



2-3/1986

PEACE COURIER

PUBLISHED BY THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL • LÖNNROTINKATU 25 • 00180 HELSINKI • FINLAND

ASAT Space Weapons Block Way to Disarmament by 2000

At a time when a fresh impetus has been given to the way we approach the problems of disarmament, and a greater sense of perspective provided to campaigns against nuclear war, with the Soviet proposal to rid the world of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, there is a special need to arrest the most dangerous aspects of the arms race.

At present, two problems must be overcome if comprehensive disarmament agreements are to be secured: the achievement of a nuclear test ban and a halt to the development of space weapons. The first is needed to freeze the arms race, the second to ensure that a new one is not started.

Apart from the pursuit of the Strategic Defence Initiative, the development by the US of its new Anti-Satellite (ASAT) missile (the ALMV, air-launched miniature homing vehicle) represents the first component of the Star Wars era. As the most advanced ASAT weapon yet developed, the testing and deployment of the ALMV, which is fired from an F-15 fighter plane and takes a mere ten minutes to reach its target after takeoff, could greatly impair chances of preventing a space arms race.

Although the ALMV has previously undergone some tests, in December last year the US Congress managed to place a moratorium on any further ASAT testing. The condition for the moratorium's continuation is that the Soviet Union does not conduct ASAT experiments, and, since that country has observed a verifiable ASAT test ban since August 1983, it would seem that a solution to the ASAT problem is close at hand.

Not so. At the end of February this year, the US Defence Secretary made the first of what are seen as a series of attempts to overturn the Congressional moratorium so that ALMV testing can be resumed. The argument used by Mr Weinberger is that the Soviet Union already has a deployed ASAT system whereas the US does not. That the last test by the USSR of its own, inferior, weapon took place in June 1982, that it has since observed a unilateral mo-



...ratorium, and that it has proposed doing away with ASATS altogether were kept quiet.

Another method being used by the Pentagon to resume ALMV tests is to circumvent the moratorium by firing the missile at a 'point' in space, of which the law makes no mention, rather than at a target. Plans for this are already underway and the first of such tests was due to be carried out this March.

The Air Force see the Congressional ASAT test ban as a minor impediment to the perfection and eventual deployment of ALMVs. Before the December law was passed, the Air Force launched two targets into space, at a cost of \$20 million, for the ALMV to shoot down. Clearly, it intends to make use of these targets. In addition, the Air Force request for funds for the procurement of the ASAT has risen 33-fold in just three years, from \$10 million last year and \$33 million for this year to \$333 million for Fiscal Year 1987. And

this does not include the hundreds of millions already spent on the research and development of the ALMV.

The resumption of ALMV tests will not only seriously test the patience of the Soviet moratorium, it will mean that a new generation of stealth weapons and the first generation of space weapons will be deployed. With its capacity to blind the key satellite warning systems of the USSR, the role of the ALMV in a first-strike would be crucial. Its small size and lack of an explosive warhead mean that ASAT arms verification, for testing and deployments, will be made impossible if the ALMV is produced.

The importance of maintaining the US moratorium and stopping all attempts to get round it should not be underestimated. If both the US and Soviet ASAT test ban remain in force an important precondition for a ban on all space weapons will be met and, with that, the chance for nuclear disarmament by 2000.

Lebanon: Assassinations Condemned

The WPC called upon national peace movements to condemn the slaying in late February of Khalil Na-U and other leaders of the Lebanese Communist Party by reactionary forces inside the country. The killings are a serious blow to the peace movement. Khalil Na-U often participated in the peace campaigns of the WPC, along with other political and social forces from Lebanon.

This wave of assassinations is closely connected to Israel's current military operations in southern Lebanon to terrorise the population, and are part of the conspiracy by the United States, Israel and others to destabilise Lebanon. In this way, it is hoped that a political, democratic solution to the problems in Lebanon will be prevented.

The WPC called for an end to the assassination of popular leaders and reiterated its firm support for the efforts of the Lebanese patriotic forces to bring peace and justice to their war-torn country.

WPC
Session
Sofia 24-27
April

About five hundred delegates are expected to attend the triennial Session of the World Peace Council this April. Further details are given on the back page.



Peace protestors confront police during a rally held in January outside a nuclear weapons plant in Bergfeld, England.

Afghanistan

Geneva Talks for Conflict Solution

The latest bulletin of the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organisation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan carries an interview with the country's leader, Mr Babrak Karmal, in which he comments on the current Geneva talks between the DRA and Pakistan.

Mr Karmal indicated that the adoption of three key documents was close to being completed by the two sides. These deal with the normalisation of relations between the two countries, the voluntary return of Afghan refugees and international guarantees concerning non-intervention and non-interference.

Mr Karmal said basic agreements have been reached on these three points and only a few details remain to be finalised. A fourth document being discussed concerns the interrelationship between the agreements on non-intervention and non-interference, agreement on the return of refugees, and international guarantees on the one side and the return by the other of the limited Soviet contingents from the DRA.

Mr Karmal emphasised that "the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union have been invited on a temporary basis to the DRA." He continued: "whenever the cause (foreign intervention) ceases to exist and reliable international guarantees are provided on the complete cessa-

tion and non-recurrence of interference from abroad, the effect (the presence of Soviet troops) will disappear by itself."

Brazil World Congress Preparations

Preparations are underway for the establishment of a broad Preparatory Committee for the Copenhagen World Congress Devoted to the IYP.

A national seminar is being planned for 20-22 June this year on the theme of the peace struggle in Brazil.

A concert and permanent exhibition of videos and films is being organised to pay tribute to the sculptor Carlos Sclair and composer Alberto Castiel, both of whom took part in the First World Congress of Intellectuals in 1948. The Congress laid the foundations of the movement which gave birth to the WPC.

Bolivia IYP Initiatives

The Bolivian Committee for Peace and Democracy has carried out a number of activities within its 1986 programme. On 30 January some 200 public figures took part in an event to mark the start of the UN International Year of Peace.

In addition, preparations were made for the creation of an official committee for the IYP due to begin work this March.

Work is also taking place around preparations for the World Congress Devoted to the IYP. This will be held in Copenhagen in October this year on the initiative of a broad preparatory committee comprising many organisations, including the WPC.

Canada Civil Air Sale Denounced

The Ottawa Peace Council has come out strongly against the planned sale of the Canadian de Havilland aircraft company to the Boeing Commercial Airplane Company based in Seattle in the US.

A statement issued in January by the OPC points out that the central position of Boeing in the military-industrial complex (MIC) of the US would result in the de Havilland sale significantly increasing the material, technical and human resources at the disposal of the armaments industry. It would, the statement says, also increase the influence of the US MIC in Canada.

Boeing's ties with the US military are substantial. In 1983, contracts with the US Department of Defence accounted for around 48 per cent of Boeings total sales and amounted to \$364,331,648. De Havilland, on the other hand, has only been involved in the manufacture of civilian aircraft.

The sale of de Havilland to Boeing would also make a Canadian company an integral part of an organisation which contributes to the development of space weapons against the spirit and letter of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Boeing has been a leading recipient of contracts for Star Wars, including one worth \$289 million to develop part of a system for airborne tracking of ICBMs.

Boeing has also been a major developer of offensive nuclear weapons, of the B52 and B1 bombers and parts of Midgetman, MX missiles as well as cruise missiles, which were tested in Canada against the wishes of the majority of the Canadian people.

