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World Assembly for Peace and Life, Against Nuclear War to Meet in 1983 in Prague

A World Assembly for Peace and Life, Against Nuclear War will be held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, from June 15 to 19, 1983, it was announced by the President of the World Peace Council, Mr. Romesh Chandra, at a press conference in the Czechoslovak capital recently.

The war danger, said Mr. Chandra, is greater today than at any time before. The unparalleled armaments build-up and the stockpiling of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction threaten the annihilation of all humanity - a fact which calls for concerted worldwide action by the peoples to reverse the tide.

Peoples' Answer

The World Assembly will be the peoples' answer to the nuclear sabre-rattling and their proclamation of determined opposition to the war makers and those who derive profits from the manufacture of arms, declared Mr. Chandra.

Mr. Chandra has also announced that the World Peace Council has taken the initiative to invite all forces - political parties, organisations and mass movements which are opposed to nuclear war, irrespective of their differences - to join in preparing the World Assembly.

The Assembly, which is expected to be the biggest and most representative peoples' gathering for peace and disarmament to date, will be taking place during the period scheduled for NATO's deployment of Pershing II and Cruise missiles in Western Europe, and consequently "will be inseparably linked to

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Thousands gathered at the Helsinki railway station to welcome back the Peace Train of the Finnish artists after a visit to 14 towns in the country at the end of April. The artists carried to all corners of Finland the message of peace and the demand that the Nordic countries be turned into a nuclear-weapon-free zone. (See full story of the Finnish Peace Train on p. 8)

WPC on Malvinas Conflict

The World Peace Council (WPC) has called for a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Great Britain and Argentina over the Malvinas Islands and urged the United Nations to take all necessary measures to bring about a cease-fire and a negotiated settlement.

In a cable to the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the President of the World Peace Council, Mr. Romesh Chandra, urged him to use his good offices and the authority of the United Nations "to prevent the further deterioration of the situation and guarantee a peaceful solution through negotiations on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions on the Malvinas".

Deep Concern

In a later statement the WPC expressed deep concern at the loss of

lives resulting from the hostilities in the South Atlantic. It strongly condemned the outbreak of hostilities which, it said, has created an extremely serious situation in the area.

"The British government," it continued, "is seeking through the use of military power to revive the days of gunboat diplomacy and imposition of its colonial rule by force."

U.S. support of Great Britain, the WPC added, is seriously aggravating the situation and makes the mediation of the United Nations even more urgent.

Referring to the position of the international community on the Malvinas, the WPC said that the United Nations had already adopted a resolution on the decolonisation of the Malvinas, and that the Non-aligned Movement has categorically called for the return of the islands

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Join Anti-NATO Summit Rally, FRG Peace Organisations Urge

West German peace organisations and groups have called on all those who stand for peace and disarmament and against the arms race to join them in an International Peace Rally in Bonn on June 10.

The Peace Rally is a part of a Week of Action organised by more than 40 peace organisations and groups in the FRG against the NATO Summit Meeting scheduled for Bonn on June 10 and in support of the Second Special Session of the United Nations Devoted to Disarmament (SSD II).

An appeal issued by the sponsors of the Week and the Rally puts forward eight demands, outlining their aims. These call for:

Demands

- NATO members to withdraw their consent to the stationing of Pershing II and Cruise missiles in Europe. This would prepare the way for the reduction of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in Western and Eastern Europe with the aim of leading to complete disarmament on both sides;
- Drastic reduction in armaments in the West and the East;
- A protest against new nuclear weapons, neutron bombs and poisonous gas in Europe;
- A nuclear-free Europe, in which nuclear weapons are neither stockpiled, nor manufactured nor used;
- The U.S.A. to negotiate in good faith in Geneva so that a real zero-solution ensuring the abolition of all intermediate-range nuclear missiles can be achieved;
- NATO governments to take the initiative for effective disarmament negotiations and the continuation of a policy of detente;
- An immediate stop to the export of arms from the FRG to areas of tension and to countries of the Third World; and
- The FRG to discontinue all direct and indirect support of the U.S. policy of intervention in Central America.

A Challenge

The Appeal underlines that the NATO Summit is being held to discuss new arms programmes in spite of the growing peace movement throughout the world, and the SSD-II. "At this meeting the NATO member states are to be committed to the worldwide superiority sought by the Reagan administration. The NATO Summit is a challenge to everyone who actively supports the preservation of peace; and concrete steps towards disarmament," says the Appeal.

It further warns that the 80s are turning into the most dangerous decade in the history of mankind. The danger of the nuclear destruction of the world is growing continually as a new generation of nuclear weapons is prepared for deployment and the production of chemical and bacteriological weapons advances.

This trend, the Appeal emphasises, can be checked only by a strong peace movement which "together with the liberation movements in the Third World can foil the politics of the U.S.A. and NATO".



Vienna Peace Festival

A European peace festival will be organised from August 6-8 in Vienna, Austria to press for disarmament and an end to the arms race.

The festival, according to the organisers, will bring together peoples of all ages from both East and West Europe. There will be discussions and seminars, concerts, film shows, theatrical performances, art displays, and many other activities devoted to peace.

