects of Information Imperialism

In a paper elaborating the sub theme of information imperialism G.G. de Lastic discussed the new practice of privatization of television which even negates the "free flow of information" theory that people have been led to accept in the past. "High ranking representatives of American imperialism aim to be the greatest importers of raw information and the greatest exporters of 'elaborated information' deciding absolutely unilaterally what the US should export and what not."

On information imperialism Michael Opperskalski documented CIA operations in the field of media manipulation. "The CIA is again seen by many as a necessary tool for the struggle for American dominance in the world, including the 'war of ideas.' So when you read a story by an American journalist, or meet one at a party, beware. You may be the target."

Towards a New Information Order

"The information system in South Africa has to be seen in the light of the apartheid colonial system and the

imperialist forces allied to it, against the people's freedom and independence, for the super-exploitation of the oppressed black masses." Thus begins the African National Congress paper on decolonization and democratization of information.

Dr. M.S. Modjaz came to UNESCO's defence because of "the support given by UNESCO to the establishment of a new information order; the increasing isolation of the US within the UN and its specialized agencies; the unsubmissiveness of UNESCO to the dictates of the US."

The GDR's solidarity with the developing nations is a good example to emulate. The Institute for Journalism 'Werner Lamberz' has offered training for journalist from more than 50 Third World countries and has qualified more than 3,500 journalists. As well, the Institute has developed over 50 textbooks in English, French, Portuguese and Arabic, used internationally.

The importance of the Non-aligned Movement's News Agencies Pool as a possible first stage prototype for a new information network became obvious in the Prensa Latina presentation. The NAM declaration of principles identified sovereignty, development and independence as basic in the fight for the decolonization of information.

The final communique of the conference called on "all honest journalists the world over to exert all efforts to raise the awareness of their people to imperialist disinformation, and to assert the values, traditions and cultural identity of their peoples."

KIM

Readers may want to pursue contacts in their own countries with Afghan Friendship Societies. There are 31 societies founded in England, France, Finland, FRG, Italy, Spain and other countries, in socialist and developing nations as well.

Widespread Opposition to State Terrorism

— Libya's Former P.M Talks to Peace Courier —



K. Sliwka

The Session of the World Peace Council, 24-27 April, devoted a special meeting to the US attack on Libya Jamahiriya. The meeting was addressed, amongst others, by Mr Abdelalati Obedi, the former General Secretary of the Libyan Peoples congress and former Prime Minister. He spoke in detail of the events leading up to the US attack in which 170 people were either killed or wounded and which was aimed principally at assassinating the Libyan head of state and his family.

The meeting adopted a statement which condemned the raid in particular and the policy of state terrorism in general and pointed out the damage done to the already volatile international situation. The statement noted with alarm "that this military intervention was backed by the entire US military build-up in the Mediterranean with its huge arsenals of nuclear weapons." It expressed solidarity with the people of Libya and reaffirmed the commitment of the WPC to find political solutions to international problems through dialogue and negotiation.

Libya's Response

Shortly after the WPC Session Mr Abdelalati spoke to Peace Courier on the situation following the US attack on Libya.

"Mr Reagan is now using every means to put pressure on Libya. We think the US will now try to use more military and economic pressure on progressive countries in order to change the course of their development. But I believe we are stronger than before despite our material and human losses. We are more understood in certain countries and we have more support from our friends.

The Non Aligned Movement took a very positive stand on the attack. Six of its ministers came to Libya as a gesture of support and met Colonel Ghaddafi. They then went to New York to defend their position before the UN.

We are also very encouraged by the support of the socialist countries and by African, Latin American and Asian countries. In many of these mass demonstrations were held in addition to the communiques and letters they sent us.

The neutral European countries have also taken a positive stand in condemning the use of force by the US in its dealings with our country. They appreciate that we have

not tried to antagonise the Americans or provoke tensions in our region."

What is Terrorism?

"We all have to wage a campaign to show what should be understood by terrorism. We must differentiate between individual acts of terrorism-which we are against- and state terrorism-which we are against- and the liberation movement's struggle on the other. We must approach the peace loving people in the US who understand that it is real terrorism which is being applied against Libya, Nicaragua and even against some Americans who oppose the Reagan Administration. It is important to expose the US deceit in this matter and to take practical steps to convince people that acts of US aggression must end.

We should also campaign to prevent the US from using its right of veto in the UN Security Council in order to support state terrorism and policies which are anti-peace."

We are not Terrorists

"We have demanded proof that Libya is behind the terrorist attacks in Vienna, Rome and at the Berlin nightclub. No evidence has been produced except for references to an intercepted message showing we were behind the attack. None of this 'proof' has been shown to us."

Mediterranean Peace Zone

"We appreciate the proposal of the Soviet leader Mr Gorbachev to rid the Mediterranean of all foreign fleets and bases. It came immediately after the US confrontation with Libya in the Gulf of Sirte and the bombardment of Sirte city. We appreciate it because it concurs with the decision of our Peoples Congress calls for the same measures. We believe this idea should be pursued so as to convince the European states bordering the mediterranean that it is in their interests to dismantle the bases and move the fleets away. We feel that people in these countries can now see the dangers which could result from not transforming the mediterranean into a zone of peace.