The Canadian government has received no information as to what would be manufactured at the de Havilland plant after the Boeing takeover, and there is a strong chance that the sale would at some point involve Canadians in the manufacture of offensive nuclear weapons or their components.

The Ottawa Peace Council has called for opposition to the Boeing takeover bid as it would serve neither the interests of the Canadian people nor the cause of peace.

Colombia On the Move

In mid-January the Colombian Peace Council (CPC) met to plan activities for the IYP. These included initiatives in preparation for the World Congress development to the IYP.

A well attended lecture was delivered by the President of the CPC, Dr Aduero Arevalo Burgos, on the results of the Geneva US-Soviet Summit and the new Soviet Peace proposals.

The Colombian Medical Association held a meeting of its leading bodies with representatives of the CPC. The Association decided to establish a Colombian branch of the International Physicians Against Nuclear War.

FRG Support for Peace 2000

Members of the Krefeld Initiative, a loose coalition of artists and scientists, met in Cologne, 26 January, to discuss their work in the light of the international situation and report on the forthcoming plans of the peace movement in the FRG.

The Soviet proposal for comprehensive disarmament by 2000 was welcomed by the participants. They urged that details of the new offer be fully publicised within the peace movement and that the Federal government be persuaded to respond positively to it and not to join the US space weapons programme.

Coming Events in the FRG

The fifth Forum of the Krefeld Initiative will be held in Essen on 26 September this year.

The scientists' group Responsibility for Peace has called for a Peace Week to be observed from 10-15 November throughout the FRG.

The second Congress of the group Cultural Scientists for Peace and Disarmament, East and West will be held in Tübingen from 11-13 April.

Educators for Peace will hold a seminar in the town of Siegen on 26 April on the theme of the SDI and young people.

The data-processing workers peace group are planning to hold a seminar on arms technology.

The influential movement International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War are preparing for their Congress, due to be held from 31 May to 1 June.

Representatives from the US, USSR, FRG, GDR and Czechoslovakia will take part in an International Congress on Chemical Weapons in Mainz, 14-15 June.

Greece UN Peace Year Marked at Delphi

Delegates from 38 countries gathered in Delphi on 2 February in order to inaugurate officially the International Year of Peace. The meeting was attended by the UN Under Secretary General, Mr Vlachoslav Ustinov, who brought to the participants a message from the UN Secretary General, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar.

In addition, poets and artists from many parts of Greece attended the meeting which was addressed by representatives of the Committee for International Detente and Peace, and other activists from the peace movement, as well as by the WPC President, Ramesh Chandra, and Bruce Kent from the International Peace Bureau and the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

The participants issued an appeal which, amongst other things, called for more united mass action by the peace movement in the light of the positive atmosphere generated by the Geneva US-Soviet Summit and by the new Soviet peace proposals and the initiative of the six heads of state and government.

GDR Marking the IYP

Seven hundred people took part in a session of the GDR Peace Council at the end of January to observe the UN International Year of Peace.

The key note speech was delivered by Mr Oskar Fischer, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Chairman of the GDR Committee for the IYP, who expressed the full support of the GDR for the UN positions on peace and international cooperation.

He was followed by Prof. Gunther Drefahl, the GDR Peace Council President, who reviewed the work of the Council over the recent period. Prof. Drefahl called for the active participation of all people in the GDR to ensure that the recent Soviet proposal for nuclear disarmament by the year 2000 becomes a reality.

A four-day Rock for Peace festival was held in Berlin in mid-January. Some 27,000 people attended the event.

Japan- Norway Nuclear Weapon-Free Strongholds

Three years ago a little over 100 Japanese towns and cities could boast a nuclear weapon-free status. Today, some 900 NWF zones exist, which means that well over half the population live in de-weaponised areas.

In Norway, over 100 communities are now nuclear weapon-free while a further 18 seaside towns have pledged never to allow entry to ships carrying nuclear weapons.

India Disarmament Programme Hailed

The All-India Peace and Solidarity Organisation has called for mass activity by all sections of the peace movement in India in support of the disarmament programme suggested by the Soviet Union and the extension of its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests.

The Secretariat of AAPSO welcomed the initiative in a statement which pointed out that the new proposals have addressed many of the obstacles previously raised by the US concerning verification, the separation of the issue of US and Soviet missiles from those in Europe and even of opening up space and research laboratories for mutual inspection.

At the end of last year the 61st Conference of the Indian Medical Association held a special scientific session in cooperation with the National Association of Indian Doctors

for the Prevention of Nuclear War (NAIPNW). The session examined the biomedical effects of nuclear war, including projections of the consequences of a one megaton nuclear explosion over Delhi and the results of studies carried concerning nuclear winter.

The session was presided over by the President of the IMA, Dr V. Parmeshvara and addressed by many outstanding figures in the field of Indian medicine, including Dr K.L. Wig, Chairman of the NAIPNW.

Seminar on Peace and Development in Nepal

The Nepal World Peace Committee (NWPC) has decided to observe the UN International Year of Peace by holding a Seminar on Peace and Development this June or July in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu.

This was stated by Mr Hemanta Bahadur Beisee, General Secretary of the NWPC, at a meeting of the WPC Secretariat in Helsinki on 13 January.

Mr Beisee came to Helsinki to meet the WPC President and Secretariat members and discuss plans with them for increasing cooperation between the NPC and the WPC.

In his statement to the WPC Secretariat, Mr Beisee said: "The danger and threat of nuclear war in Asia is increasing. So the threat and danger in South Asia has also increased. Keeping this in mind for the peace movement as a whole, the building of close cooperation between the movements of South Asian countries- Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan- can play a vital role in defending peace. We are ready to work for united actions and we hope the WPC will take an active initiative in this direction."

Mr Beisee also said that the NWPC had made plans to observe the IYP with a programme extending over the whole year and including public meetings, discussions and symposiums. A special committee for the IYP will also be formed in Nepal.

On the World Congress Devoted to the IYP to be held in Copenhagen in October this year, Mr Beisee said that a national preparatory committee in support of the Congress would be formed in Nepal to include different forces. Efforts will also be made to ensure that new groups and forces join the peace movement and consolidate it.

In a report on the activities carried out by the NWPC, Mr Beisee said that a meeting of the national council was held which became a peace convention in 1985. It rallied different political forces and representatives of various professions and devoted considerable attention to preventing the nuclear war danger and stopping the arms race and its spread to outer space.

During the past year, the NWPC held special meetings to observe various anniversaries, including the 40th anniversary of the United Nations. The NWPC extended the fullest support to the work of the UN for peace, disarmament and development. In addition, support was also extended to the peace initiatives of the Non-Aligned Movement of countries.

USA Space Appeal

Scores of American scientists have endorsed the appeal of the Union of Concerned Scientists which calls for a ban on the testing and deployment of space weapons. The appeal states in part:

The development of antisatellite weapons and space-based missile defences would increase the risk of nuclear war and stimulate a dangerous competition in offensive nuclear arms. An arms race in space poses a great threat to the national security of the United States.

Outer space must remain free of any weapons. It should be preserved as an arena for non-threatening uses: peaceful cooperation, exploration, and scientific discovery among all nations.

The Union of Concerned Scientists can be contacted at: 26 Church Street, Cambridge, MA 02238, USA.

USSR Scientist to Scientist

Soviet scientists have appealed to their American counterparts to join them in efforts to contribute to the elimination of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction.

