

КОРПОРАЦИЯ

1987
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**In recognition of
a significant contribution to
the programme and objectives of
the International Year of Peace,
proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly,
the Secretary-General designates**

World Federation of Democratic Youth



as a
Peace Messenger

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Javier Pérez de Cuéllar'.

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar

15 September 1987

WFDY HONOURED AS PEACE MESSENGER

On September 15, 1987 the World Federation of Democratic Youth was honoured as «Peace messenger».

The official award, signed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, was handed over to WFDY in the Vienna International Centre of the UN.

Among the organizations which received the same award in Vienna were the IUS, World Peace Council, Socialist International, Christian Peace Conference, IUSY, IFM and SCI.

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70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution

On October 24 (November 6) 1917 the armed uprising began in Petrograd. On the evening of that day Lenin went to the Smolny and personally led the uprising. The revolutionary forces gained control of key points in the city. In the morning of the following day only the Winter Palace and few other points remained in the hands of the bourgeois Provisional Government. On the evening of October 25 (November 7) 1917 a shot from the cruiser «Aurora» was the signal for storming the Winter Palace. The revolutionaries arrested the members of the Provisional Government. This was the day of the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution, which opened a new chapter in the history of mankind.

Today, 70 years later, revolutionary impulses are once again coming from the Soviet Union — perestroika and glasnost, these words have entered the vocabulary of people all over the world. They have one very simple meaning: to continue the spirit of Red October.

A broad but constructive discussion on the developments in the country of the Soviets is under way. In this issue we publish a contribution to this discussion from Colombia.



On this occasion all we Latin Americans who share the task of transforming and renewing WFDY in Ady Endre Street in Budapest gathered and by 25th of September we were already in the city of the gilded domes: Moscow.

As usual, the Komsomol arrived on time to welcome us. In this case there was a slim girl, with a pleasant face and a lilting pronunciation, who said a few words in Spanish and helped us through the red tape so that we could leave the airport as quickly as possible.

During our half-hour drive from the airport to the hotel I immediately started to ask about the «perestroika». The answers were very prudent but optimistic and can be summarized as follows: there are advances but there is still a long way to go.

I have never lost sight of the fact that «perestroika» is a process in its initial stage, which has an indisputable leader. And the worst enemy this renewal has is traditionalism and conservatism. This implies that to assess changes you must correctly apply the classic tenets of Marxism and understand that a process at its outset can undergo advances, stagnations and setbacks. It all depends on how well it is rooted in the people.

Sergei Rogoeskin, a member of Komsomol, welcomed us at the Central Committee's headquarters and talked to us about the restructuring process. He said: «Some things have not been solved yet, we are searching for solutions, the most important thing is that the masses are participating in this process.» And he went on to note: «Certain conservatives cling to the idea that excessive criticism leads to a loss of authority. I have quite the opposite opinion: the criticism in our congress was good and we have to develop it further.»

García Márquez and the «perestroika»

On top of the oversize TV set there was an enormous photograph with a blank corner on which there was a

«Perestroika»: the moral force of the revolution

dedication: «For my friends from the editorial board of the Latin America Magazine», and under it the unmistakable signature of Gabriel García Márquez. Indeed, the famous Nobel Literature Prize-laureate had also recently visited the Latin America Magazine.

You may be thinking that I am wandering from my subject. No! During the Mexico meeting on peace and disarmament of the Group of Six (Mexico, Argentina, Greece, Sweden, India and Tanzania) held in August 1986, García Márquez was present and made a speech on the «perestroika» era. He stated there that: «The arms race goes in the opposite direction to the intelligentsia». Now then, a vital aspect in the renewal process is the definitive elimination of nuclear weapons. Reagan, as a Hollywood star, has been outclassed by the overwhelming number of antinuclear initiatives proposed by the leadership of the CPSU to world public opinion.

The interview with the Deputy Director of the Latin America Magazine, Vladimir Gavrilov, took place in a very friendly atmosphere in which we exchanged ideas. We talked about Latin America and he talked about the USSR but with an enormous difference: he knows the continent where we were born much better and in greater depth than we do.

A necessary discussion

Some Kremlinologists are rubbing their hands with glee in view of the change of tone in Soviet society and because many topics that had remained hidden for a long time are now coming out into the open and being discussed. These specialists are over-anxious to declare the failure of socialism on its 70th anniversary. However, these changes do not imply the failure of socialism, but mean that efforts are being made to create better conditions so that the workers' participation in society becomes more effective; they are not abandoning Leninism, on the contrary, the idea of the New Type of Party, stated by Lenin, is now knocking at the door of CPSU. Those who are always criticizing socialism cannot claim that there is coercion in the implementation of the restruc-

turing process, the new persuasive style introduced by Comrade Gorbachev and the leadership of the CPSU has plunged the critics into a crisis of their own.

Arbat's grandsons

One of the claims made by the Komsomol is that all restraints on the creative process of young artists have been lifted. It seems incredible that if these restraints existed, they have now disappeared without a trace. But the Arbat is a good example of street creativity. What goes on there is a true competition among young portrait painters and artists who sell their works right there, and this was where I carefully observed the style of dressing and behaviour of the young generation.

Seventy springs

Seventy years ago, the country known today as USSR had 80 per cent of illiterates among its population, but it took history once again in its hands to demonstrate how a country can be rapidly transformed. Seventy years in the history of a country in an extremely short space of time. However, it has a great significance for a people who have suffered the monstrous consequences of fascism, although they defeated it. Seventy springs represent a great deal, but what has been done in such a short time is really a great achievement. Nevertheless, the way the history of these seventy years has been approached has not been sufficiently complex: mistakes have been hidden and have even been raised to the category of absolute truth. Changes require that we approach history in all its dimensions, taking in the good, the bad and the unpleasant... This is precisely why at present «perestroika» is becoming the moral force of the socialist revolution, because it is harder to change people's way of thinking than to create technology.

Rosendo López

DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

The 80s as never before have put the problem of resolving a number of global tasks before mankind. The task of human civilization's survival, the preservation of peace on Earth which is connected, first of all, with the cessation of the arms race, and disarmament, is a priority task among them. Next on the agenda is the task of the speediest possible elimination of the alarming socio-economic and scientific-technical backwardness of vast areas of the developing world lagging behind the present-day level of development of civilization.

These problems are interconnected not only because they are problems number one and two. They are also interconnected in reality itself. According to the magazine «The World Trade Union Movement», military spending is seen as a malignant tumor in the body of society, because the higher the level of this spending, the lower are the rates of economic development in the final analysis. This is connected with the fact that firstly, military production is carried out mainly at the expense of the surplus product created in the branches of civilian production. Secondly, the products of military industry embodied in such «articles of consumption» as aircraft, missiles, bombs, submarines and so on, do not contribute to the growth of the well-being of the peoples, do not result in higher security of their existence.

As is pointed out in the UN documents, the military spending in general has a negative impact on the economy and it can bring in profits only to certain branches, industrialists and groups of workers who specialize in military production, which are included in the notion of the military-industrial complex. Its representatives may exert considerable influence on the formation and implementation of national policies and often make statements that the arms race, beside achieving a mythical security for individual countries (creation of a «nuclear shield» or «umbrella» and so on), is also profitable to other sectors of the economy. Let us analyse the data of various research.

According to the analysis carried out by the Defence Department and

the statistics of the Bureau of Labour of the United States, out of 156 branches of industry only 29 increased employment as a result of the growth of military spending. According to trade union and other studies, military production itself creates only half as many jobs as in the civilian branches, given equal allocations. Thus, investments of 1 billion dollars create jobs for 100,000 people in construction, 123,000 in public health care, 187,000 in education and only 76,000 in the military sphere. Analysing the interconnection of the transfer of the most up-to-date scientific-technical experience from the military of the civilian branches, the UN experts have come to the conclusion that for the deve-

loped capitalist countries it is more profitable to spend more money directly on the implementation of any civilian project that to spend this money indirectly through military scientific research and development.