A declaration issued by a preparatory meeting held recently in Vienna outlines the aims of the festival in the following terms:

The present situation demands that the peoples, especially the youth of all Europe, East and West, struggle democratically towards:

1. The removal of all nuclear weapons from Europe. We underline, as a first important step towards general disarmament, the establishing of nuclear-weapon-free zones;
2. The simultaneous dissolution of both military blocs, NATO and the Warsaw Pact;
3. Solidarity with all peoples struggling for liberation, independence and

WORLD ASSEMBLY FOR PEACE...

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further protests against these weapons and the NATO decision," as Mr. Chandra put it.

Further Unity

The World Assembly which is intended to further strengthen and cement the unity of the anti-war forces, is expected to examine the war danger and its various aspects and draw up plans for joint actions by the forces opposed to nuclear war and to the military build-up.

Preliminary plans call for the discussion of concrete measure to end the nuclear war danger and defuse tension in Europe, the South Atlantic, the Caribbean, the Middle East and Southern Africa. The problems of development, of human rights, of racism and of national independence are also expected to be discussed. "It is planned that each single regional problem will be considered in its global context," said Mr. Chandra.

The Assembly will work in plenary sessions, commissions, round tables and other groups to allow for the examination of the wide spectrum of problems which are of the utmost urgency for mankind.

Over 1,500 delegates from all countries of the world are expected to take part in the Assembly.

A national Czechoslovak Preparatory Committee has been already established under the chairmanship of Mr. Tomáš Trávníček, the Vice-president of the Czechoslovak National Front.

WPC ON MALVINAS...

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to Argentina. The World Parliament of the Peoples for Peace (Sofia, 1980) supported this position, and the WPC reaffirms its commitment to it.

The WPC commended the stand taken by the peace forces in Great Britain and Argentina and their demand for an immediate cease-fire. It also welcomed the efforts being undertaken by several British members of Parliament in this regard.

The WPC finally warned of the grave consequences the continuation of hostilities in the South Atlantic may have for peace and security in the world.

self-determination as a contribution to peace;

4. The full and unequivocal implementation of U.N. resolutions on nuclear disarmament and human rights; and
5. Absolute reduction in global military expenditure and the opening of new roads to cooperation between industrial and developing countries leading to the creation of a New International Economic Order.

World Conference on Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The World Conference on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace held in Delhi from 23 to 25 April 1982 was attended by the largest number of delegates from abroad at the highest level than in any peace conference in India for the last several years.

Over 1,000 Indian delegates from almost every state representing the widest political spectrum, different professions, from youth, students, workers, women, and peasant organisations, from the district base level participated in the Conference.

Preparatory Campaign

This large Indian participation was preceded by a countrywide campaign in support of the Conference. This campaign was organised by the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation in cooperation with youth, students, women and trade union organisations.

The Conference was opened with the reading of the Message of good wishes to the Conference sent by Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India which was received with resounding applause.

The Participants also warmly welcomed a message from President Leonid Brezhnev of the Soviet Union.

Solidarity Organisation; Leszek Kaminski, Vice-president of the International Union of Students; Michael John Barnett, Deputy Secretary General of the World Federation of Democratic Youth; Hilda Hertz, Secretary of the Women's International Democratic Federation; Romesh Chandra, President of the World Peace Council.

This opening session was also addressed by Vladimir Kravets (Ukraine), Vice-Chairman of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid; Melba Hernández, General Secretary of OSPAAAL (Organisation of Solidarity with the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America); Mirza Imbrahimov, President of the Soviet Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity; Nino Pasti, Senator from Italy, former Deputy Supreme Commander for Nuclear Affairs of NATO (Retired General); Phan Anh, MP, President of the Viet Nam Peace Committee; Pierre Vermeylen, MP, Minister of State, Member of Political Bureau of Socialist Party (Belgium); Domingos Coelho Da Cruz, President, Angola Peace Committee, Member of leadership of MPLA; Hala Mousa Salim Odeh, (PLO).

The Plenary Session of the Conference was addressed by leaders of several

leading Indian legislators, intellectuals, writers, lawyers, trade unionists and representatives of youth, students and women's organisations.

The reports of the Political Commission and the Economic Commission were presented to the concluding plenary session of the conference.

India's Foreign Minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, gave a reception in honour of the delegates at the Hyderabad House, New Delhi, a place where official receptions are given.

The delegates to the World Conference on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace participated in a meeting to pay International Tribute to the Indian poet Subramania Bharati on the occasion of his Birth Centenary. This meeting, organised by the Indian Celebrations Committee, the World Peace Council and the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation was inaugurated by the Vice-president of India, Mr. M. Hidayatullah.

Seminar on Human Rights

The delegates to the World Conference also participated in the International Seminar on Human Rights, the Arms Build-up and Disarmament which was presided over by Justice D.A. Desai, Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

In its main document, the Declaration on the Indian Ocean — Zone of Peace, the Conference warned against the danger of the presence of U.S. imperialism in the region. The Declaration said: "The vast armada of imperialism and the proliferating U.S. military bases in the region are meant to intimidate and threaten all non-aligned and progressive countries which wish to pursue their own policies of development and control their own natural resources."

The Declaration called upon all peace forces to intensify their efforts to mobilise public opinion for ending the military presence of the imperialist powers in the Indian Ocean and for making it a peace zone.