The appeal, published in the Soviet

daily *Pravda* on 8 February, states that scientists realise better than other people the dangerous consequences of stockpiling nuclear weapons: "At each new round of the arms race the military-strategic balance and the overall international situation become more destabilised and the risk of accidental war increases."

The appeal outlines the recent Soviet peace initiative for nuclear disarmament by the year 2000 and stresses that in view of the positive climate engendered by the Geneva Summit the chance now exists for radical advances towards peace.

Particular attention is placed by the scientists on the necessity for nations to scientific potential to wipe out hunger, poverty and disease, to protect the environment and supply the needs of industry in energy and raw materials. Mankind, they say, is about to make a breakthrough in space exploration and this requires close international cooperation if near-Earth space is to be used for economic and scientific development. Such a situation, though, will only be realised if space weapons are not deployed.

The appeal was issued on the initiative of the Academy of Sciences, the Soviet Scientists' Committee for Peace against the Nuclear Threat and the Scientific Council for the Study of Peace and Disarmament Problems.

Letters

An Investment for the Future

From Maud Vant, Qualicum Beach, B.C., Canada.

While I was a delegate to the World Assembly for Peace and Life, Against Nuclear War in Prague in June, 1983, I realised that wonderful work the World Peace Council was doing. I received so much energy to carry on the struggle for life against nuclear war from that conference that I felt I wanted to help the WPC on a long-term basis. Therefore, when I had to renew my will recently, I decided to make the WPC my sole beneficiary.

I would like other people around the world to consider what I have done. If some people would take out some kind of life insurance, even if it is only a part of what they will leave after they have given up the last struggle in life, it would be a great help on a long term basis. It would help to supply the WPC with funds which it could count on to continue the struggle far into the future, to rid the world of both the danger of nuclear war and of all armed conflicts, and then to rid the world of the causes of war and build a good life for all people.

Life insurance costs very little in Canada and in most western countries- and yet the lump sum of money at the death of the insured person could be put to such a worthwhile cause. I wish that other people would follow my lead in this matter.

Young People United...

From Liza Shizgal, Montreal, Canada.

I am 17 years old and am presently a student at Vanier College. As a student I am like many others in the way I feel about many different issues concerning the world today. One aspect which is of much concern to everyone is the threat of nuclear war. The mere existence of weapons which are capable of such incredible destruction, have compelled thousands of millions of people worldwide to stand up for their rights and take action. Across our globe there have been demonstrations rallies and conferences; groups and organisations have been created all in an effort to stop man from destroying himself. Regardless of color, religion, or nationality, people have taken a stand and made their views known. But still, often, it seems to be an endless hopeless struggle.

In Montreal there is a student action group which is run by and for youths. It is named SAGE (Students Against Global Extermination- Solidarite Anti-Guerre Etudiants). In many highschools and CEGEPs (junior colleges) in and around Montreal there exists a chapter of this student group. This is the first year that Vanier College has its own SAGE chapter. We are a group of approximately twenty concerned students who believe that the world could be a better and safer place. As a group we publish newsletters, information sheets and organise films and information days in an attempt to make others aware and get them involved in making this world nuclear and violence free.



Sinister Shuttle Missions

The US Defence Department is looking into ways of using expendable launch vehicles as alternatives to the space shuttle following the Challenger tragedy in which seven astronauts died. The search for new launch vehicles is taking place, according to the Washington-based Institute for Security and Cooperation in Outer Space (ISCOS), so that missions related to the Pentagon's space weapons programme can go ahead as planned.

Space shuttle launches related to the Strategic Defence Initiative are supposed to take place at a rate of one a year from Fiscal Years 1987-91. If the SDI is allowed to continue, ISCOS predicts a rapid increase in shuttle missions for military purposes.

Space Explorers Unite

The first international organisation for astronauts and cosmonauts convened recently in San Francisco to discuss ways to promote cooperation in space research and to use space technology to help humanity. The 25 member Association of Space explorers was founded in October last year by Soviet and US astronauts.

Concert Tour for Peace in Space

Yoko Ono, the singer-songwriter and widow of former Beatle John Lennon, started a European tour in late

February dedicated to preventing Star Wars. Ms Ono's concerts are called Star Peace performances and stress the need to develop international cooperation in space as the alternative to a space arms race.

NORAD and SDI

The Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Mulroney, is to sign a new NORAD agreement with the US which will link NORAD closely with the SDI and thereby increase the involvement of Canada in the space weapons programme.

NORAD (North American Aerospace Defence Command) was established by treaty in 1958 for early warning in conjunction with air defence systems. NORAD's ability to track bombers and cruise missiles is being linked by the Pentagon to the heavy missile tracking systems envisaged by the SDI.

In anticipation of NORAD's growing role in the SDI, the Canadian-US joint study, the SDIO Architects Study 2000, is already making changes in the NORAD agreement so as to bring it closer to the Star Wars programme. Particularly worrying is the refusal by the Canadian government to re-instate the anti-ballistic missile clause which was dropped from the NORAD treaty in 1981. The clause stated: "This agreement will not involve in any way a Canadian commitment to participate in an active ABM defence." The peace movement in Canada has campaigned vigorously to pressure the Mulroney government to re-introduce the clause into the agreement.

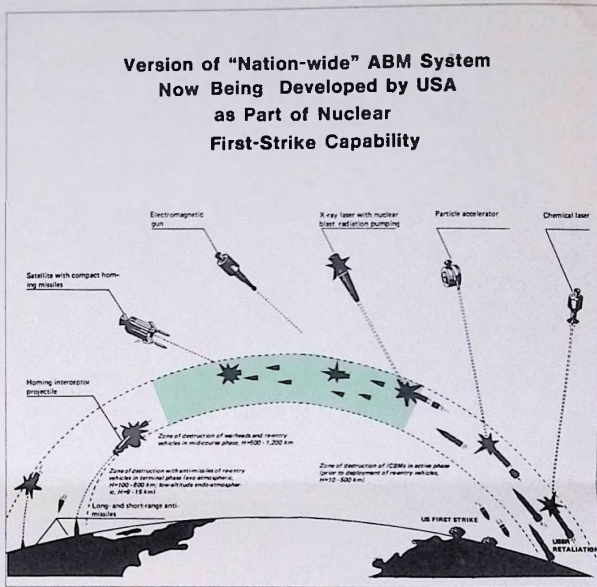
SDI and Nuclear Tests

Out of the colossal \$5.4 billion budget demanded for the SDI for Fiscal Year 1987 \$70 million will be used to expand the Sandia national weapons laboratory in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The expansion will take place in order to test kinetic and directed energy weapons of the Star Wars project. Proponents of the scheme say that one of the benefits involved will be the 'co-location' of those working on SDI tests and those involved in nuclear tests since their objectives are identical.

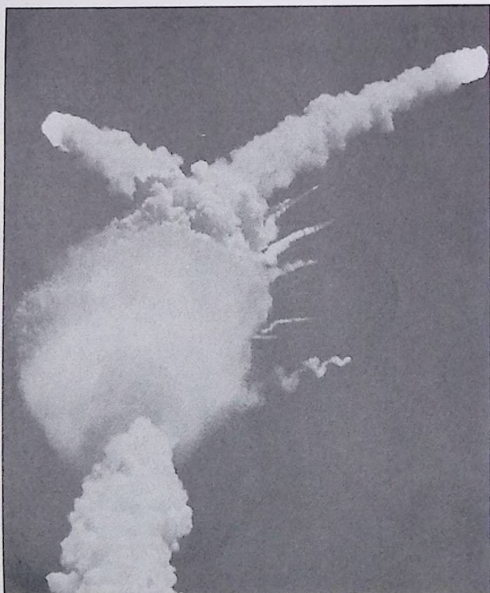
Star Wars Bonanza

The SDI is now the fastest growing most expensive US government programme in history. In just five years the Strategic Defence Initiative Organisation will have more money at its disposal than American space agency NASA has been able to acquire in the 25 years since it was established.

