


*November 13-15, 1987*

 *U.S.*

 *Peace*

 *Council*

 *5th*

 *National*

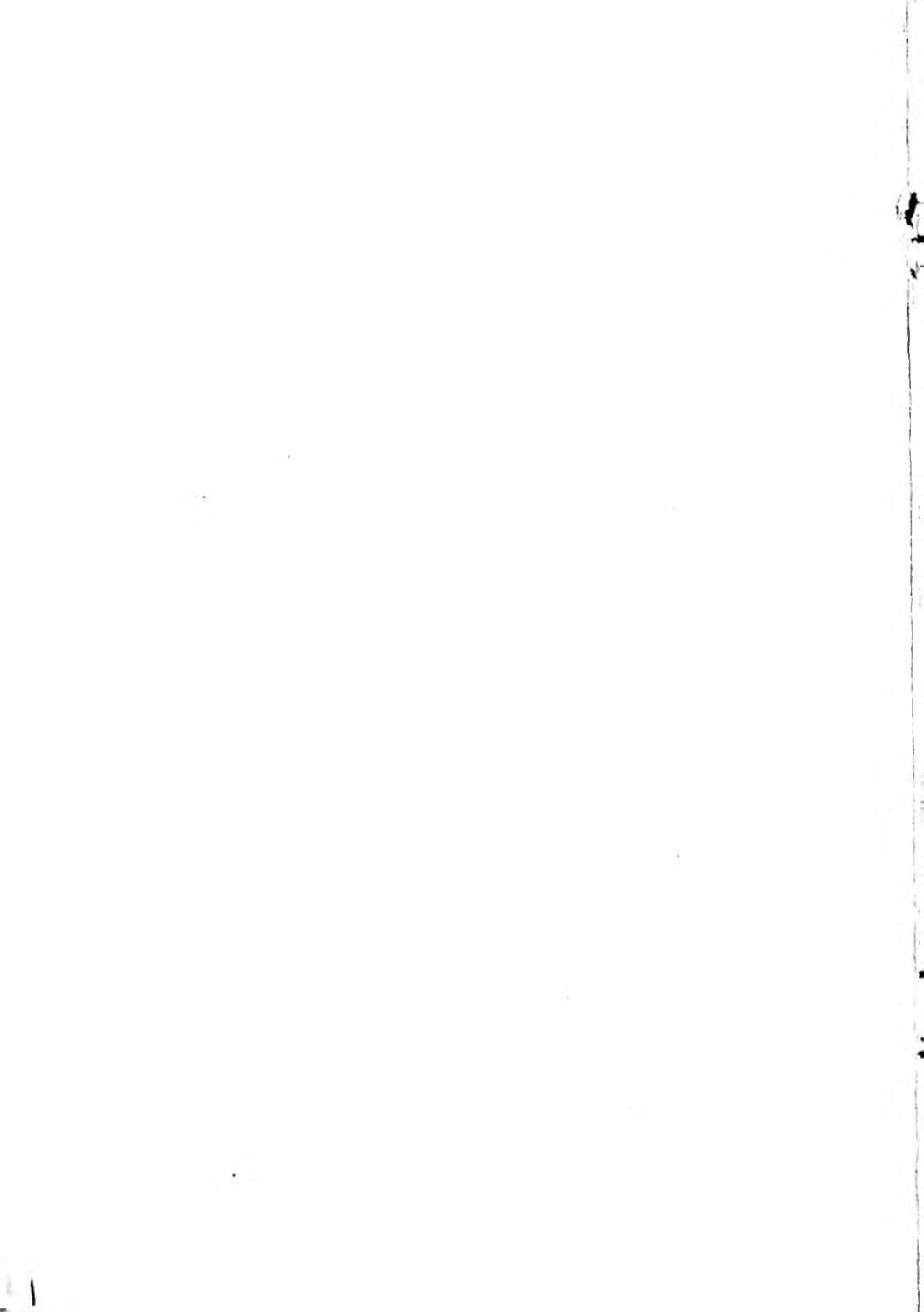
 *Conference*

 *Detroit,*

 *Michigan*

*Hotel Pontchartrain*





Dear Conference Participant,

It's been two years since the 4th National Conference of the U.S. Peace Council—two years in which our nation and the world have seen big changes and great opportunities to end the arms race and advance the cause of peace, justice and freedom.