The conference also adopted an Appeal to the Heads of State and Government of Non-aligned countries urging them to assist in the implementation of the decisions of the littoral states to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

The conference adopted resolutions on Solidarity with the Peoples of the Gulf, against U.S. Military Plans in the region, and on Defence of Sovereignty, Integrity and Development, International Solidarity with the People of India.

The conference also adopted resolutions and messages of solidarity with the peace forces in Europe and the U.S.A., and with the peoples of Lebanon, Palestine, Southern Africa, the Caribbean and Central America, South East Asia, Libya, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Cyprus.

The World Conference on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace was an outstanding manifestation of the peace forces in the world to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.



The Foreign Minister of India, P.V. Narasimha Rao (in the middle) gave a reception for the delegates to the World Conference on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, held in New Delhi recently. Picture shows Mr. Narasimha Rao with some Indian and foreign delegates.

Another message was received from Mr. Didier Ratsiraka, President of the Democratic Republic of Malagasy.

The Chairman of the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation Prof. Rasheeduddin Khan, who was Chairman of the Indian Reception Committee, welcomed the delegates and spoke of the significance of the Conference for India and the world.

Top Leaders Present

The opening session of the Conference was addressed by the representatives of international organisations which had sponsored it: Indrajit Gupta, MP, Vice-president of the Afro-Asian Peoples'

Indian political parties including the ruling party. They were Syed Mir Qasim, Member of the Parliamentary Board and the Working Committee of the ruling Congress (I) Party; N. K. Krishnan, Secretary, Head, International Department of CPI; H.S. Surjeet, MP, Member, Political Bureau, CPI (M); Bedbrata Barua, General Secretary Congress (S); Chandrajit Yadav, MP, Chairman, Janwadi Party; H.N. Bahuguna, President, Democratic Socialist Party.

Commissions

The Plenary Session of the Conference was addressed by several foreign delegates from all continents including

Declaration on Indian Ocean-Zone of Peace

The World Conference on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace held in New Delhi from 23 to 25 April, 1982 has examined with deep concern the extremely dangerous situation created by the unprecedented escalation of the U.S. arms build-up and the extension of its vast network of military bases in the Indian Ocean region.

The U.S.A. has massed its biggest armada in the Indian Ocean with a view to controlling this region, with the world's richest natural resources, where one-third of humanity lives. This imperialist presence in this region is being brazenly propagated as part of the doctrine of defending U.S. "vital interests" in the world. It is tantamount to an open challenge to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the littoral and hinterland states of the Indian Ocean. It is the most dangerous version of the old colonialist gunboat diplomacy which is projected today by whole armadas of nuclear aircraft carriers, warships and submarines, military bases with nuclear weapons, and a Rapid Deployment Force with tens of thousands of U.S. armed soldiers to be used at a moment's notice for intervention in and destabilisation of any littoral state in the region.

The imperialist presence in the Indian Ocean region is a great menace to the peace and security of not only the continents of Asia and Africa but the whole world. It is also designed to exploit and loot the rich natural resources of this area, including its seabed resources, through the agency of the multinational corporations, with vast funds and technological skills at their command, thus preventing the real economic and social development of the littoral countries.

The problem of the Indian Ocean today is the problem of the increasing projection of NATO to other parts of the world. In fact, U.S. imperialism is seeking to perpetuate its presence in the Indian Ocean region with the help of some of its NATO partners, and the active support of reactionary and racist regimes. The warships of Great Britain, France and the Federal Republic of Germany are buttressing more and more this imperialist presence in the region.

The U.S. has also activated its partners in the A.N.Z.U.S. bloc, Australia and New Zealand, as part of its aggressive strategy in the region. Australian warships are cruising with the imperialist fleets in a coordinated operation in the Indian Ocean.

This heavy concentration of the military might of the imperialist powers in the Indian Ocean, which has never existed in any other part of the world before, has acquired a more menacing edge with the strengthening of the old network of U.S. military bases and the establishment of new bases in the region.

The most dangerous foreign military base in the world is the U.S. base in Diego Garcia, a strategic island in the middle of the Indian Ocean. It is being modernised at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars with facilities for nuclear warships, with runways for the biggest U.S. bombers carrying nuclear weapons and a key centre for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force. In fact, U.S. bombers with nuclear weapons make from this island daily flights over the Indian Ocean region to keep themselves in readiness to strike at any time at any littoral state. Diego Garcia is only 1,000 miles from the shores of India, while many littoral states in the Middle East and the Gulf, in Africa and Southeast Asia are also within striking range of U.S. bombers based on this island.

This vast armada of imperialism and the proliferating U.S. military bases in the region are meant to intimidate and threaten all non-aligned and progressive countries which wish to pursue their own policies and development and control their own natural resources.

Apart from Diego Garcia, the U.S. has military bases in the Indian Ocean region in Oman, Bahrein, Kenya, Somalia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Australia. It is feverishly seeking to acquire new bases in Bangladesh, Thailand and Singapore. The 3,000 million dollar U.S. military aid to Pakistan is an open attempt to assign Pakistan the role that the Shah's Iran was playing as a bastion of U.S. imperialism. The U.S. is continuing its attempts to acquire facilities for military activities in Sri Lanka, particularly in the Eastern part of Tricomalee.