Source: Institute for Security and Cooperation in Outer Space.



Shuttle Tragedy Challenges SDI Complacency



The following extract is from an article by Adele Simmons and John Sanbonmatsu which first appeared in the New York Times this February.

The tragedy of the shuttle Challenger should serve as ample reply to those few who continue to argue that a space based defence against nuclear weapons is feasible. The Strategic Defence Initiative would turn all America into a space shuttle, making the existence of 200 million people depend on 'flawless' technology.

The enormous unsolved technical problems inherent in the 'Star Wars' project make the technical hurdles of the shuttle program look facile. The space shuttle's launch sequence required some 10,000 lines of computer programming. The 'Star Wars' software program would likely run into tens of millions of lines.

Given virtual consensus in the scientific community that a space-based defence cannot be meaningfully effective against an incoming missile attack, why has Congress thus far appropriated more than \$22 billion to fund the 'Star Wars' programme?

Perhaps because there is something exciting and comforting in the ideas that there are technical solutions to military and political problems, and that America's proved technical resourcefulness can be a panacea for the nuclear dilemma.

Idealism is infectious. Many in Congress have seemingly become caught up in Mr Reagan's quest for a magical space shield. However, some members of Congress with sense enough to oppose the plan are as yet too shy to tell the emperor that he is wearing no clothes, uncomfortable with the idea of playing Cassandra in an era of national optimism.

As the debris from the Challenger is combed from the sea, one can hope that a lesson, albeit a terribly bitter one, has been learned.

If not, if the United States continues to gamble its children's future on an arms race that knows no bounds and on a space-based weapons system that invites global instability, we are likely to face a fireball similar to the one that engulfed the crew of the Challenger—except that it will be replicated across the globe, and may well consume the globe.

Soviet Union: Foreign Policy Initiatives

From Mikhail Gorbachev's report to the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Prime among the basic aims and directions of the Communist Party's foreign policy strategy is the "struggle against the nuclear menace, against the arms race, for the preservation and strengthening of universal peace. ...The world has become much too small and fragile for wars. It cannot be saved if the thinking built up over the centuries on the acceptability of wars is not shed once and for all, irrevocably."

"We are living in a world of realities and we are developing our international policy in keeping with the specific features of the present phase of international development. Our creative analysis of this phase has led us to the conclusion that it is highly significant. As never before it is now important to find ways for closer and more productive cooperation with governments, parties, and mass organisations and movements that are preoccupied with the destinies of peace on earth, with all peoples in order to build an all embracing system of international security.

We see the Fundamental Principles of this system in the following.

In the military sphere

- renunciation by the nuclear powers of war-both nuclear and conventional-against each other or against third countries;
- prevention of an arms race in outer space; cessation of all nuclear weapon tests and the total destruction of such weapons; a ban on and the destruction of chemical weapons and renunciation of the development of other means of mass annihilation;
- a strictly controlled lowering of the levels of military capabilities of coun-

tries to limits of reasonable adequacy

- disbandment of military alliances, and as a stage towards this renunciation of their enlargement and of the formation of new ones;
- balanced and commensurate reduction of military budgets.

In the political sphere

- unconditional respect in international practice for the right of each country to choose the ways and forms of its independently development;
- a just political settlement of international crises and regional conflicts;
- elaboration of a set of measures aimed at building confidence between states and the creation of effective guarantees against attack from without and of the inviolability of their frontiers;
- elaboration of effective methods of preventing international terrorism, including the safety of international land, air, and sea communications.

In the economic sphere

- exclusion of all forms of discrimination from international practice; renunciation of the policy of economic blockades and sanctions (if this is not directly envisaged in the recommendations of the world community);
- joint quest for ways to a just settlement of the problem of debts;
- establishment of a new world economic order guaranteeing equal economic security to all countries;
- elaboration of principles for utilising part of the funds released as a result of the reduction of military budgets for the good of the world community, of developing nations in the first place;
- the pooling of efforts in exploring and making peaceful use of outer space and in resolving global problems on which the destinies of civilisation depend.



In the humanitarian sphere

- cooperation in the dissemination of the ideas of peace, disarmament, and international security; greater flow of general objective information and intercourse between peoples for the purpose of learning about one another; reinforcement of the spirit of mutual understanding and concord in the relations between them;
- extirpation of genocide, apartheid, advocacy of fascism and every other form of racial, national or religious exclusiveness, and discrimination against people on this basis;
- while respecting the laws of each country, international cooperation in the implementation of the political, social, and personal rights of people;

- decision in a humane and positive spirit on questions related to the reuniting of families, marriage, and the promotion of contacts between people and between organisations;
- strengthening of and quests for new forms of cooperation in culture, art, science, education, and medicine.

These Principles stem logically from the provisions of the Programme of the CPSU. They are entirely in keeping with our concrete foreign policy initiatives. Guided by them it would be possible to make peaceful coexistence the highest principle of state-to-state relations. In our view, these Principles could become the point of departure and a sort of guideline for a direct and systematic dialogue between leaders of all countries of the world community."

Bring Peace to the Gulf! Increased Efforts to End Iran-Iraq War

The campaign to end the five year old war between Iran and Iraq is gaining momentum.

In early March, a meeting of the Non-Governmental Organisations Working Group to stop the conflict was held in Geneva. The members of the Group organised delegations to visit a number of countries and the United Nations to gather support for a Gulf peace process.

The NGO Working Group will hold an International Conference to stop the war. The Conference will take place 14-16 April in Geneva and will review proposals made to end the war, discuss humanitarian assistance to the victims of the conflict and plan NGO actions to further the campaign.

At present, the Working Group has launched an information campaign to draw public attention to the Gulf peace initiative. A poster and leaflet have been produced for general distribution.

The WPC's statement on the occasion of Indian Ocean and Gulf Week (17-23 February) stressed the dangers posed to the region by the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war. The statement said the conflict has led to a heightened US military presence which could lead to tensions well beyond the immediate area of the conflict.

Earlier, the WPC sent a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in which it expressed support for the efforts of the UN to end the war.



Civilians run for cover. The Iran-Iraq war has resulted in massive loss of life and destruction of property.

The Mediterranean and World Peace



An international dialogue on the Mediterranean and World Peace was held in Athens, Greece, from 30 January to 1 February at a time when the situation in the region has reached a point of crisis caused by the combined effects of the military build up and conflicts.

Representatives from the Mediterranean countries, the USA, India and the African National Congress of South Africa took part in two main commissions on the arms build up and the danger of nuclear war in the Mediterranean and the problem of conflicts and interventions in the region. Discussion in the commissions was constructive and oriented towards action with special emphasis on conducting campaigns. In this regard, the issues of establishing nuclear weapon-free zones in the Balkans, Iberia and the Middle East were discussed along with the dangers posed by the deployment of cruise missiles in Comiso, Sicily.