NGO Conference Demands: End the Gulf War in the International Year of Peace

Representatives from Iranian and Iraqi non-governmental organisations took part in the International NGO Conference to stop the Iran-Iraq War, 14-16 April.

The Conference was part of a campaign launched last September by a number of NGOs amongst them the WPC. Thirty international and 60 national organisations attended the Conference which provided a rare opportunity to hear the views of both parties to the Gulf conflict.

Throughout the preparatory work and at the beginning of the Conference it was decided that condemnatory statements would not be made and the proceedings would be conducted in a spirit of dialogue.

With the exception of the Iranian delegation, the participants adopted a statement calling for an immediate end to the Gulf war. Over half a million people, it said, have been killed in the conflict and another two million displaced. International laws have been violated and forbidden weapons have been used.

The war continues in a region which is politically and economically one of the most sensitive, the statement continued. It is taking place at a time when international relations are deteriorating with profound regional and global implications.

There are struggles for justice and self-determination in the region to which the people of Iran and Iraq have lent their support. These struggles have been impeded by the continuation of the Gulf conflict.

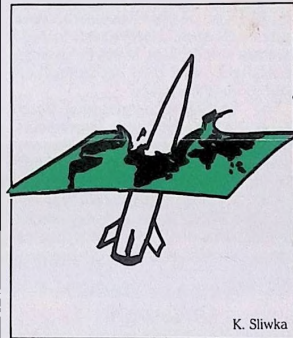
The statement commended the efforts of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned movement and the Islamic Conference to end the war peacefully and urged their continued work to this end.

The statement called for increased efforts to mobilise public opinion and lobby governments and the UN to help end the war.

Against Attacks on Libya

Between sessions of the Conference to stop the Iran Iraq war an emergency meeting was held which adopted a declaration condemning the US bombing of Libya and rejecting the claim that the attacks were carried out under Article 51 of the Un Charter.

(Continued from page 1)



K. Sliwka

It is clear that these last weeks the Reagan Administration has in fact gone out of its way to destroy any hopes that the United States would join the Soviets in a nuclear test ban. The last two nuclear tests conducted in the Nevada desert, a month before they were originally scheduled, signalled the Reagan Administration's rejection of taking concrete steps towards halting the nuclear arms race. These tests experiment-ed in part with developing the method for producing space-based laser weaponry and are part of the Star Wars program.

The Reagan Administration wants to kill the movement for a test ban, both within and outside the United States. They wanted to take the focus off the testing issue and the question of ending the arms race in general. Reagan was starting to be hurt politically on these questions at home.

Thus the stepped up campaign against Libya at this moment.

But the Administration had a problem. They needed a pretext, an excuse.

As is well known, the pretext this time was a bomb explosion in a discotheque in West Berlin. The Reagan Administration immediately blamed the Libyans based in East Berlin for having engineered this action.

However, not even the Kohl government of the FRG has accepted this thesis as accurate. And while the Reagan Administration has been quick to claim it has strong evidence to prove its case, the evidence has never been brought to light. People should keep in mind that this is exactly the same tactic used by Senator Joseph McCarthy

during the dark days of US politics in the 1950s. It is of some significance that one of the 7000 demonstrators protesting the US strike in West Berlin commented on US tv: "We recognize Reichstag fires when we see them!"

But the Administration had a problem. They needed a pretext, an excuse.

Nor is this the first time that the Reagan Administration has blamed Libya for terrorist activities without producing the evidence to substantiate its claim. In fact, it's become something of a regular pattern.

That those who committed the bombing in W. Berlin be brought to justice is a reasonable demand. But it is not the Reagan Administration that should play the role of sheriff, judge and executioner.

Terrorism

How are we to understand Reagan's recent words that the US strike against Libya was "a single engagement in the long battle against terrorism."

We should remember what it has meant of late when the Reagan Administration has used such language. It has meant war, death and suffering somewhere in the world.

Such was the excuse for the US invasion of Grenada- an act of naked aggression. Could the Reagan Administration have picked a smaller nation to attack?

Such was the excuse for the US arming and financing Israel for its 1982 invasion of Lebanon where so many innocent people were killed, wounded or made homeless.

If the Reagan Administration wants to combat terrorism, it can begin by cutting off all funding to the Nicaraguan CONTRAS, who are nothing but terrorists.

If the Reagan Administration wants to combat terrorism let it stop supplying the military regimes in El Salvador and Guatemala who have slaughtered thousands of innocents.

If the Reagan Administration wishes to make a contribution in the "long battle against terrorism" let them stop supporting General Pinochet in Chile whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands of Chilean patriots since 1973.

If the Reagan Administration wants to help in the battle against terrorism let it enforce real sanctions against US corporations doing business with the Apartheid Regime in South Africa.

And if the Reagan Administration wants to be considered an Administration that has contributed to world peace, it must join the Soviet Union in a bilateral ban on the testing of nuclear weapons.

Rob Prince