The imperialists are also trying to threaten independent peoples in the islands of the Indian Ocean like the Seychelles where an abortive coup was made last November by armed mercenaries sent from South Africa. Several other islands, like Reunion and Mayotte, are under the domination of imperialist powers.

This vast imperialist presence in the Indian Ocean which is in complete violation of U.N. resolutions on the Indian Ocean is made out by the imperialist powers and western media to be necessary to meet the "Soviet threat" which does not exist.

The hollowness of this pretext was exposed further by the U.S. sabotage of the U.N. World Conference on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace which was scheduled to be held in Colombo in Sri Lanka in 1981.

This U.N. Conference was to discuss the implementation of the U.N. resolution of 1971 which contained the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace envisaging the dismantling of foreign military bases, the exclusion of nuclear weapons, the ending of the escalation of the military presence of

non-littoral states in the region, and giving the commitment not to create any threats to the security of the Indian Ocean countries.

The U.N. Conference which is now scheduled to be held in the first half of 1983, should elaborate a broad international agreement on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. It would be the first important practical step towards the implementation of this proposal of littoral and hinterland states.

As the U.S. and its allies are now trying to block the convening of the conference, all peace forces must intensify their efforts for the convening of the conference as decided by the United Nations General Assembly.

In this connection the World Conference on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace stresses the great importance of convening sessions of the U.N. Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean in one of the littoral or hinterland states in the area. The World Conference calls upon the governments of the Indian Ocean countries to study the possibility of organising such a session of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The imperialist powers have received strong support in their efforts to control the Indian Ocean from China and Japan. The U.S. imperialists, in fact, have linked their bases in the Indian Ocean with their bases in the Far East, in the Philippines, Japan and South Korea. The Peking leaders who call themselves as the NATO of the East have their own designs to seek an outlet to the Indian Ocean through Pakistan.

The increasing collaboration and alliance between the U.S.A., South Africa and Israel, pose a grave threat to the independence and stability of African countries and countries in the Middle East including the Gulf.

Many constructive proposals for making the Indian Ocean a Zone of Peace have been made by the United Nations, the Movement of Non-aligned Countries and by the Government of Madagascar.

The Soviet Union has made detailed proposals for a peace zone in the Gulf which can be applied to the Indian Ocean.

The Conference highly appreciates the new Soviet initiatives for an agreement on the reciprocal limitation of naval activities and to discuss the spreading of confidence measures to the seas and oceans, especially to the regions of the busiest sea communication routes.

The World Conference on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace calls upon all peace forces to intensify efforts to mobilise public opinion for ending the military presence of the imperialist powers in the Indian Ocean region and for making the whole region a peace zone.

As an immediate task, the peace forces must make their voice felt at the U.N. General Assembly's Second Special Session Devoted to Disarmament on strengthening peace in the world, including making the Indian Ocean, which has the greatest military arsenal of all times concentrated in its region, as a zone of peace.

The Arms Build-Up: Why it Continues and Who is Responsible

The danger of nuclear war has never been as serious as it is today. The colossal military build-up and the refurbishing of deadly nuclear arsenals are pushing the world ever closer to a nuclear war by design, miscalculation or accident.

This suicidal trend in the international situation is causing grave concern among millions around the world who are demanding — in ever increasing numbers — a halt to the military build-up, abolition of nuclear arsenals and a return to sanity in inter-state relations.

As millions continue to demonstrate, sign petitions and raise their voices in defence of the common survival of the human race, the uppermost question remains: Why should there be a nuclear military build-up and who is to blame for it?

The following chronicle of statements and activities by topmost U.S. officials, we hope, will help to provide the answer to these questions.

U.S. for More Arms

On December 4, 1981, the FRG daily Die Zeit quoted leading officials of the Reagan Administration as having said: "During the (Reagan) election campaign, Eugene Rostow, Director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency had already stated: 'We are living in a pre-war world, not in a post-war period.' Defence Secretary Weinberger had asserted that the next war would last a long time and that industry had to be in a position to convert half of its capacity to war production. In a statement to the Budget Committee in September 1981 he had declared that the Reagan administration would make the country so strong that America could deter the Soviet Union everywhere or even conduct a global war against it. Six weeks before, Paul Nitze, who is now leading the American delegation to the Geneva negotiations, had told the New York Times that serious arms control talks could take place only after the U.S. had built up its potential. When asked how long this would take, he had replied ten years."

President Reagan himself took another step in the direction of assuring U.S. superiority. In a speech on November 18, 1981 he came up with his 'Option Zero' proposal, stating: "The U.S.A. is prepared to desist from deploying Pershing II and land-based Cruise missiles if the Soviet Union dismantles its SS-20, SS-4 and SS-5 missiles."

The aim of this proposal was made clear by a leading official of the U.S. Department of Defence, Richard Perle, on December 1, 1981. Mr. Perle told a

Senate Armed Forces Committee:

"In other words our aim should be a reduction of the current strength of the Soviet armed forces..."

Putting Pressure

In a statement at the commencement of the Geneva negotiations, U.S. Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, stressed: "Progress is not only dependent on the skills of our negotiators, but also on the resolve of NATO to continue... its preparations for the deployment of the missiles... The parallel process of modernisation and negotiations... represents the only guarantee of agreement."

At another juncture Haig stated that an abandoning of this position would be "the greatest tragedy"; one would be "unilaterally robbing oneself of a means of pressure".