In view of the provocative manoeuvres of the Sixth fleet in the Mediterranean, much attention was paid to the presence of US naval forces in the region and the need to reduce military forces. In particular, the withdrawal of all ships carrying nuclear weapons was urged.

In this connection a number of actions were proposed including a youth camp for people from Mediterranean and other European countries to be held this July in Athens. Among other things, the camp will examine the ways of furthering the campaign to rid the Mediterranean of all nuclear weapons. It was also agreed that discussions would be held between representatives from Mediterranean countries on this subject during the forthcoming Session of the World Peace Council this April.

The tenor of the discussions on the nuclear weapon-free Mediterranean campaign indicated it is considered an important contribution towards the worldwide campaign to eliminate all nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

Two additional commissions were held during the meeting. They dealt with questions of cooperation in the fields of culture and information and cooperation over economic and environmental problems.

The reports of the commissions were presented during the final plenary session together with the declaration (enclosed in this issue of *Peace Courier*). The declaration presents a brief outline of the key problems facing the countries of the Mediterranean and stresses the dangers

posed by the arms build-up and the interventions, aggressions and acts of state terrorism taking place in the region. The major part of the declaration concerns actions and campaigns for the peace and anti-war movements to undertake to end the war danger in the Mediterranean. It provides a basis whereupon different organisations can cooperate around one or more points in order to further efforts to bring peace to the region.

Resolutions: on Deportation and State Terrorism

Two further documents were adopted by the participants of the dialogue. The first

was in response to the Israeli policy of deportation which led to the forced removal of three leading Palestinians to Jordan.

The second was a resolution condemning state terrorism against Libya. The resolution expressed "grave concern over the deployment of the US 6th fleet off the shores of Libya, including the Gulf of Sirt" and condemned the US economic boycott of the country. These have taken place, the resolution said, despite Libya's categorical denial of any responsibility for the attacks against the airports in Rome and Vienna. While rejecting "individual or group acts of terrorism", the resolution warned against US attempts to identify such acts with the just struggle of liberation movements and democratic forces.



Members of the Praesidium at the opening session of the International Dialogue on the Mediterranean and World Peace held in Athens 30/1-1/2 1986. President M. Stathopoulos, rector of Athens University (middle); to his right, V. Ustinov, Under Secretary General, UN Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, and to his left, Romesh Chandra, President of the World Peace Council.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Chile: International Vigilance Urged Over Junta's Crimes

The Secretariat of the International Commission of Enquiry into the Crimes of the Military Junta of Chile has expressed its alarm at the continuing brutality of the Chilean military dictatorship. The basic nature of the regime has, the Secretariat said, remained unchanged since its installation through the bloody coup of September 1973.

The Secretariat issued a statement at its meeting held in Turku, Finland on 1 February, also attended by Chilean representatives of the Chile-Democra-

tico Office (Rome). The International Commission was established in 1974 as a broadly based non-governmental organisation monitoring human rights in Chile.

The statement draws attention to the relentless and intense repression practiced by the Pinochet dictatorship against the Chilean people. This includes the continuous imposition of states of siege and emergency, the proscription of political activity and the murder, arbitrary arrest and savage ill-treatment of opponents or suspected opponents of the regime. The fate of those who have "disappeared" remains unsolved while, in addition, thousands of Chilean exiles

are still prevented from returning to their country.

In the wake of momentous mass demonstrations, the military junta declared a state of siege in November 1984 and then, eight months later, the State of Danger to Internal Peace. This remains in force and provides the regime with widespread powers for arbitrary action against the populace.

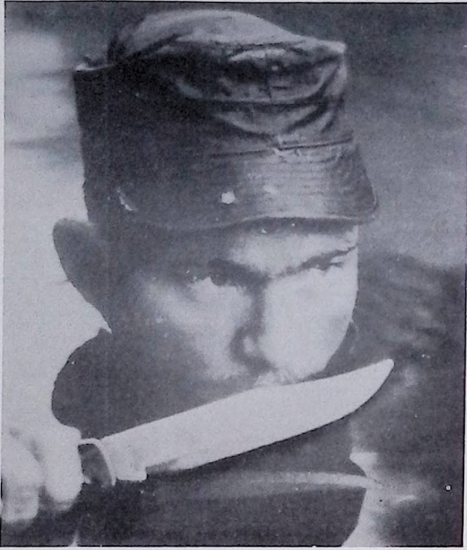
The statement outlines some of the most barbaric acts of the Chilean regime over the recent period and voices concern at the failure of the judiciary to guarantee that the rights of citizens and the rule of law are upheld. The violation of human rights, it says, has been

condemned in 1985 by the United Nations and the Organisation of American States.

The Commission stresses that blame for the present situation in Chile lies largely with the United States and it appeals to the US administration to help pressurise the junta in favour of the restoration of democracy and the rights of the Chilean people.

The statement further urges the UN Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteur to continue monitoring the situation in Chile and calls on the international community to remain vigilant with respect to developments inside the country.

Terror From Above The Politics of State Terrorism



Hardly a day passes without the appearance of a news item in which the words 'terrorist', 'terrorism' or 'war against terrorism' appear in the context of a major power like the United States, or one of its allies doing battle, or promising to do battle, with blood-thirsty factions of Third World fanatics.

In Western countries much publicised government concerns to combat terrorism have become the rhetorical pivots of many leaders' political campaigns and policy statements. Nowhere is this more so than in the United States, which, the present Administration would have us believe, has been the home of the anti-terrorist struggle since, in his first week in office, President Reagan threatened "swift effective retribution" against the terrorist menace.

Just as the Carter Administration took up the banner of 'human rights' in the late '70s as the ostensible concern of its foreign policy now Mr Reagan champions anti-terrorism to considerable effect. While occasional terroristic crimes which do occur provide the Administration with excuses to bolster its 'war against terrorism', any impartial look at the response it has come up with over the last six years reveals that this massively outweighs the cause. This response includes the expansion of covert operations units, Special Operations Forces, by about a third since 1981 with their budget tripling to \$600 million for 1986. That the pledge of swift effective retribution was made with other targets in mind is not merely inference.

Hand-in-hand with its crusade against terrorism, the US Administration is pursuing policies known collectively as the Reagan Doctrine or New Globalism. This has seen the partial or total sponsorship of wars against the

governments of Nicaragua, Kampuchea, Afghanistan and Angola, governments whose existence is viewed by Washington as uncondusive to the pursuit of its international economic and military interests. In essence, this means the US is intent on toppling, or preventing the creation of, popular governments of national liberation and independence. Thus, in addition, the Reagan Administration is involved in efforts to thwart movements for national liberation such as FMLN-FDR coalition in El Salvador, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and the African National Congress of South Africa. In these cases the public profile given to the Reagan Doctrine is one which emphasises the Administration's concern to fight the terrorism of which each country or movement is guilty.

Yet the Reagan Doctrine in its various applications instigates 'cover' subversion, the destruction of property, hijacking, mass killings, assassinations - in short, the very behaviour it purports to be against. By depicting the targets it attacks as centres of terrorism, the US is concerned to disguise its own terroristic behaviour. This approach is similar to the way the US presents its space weapons programme. By coming up with the nice-sounding concept of the Strategic Defence Initiative the inherently offensive nature of Star Wars is concealed.