Two years ago, Ronald Reagan and the war machine which sponsors his administration seemed to have an unshakable position from which to carry out their policy of achieving nuclear superiority and first strike capability.

Today we face the possibility of dismantling, for the first time in the history of the cold war, an entire nuclear weapons system: the intermediate and shorter-range nuclear missile forces in Europe.

Two years ago it seemed that nothing could bring Reagan to conclude an arms control agreement with the Soviet Union.

Today the response to the Soviet initiative—General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's January 15, 1986 proposal to rid the earth of all nuclear weapons by the year 2000—from the peace movement in our own country and throughout the world has created a situation in which a Summit to sign an agreement is in the making.

Two years ago it seemed that the Reagan administration's plan to turn the institutions of law and justice, especially the Supreme Court, into a haven for racists, union busters, and those who oppose the rights of women would succeed without a hitch.

Today the public outcry and movement against the nomination of Robert Bork has forced the U.S. Senate to stand up to the "teflon President," and reject this reactionary candidacy.

In spite of the fact that the Congress refused to explore adequately and expose the depths of a proto-fascist secret government aimed at subverting the Constitution, the Iran-Contragate scandal nevertheless alerted the public to the cynical illegalities at the heart of the Reagan administration.

The unraveling of the Reagan program, which began with the defeat of the ultra-right in the 1986 Senatorial elections, continues in the form of a growing and more effective movement for peace, jobs and justice.

This movement, which increasingly includes the labor movement as a leading factor, with increasing multi-racial and multi-national unity at all levels from leadership to the rank and file of the movement, dramatically showed its strength in the April 25, 1987 demonstrations against U.S. interventionism in Central America and against Reagan's support for apartheid South Africa.

The possibilities of this movement are startling. And the U.S. Peace Council has been an active part of all these developments. We seek to contribute to unity, clarity, principle and direction. In the last two years the Peace Council's role—as unifier, as fighter for an honest, constructive response to Soviet peace initiatives, as advocate for the leading role of labor in the fight for

peace, as proponent of the struggle against racism and colonialism as essential to the peace movement, as analyst and foe of the military-industrial complex and its influence on U.S. military and foreign policies—has grown and now is needed more than ever.

Building the U.S. Peace Council is the first concern of the Fifth National Conference. Contributing to the success of a mighty campaign for no nuclear weapons and for common security by century's end is tied to building the Peace Council.

Much of the work of our Peace Council has been concentrated on coalition building, on fighting for unity among different constituencies of the movement. We have often been caught between such demands and those of building our own organization.

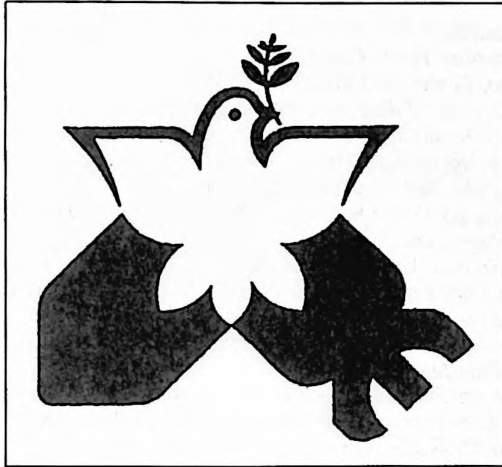
We are dedicated to building a multi-racial, multi-national peace movement. Thus we pay special attention to and battle against all forms of racism. We are an inclusive organization that resists the destructive impact of anti-communism. For that we have at times been the target of attacks.

Rededication to building the Peace Council means paying even more attention to these issues.

Detroit is a city of a strong, progressive labor tradition; it possesses an Afro-American majority and leadership with an advanced political and social vision exemplified by its elected officials, some of whom we will honor at our conference for their contributions to peace, justice and freedom. Detroit is a fitting locale for our Fifth National Conference. We gather in Detroit in celebration and with enthusiasm.