This was followed by a call on January 10, 1982 from NATO Supreme Commander in Western Europe, General Bernard W. Rogers, for higher arms expenditure by the West European NATO member countries.

At a conference of military specialists in Munich, the American general declared that the West European allies must redouble their arms effort in the coming years and devote at least 4 per cent of their budgets to this purpose. Until now NATO's long-term armaments programme had specified a 3 per cent increase in real terms.

New Arms

In mid-January 1982, the Pentagon took another step in escalating the arms race. It went ahead with equipping the U.S. army stationed in the FRG with the new M-1 Abrams combat tank. U.S. General James Maloney, announced that the first 75 operational tanks will be allocated to the 3rd. U.S. Armored Division stationed near the border with the Warsaw Pact countries. All in all, the U.S. forces will receive 7,000 of these tanks.

At the same time (January 17, 1982) the newly-commissioned U.S. nuclear submarine "Ohio" tested a Trident missile. According to a spokesman of the U.S. missile testing centre, the test took place off the coast of Florida as part of a series of trials to establish the operational ability of all "Ohio" class submarines. The Trident missiles have a range of some 8,000 kms. and are armed with eight multiple warheads. Each vessel carries 24 such missiles.

Policy of Strength

A few days later (January 20, 1982) U.S. Defence Secretary, Caspar Weinberger, confirmed in an interview with

the Washington Post the continuation of the policy of strength.

According to his statement, the arms build-up is a "vital necessity", and lends the U.S. "immense strength in its negotiations with the Soviet Union. He went on to say that the "modernisation of all elements" of strategic arms was proceeding without hitch. "The stationing of MX missiles, the first deployment of sea-based, and the further deployment of air-launched cruise missiles" had been commenced according to plan.

President Reagan renewed on January 26, 1982 his appeal to Congress for the continuation of the policy of strength vis-a-vis the socialist countries.

In his "State of the Union" message, he declared the continuation of the arms build-up to be one of the chief priorities, and expressed the intention that the disarmament negotiations with the Soviet Union will be conducted from a "position of strength". In this context, the President spoke of additional measures against the Soviet Union.

In a statement before the hearing of the House Armed Forces Committee (February 3 and 4, 1982), U.S. Defence Secretary, Caspar Weinberger, announced that the U.S. intends to build two more nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

Weinberger told a closed session of the Committee that the U.S. Navy will increase its fleet by 600 vessels by the end of the decade.

Increased Military Expenditure

The U.S. government's draft budget for the fiscal year 1983, presented to Congress on February 6, 1982, estimates expenditure for armaments at 263,000 million dollars. This increase by 43,000 million dollars in comparison with the current year is equivalent to the amount cut from allocations for social and other services.

U.S. arms expenditure, which is made up of 258,000 million dollars for the Pentagon and 5,000 million dollars for nuclear weapons development, accounts for approximately one third of the total budget of 801,900 million dollars. An additional 4,600 million dollars are also allocated to armaments as "international security aid" largely in the form of weapons supplies.

The draft budget, which will be debated by both houses of Congress over the coming months, caters, among others, for the further development of the B-1 bomber and the Stealth bomber project, of the MX intercontinental missiles and Trident missiles, as well as the arming of bomber planes and submarines with cruise missiles. The U.S. Navy is to

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CANADIAN PEACE CONGRESS TO GOVERNMENT: ACT FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The Canadian Peace Congress (CPC) has urged the government to turn Canada into a nuclear-weapon-free zone and to abrogate all treaties and agreements which allow the use of Canadian territory for storage or testing of nuclear weapons, or their systems.

A statement submitted by the CPC to the government regarding Canada's position at the forthcoming SSD II said that the adoption of such measures "would greatly contribute to the success of SSD II".

"Unprecedented Holocaust"

The statement warned that the world is approaching an "unprecedented holocaust" as a result of the escalating arms race and increased tensions in the world coupled with utterances about "a first strike" and "limited nuclear war". The decision to deploy Pershing II and Cruise missiles, the continuing refusal of the U.S. to ratify SALT II, the production of the neutron bomb and agents of chemical and biological warfare and the threat of use of food as a weapon in pursuit of foreign policy objectives, are all exacerbating the international situation and underlining the necessity for immediate constructive action.

Canada, the statement pressed, should play an active and constructive role in the forthcoming SSD II for the full implementation of the decisions of SSD I in order that the danger of nuclear war may be defused.

Ban Nuclear Weapons

In this regard, the CPC urged the

Canadian government to press ahead for the conclusion of a treaty prohibiting all nuclear weapon tests and for agreements which would guarantee non-nuclear-weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. It should also call for the non-stationing of nuclear weapons on the territories of states where such weapons are not presently deployed.

The CPC further called for the conclusion of a multilateral convention on chemical weapons and for another prohibiting the development, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons.

The sky-rocketing military expenditures were a specific target of attack by the CPC. Military expenditure it said, should be reduced, including that of Canada, and resources re-allocated for peaceful development. The Canadian government should interject, in its pronouncements, the contradiction between spending for purposes of war and the need to use these resources to create a new and more just International Economic Order, it urged.

It further pressed the government to oppose all attempts to transform developing countries into miniature armed camps instead of assisting them to set up economic and social welfare programmes.