At this moment, huge resources are being channelled into reinforcing the shock troops of state terrorism, the sinister Special Operations Forces, for what are called 'low-intensity conflicts'. Low intensity conflicts are the frontlines of US confrontation with parts of the world which oppose its policies. In reality, there is nothing low-level about such conflicts. Their continuation has turned many areas into potential flash-points for international confrontation which could lead to nuclear war.

UN Resolution Outlaws State Terrorism

The United States, the United Kingdom and France were among a small number of UN member countries who abstained in a vote on a resolution, 39/159, put before the General Assembly on 17 December 1984. The resolution was on the inadmissibility of the Policy of State Terrorism and any Actions of States Aimed at Undermining the Socio-Political Systems in other Sovereign States.

From UN resolution 39/159.

The General assembly: Reaffirming the obligation of all states to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of any state as well as the inalienable right of all peoples to determine their own form of government and to choose their own economic, political and social system free from outside intervention, subversion, coercion and constraint:

Expressing its profound concern that state terrorism has lately been practiced ever more frequently in relations between states and that military and other actions are being taken

against the sovereignty and political independence of states and the self-determination of peoples:

Noting that all this seriously endangers the independent existence of states and the possibility of enduring peaceful relations and mutual trust between them and leads to a sharp exacerbation of tensions and a growing threat of war;

Resolutely condemns policies and practices of terrorism in relations between states as a method of dealing with other states and peoples;

Demands that all states take no actions aimed at military intervention and occupation, forcible change in or undermining of the socio-political system of states, the destabilisation or overthrow of their governments and, in particular, initiate no military action to that end under any pretext whatsoever and cease forthwith any such action already in progress;

Urges all states to respect and strictly observe, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the sovereignty and political independence of states, the right of peoples to self-determination as well as their right freely without outside interference and intervention to choose their socio-political system, and to pursue their political, economic, social and cultural development.

Directive of the Reagan Doctrine

On 3 April 1984 President Reagan signed National Security Decision Directive 138, a move which radically increased his Administration's ability to use force against any organisation, country or region it wished.

At the time, US officials from the Departments of State and Defence said the new directive was drawn up to formalise and coordinate measures the US had already taken to combat what they called "terrorism".

Under the directive, the reinforcement of intelligence gathering capabilities outside the US by the CIA and the Defence Intelligence Agency was ordered; FBI, CIA and Pentagon paramilitary squads were created and put under the command of the new Joint Special Operations Agency to Act Overseas.

Weinberger's Doctrine

In his 1985 report to the US Congress on the 1986 defence budget, the Secretary of Defence, Caspar Weinberger, made some revealing comments concerning US efforts to influence the course of events in certain regions in the world.

Although ostensibly dealing with the threat of 'terrorism' the Pentagon chief went further: "first we try to alleviate conditions leading to conflict by fostering political negotiations, extending economic aid, encouraging free enterprise... But we cannot exclude the possibility of threats to our citizens or interests... that might require the employment of our military forces... In such instances, the flexibility, mobility, and special training of US forces will be important in meeting whatever threat may arise, just as we were able to be highly effective in securing our objectives in Grenada."

Special Operations Forces at a Glance

Since 1981, the SOF's active strength has increased by about a third, to its current level of 14,900. With reserves the SOF now totals 32,000. The (US) administration plans an active force of 20,900 by 1990, when total potential strength will be 38,400.

SOF spending has been rising even faster, with their budget roughly tripling in the past three years to total about US\$600 million in Fiscal Year 1986. Much of the money is being spent on new weapons

designed for the SOF. By 1990 the navy will have 54 special warfare craft, up from eight in 1981, and two Polaris nuclear submarines are being converted to carry commandos. The air force will have 150 special craft in 1990, compared with 86 in 1981; the army has new helicopters and specialised ground weaponry... The SOF are used most extensively in military training teams operating overseas.

Extracted from *South* magazine, October 1985.

United Campaigns to be Promoted by WPC Session

The triennial Session of the World Peace Council will be held in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, from 24-27 April within the framework of the UN International Year of Peace.

The decision to convene the Session was made by the Bureau of the WPC Presidential Committee at its meeting in Stockholm, towards the end of last year. The meeting will take place at an important time in the international situation as new opportunities now exist for breaking the arms control deadlock and preventing the development of space weapons, opportunities which have arisen principally out of the process begun by the US-Soviet Geneva summit.

The summit and the fresh impetus it gave to efforts for peace came about largely as a result of initiatives by several governments and by those contained in the campaigns of public opinion to prevent nuclear war. Since Geneva, the peace movement has been concerned to ensure the transformation of good intentions of the summit spirit into tangible results. For this reason the Soviet proposal for the abolition of nuclear and mass destruction weapons by 2000 is an important step towards promoting peace and security in the world.

Against this background, the working groups, commissions and plenaries of the WPC Session will examine developments in the international situation and in the peace and anti-war movements. They will concentrate above all in promoting new united campaigns around all issues connected with the prevention of nuclear war.



New Methods

Much attention will also be paid during the Session to the improvement of the work of the peace movement at all levels. In this regard, the participants will examine questions of:

- Peace movement networking.
- Cooperation.
- Working with the United Nations and its specialised agencies, with the Non-Aligned Movement and with other inter-governmental organisations.
- Information and publicity, ways to break down the 'enemy images' of war propaganda and build up effective information structures.
- Ways and means to promote the fund-raising activity of the WPC and the national peace movements.

Key Issues Facing the Movement

The meetings of the Session will focus on a number of central matters facing the peace movement. They are:

Campaigns to achieve total nuclear disarmament and create a world free from nuclear weapons. The cessation of all nuclear tests; banning the development and deployment of space weapons; the reduction and elimination of strategic and medium-range nuclear weapons; the 'freezing' of nuclear weapons; nuclear weapon-free zones; the reduction of military budgets.

Actions and campaigns to prevent the arms race in space and to promote its use for peaceful purposes.

Efforts to ensure the peaceful political solution to regional conflicts and centres of tension; to stop doctrines of 'new globalism' and other threats to the sovereignty and independence of people.

Initiatives to promote detente, confidence and peaceful cooperation amongst nations.

Disarmament and development; efforts to solve the international debt crisis; problems of hunger, disease, the environment.

Reconstitution of the Council

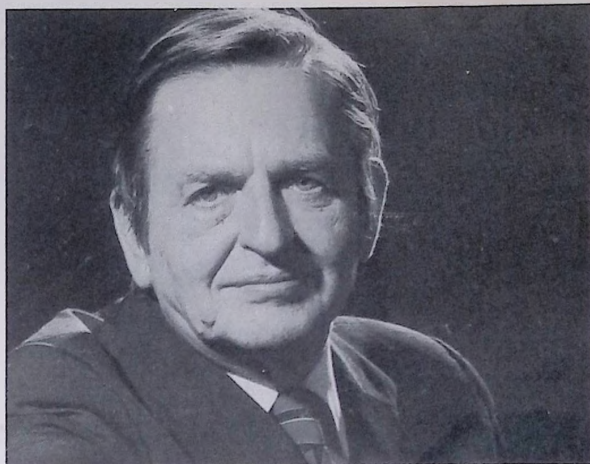
The Council of the WPC will be reconstituted on the first day of the Session so that the subsequent proceedings will be undertaken by the new Council. This will also elect the President, Vice Presidents and members of the Presidential Committee. The Presidential Committee will elect the Bureau and Secretariat on the first day of the Session.

New WPC Charter

The Session of the WPC will examine the structure of the organisation, as well as its rules and regulations, and consider what changes should be made in the light of present requirements. As a result, the Charter of the WPC may be elaborated in order to reflect the principles and aims of the peace movement and its methods of action.