Of no small importance also is the circumstance that the direct and indirect factors of influence of military expenditures on inflation result even in the United States in the devaluation of currency on the home market and in a general increase of prices. The growth of military spending in the final analysis results in the reduction of the real growth rate of the gross national product, which has a negative influence on the rates of economic growth and on general employment. Nevertheless, in 1988 it is expected that for each 100 dollars of investments in the civilian branches of the US economy there



will be 87 dollars of investments in the military-industrial complex (in 1980 38 dollars were invested in the military-industrial complex).

The present spiral of the arms race imposed on the world by imperialism of the United States and NATO countries has drawn practically all countries and continents into its orbit. It was calculated that in the world today military spending consumes over 800 billion dollars a year, which exceeds the volume of production of peaceful output of all developing countries. According to the United Nations, in the world today for every 100,000 inhabitants of the Earth there are 566 soldiers and only 85 doctors. At the same time almost one half of mankind is deprived of the most necessary means of existence, and in the developing countries 30 children die every minute due to the lack of food and medicines. It should be emphasized that even in the developed countries the growth of military spending results in the reduction of social programmes and funds to finance them. Thus, for example, in the United States in recent years this was the case with 250 programmes, and the total cuts in financing them reached 30-40 billion dollars. Nevertheless, it is expected that in 1988 in the United States military spending and interest payments will exceed the spending on social needs by 2.4 times!

The special concern of the world community is caused by the growth of military spending in the developing countries which have become the most rapidly arming region of the world. In the past 10 years the share of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America totalled 16 per cent of the global military expenditures, which reached 165 billion dollars in the early 80s. They occupy the first place in the world for the share of military expenditures in the gross national product. They account for nearly 60 per cent of all servicemen of the planet (15 million) and nearly 70 per cent of the world imports of arms. Of special concern is the growth of military spending by countries of Africa, the poorest continent of the Earth, where in the past 20 years they increased tenfold, reaching (without South Africa) almost one hundred billion dollars. Now in the countries of the

continent the expenditures for military purposes constitute 15 billion dollars per annum. And this against the background of the disastrous, catastrophic situation of a considerable part of the inhabitants of the continent, a situation which, according to many calculations, could be substantially alleviated by the allocation of 8 billion dollars annually which would ensure food for the hungry in all the developing countries. Only 22 billion dollars per annum would be sufficient to solve the problem of illiteracy



there and to put a halt to the most dangerous diseases.

Nevertheless, in this region of the world the cost for the upkeep of one soldier exceeds the spending on education (in terms of per capita of the population) by 300 times, on public health care and on science, by 1,000 and 4,000 times respectively. The African states spend on their armaments on the average 30 dollars per annum in terms of per capita of the population, a level which is six times higher than spending on medical services, and double that on education. The spending on the upkeep of one soldier is equivalent to the sum spent on education, public health care and social insurance for 364 civilians.

It should be emphasized that the military spending and the funds for financing social programmes have one and the same source — the

surplus product produced in the civilian branches. Consequently, they constitute the key sphere for economic growth and well-being of the population. The immeasurable burden of military spending deprives the developing countries of the possibility of stimulating the development of productive forces and first of all, the chief productive force — man. The curtailment of social programmes of these countries is greatly influenced by their indebtedness to the imperialist countries, and also the structure of the assistance rendered to these countries.

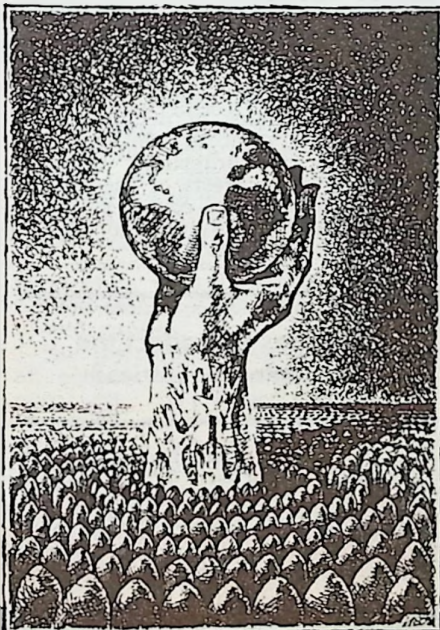
Thus, the programmes of «assistance» of the United States to these countries are dominated by military assistance, which the current administration increased from 25 to 43 per cent of the means allocated for these purposes. Moreover, while food assistance of the United States to Africa declined, the military assistance in the 1986 allocations increased 3-fold as compared with 1980. In general, from 1973 to 1983 African countries were sold 64 billion dollars worth of arms. A characteristic feature of that assistance is a demand, first of all on the part of the International Monetary Fund, for «a step by step payment of the debt» to reduce the financing of social programmes.

This reveals the imperialist nature of «assistance» of the developed capitalist countries contributing not to the socio-economic development of the countries, but to the emergence of local military conflicts (often caused by the policy of imperialism), in which more people have perished since World War II than during the entire World War I. They delay the solution of acute social problems of the young states, which include hunger, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, lack of housing and so on. In the developing countries nearly 2 billion people suffer an acute shortage of drinking water; 1.5 billion people do not know what medical assistance is; 1 billion people suffer from hunger and malnutrition; the same number are deprived of housing; 800 million adults are illiterate; 250 million children do not have the possibility of going to school; 600 million are partially or fully unemployed. Every day 40,000 children die of hunger and diseases.

There are also economic reasons for carrying out such a policy of «assistance» to the developing states on the part of the developed imperialist countries: the extremely high profitability of military aid. It is known that the profits obtained from it are four times higher than the profits from granting credits to African countries for their economic development.

In general, the arms race has a negative influence on the situation of the population not only in the developing, but also in the developed countries.

For example, the consequences of the arms race for the population of the United States are reflected in the following figures: according to the United Nations, the United States occupies only 49th (!) place in the world as regards the level of literacy, because nearly 30 million people out of its population of 240 million can neither write, nor read, nor count; every fourth child lives in poverty, and this means 13 million young Americans; nearly half a million young men and women have no roof over their heads; 44 per cent of young Blacks and 56 per cent of Spanish-speaking citizens are practically illiterate. During the first five years of the Reagan administration government spending on aid to students was reduced by half. In 1987 it is envisaged to reduce it by 2.3 billion dollars, which constitutes 40 per cent of allocations for these purposes. As a result of the anti-social

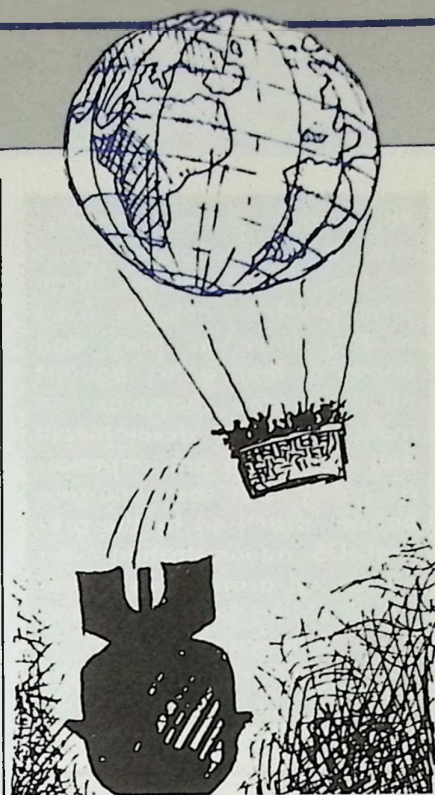


policies of the administration, growing numbers of youth are unemployed, now representing 18.4 per cent of the young people aged under 20, and 35.1 per cent of «non-white» youth.