Dissolution of Military Blocs

The Canadian government was further pressed to promote all initiatives toward the dissolution of military blocs and alliances, for the earliest convening

of a World Disarmament Conference and to exert its influence for the establishment of a World Disarmament Campaign.

The Canadian Peace Congress finally deplored the recent pronouncement of the Prime Minister on the need for NATO to continue its military build-up, and said: "Such pronouncements can serve only to encourage those who support the continuation of the arms race and cannot in any way serve the purposes of disarmament."

At the same time the CPC wrote to both President Brezhnev and President Reagan informing them of its proposal that Canada be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone and asking them if their governments would respect this position if it became the policy of the Canadian government.

Explaining its proposal, it said that it comprises four points:

- No stationing or transit at any time of nuclear weapons on or throughout Canadian territory, sea or air space by any power whatsoever;
- No stationing of delivery, guidance or any other support systems related in any way to nuclear weapons on or in Canadian land, sea and air space;
- No production or testing of nuclear weapons or their delivery systems, including any components thereof on Canadian territory; and
- Conclusion of treaties by Canada with both the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. recognising and respecting Canada's status as a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

WELLINGTON DECLARED NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE

New Zealand's capital city, Wellington, was declared in mid-April a nuclear-weapon-free-zone. A motion to the effect presented to the City Council by Helena Ritchie, the leader of the Labour Party group on the Council, was carried by a 10-8 vote.

Last year the National President of New Zealand's Council for World Peace, Gerald O'Brien, met with Wellington's Mayor, Sir Michael Fowler to discuss the subject, and, since then, peace activists have been campaigning for the adoption of the proposal.

A communication from the New Zealand peace council reports that further action will be taken to approach the Harbour Board to consider banning nuclear-powered and armed U.S. warships from berthing in the city's harbour.

More Protest Actions

The nuclear-powered and armed warship "U.S.S. Truxtun" is due to visit Wellington in late May 1982. The visit comes in the wake of a visit by U.S. Vice-president, George Bush.

A coalition of local peace groups is planning protest action, including a flotilla of peace pleasure boats to attempt to block the harbour entrance in opposition to the warship's visit to a nuclear-weapon-free zoned city. Most peace groups support the withdrawal of New Zealand from the A.N.Z.U.S. Pact which groups Australia, New Zealand and the U.S.

A bill was presented about the same time to the New Zealand parliament declaring the whole country a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Mr. Richard Prebble, a member of the opposition Labour Party, introduced the bill which seeks to prevent visits by U.S. nuclear-powered and armed warships. The bill was defeated by only one vote.

" AND WHAT IF THE RUSSIANS DON'T COME "

"Since I personally do not feel threatened by the Russians, as military spending presumes I should be, I would like to cancel my monthly 'Stop-the-Russians contribution' - the compulsory levy for deterring them, as it is called - by cutting a bit from my income tax. So herewith I apply for the right to rely on my own defence," writes well-known West German entertainer Herlmuth Ruge in an open letter to the Bonn Government published by the Frankfurt-am-Main weekly Die Tat.

His reason: "The Russians, I think, can hardly be as dangerous as the danger resulting from our present deterrent," and "I am not so sure that the Russians will come. All I know is that the Americans are here already."

Mr. Ruge said he could not be induced to die "even the sweetest death of a hero" by a "human rights

champion" like President Reagan "who could not care less about human life in El Salvador".

"As long as our arms industry is in private hands, I do not believe a word of what our politicians say about the threat from the East. It is only that some want to fill their pockets," he added.

Mr. Ruge continued further:

"My father owns no land so that I, in the actual sense of the word, have no fatherland; which of course renders it much easier for me to make this application. Let those who own sufficient land defend the fatherland!

"But should the term fatherland be applied to that lofty land which is said to link so intimately the landless and the landowners, I would like to ask you to count once again the large number of simple birchwood crosses in which so many ordinary people's idealism ended."

Prevent Deployment of New Missiles in Europe, Urges WPC

The World Peace Council has called for concerted mass actions to prevent the deployment of new nuclear missiles in Europe and for the success of Soviet-American negotiations on the reduction of nuclear arms in Europe.

The call, contained in a statement on the occasion of the Week of Action for Security and Cooperation in Europe (May 3-9), emphasised that the peoples of Europe today are aware that their security is not guaranteed by the accumulation of weapons and increased tension, but by disarmament and detente.

The statement stressed the necessity of creating nuclear-weapon-free zones on the continent and singled out Central Europe, the Nordic countries, the Balkans and the Mediterranean as such possible areas.

The fact that there has been no military conflict in Europe for the last 37 years, the statement pointed out, should not make us forget that while war is not inevitable, the threat of a nuclear holocaust is today greater than ever before. NATO's plan to deploy 572 Pershing II and Cruise missiles, the U.S. decision to manufacture the neutron bomb and to begin production of advanced chemical weapons and the concepts of nuclear "first-strike" and "limited nuclear war" are aggravating the international situation and endangering peace in Europe and the world.

The statement referred to the Easter peace marches, the various activities for disarmament in different European countries and the planned rallies against the forthcoming NATO summit meeting in Bonn as clear indications of the strong European opposition to the military build-up and of the determination to rid Europe and the world of nuclear arms.