A Tragic Loss to the Peace Movement



The WPC expressed profound grief at the assassination of the Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr Olof Palme, on 28 February.

In a message to Mr Ingvar Carlsson, the acting Prime Minister, the WPC said the death of Mr Palme was a loss not only for the people of Sweden but for the entire world. His contribution to the worldwide effort to prevent nuclear war was outstanding.

Mr Palme took a leading role in formulating the positions of the initiative of the Six Heads of State and Government, he chaired the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues and made a major contribution to the campaign for Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones, with the proposal for a NWF Corridor through Central Europe. Mr Palme was also active in the efforts of the United Nations to end the war between Iran and Iraq.

The Grownups' Budget

Caspar Weinberger evidently thinks it a sign of maturity to tread the nuclear war-path. Addressing the Detroit Economic Club on 30 January, the Pentagon leader added to his already substantial record of Wartalk when defending the Administration's proposal for a military budget of \$311 billion for next year.

True to form, he vented his pathological feelings about the Soviet Union, parading the bogy of the threat to the world posed by that country's foreign policy. Detente, the Defence Secretary said, must not be allowed to hinder 'the rebuilding of America's defences': detente with the Soviet Union is 'a child-like hope'.

And that, in general, is why the Adult Administrators of US government policy intend to cut \$70 billion from domestic medical aid programmes from the old and the poor. The President's new budget proposals mean that the total appropriated for the military would jump from this year's figure of \$286 billion to \$320 billion in 1987 and to \$405 billion in 1991.

Top of the list of priorities for future military spending are the space weapons of the Strategic Defence Initiative. The new budget proposals include a request for \$5.4 billion for Star Wars, over 50 per cent more than the sum allocated for this year. In all likelihood the money requested for space weapons far exceeds the

Pentagon's, and the SDI Organisation's, projected requirements for the programme for next year but have been exaggerated in anticipation of Congressional cuts in the final budget. For 1986, the Administration's demand for \$3.7 billion was reduced to \$2.75 billion - a figure which has still allowed the research and development of Star Wars systems to take place hell-for-leather. Even if, say, a billion dollars is cut from the latest budget request for the SDI there will be plenty left over in order to assure its priority status in the Pentagon's military projects.

In addition to boosting Star Wars, the new budget aims to ensure the smooth continuation of the other aspects of the Reagan military build-up. This will provide, among other things, for the beginning of a full development programme for the small, mobile Midgetman ICBM, which, like cruise missiles, threaten to thwart arms verification; and for the top secret radar-evading Stealth bomber. Money will also be spent to provide a new basing mode for the MX missile which, the Pentagon believes, will help the deployment of a total of 100 weapons, instead of the 50 allowed by Congress last year.

In some respects Mr Weinberger may be right: by raising the arms race to new heights through increased military spending, the chances for a return to the climate of detente could be reduced to 'a child-like hope'. It is up to the peace movement to make sure that doesn't happen.



TOGETHER FOR PEACE

NGO Conference to mark the International Year of Peace
Geneva, 20 - 24 January 1986



Appeal

We appeal to all people of the world to join in a common pursuit of peace.

We have gathered together in Geneva at the beginning of the International Year of Peace determined to foster its noble objectives, conscious of the unprecedented crisis and threats to peace that the world faces. We have come together for peace. We have shared experiences in efforts towards peace and taken new initiatives for common action.

We have come from diverse situations. We represent national, regional and international non-governmental organizations and movements and groups of different political, philosophical and religious backgrounds. With just a decade and a half for this century to come to a close, we are convinced of the duty and obligation of all people to make concerted efforts to usher in a world of peace as the new century opens. We are convinced that it can be done, that the present dangerous trends in world affairs can be stopped and reversed. We see signs of hope in the new spirit of dialogue and openness among leaders of nations and in the determination of the people to attain peace.

We do not have to recount the threats to peace. The race towards nuclear catastrophe is keeping up its momentum. As if the earth and the oceans can no longer bear the weight of weapons outer space is explored for stationing of arms. Hundreds are killed every day by non-nuclear weapons. Hunger takes its daily toll of thousands. Millions are deprived of basic human needs and fundamental human rights. Millions still groan under domination and exploitation. Apartheid continues denying justice, destroying people and destabilizing nations.

We appeal therefore to work together for a world of peace, not where war is merely absent, not where human survival is just possible, but where justice prevails and human dignity is upheld.

We reiterate that the nuclear arms race constitutes the greatest threat to peace and survival. Our appeal therefore assumes a special urgency in this regard. We see signs of hope in the Geneva summit of President Reagan and General-Secretary Gorbachev and in some of the specific initiatives taken after that.

As we pledge to work together for disarmament we appeal to all to join in and support efforts for an immediate end to all nuclear weapon tests, a comprehensive test ban treaty, the prevention of an arms race in outer space, elimination of chemical weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, and substantial reduction in conventional weaponry. We believe that it is possible to implement a systematic and credible programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of the century.

We believe that peace is inextricably inter-linked with development and social progress and that its foundation is justice. Deprivation and disparity are threats to peace. We therefore call for a strategic development initiative for a new international economic order that ensures just economic relations between and within nations. We further appeal for genuine respect of the rights of people to decide their own destiny, their rights to self-determination and inter-dependent development, non-interference in their internal affairs, in conditions of security and social progress.

We emphasize that the exercise of human rights and freedoms is an essential element of peace. Violations of them are a major cause of armed conflicts. The fuller the rights that every person enjoys in society, the more stable that society will be; the fuller the implementation of human rights globally, the more stable international relations will be. In this spirit we call for the full recognition, respect and implementation of human rights and freedoms everywhere.

We recognize that peace is an essential requirement for the satisfaction of basic human needs such as food, shelter, health, education, labour and environment. As we commend recent cooperative actions across continents to meet emergency needs for food, we appeal for more systematic and concerted efforts to prevent deaths by starvation and to adopt long-term policies nationally and internationally to ensure food for all.

We call for joint actions to promote substantial reduction of military expenditures with a view to rectifying the current distortion in the use of resources. We agree that every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.

Recognizing the importance of preparation of societies for life in peace we call for a new orientation in education, science, culture, religion and mass media towards peace-making.

The resources available in these areas can be more constructively utilized for peace. We appeal for promotion of people-to-people contacts across nations and for innovative steps for confidence-building.

Nations must seek peace together. We can only create a common future if we can cope with the common crisis we face and build peace on the basis of the concept of common security. We appeal for a greater commitment to international cooperation for which the universal instrument is the United Nations. We pledge our continued support to the United Nations and its agencies and specifically its programmes in the International Year of Peace.

We realize that the odds are tremendous. But we are confident that the determination of the people to achieve peace will prevail. We have optimism and hope because we are together for peace. It is in that spirit that we renew our commitment to peace and invite you all, all people of the world, to join in the challenging tasks ahead.

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This appeal was adopted by acclamation by over four hundred representatives of 115 international non-governmental organizations and 71 national organizations from 36 countries.

The Conference, held under the auspices of the Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), was convened to foster the objectives of the International Year of Peace proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations. It was organized by a Steering Committee composed of 18 major international NGOs representing diversified policies, ideologies and areas of interest. The topics of the Conference included questions of disarmament, development, social progress, justice, human rights, satisfaction of basic human needs, and preparation of societies for life in peace.