It is in the developing countries that the most destitute situation of children and young people is found: 85 per cent of the world's 570 million young inhabitants under the age of 5 live here. Thus, in the countries of Latin America the absolute number of fully illiterate remained constant over the past 25 years, standing at 45 million, of whom more than 15 million are aged 15-19. In the early 80s even in such a country as Brazil this number was nearly one million. All in all in this country the proportion of children and adolescents who have no education reached 25 per cent.

Since the same sources finance the social programmes and military spending, it is of vital importance to put forward the slogan «Disarmament for the Sake of Development» in order to put an end to the most acute problems of mankind. At present there are numerous comparisons of military and social programmes according to spending. Thus, for example, the total cost of combatting malaria would constitute only one third of the cost of a Trident submarine, but the programme of the World Health Organization is not being carried out for lack of funds. The cost of the programme to wipe out illiteracy among the adult population of the Earth is estimated at 1.2 billion dollars, which is less than the total military spending in a single day. The cost of one American aircraft carrier is equal to the cost of 2.8 million tons of wheat; the cost of one Trident submarine is equal to the total cost of all cereals imported to Africa during one year; these sums would also be sufficient to feed for one year 50 million children suffering from hunger, or to educate 16 million children in the developing countries over a period of one year. All in all, 3.75 per cent of the current military spending would be sufficient for the education of 250 million children to whom this education has been inaccessible so far.

It is a fact, that military spend-



ing diverts considerable material resources which could be used for the purposes of social development. That is why the USSR has repeatedly advocated and continues to advocate and put forward various proposals aimed at disarmament and channeling part of the means released to the solution of the global problems of mankind, in particular for the development of young states. The Soviet Union first put forward this initiative in 1956. In 1973 at the 28th Session of the UN General Assembly the Soviet delegation submitted a proposal on the reduction of military budgets of the permanent member states of the Security Council of the United Nations by 10 per cent and on channeling part of the resources released for the needs of the developing countries.

A considerable part of the public of the developing countries shares the Soviet stance on the solution of their key problems of socio-economic development. New perspectives would be opened by the realisation of the USSR proposal, made in connection with the UN Conference on Disarmament and Development (August-September, 1987), for the member States of the UN Security Council represented by their top officials to discuss this problem jointly and work out a coordinated approach.

P. Sedov
A. Finogenov

For decades the most aggressive and reactionary forces in the United States have threatened or actually used military force as part and parcel of their policy against all those who champion an independent development and pursue an anti-imperialist policy. But the «neo-globalism» practised by the present US administration surpasses all previous experiences. It claims the right to enforce American interests in entire regions throughout the world.

More weapons do not make the world a safer place but they certainly make it poorer

Entire regions like the Middle East, the Gulf and Africa have been declared «spheres of vital interest to the USA» by the exponents of «neo-globalism». But the world's peoples are not prepared to let themselves be ruthlessly exploited and oppressed. They want to control their natural resources and determine their destinies themselves. The USA counters these aspirations with the massive force of its military machinery.

In 1983 a Central Command (CENTCOM) was set up in the Pentagon to control the operations of US armed forces in regional conflict areas. CENTCOM has prepared and staged acts of aggression and intervention in various countries, including Grenada, Lybia and Lebanon. Its sphere of activity includes, for example, 19 countries in the Gulf region, the Middle East and Africa. It has at present over 220,000 officers and men of all armed services under its command, including about 15,000 members of the Special Operations Forces, which are drilled for special tasks. Their number is to be doubled by 1989. A substantial part of the weapons, ammunition, equipment and stores of these troops of aggression is transferred beforehand to regions which are envisaged as starting points for acts of intervention. For this purpose the USA has introduced special depot ships

The Arms Race and the Developing Countries

which are anchored off shore along the West and East African coasts, in the Arabian Sea and in other sea areas to secure a considerable gain in time and material superiority in surprise attacks against independent states.

Millions for Savimbi

In the south of Africa and in the Middle East the USA uses the racist regimes in Pretoria and in Tel Aviv to wage undeclared wars or wars by proxy against neighbouring peoples and progressive social developments. In the south of Africa this policy of aggression is directed first and foremost against Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Tanzania. Cooperation between Washington and Pretoria has intensified, especially in the military, intelligence and diplomatic fields, and South Africa has been encouraged to stage attacks on Angola and other frontline states.

The USA has massively increased its material and financial support for the UNITA gangs in Angola. In January 1986 gang chief Savimbi was received in the White House by the US President personally and, as the reports said, given an effusive welcome. Savimbi has already received many millions of dollars from Washington to enable him to continue his war against the people's government in Angola and thereby to hinder the country's progressive development.

The Middle East – testing site for armaments

In the strategic alliance with Israel the USA poses a threat to the peoples of the Middle East. Owing to its geographical situation, this region represents an important political and military juncture in Washington's global strategy. In March 1987 Israel's Defence Minister Rabin admitted in an interview with the West German newspaper «Die Welt» that this region with its wars constituted «something like a testing site for armaments». Nowhere else, he said, could the USA «get such data for its own military industry and research».

In other words, people are dying on the battlefields of declared and non-declared wars, at the front as well as in the hinterland, because this is in the interests of the USA's military-industrial complex, because it serves its striving for profit and world domination.

How does this affect the developing countries?

The policy of arms build-up and confrontation pursued by the USA's militarist forces affects numerous other countries whose populations are reduced to dire poverty. As a result of the imperialist policy of

destabilisation and intimidation these countries are forced to spend a large part of their resources on defending their national independence and sovereignty, i.e. they need weapons and have to pay for them dearly.

The main exporters of weapons to the developing countries are the USA and leading West European NATO countries. Between 1977 and 1980 43.3 per cent of the armaments sold to developing countries came from the USA, 10.8 per cent from France, 4 per cent from Italy and 3.7 per cent from Great Britain. In the 1980-1984 period the same countries supplied armaments worth 22,660 million dollars to developing countries and more than half of this — the equivalent of 13,330 million dollars — came from the USA.

What are the consequences?

The developing countries are robbed by the arms monopolies. Only recently President Mubarak denounced the USA's practices and their consequences for his country. Egypt, he said, was being bled white in this way. Up to 1989 it has to pay more than 1,000 million dollars interest annually on American arms credits alone. This indicates the magnitude of the profits which the armaments corporations and the monopoly banks associated with them are making from the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America, which have been plunged into the devastating maelstrom of the arms race.

The countries in the south of Africa, which are among the poorest in the world, are forced to put their scant resources into increased defence efforts to ward off the danger to their freedom and independence. Since the beginning of the 1980s the most aggressive circles in the USA have immensely stepped up their destabilisation campaigns and criminal attacks in collusion with the South African racist regime. The damage caused to Mozambique alone amounts meanwhile to 5,500 million dollars. 100,000 Mozambicans were killed by armed gangs.

The developing countries' political, economic and military dependence on the imperialist export countries of armaments continues to grow. Alone between 1972 and 1981 the maritime countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America imported 1,491 warships. At the same time nearly 7,000 supersonic fighter aircraft and over 5,000 helicopters were introduced into the air forces

Lawrence Livermore Lab.	725
General Motors	579
Lockheed	521
TRW	354
McDonnell Douglas	350
Boeing	346
Los Alamos Lab.	196
Rockwell International	188
Teledyne Inc.	180
EG & G	140
Gencorp Inc.	135
Textron	93
Sandia Lab.	91
LTV Corp.	90
Flow General	89
Raytheon Co.	72
Science Applications	69
Honeywell	69
Nichols Research	63
MIT Lincoln Lab.	63
	4,413

These are the profits which just 20 American corporations and laboratories made between 1983 and 1986 from the Star Wars project in million dollars.

of the developing countries. The possession of modern weapons entails a need for spare parts, servicing and the training of military personnel, for which the developing countries have to rely on the arms suppliers. Every weapons system supplied makes the receiver country dependent on back-up services and infrastructural measures. This dependence is deliberately exploited and fostered by the imperialist armsexporting countries and the monopolies with a view to tying the importing country more firmly to the imperialist system, on the one hand, and securing long-term favourable marketing conditions for the monopolies concerned on the other.