In conclusion, it urged that actions should be undertaken to guarantee that the Madrid meeting is a success and that it calls a Conference on disarmament and military detente in Europe, when it reconvenes in November.

**NORDIC
PEACE
DEMONSTRATION**



Over 100,000 people from the five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), took part in an impressive peace demonstration at the Nya Ullev stadium in Göteborg, Sweden, to demand that the Nordic countries be turned into a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Among the speakers were Daniel Ellsberg (U.S.A.), Eva Nordland (Norway) and Helena Kekkonen (Finland).

In the evening, prominent artists, including the famous actress, Liv Ullmann, performed at a gala concert in support of the demonstration.

BIKERS ACT FOR PEACE

Cycling for peace seems to have caught up with marching. The users of what is believed to be the most common means of transport, according to reports received from different countries, are on the move campaigning for peace and disarmament, determined not to be outdone by the "walkers".

A group of young Australian cyclists left Canberra on March 6 on a 6,000 km trek to Darwin, the first leg of a World Bike Ride for a Nuclear Free Future. They will cycle through the Philippines and Japan, then travel via the trans-Siberian railway to Moscow to deliver a message from the Australian people for peace, disarmament and a nuclear-free future. They will then ride on through Europe.

Another group of cyclists, an international one, will ride through several European countries drawing attention to the insane arms race. They will start on July 21 from Oslo (Norway) and ride through Denmark, West Germany, Austria and Hungary finishing in Bucharest (Romania). Their aim, as an announcement put out by the group states, is to make the 80s the "decade for disarmament".

A third group yet, this time in Canada, will cycle this summer from Vancouver to Toronto to draw attention to the "Peace is Everybody's Business" petition, initiated by the Canadian Peace Congress.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL PEACE ...

(Continuation from 8)

nuclear accidents which could mean our annihilation as a people...

"Let us demand on this occasion the immediate dismantling of all U.S. military bases from Philippine territory, in order to assert true sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to achieve national non-alignment which alone can assure our being at peace with our neighbours and guarantee our free development as a people."

SENEGAL

A strongly worded statement by the Senegalese Peace Movement condemned Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories, and South Africa's aggression against the African frontline states.

It called Israel's dismissal of four Arab mayors and resort to increased violence and repression a "provocation", an "outrage" and "defiance of the United Nations and world public opinion".

South Africa's apartheid regime and aggressions were described as "crimes against humanity" and an "affront to mankind".

The Senegalese Peace Movement underlined that both Israel and the apartheid regime in South Africa are supported and encouraged by imperialism.

The statement expressed solidarity with the struggles of the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Declaration on Indian Ocean-Zone of Peace

(Continuation from page 5)

receive thousands of millions of dollars for the building of two aircraft carriers, three cruisers, six Trident missile submarines and a further 122 warships by 1987. Considerable funds have also been set aside for the build-up of the Rapid Deployment Force for operations in the Gulf region and other parts of the world.

In the coming years expenditure is to be further raised to meet the demands of the arms programme. In the draft budget, no less than 291,000 million dollars are planned for 1984 and as much as 338,000 million for 1985.

Chemical Weapons

On February 8, 1982, President Reagan gave the go-ahead for the production of new chemical weapons by U.S. arms concerns. In a letter to Congress, he described the production of new deadly nerve gases as "fundamental to national interests" and that it will enable the U.S. to attain a "position of strength". In the 1983 arms budget, 705 million dollars are allocated for the production of weapons and agents for conducting chemical warfare.

The U.S. Air Force announced a few days later (February 11, 1982) that it plans to increase by 100 the number of nuclear warheads for its intercontinental missiles.

Fifty Minuteman II missiles, each carrying one warhead, are to be replaced by 50 Minuteman III missiles, each armed with three warheads. Following this conversion, the U.S. will possess a total of 600 Minuteman III as well as 400 Minuteman II missiles. In addition, instead of the originally planned production of 3,400 cruise missiles, 4,000 are now going to be manufactured.

According to an announcement by the U.S. Air Force, the first squadron of B-52s converted to carry cruise missiles, will be operational by December 1982. In all, 201 of these long-range bombers will be converted for this purpose.

ANTI-WAR APPEAL BY SOVIET YOUTH

Over six million young people in the Soviet Union have signed the appeal "No to World Holocaust!" launched within the framework of the large-scale anti-war campaign "Peace March".

Young builders of the Baikal-Amur railway and oil workers in Tyumen, farmers from Kazakhstan and young people from all the Soviet republics sent letters to NATO headquarters in Brussels, urging an end to the military build-up.

A white dove against a blue sky background is depicted on one of the many posters which bedeck, these days, the walls of

the editorial office of the youth newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda. Such posters are sent by young people from Latvia and Yakutia, Moldavia and Vladivostok.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, which is published by the Soviet Young Communist League, has been printing letters by Soviet and foreign young people castigating war preparations and calling for a worldwide youth campaign against the danger of war. Letters by young Soviets have been urging that the forthcoming 19th Congress of the Soviet Young Communist League should call on the youth of the world to join actively in the anti-war campaign.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL PEACE COMITTEES

AUSTRALIA

• In the biggest demonstrations witnessed by the country in recent years more than 100,000 Australians marched in April in various cities for peace and nuclear disarmament.