The officers and executive board  
of the U.S. Peace Council





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*All organizational affiliations for identification purposes only*

**U.S. Peace Council 5th National Conference  
Hotel Pontchartrain, Detroit, Michigan**

**PROGRAM**

**Friday, November 13**

- 7:00-9:00 pm **Reception.** *Special Guests:* Neo Mnumzana, Permanent Representative of the African National Congress of South Africa to the United Nations; Ernesto Godoy, U.S. representative, FMLN-FDR of El Salvador; a PLO representative  
**Conference Registration**

**Saturday, November 14**

- 8:00 am-  
12:00 noon **Registration**  
9:00 am **Welcome** from the City of Detroit  
**Greetings and Election** of Conference Committees  
10:00 am Introductory Remarks and  
**Report of the Executive Director**  
11:00 am **Workshop of the Whole:** Toward the 21st Century:  
*Peace, Justice and Freedom, Without Nuclear Weapons*  
12:30 pm **Lunch**  
2:00 pm **Workshops** on building the USPC and the US peace movement. Four workshops, each discussing the following issues:  
• Building a multi-racial, multi-national peace movement  
• Building coalitions while launching independent initiatives  
• Eliminating Cold War ideology in the peace movement  
4:30 pm **Plenary**—Remarks by Dr. Johannes Pakaslahti, Secretary General, World Peace Council  
—Reports of the Workshops  
8:00 pm **Paul Robeson Tribute**  
Community Arts Auditorium, Wayne State University

**Sunday, November 15**

- 9:00 am **Workshop of the Whole:** Organizational Development of the U.S. Peace Council, including  
• National/local communication  
• National staff  
• Regional organizers  
• Finances  
• Independent initiatives  
12:00 noon **Election** of new Officers and Executive Board  
**Summary**  
1:30 pm **Adjourn**  
2:00 pm **Meeting of New Executive Board**



## *Paul Robeson, Peace Advocate*

Paul Robeson was one of the great figures of our time. Actor, singer, writer, peace movement leader, leader of the Afro-American people; tireless foe of racism and champion of the oppressed peoples, friend of labor and fighter for the rights of workers to organize, he was a leading personality in the U.S. and the world during the middle years of this century.

The U.S. Peace Council, during this 5th National Conference, will pay tribute to Robeson, a founder of the World Peace Council (to which the USPC is affiliated), with a program, *Paul Robeson, Peace Advocate*. The program features singer Edward Pierson, who has devoted his career to advancing the artistic tradition of which Robeson was a part. He will be accompanied by the choir of the Hartford Baptist Church, which accompanied Robeson during his visits to Detroit during the 1950s.

In addition, local activists and dignitaries who worked with Robeson during the days of the National Negro Labor Council and the early movement against nuclear war will reminisce about their friend and colleague.

Detroit was one of the few places where Robeson could speak and perform freely during the McCarthyite 50s, when peace advocates were being arrested on trumped up charges, peace demonstrations were brutally attacked by mounted police wielding nightsticks, and many people were denied the right to travel outside the United States by the government on grounds of "national security."

Robeson's stature as one of the towering figures of the 20th century will be highlighted in this program on Saturday, November 14, beginning at 8:00 pm at Wayne State University's Community Arts Auditorium.



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Africa*

*In Solidarity with  
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and the  
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Arnold Braithwaite



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and all of Central America*

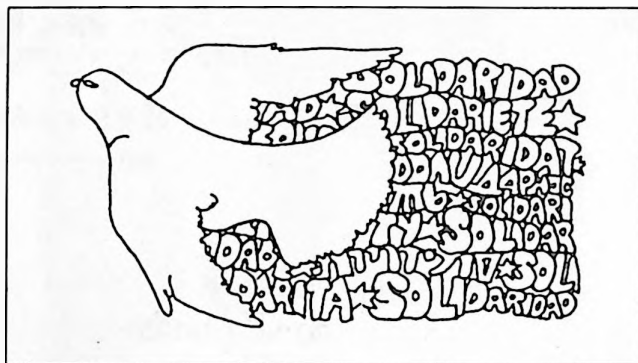
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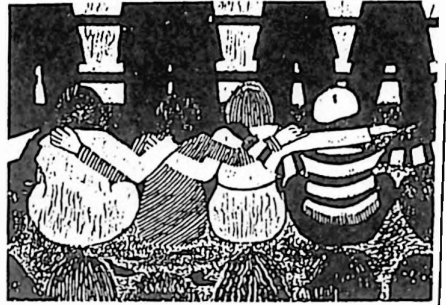