While the imperialist arms suppliers pocket super profits, the buyers, notably the developing countries, become more and more indebted to them. Jordan, for example, had accumulated external debts of over 4,000 million dollars by 1984, including over 1,000 million which it had been forced to spend on imports of weapons and military equipment. In 1986 debt servicing swallowed 14 per cent of the country's budget or about half the proceeds from its commodity exports.

In 1977 the external debts of all developing countries taken together amounted to 373,000 million dollars. Between 1981 and 1985 they had to pay more than 300,000 million dollars in interest alone, and 526,000 million for debt servicing. As a result of currency and interest manipulations many develop-

ing countries have become indebted to such an extent that they are today insolvent. The debt crisis of the developing countries, a long-term effect of colonial exploitation and a result of their unequal position in the capitalist world economy of today, is much aggravated by the insane policy of arms build-up pursued, above all, by the military-industrial complex in the USA.

Alarming figures

There exists indeed an essential connection between the developing countries' current debt of a billion dollars and those 1.5 billion dollars which the US administration has spent on armaments since 1981.

Year after year between 200,000 and 250,000 million dollars are squeezed out of the developing countries. These resources are urgently needed by these countries themselves whose situation at present can be summed up as follows:

- Between 500 and 550 million people are suffering hunger and acute malnutrition.
- There are no regular supplies of drinking water for at least 2,000 million people.
- 1,500 million people receive only inadequate medical care or no medical care whatever.

In every minute in 1985 more than five million D-Marks were spent on armaments, while 28 children under six years of age died of starvation in the same space of time.

It is above all necessary to curb the imperialist policy of arms build-up and confrontation. The USSR and the other socialist states have repeatedly proposed that the arms spending should be reduced and that part of the money saved should be made available to the developing countries to solve their problems. But the USA rejected these proposals.

If the resources which have so far been squandered on the arms race were used for peaceful purposes, for development aid, for tackling the developing countries' economic and social problems, which are becoming ever graver, we could prevent the number of starving people rising to 1,000 million by the end of the century. A redistribution of resources could help to overcome the misery which exists today.

H. Nölting (GDR)

The people of sub-Saharan Africa are struggling to feed themselves. Farmers have seen the yields from their crops slip to the levels of 20 years ago. Once net exporters of food, Africans now find themselves precariously dependent on outside sources of supply and nearly 100 million of them are continually plagued by hunger and malnutrition.

While the media have often focused on drought as the cause of Africa's food problems, the situation is in reality far more complex. A sustained drought only triggered the food crisis we see in Africa today. The crisis itself was inevitable — the product of decades of environmental and social pressures on the continent's agriculture. What then has caused the decline in African agriculture? What can be done to strengthen and renew it?



Reaching the Poorest and the Hungriest

The Fastest Growing Population in the World

Perhaps the most serious pressure on agriculture in Africa is the rapid growth in the continent's population. Sub-Saharan Africa, already the least developed region in the world, now also has the fastest population growth. Rising at a rate of 3 per cent a year, population has grown three times faster than food production since 1960.

As the per capita output of food drops, African nations are inevitably drawn into greater reliance on commercial imports and on food aid as they strive to make up shortfalls in supply. At the same time, rising population is intensifying the demand placed on Africa's limited amount of arable land. Poor soils, erratic rainfall and little or no irrigation hamper the African farmer's ability to produce enough to meet the ever expanding need for food.

Disappearing Forests

The demand for firewood, the major source of energy in much of the continent, has risen rapidly and is now a major contributor to widespread deforestation. In both high rainfall Rwanda and semi-arid Mauritania, forests are almost completely gone while demand for

firewood is ten times the sustainable yield of the remaining forests.

In Ethiopia, Tanzania and Nigeria demand is 2.5 times sustainable levels, in Kenya 5 times.

Without wood, families resort to cow dung and crop residues for fuel, removing vital nutrients from the land. This reduces crop yields and the ability of pastures to sustain livestock. In some West African countries families can eat only one hot meal a day because they do not have enough firewood for cooking. Environmental and climatic degradation reinforce each other. As land is cleared of vegetation, soil erosion accelerates, less rain seeps into the earth to evaporate into the atmosphere, fewer clouds are recharged and rainfall declines.

The Encroaching Desert

Half of Africa is already desert. The Sahara, which has claimed more than 400,000 square miles in the last fifty years, is still rolling relentlessly southward at four miles a year. The desert continues to expand primarily because of losses in buffer vegetation — rees, brush and grassland. Without these buffers the dunes move forward consuming arable land. Along with the loss of tree cover has come serious deterioration in grasslands. Livestock populations have expanded nearly as fast as human popula-

tions. With little grain available, millions of cattle, sheep and goats are supported by grazing or browsing. Heavy grazing combined with declining rainfall, gradually changes rangeland vegetation, cutting its capacity to support livestock.

While the short-term effects of such environmental degradation are serious, accumulating evidence suggests that the continent-wide loss of vegetative cover and the degradation of soils may be disrupting long-term rainfall patterns as well.

The Disadvantaged Farmer

African farmers often work at a great disadvantage compared to urban workers. In many countries, artificially low prices for food have given them little incentive to expand production beyond the subsistence level and scarce development funds have been spent more often on industrialization than agriculture.

In recent years, world market prices for Africa's traditional agricultural exports have generally been poor and the heavy debts of many African nations have made it difficult for them to import seeds, machinery and energy inputs needed to modernize farming. Poor transport system make it hard for farmers to ship their goods to urban markets.

While farmers in other parts of the world have profited from the «Green Revolution», Africa's have been left behind their needs largely unmet by the world's agricultural researchers. Funds for agricultural research and extension in Africa have always been meagre and, while there has been some progress in developing more drought resistant varieties of sorghum, millet and white maize, these recent advances have had little impact on the day-to-day lives of the continent's farmers.

Seeking Solutions

Using food aid to help Africans solve some of these pressing problems has become a major priority at the World Food Programme. Working with African governments, international and national development organizations, private voluntary groups, and the people of Africa themselves, WFP has sought to innovate — to bring new ideas to bear in scores of projects to instill new life in the continent's agriculture.

Putting Food to Work in Africa

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food aid arm of the United Nations system. More than 90 developed and developing countries donate food and cash to the Programme for use in combating the interrelated problems of hunger,

poverty and malnutrition. African countries share in the Programme both as recipients and donors.

South-South Cooperation

Every year WFP spends more money on South-South cooperation than any other United Nations organization. It does this through what are called triangular transactions — those in which WFP buys food from one developing country for use in development or emergency programmes in another developing country.

Such transactions stimulate production and help economic development. Moving the food between African countries can also strengthen weak transportation links, stimulate investment in better roads and railways and even strengthen management. Supplying food available nearby also reduces the time and expense of shipping food greater distances.

Eastern and southern Africa have traditionally been major sources for the programme's supply of white maize, sorghum, and peas or beans to other parts of Africa.

Investing in Africa's People

The best way to create sustainable development is to invest in people. So WFP has worked closely with African governments to design food-for-work projects that strengthen the health and skills of Afri-

cans living in rural areas. Benin offers some good examples.

During the non-agricultural season, WFP food aid is used in Benin to pay workers to build health centres, primary schools, dispensaries, and other community facilities. To attract more children to school and, simultaneously, improve their nutrition, WFP food aid is used to support canteens at schools in outlying areas. Assistance has also been provided to rural youth clubs and village cooperatives to help pay for training in farming techniques, livestock breeding and various rural crafts. Through the careful use of food aid, a new generation of better informed farmers is being created in Benin. Sometimes WFP projects that bring food to vulnerable groups — preschool children, the aged and the handicapped — can be designed to form the foundation of a broader system of social services. Such projects often act as magnets, drawing more members of the rural community into activities that build long-term development — schooling, preventive medicine and nutrition education.