The demonstrations were called by broadly-based committees representing diverse political forces, trade unions, churches, peace groups, women and youth organisations. The strong presence of the churches was a most significant development in the recent growth of the movement for peace and disarmament in Australia.

The rallies were a part of the activities sweeping Australia against the nuclear arms build-up and in support of the forthcoming Second Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (SSD II).

• A group of 70 Australian doctors have written to Prime Minister Fraser expressing their concern over the increasing likelihood of nuclear warfare and calling on the Australian Government to play a "much more active role as a leader in the world disarmament movement".

The doctors are members of the recently established branch of the Medical Association for Prevention of War.

The Association, soon to launch a major public education campaign around Australia on the medical effects of nuclear war and the need for its prevention — says its letter to Mr. Fraser signals a series of initiatives designed to concentrate public attention on mounting medical opposition to the escalating arms race.

CANADA

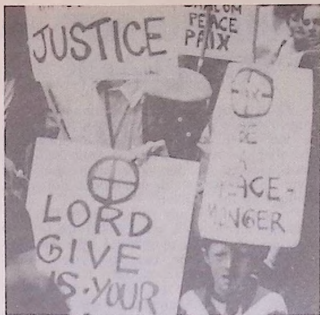
• A Peace Walk and Rally was organised at the end of April in Vancouver, demanding disarmament and peace.

• Vancouver's City Council agreed to place the Operation Dismantle proposal before the city's voters. (The proposal calls for balanced general disarmament.)

Pointing out the vulnerability of Vancouver as a nuclear target, Mayor Harcourt said, "There would be no escape, we would all be incinerated."

FINLAND

Finnish artists, (painters, writers, poets, actors, etc.) worried about the future of peace in Europe came together



Australia witnessed in mid-April the biggest demonstrations in recent years for peace and disarmament. More than 100,000 people marched through the streets of all major cities demanding "Peace not arms" and "No to Nuclear War!". Photo shows one of the many marches.

early this year and decided to rent a train and travel around Finland from the capital, Helsinki to the North of the country, Lapland and back. The campaign slogan of this Peace Train of Artists, which toured Finland from April 15 to April 25 was "For a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Northern Europe".

Of the 4.5 million people in Finland, nearly half a million were mobilised through the various activities related to the peace train. In the 14 towns the train visited, about 140,000 people were engaged in preparing for the peace train's arrival and the events during the artists' stay. Meetings were organised in railway stations, factories, theaters, and concert halls, hospitals, kindergartens and schools.

The around 100 artists who traveled in the train, came from practically every branch of the arts. In the opinion of the "father" of the train, actor Pekka Milonoff, this was the greatest achievement of the campaign. For the first time ever, artists representing the whole spectrum of art acted together for a common aim. At the many meetings and other events, the children were informed about peace through puppet theater and mini-theater performances; school children learned about peace at lectures when writers traveling in the train visited their schools. In libraries, the relationship between literature and peace was discussed; in concert halls and theaters, programmes related to peace were performed. A number of towns not visited by the train, put on programmes tied in with the train's tour and peace purpose.

Foremost among the proposals put forward by the train's artist-campaigners was that of former President Kekkonen, who, in 1963 pressed for the formation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in northern Europe, including Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. The proposal is to guarantee through mutual and international arrangements the existing situation in this region, where there are now no nuclear weapons. Establishment of this zone here could lead to a wider

European agreement banning nuclear weapons.

Finnish artists expressed the hope that similar action would also be organised by artists in other countries.

GREECE

In May, the Thessalonika Committee for International Detente and Peace organised a series of actions for peace and disarmament in the northern part of the country. Among the activities were a peace march from Langada to Thessalonika and a concert in Thessalonika's Central Stadium.

The actions, which were in memory of George Lambrakis, the Greek peace leader assassinated by reactionary forces, centred around the demands for the removal of nuclear arms from Greece and the dismantling of foreign military bases in the country, and its withdrawal from NATO. Other demands included turning the Balkans into a nuclear-weapon-free zone and the Mediterranean into a peace sea.

MONGOLIA

Asia Week was observed on a large scale in Mongolia, with emphasis put on the proposal advanced by the People's Republic of Mongolia in May 1981 for the conclusion of a pact of mutual non-aggression and the renunciation of the use of force in relations between the states of Asia and the Pacific.

The Mongolian Peace Committee and the Mongolian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee organised several meetings and demonstrations in support of the struggle of the Asian peoples. In all the activities carried out during the Week, the Mongolian people clearly condemned the policies of imperialism, of hegemonism and reaction and expressed their support of the just struggles of the peoples of Southeast Asia, Afghanistan, the Middle East and other parts of the continent.

THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippine Committee for Disarmament and Peace called recently on all Philipinos to express their concern for peace by condemning the continued U.S. interference in the internal affairs of their country.

A statement issued by the Committee on the occasion of the visit of the U.S. Defence Secretary, Caspar Weinberger, to the Philippines, said that U.S. interference in the affairs of the country is "most blatantly exemplified by the presence of U.S. military bases which are the greatest threat to our security". It said that those bases are homeports for U.S. nuclear facilities and a launching pad for U.S. military intervention in other areas and consequently they pose the danger of embroiling the Philippines in interventionist wars. "They can attract nuclear counter-attacks against our territory in case of nuclear war, and even of

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