The Puerto Rican Socialist  
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5th National Conference

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---

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As we begin our 9th year  
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---

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**FOR A SUCCESSFUL  
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WITH THE PEOPLE OF IRAN**



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**greet's our 5th National Conference**

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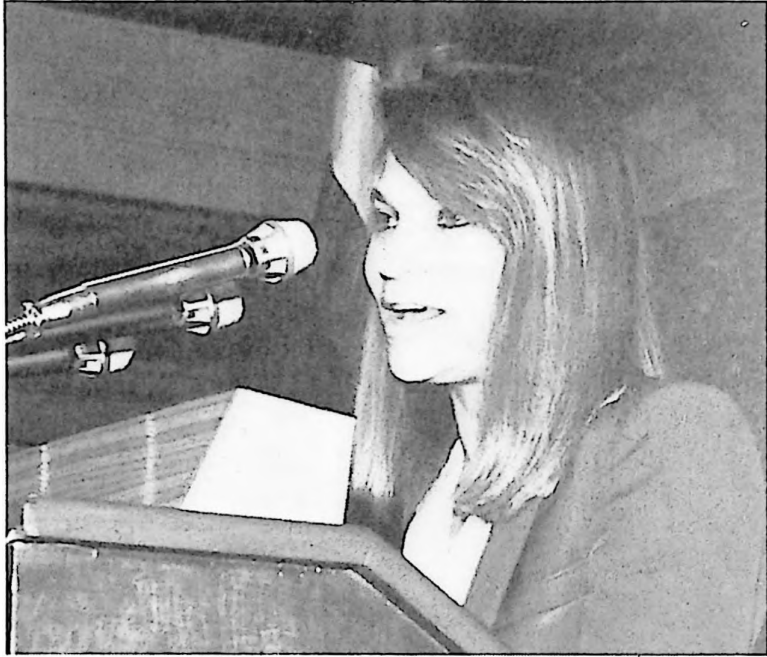
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for its commitment to our common task  
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and the liberation of all peoples.*

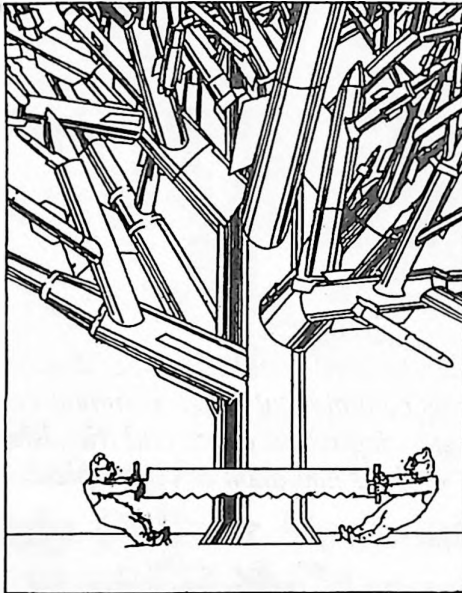


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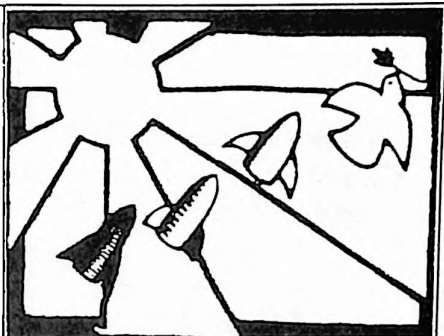


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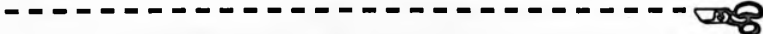
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