This has been the case in Cape Verde where a special feeding project has not only combatted malnutrition among children and other vulnerable groups but also contributed the growth and organization of the island's fledgling social service system. Tens of thousands of destitute families have received WFP food across the nine island archipelago, lessening the devastation caused by chronic drought that has crippled Cape Verde's agriculture since 1968.

Working with Other UN Agencies

In combating the food crisis in Africa, WFP has worked closely with other UN agencies — UNDP, FAO, UNDRO, UNHCR and UNICEF. WFP has also actively supported the UN Special Office for Emergency Operations in Africa (OEOA). Maintaining sound working relationships with other UN agencies and bilateral donors is crucial because it helps WFP coordinate its emergency and development projects with other long-term efforts to provide technical assistance, improve nutrition and foster economic growth in Africa.

(FAO)





CLOSE SOLIDARITY

«Va-len-cia...»the tune resounded in the dignified old station hall as if the brass band wanted to provide acoustic proof of its arrival to the passengers of the incoming train. If the music made one expect tourists with cameras around their necks and the cry «Olé España!» on their lips this mistaken impression was soon dispelled. Because the people who alighted from the train carrying banners, inscriptions and knapsacks had not come to soak up the sun on a Mediterranean beach. Their goal had the name «IUSY Festival '87».

Around 5000 young people from 56 countries pitched their tents for a short week in mid-July on the campus of the Polytechnical University of Valencia to get to know each other, discuss various matters, play sports, act, sing, dance and love each other (under the slogan «No Chance to AIDS» condoms were distributed free of charge). Another aim was to give public voice to their positions on nuclear missiles and Central America, environmental protection and youth unemployment.

The Young Socialists of Spain were hosts of a IUSY «world festival» for the first time. IUSY President Juan Calabuig, also from Valencia, explained the reason:

«In 1985 I was elected president of the International Union of Socialist Youth and with this the SY of Spain gained considerable influence. In this context it was our idea to change the essentially Eurocentric emphasis of our organization and become much more open to the countries of the Third World and Southern Europe.»

The list of participants demonstrated the function of Spain as a bridge to Latin America. Beside the traditionally overwhelming participation of Europeans (the FRG and Austria alone accounted for more than half of all Festival participants), Latin American countries were strongly represented; other regions much less.

They had all come to confirm a historical principle on the eve of the

80th anniversary of IUSY's foundation on August 24, 1907 in Stuttgart: this principle, namely solidarity, is stated in Article I of the Constitution.

The official festival slogan was «The Power of Solidarity» and Valencia offered an especially interesting background. In 1936/7 Valencia was the seat of the government of the Spanish Republic whose desperate struggle for survival aroused an unprecedented wave of solidarity throughout the world. Thousands of foreign volunteers fought at the time together with the best sons and daughters of Spain against the rising Spanish and European fascism with young socialists and communists who had rallied in the United Socialist Youth of Spain in the front ranks. It was solidarity that transcended geographical and ideological borders.

«IUSY '87» referred to this historical background only occasionally, most effectively when the «Falcons» from the FRG started to sing «The sky of Spain...»the song of the German Internationalists.

Despite these sparse references to history, the program itself offered material enough to discuss the theme of the gathering: «We wish to concern ourselves with the problems of youth suffering from racialism and living under military dictatorships. We concern ourselves also with the exploitation of young people in industrialized countries and with the exploitation of those living in underdeveloped regions. And if one thing is clear, it is that we will not cease to work for a society with more justice, freedom and equality». This was in the first issue of the Festival paper «Solidaridad».

The key words were Western Sahara, Cyprus, South Africa, Namibia, Chile, Paraguay, El Salvador and of course Nicaragua. On the eve of the official Festival opening, July 19th, around 1000 Young Socialists and their guests demonstrated on the campus sports ground and declared

their support for Nicaragua fighting against US imperialist aggression and celebrated the 8th anniversary of the victory over Somoza.

The idea of solidarity in the broader sense was also reflected in discussion programs on the new international economic order, the role of women in society, the situation in Central America, youth unemployment, protection of the environment.

There was a real need for togetherness and solidarity with so many nations, races and cultures living together in a very limited space under difficult organizational conditions in the tent city. The Festival set out to be a «model of coexistence», and on the fourth day the festival paper wrote of «willingness to help everywhere».

The democratic settling of conflicts in instant open and public discussions had a very positive effect: for example when male festival participants misunderstood the scanty dresses young women wore in the heat as an invitation to make palpable advances or when, conversely, a young Socialist girl from the FRG broke up a meeting with an Arab delegation because she appeared topless. Or when the British Labour Youth arrived with three times as many participants as announced and because of their alleged disadvantage in the right to take the floor blocked a discussion and finally clashed with the security forces.

The most interesting discussion was doubtless around the Palestinian question. The organizers had invited, among others, representatives of the Israeli Labour Party and the PLO. But hopes of a rapprochement through dialogue were soon dashed when the guest from Israel repeated well-known clichés, denied the right of the PLO to represent the Palestinian people and declared that Israel would never accept to enter into a dialogue with a «terrorist organization». The majority of listeners manifested their disagreement.



Willy Brandt in Valencia

In the other discussions that ran nonstop every day, the passions were far from being so heated, indeed sometimes the atmosphere was rather tepid. So it was not surprising that a question and answer program about "perestroika" and "glasnost" organized by the Soviet Komsomol guests with the friendly approval of the hosts attracted much more interest than the round-table discussion announced for the same time.

But those who came on the day before last to the discussion on peace and disarmament, in which WFDY also participated, had no cause for regret. It emerged clearly that the opinions shaped in recent years by the realistic forces of social democracy have become universally accepted, at least by social democratic youth. Trotskyist attempts to discredit the concept of security partnership as "ballyhoo among big powers" and to declare the overall victory of socialism as the prerequisite of preventing a nuclear holocaust did not meet with much response. The characterisation of the causes of the threat of war and the arms race by Socialist Youth from the FRG and Austria went beyond even what they said recently at the international peace seminar of the FDJ in Berlin. It must be clearly stated who is to blame for the arms race — said an Austrian — and named the USA. Olaf Scholz, vice-chairman of the JUSO in the FRG stated that the danger of war in the world today "is the consequence of US attempts to restore their old supremacy in the world by old, dangerous, aggressive and

murderous means". IUSY, as part of the peace movement, must fight against this.

According to Scholz, in future the IUSY must also address the problem of the nuclear weapons of France and Great Britain which, with the double zero solution, become strategic nuclear weapons. The position of French Socialist Youth in the matter of the French nuclear strike force provoked much criticism in the discussion.

Concerning the US SDI project, the social democratic representative from Holland declared that this was an attempt by the USA to guarantee one-sided security for itself but today common security is the only possibility.

On the other hand it was remarkable that during a two-hour discussion "Against the Dynamics of Military Blocs" participants succeeded not to mention the concrete proposal of the Warsaw Treaty about the simultaneous dissolution of both military blocs. This is still too far from reality — said one of the guests after the discussion when I asked him. In this case it remains an open question whether in the problem complex of peace and disarmament further movement is possible without the courage of bold visions or whether this courage is just the sign of a new way of thinking. Olaf Palme, the murdered leader of Swedish social democracy, whose memory was honoured in Valencia had this courage. His proposal of a nuclear-free zone along the borderline of the two military blocs considered with scepticism for years is now accepted by masses of

people as demonstrated by the "Olof Palme Peace March" organized simultaneously in several Central European countries in early September. (In Valencia WFDY and IUSY issued a common statement in support of this march with the appeal to their member organizations and youth in general to support it too.)

The fact that Willy Brandt came to Valencia, emphasized that the heritage of Olof Palme still meant more for young social democrats than ideas on disarmament and détente. The appearance of the elderly leader of international social democracy came just in time to extricate the festival participants from a certain helplessness left by a previous discussion about "The Future of Democratic Socialism". Under the impact of the recent electoral defeats in Western Europe (the results in Portugal were fresh at the time) the discussion showed the diversity of views on the reasons for this setback. Brandt's thoughtful and at the same time rousing speech managed to give listeners what the previous discussion had lacked: inspiration, confidence and an orientation.