The participants of the Conference do sincerely hope that their appeal be accepted as an expression of their determination to safeguard peace and the future of humanity.

The Mediterranean Declaration

International Dialogue on the Mediterranean and World Peace, Athens, 30 January to 1 February 1986

The International Dialogue on the Mediterranean and World Peace, held in Athens from 30 January to 1 February 1986, was organised as part of the programme of actions for the United Nations International Year of Peace.

The participants unanimously declared their determination to contribute towards making the Year of Peace a year in which concrete steps can be taken towards ending the grave threat of nuclear annihilation, towards banishing from this planet for all time all nuclear weapons. The struggle to make the Mediterranean a zone of peace is inseparable from the worldwide struggle for the prevention of nuclear war.

The Mediterranean region is one in which peoples of three continents-Asia, Africa and Europe- live and work.

The forces of war and domination seek to use this region for their nefarious arms build-up and military, political and economic domination.

The forces of peace of the Mediterranean region, on the other hand, are acting vigorously to ensure that this region not only becomes a zone of peace, independence, justice and social progress, but that it makes a key contribution to the victory of the world peace movement.

Military Buildup

The participants in the International Dialogue drew attention to the present grave situation in the Mediterranean.

Cruise missiles, which can be targeted against the countries and peoples of the region, continue to be deployed in Comiso, Italy.

The Rapid Deployment Force (RDF), carrying nuclear and conventional weapons, is undertaking intensive exercises with local forces in preparation for new acts of intervention and aggression.

The 6th Fleet, carrying marines and nuclear weapons, is cruising off the shores of Mediterranean countries and has even shelled cities, towns and villages, as was the case in Lebanon.

A vast network of new US bases and military facilities are being established to be added to the already existing ones, while new military alliances

are being created to support the operations of the RDF.

The strategic alliance between USA and Israel constitutes a serious threat in the region.

NATO is increasingly involved in military operations outside the zone of its activities, particularly in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The Central Command has been established to be linked with NATO.

Thus the Mediterranean and South West Asia is being prepared as a new theatre for triggering global confrontation and for the possible launching of a nuclear war.

The Deadly Connection

This dangerous military build-up is taking place while wars are being waged in the Middle East and the Gulf.

Acts of state terrorism and threats of intervention by the USA and Israel are being directed against Libya, Syria and other independent countries.

Armed clashes and crises are incited in North Africa; military occupation of 40 per cent of Cyprus continues, and the conspiracy against Lebanon persists.

Aggressive and barbaric attacks and practices are being intensified against the Palestinian people who are still deprived of their inalienable national rights to return to their homeland, to self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state.

It is also taking place under the pretext that the US has the right to protect its so-called "vital interests" and dominate the source of oil and other raw materials in North Africa and the Gulf.

Thus, a deadly connection exists between the nuclear build-up in the Mediterranean region and these aggressions, interventions and acts of state terrorism. These are used in an all-out effort to impose on the peoples the dictates of the imperialist powers, the expansionist policy of Israel and the exploitative order of the transnational corporations and banks.

A Programme for Mediterranean

Confident in the strength of the peoples and confident in the power of the peace movements and organisations, the participants in the International Dialogue on "The Mediterranean and World Peace" stress that vast possibilities exist to stop the present insane arms build-up.

Signs of hope were rightly seen in the Geneva Summit meeting of November 1985.

The courageous struggle of the African peoples for political liberation and social justice, the persistent efforts of European anti-war movements to remove nuclear weapons from their continent and the plan to establish peace and security in Asia, the Pacific and the Indian Ocean, the efforts to dismantle foreign military bases all contribute to the struggle for peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

In particular, the peace plan recently presented by the USSR to eliminate step by step all nuclear weapons on earth by the end of this century will meet, if it is implemented, basic demands of all the peoples of the Mediterranean, for example:

the removal of all medium-range missiles from Europe in the coming five years will eliminate Comiso missiles;

the non-deployment of strategic and medium-range missiles in other countries will prevent the nuclear-capable RDF from being stationed in the Mediterranean countries;

the prevention of the production of conventional weapons of huge destructive capability, which was experimented with by Israel in Lebanon, and the substantial reduction of conventional weapons possessed by European and North American countries are in the interest of all Mediterranean countries.;

the prevention of the militarisation of space will preclude the possibility of first nuclear strike which can be waged from the Mediterranean or the Middle East;

the immediate banning of all nuclear weapon tests will prevent the production of new systems appropriate for Star Wars or which could be used in theatre battles or "limited nuclear war" in the areas of the Mediterranean.

Free From Nuclear Weapons

Fully aware of the fact that developments in the Mediterranean are affecting at the same time the process of peace in other regions and in the world, the participants in the International Dialogue pledge to pool their efforts for the establishment of the broadest coalition comprising organisations, movements and parties of various trends to achieve peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean.

The participants in the Dialogue extend their full support to the efforts to make the Balkans, the Middle East and the Iberian Peninsula nuclear weapon-free zones.

Ships and submarines carrying nuclear weapons must be withdrawn and cruise missiles removed.

Non-nuclear powers are urged to refrain from acquiring nuclear weapons.

Nuclear powers must guarantee that they will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear country which does not allow the deployment of nuclear weapons on its territory.

The entire Mediterranean region is to be freed from nuclear weapons.

Foreign military bases in the Mediterranean are to be dismantled.

All countries of the region must refuse to extend any facilities to the manoeuvres and interventions of the Rapid Deployment Force.

Settlement of Conflicts

Full support is extended to all countries facing aggression and to peoples subject to oppression. The conflicts and acute crises of the Mediterranean, namely the Palestine question, the Lebanese problem, the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, the Iran-Iraq war and the Cypriot problem must be solved in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions, respecting the territorial integrity of all countries and the inalienable rights of peoples to self-determination, independence and sovereignty.

The participants in the Dialogue:

- support the call for convening an International Conference on the Middle East conflict under United Nations' auspices, with the full participation, together with other parties, of the Soviet Union, the USA and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people;

- call for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from Lebanon, for an end to the conspiracy of Israel, USA and reactionary forces, aiming at destabilising the situation, creating impediments in the way of peace efforts directed at ensuring the unity, sovereignty and democratic development of Lebanon;

- support the struggle of the people of Cyprus for a unified, independent, sovereign, territorially integral, non-aligned and fully demilitarised Cyprus;

- condemn the US military manoeuvres near the borders of Libyan Jamahiriya, as well as the economic boycott and other acts of provocation, and call for the immediate withdrawal of the 6th Fleet from the area.

Cooperation

The participants in the Dialogue call for action to support the right of peoples to control their natural resources and to independently choose their course of social and economic development without outside interference in their internal affairs.

Constructive and equitable cooperation among Mediterranean countries in political, economic, trade, cultural and information fields will contribute to the establishment of a New International Economic Order.

Human and material resources now being used for military purposes must be transferred to social and economic development for the satisfaction of basic human needs such as work, food, shelter, education, health and the protection of the environment.

On this basis, the free and peaceful passage of oil and other raw materials together with manufactured commodities between South and North can be guaranteed to benefit all Mediterranean and European peoples.

The participants pledge themselves to organise joint campaigns in accordance with the recommendations and objectives of this Declaration.

The Mediterranean can and must be a zone of peace. The world can and must be free from nuclear weapons. Peace, independence and social progress can and must be ensured for all peoples. The struggle is one.