Brandt said: "Young socialists can learn a lot from what Olof Palme lived and fought for: in the first place to ask oneself over and over again what one can do. What one can do more instead of complaining; what is our mission for safeguarding the future of life. It is important not to lose the present and future tasks from sight. This means mobilizing many people against the monstrous and senseless waste of spiritual and material resources. For a purposeful redirecting of means to put an end to the worst misery in the world. For the effective guarantee of individual and social human rights."

Brandt's appearance, although before a smaller public than that of Felipe Gonzalez during the closing ceremony, was certainly for many participants the emotional peak of a festival which — according to the evaluation of the festival paper — had contributed "to ideologically enriching and morally arming young people to continue their struggle for a society without exploiters in their own countries".

We hope that this ideological and moral enrichment also affected the group of young Frenchmen who, despite a week without bullfights in Valencia, "saw red" at the WFDY stand and demanded indignantly that the poster for a solidarity event with Nelson Mandela be removed. Not because of Nelson Mandela himself but because our member organization, the MJCF, had been one of the organizers of the event.

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Anti-Nuclear Coalition – An Initiative Which Can Achieve A Major Consensus

Interview with Leonidas Intzipeoglou,
International Secretary of PASOK Youth Committee

— What role does the peace struggle play within the activities of PASOK Youth in Greece?

— You know that we consider that to ensure life in peace is one of the main duties of any government in any country. This is the case for us too, as we are an organization trying to implement a governmental program in Greece, and when we were in the position to propose a governing program to Greece, peace was one of the main issues of that program.

I can say that there are two kinds of peace activities for us: one the national peace activities, and this is for us the daily struggle for national independence and the transformation of our society into a socialist society, because this struggle is a struggle for peace. And second: let's call them external activities that take the form of international solidarity. Because for us the struggle of the people for freedom, democracy, national independence and self-determination is really a struggle for peace. We cannot imagine that there will be peace in the Mediterranean if there is no solution to the Palestinian problem, or the Sahrawi problem or the Cyprus problem, or if there is no democratic regime in Turkey or in Morocco. These are the main activities we have in our program and in our actions.

— Speaking about the peace struggle of PASOK Youth could you outline one or two main themes?

— First of all peace activities undertaken either by the party or by the Peace Committee, which is more or less attached to the party. There is a number of activities inside Greece, for example, the activities for the removal of the American bases from Greece, for the abolition of the remnants of the cold war, and a human chain around the Acropolis. (I am speaking only about the party's activities and not about those of the government.) There are also various peace activities, demonstrations and seminars. Then there are the solid-

arity actions carried out inside Greece for the people of Palestine who are facing all these problems in Lebanon, and to send some material assistance to the people of the Sahara and Nicaragua who really need material support. At the youth level, the two multilateral activities in the region are important for us: one is the Balkan cooperation under the title «For peace, friendship, cooperation and the transformation of the Balkan into a Nuclear-Free Zone». It is probable that this year we are going to have a high-level Balkan meeting to discuss concrete cooperation, especially on the question of culture among the Balkan organizations, as well as the Mediterranean Festival and the Mediterranean Cooperation among Progressive Youth. Last year we had a Mediterranean Festival in Algiers, now we are starting to discuss the future of the Mediterranean Festival. But since the festival is not an exclusive form of cooperation, we are now seeking ways of promoting cooperation in other fields and not only in the form of festivals.

— Whom or which kind of political forces do you consider the main partners in these activities on national as well as on international level?

— On national level I would say mostly the progressive forces, that is, the Communist Party of Greece and the other progressive parties which exist in Greece. It is not so easy to cooperate with the conservative organizations since they have different approaches, particularly to the platforms which can be accepted by the other organizations.

— Does it mean that you extend your hand to everybody? And you don't exclude anybody.

— It does. If you speak about peace, about your nation's future, you cannot exclude anybody. The question is with whom you can cooperate. There are some possibilities of cooperation, but with the conservatives in Greece, these

possibilities are very, very limited. Internationally our partners again are progressive and regional organizations. We believe that on questions of peace we could possibly cooperate with conservative or radical or other organizations. But it is a fact, whether we like it or not, that we don't have relations with such organizations. Mostly we have relations with WFDY, IUSY, Arab Youth Union, Pan-African Youth Movement and Latin American organizations and liberation movements.

— You know about the fact that the Assembly of WFDY launched an appeal on the creation of a worldwide anti-nuclear youth coalition. How could the PASOK Youth — as a non-member of WFDY and IUSY — contribute to the creation of such a coalition?

— This thinking, this position on the appeal is the position of our organization and of the discussions we have had to date with a number of organizations, including also from the countries of the Group of Six. Of course I cannot speak on their behalf, but I can say that we have started to discuss the possibilities of supporting such an initiative as we support all other peace initiatives. We are now in the stage of examining what particular contribution we can make to support this initiative, because really this is an initiative which can include a big number of forces, not only those we consider as progressive organizations. The question of peace is too large to be the exclusive domain of progressive organizations. We have seen that IUSY had a very positive stand towards this proposal. It would be useful to discuss with other organizations too whether independent organizations like us, or other international or regional organizations who have not yet responded to this appeal, to examine with them the possibility of joining such an initiative, because it is really a very positive initiative which can achieve major consensus and this is important.

Uli Brockmeyer

Youth

NEXT STOP NEVADA

The Nevada desert was the site for the largest and liveliest ever «Test Ban Rock» last April 26th. The Danish «Next Stop Nevada» campaign organized the demonstration right at the gates of Nevada's Mercury Weapons Testing Base. Over 500 youth and peace-niks drove an hour out from Las Vegas to sing, dance, scream, and stomp for a test ban, and to demand the total elimination of all nuclear weapons.

The wound up the «Next Stop Nevada» campaign's month long Test Ban Tour in the USA. 60 Danish youth peace activists arrived in New York April 1, and crossed the country talking to American youth and students about peace. «Next Stop Nevada's» message was clear—Test Ban now! All countries must cooperate to stop nuclear weapons tests. Without such tests it's impossible to develop new (or existing) weapons and continue the arms race.

Preparations for «Next Stop Nevada» began well over half a year ago. In a massive publicity campaign national rock concerts and peace festivals were organized. They chartered buses and sent a singing-theater group, film series, and speakers around Denmark, drumming up support for the test watch. Over 120 local «Next Stop Nevada» groups were set up in high schools, youth unions and universities. A tour of Denmark's most popular musicians formed a special band «Moon Jam», in support of the campaign. They made a hit single, «Ticket to Peace» that soared to the top of the charts in Denmark. One of the most successful fundraisers was the «Ticket to Peace» sales—donation cards which were sold in schools, unions, stores and in six weeks collected over 1.000.000 DKR = 150,000 US \$. That along with record sales proceeds made the «Next Stop Nevada» campaign one of the most successful and broadly supported youth peace actions ever:

The delegation was a diverse, enthusiastic group. It included highschool and university students, young workers, artists, unemployed youth singers and musicians. Political youth organizations were represented also. Other participants included a famous actress, a circus star, a novelist, a rock band, film crews, media personalities, and international peace representatives from FRG, Norway and Canada.

Once in the US the campaign chartered two buses and set out to meet as many American youth as possible. One bus went north through Boston, Cleveland and Chicago, the other south through Alabama, Tennessee and Arizona. In every city, the peace delegates met with highschool students, peace groups, social justice activists, community and church groups, city councils, student unions and even military representatives. Although media coverage was not always sympathetic or complete, «Next Stop Nevada» achieved what many peace groups try—contact with grassroots youth.

Instead of arriving from Europe to «tell those Americans how it really is», the campaign came with a «Peace, Love, Unity, Have some fun» rap song. They used creative, cultural activities to draw out youth. They got thousands of highschool students to join in their song—No more bombs, Mr. Reagan—and other campaign activities.

Reception of «Next Stop Nevada» was excellent, at least until the delegation arrived in Las Vegas, where 40 per cent of the city works at the test site or in some related area. At one of the highschools in the Las Vegas area, the principal overruled teacher's and student's invitation to the peace delegates and had them escorted out by a military guard.

«It is not very surprising», said student Evelyn Stivers, 15. «The military is always invited into our schools for recruiting sessions. In fact, my highschool offers a Reserve Officer Training Corps credit course that leads to a military career. At the university there are posters advertising the National Guard's «sports» games. They feature shooting lessons, target practice, and a «mock invasion» of Grenada. We want to protest CIA campus recruitment, weapons testing and so on, but they won't even allow us equal time... Many of my friends' parents work at the test site. Even if they support peace, they're scared they might lose their jobs if they support a test ban.

Many groups calling for conversion have recently gained strength. One of the most active in the Shoshone Indian Nation. Granted treaty rights to most of the Nevada desert in 1863, the Shoshone saw 26 million acres of it seized by the federal government in the 1950's to test nuclear bombs. At the time atmospheric testing was still legal. Today the Shoshone are still trying to determine medical effects on band members exposed to the blasts, and at the same time are battling for compensation for the land that is legally theirs.

Many obstacles still stand in the way of a Test Ban and disarmament, but «Next Stop Nevada» found widespread support for peace. As one test watcher said: «I came to America because I think that all countries must cooperate to stop nuclear tests. Without the tests, it's impossible to develop new nuclear weapons and continue the arms race. Now, many Danish and American Youth know that. Through our actions, the whole world can take action against nuclear war.»

Phillipa Beck



Youth Festival of the World Federation of Democratic Youth

«Through International Friendship and Reconstruction, Youth helps to build the Peace.»

This is the theme of the World Youth Festival which is being organised this summer in Prague by the World Federation of Democratic Youth. This is the theme not only for the Festival participants 20,000 of whom will come to Prague, but for young people throughout the world.

While the site of the Festival is in Prague — the Festival itself will be the creation and achievement of the youth of over sixty nations. It will be the outstanding event in the life of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, which, eighteen months old in March 1947, already has an affiliated membership of 50 million young people.

Throughout one month there will be a programme which consists of: an international exhibition showing the achievements and aspirations of the youth organizations with sections for the works of young artists, sculptors etc.; a series of contests between choirs, young musicians, a drama festival, a national dance contest; there will be ballet, puppet and open air theatres, and a film festival; there will be international sports tournaments, and provision for open-air recreation — swimming, boating, tennis — games of all kinds.

There will be visits to places

of historic importance and interest — mass pilgrimages to Lidice; visits to factories and clubs, excursions to beauty spots. Camp fires, international singsongs, dancing, are included in the evening programmes.

World personalities are being invited to speak at the Festival each week, and discussion circles will be arranged on all topics of interest to youth and students.

Each week will include several mass events — a Carnival of Flowers, a day of Water Sports culminating in a «Venetian Night» on the river, physical culture displays, a cycle race through Prague, demonstrations of national sports — to quote only a few of the many varied items of the weekly programmes.

There are provisions also, for participation in reconstruction

work at such centres as Lidice, where the Czechoslovak youth are undertaking a special reconstruction programme of house building for the mine workers. The volunteers for Reconstruction Brigades already number many thousands young people from different countries.

The Festival will provide opportunity not only for young people to share each others' cultural heritage, but to learn something of the problems and needs of youth elsewhere in a first hand exchange of information and opinion on a scale that has seldom been seen in the past.

Preparations in the different countries have already shown the eagerness of young people of every type of organizations for the Festival. National Festival Committees have been set up in





many countries which include a range of organizations of all types — cultural, political, student, religious, recreational, sport. Their work is involving hundreds of thousands of young people in preparations for the Festival. For example, in France, Italy, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Poland, Austria, in the different Republics of the Soviet Union, and many other countries, including Czechoslovakia itself, preliminary national «festivals» and contests are being held in order to select the most outstanding representatives in each sphere to send to Prague. In Britain a national essay competition has been launched by a leading daily newspaper, the prize winners of which will come to the Festival. In USA organizations are pre-

paring to send members who have achieved the best records in different activities, and volunteers are applying in large numbers for the reconstruction brigades.

Each day brings news even from most distant parts — of the jazz band coming from Australia — of the exhibition being completed in Malaya — of art from China; — and the two delegates who came personally to Prague from Outer Mongolia to discuss their Festival programme with the International Festival Committee; — the prefabricated house which young people in Canada want to bring with them to be set up and used as a Club for Czechoslovak youth.

A great relay race is being planned from different points in

Europe, whose «runners» will collect letters and messages from youth of all the districts, to Prague for the Opening Ceremony.

Thus, in villages and great cities, in five continents, club members, young trade unionists, farm workers, students, artists and writers, sportsmen — are at work collecting funds, preparing exhibitions, organizing competitions, — in efforts which will make the World Youth Festival a fitting tribute to the creative energy and initiative of democratic youth and students the world over, and a lasting token of the unity and friendship of the young generation of all nations.

KUTTY HOOKHAM
General Secretary WFDY
(World Youth, No. 6-7, 1947.)

DYNAMIC Paul Simon's fall from grace

Setting the record straight on Graceland

When Paul Simon's Graceland won Best Album of the Year at the Grammy awards last month, many people said it would help the movement against apartheid, despite the fact, that the album was recorded in South Africa. Was Simon's effort with Graceland anti-apartheid? The African National Congress does not think so. Following is an interview with THEMBA secretary of the ANC's Cultural Committee in N.Y.

Dynamic: What exactly is the cultural boycott?

Ntinga: The boycott is organized by the Center Against Apartheid, which is part of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid. The list was created by the U.N. around 1983 and includes entertainers from around the world who have performed in South Africa since 1981.

— Has the boycott had any effect that you could speak of?

— The boycott has had a very good effect, because many well known artists, such as Stevie Wonder, Roberta Flack, etc., have made statements about the situation in South Africa and have pledged not to go. It has helped in the isolation of South Africa in the world. The boycott is very good, because it broadens the fight against apartheid. People who would not take a position on political questions have to take a position on this. People who might otherwise bury their heads in the sand cannot.

— But Simon maintains that he did not perform in South Africa; he only recorded there. What do you say to that?

— Simon also says that the boycott hurts Black people and that music and politics should not be mixed. But the point is that you should not go to South Africa at all. We are trying to isolate South Africa. No tourism. No economic relations. No political relations. If you go there, you dignify their laws.

— Could you tell us what happened when Simon went on tour last fall?

— Around November he went to Sweden. The Swedish Anti-Apartheid movement was not convinced by his arguments, and organized picketlines against his concerts. Simon told them that before he went to South Africa, he had met with the ANC in New York, and the ANC said it was allright to go.

The Swedish Anti-Apartheid Movement called the ANC there, who called us in New York to confirm this. We told them that Simon had never met with us and we never gave him an O.K. In fact, Little Stevie (Van Zandt) and other musicians had warned him not to go. He insisted on going.

— The CAA issued its 1986 list this week, and Simon is not on it. How did that happen?

— The Center Against Apartheid called a meeting to discuss whether to put Simon on the list.

They decided to write Simon a letter, explaining the boycott and asking him to issue an apology for having gone to South Africa, and to pledge not to go again.

Simon finally wrote a very ambiguously worded response. He did not apologize, and he did not pledge not to go to South Africa again. What he said was that he "would not perform" there.

— What about his argument that he worked with Black South African musicians and helped them get international recognition?

— The cultural scene in South Africa is very rich. There are many musicians. Who are the ones Simon chose? Lady Smith Black Mambazo. This group originally played mostly gospel and religious music. They censored themselves, because if they had sung about the social conditions of Black people, they would have been stopped. But Simon picked this group, because they were politically nowhere. Then there is Ray Phiri. He was part of a group that performed for the South Afri-

can military forces in occupied Namibia. One has to wonder why the South African regime let him roam around and make "Graceland", and this was during the state of emergency. They knew he was going to do good publicity for them.

— So why do you think Paul Simon did this album?

— Paul Simon is riding the crest of the anti-apartheid movement, His popularity was waning. If he is so philanthropical, why did he go to South Africa? Why not record in Zimbabwe?

Paul Simon is an opportunist. If he wanted to help the people of South Africa, why did not he do what other US musicians did, and join on the "Sun City" album? By the way, the same radio stations that refused to play "Sun City" are playing "Graceland" all the time.

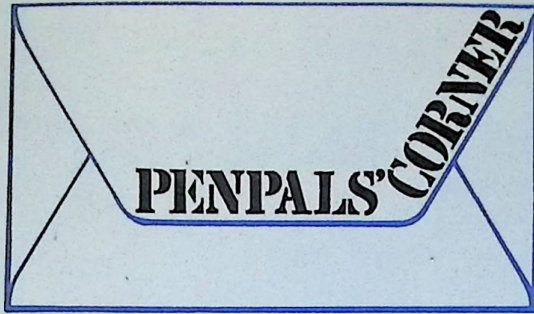
— What effect is all of this having now?

— The cultural boycott has been very successful. They are now trying to break it. What happened with Paul Simon is going to undercut the boycott. Some are now going to do what Simon did. Others who are still on the list are going to protest, saying it is not fair. For example, Ray Charles is saying if Simon does not have to apologize for having gone there, why should he? Why should he still be on the list?

— Besides the cultural boycott, does all this affect the anti-apartheid movement generally?

— Well, it has confused a lot of people. The bottom line is that Paul Simon has not pledged not to go to South Africa. He has refused to apologize. He has not helped the movement to completely isolate South Africa. And that is what we want to do, and what will bring down apartheid as soon as possible.

(From the magazine of the
YCL of the USA)



Miss Luiza Kowalska, ul. Sadowa 18/2, 86-100 Swiecie, POLAND. 19 years old, in English and Polish on music and films.

Mr. Afagbegee Komla, Ceg Badou - Ville, BP. 47, Badou, TOGO. 18 years old, in French on sports, literature and travel.

Mr. Annoh Prince, St. Paul Tech. Sch. (P.O.Box 3, Kuramtumi-Akim E/R, GHANA. 18 years old, in English.

Miss Ouroua Amine, 14, rue Ahmed Lachemi, El Djazair 16016, ALGERIA. 19 years old, in English and French on travel, music and sports.

Mr. Mohamed Brahmi, 49, rue de l'Indepence, Sidi Boumediene, W. Ain Temouchent, ALGERIA. 25 years old, in English.

Mr. Uyininmewen Alexander, No 19, 3rd Akugbe Lane, Oliha Quartier, Benin City, Bendel State, NIGERIA. In English.

Mr. Volodia Klokov, 127106 Moscow, Gostinichnyi proyezd 4/a-6, USSR. 25 years old, in Russian and German on music and cars.

Mr. Spyridon Fanajiotidis, Thyrida 10951 Kentriko, 54110 Thessaloniki, GREECE. 21 years old, in English, German and French.

Miss Cristina Aravena, Brown 2450, 7600 Mar del Plata, ARGENTINA. 20 years old, in Spanish.

Mr. Jorge Plaza Gatica, Correo Pomaire, Melipilla, CHILE. 25 years old, in Spanish on stamp collecting with radio hams.

Miss Leena Pakarinen, Pel-lervonkatu 25. A. 52, 33250 Tampere 25, FINLAND. 21 years old, in English on animals, literature and music.

Miss Monica Engstrom, Badstrndsvagen 22, 11265 Stockholm, SWEDEN. 18 years old, in English on music and literature.

Miss Delhine Agbleze, P.O. Box 57, Kejezi, GHANA. 17 years old, in English on stamp and postcard collecting, photography.

Mr. Dariusz Dubiecki, ul. M. Fornalskiej 44 D m 15, 94-011 Lodz, POLAND. 20 years old, in Polish and Russian.

Mr. Pinteá Adrián, 3700 Oradea, Str. Aluminei, Nr. 78/8, ROMANIA. 21 years old, in Italian and Hungarian.

Miss Bianca Reinke, 75 Cottbus, Mühlenstrasse 46, GDR. 16 years old, in English and German on music and sports.

Miss Dulani Piyarate, 199/ I. Waduragala, Kurunegala, SRI LANKA. 17 years old, in English.

Mr. Christopher R. Mevashinga Jr., P.O.Box 597, Uyole Mbeya, TANZANIA. 22 years old, in English on literature and music.

Miss Alena Moliagova, Bulvar Novatorov 82, flat 33, Leningrad 19825, USSR. 21 years old, in Russian and English on sports and theatre.

Miss Ewa Swiderska, 95-500 Sochaczew, ul. 600 lecia 31/26, POLAND. 16 years old, in English, Russian and Polish on travel, languages and pop music.

Mr. Gachreche Lamine, 39, Rue du Vieillard, Bejaira, ALGERIA. 22 years old, in French on sports.

Miss Éva Sinkovics, 8200 Veszprém, Szabó E. u. 4/B, HUNGARY. 16 years old, in Russian and German.

Mr. Mihály Milu, 4024 Debrecen, Jászai M. út 1,

HUNGARY. 19 years old, in English and German on cooking.

Miss Marcella Szládecsek, 271, Velky Cetin, 95105, CZECHOSLOVAKIA. 15 years old, in Russian and Slovakian.

Miss Anett Langner, Hoffmannstr. 45, 9005 Karl-Marx-Stadt, GDR. 19 years old, in English and German.

Mr. Michael Hellquist, Hevd. 9., 98141 Kiruna, SWEDEN. 20 years old, in English on music and cars.

Miss Anna Straub, ul. Lيمانowskiiego 2/11, 33-300 Nowy Sacz, POLAND. 16 years old, in English on stamp and postcard collecting.

Mr. Baris Ignatov, Karl Marx Str. 53/26, 475000-Kokchetav, USSR. 25 years old, in English on music.

Mr. McNoel Kipangule, Mzumbe High School, P.O.Box 19, Morogoro, TANZANIA. 17 years old, in English on music, movies and travel.

Miss Hooman Geryli, Taleghani str. Alley 3, No 17, 49717 Gonbad-E-Kavoos, IRAN. 21 years old, in English on stamp collecting.

Mr. Mohamed Kaddour Betchuri, 46, Rue Larbi Ben M'hidi, Oran (31), ALGERIA. 18 years old, in French and English.

Mr. Jorge Arrubla, Apartado Aéreo 54633, Medellín, COLOMBIA. In Spanish, English and French on reading.

Mr. Samuel K. Nartey, Post office 109, Nungua, Accra, GHANA. 19 years old, in English on sports.

Mr. Aboulouafa Taoufik, Vila 24 Allée des chants des oiseaux, L'hermitage, Casablanca (02), MOROCCO. 20 years old, in French.

Mr. Gregor Szymik, Bielsko Biala 43-344, ul. Janinskiego 4, POLAND. 19 years old, in German, Russian and Polish on tourism, music and video.

Miss Katrin Klug, Talstr. 27., 8662 Helmbrechts 2, FRG. 24 years old, in Russian, Spanish, English, Czech and German.

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Editorial and general offices: Ady Endre utca 19. Budapest II.

Correspondence "WORLD YOUTH" 1389 Budapest, P.O.B.

147, Hungary. Telephone: 154-095. Cables: DIVSZ, Budapest. Annual subscription:

US \$ 10 or equivalent
Single copy US \$ 1
Eng. sz. III/IFJ (7)
1976.



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