



WORLD YOUTH

IN THIS ISSUE:



Chile remains in the centre of the attention of public opinion. The progressive forces, among them youth, are developing each day their solidarity with the Chilean people and youth struggling against Pinochet's fascist dictatorship. The International Meeting just held in Milan, and on which a report is given in this issue, is only one example among many...



With his visit to our headquarters and his words of gratitude, Luis Corvalán paid a great honour to the WFDY. WORLD YOUTH informs you of this historic visit and publishes the full text of the speech made by the illustrious guest and by Pietro Lapicciarella, President of the Federation.



The youth of the five continents want to make their voices heard everywhere and on all questions that concern them. Is it any surprise that the young Japanese demonstrators want no more Hiroshimas or Nagasakis, nor U.S. military bases on their national territory? (See article on the Japanese youth's struggle against A and H bombs.)

Dear Readers,

Our competition launched for all those who have a talent for art and who wish to contribute to the successful preparation of the 11th Festival, has gained a very great popularity. Every week we receive more and more entries for the poster competition for this grand event of the world's democratic and progressive youth.

We inform you that due to this great interest and in order to ensure a still wider scope for the competition, we have extended the deadline for sending in entries. We now await your drawings until

10 November, 1977

which is, as you know, **World Youth Day**, the anniversary of the founding of the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

The Editors

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VENCEREMOS! This Spanish word has become known all over the world. Young people and all progressive forces in the five continents learnt it at the beginning of the 1970's, after the electoral victory of Salvador Allende Gossens, candidate of the Popular Unity. The word «venceremos» has become the slogan of the struggle of Chile's progressive forces and of the powerful international solidarity movement in support of the builders of a new Chile. After Pinochet's military coup, after the wave of terror and fascist repression, this word resounds more strongly than ever from the throats of tens of millions of progressive youth and adults throughout the world.

«Venceremos» is a slogan of struggle not only with an inexhaustible mobilizing force but also reflecting unshakeable optimism. It expresses the conviction of the Chilean patriots and all progressive forces in the world that the fascist military junta will fall, that the countless victims and many sacrifices by the best sons of the Chilean people have not been in vain, that Chile will again take the path toward a prosperous and socialist future, towards democracy and prosperity.

The World Federation of Democratic Youth, its member and friendly organizations, the democratic and progressive youth of the whole world, have never spared any effort in organizing political, moral and material solidarity actions

for the Chilean patriots. From the international voluntary brigade of young doctors sent to Chile during the Popular Unity government, which gave its modest contribution to the organization of public health in Chile, up to the powerful movement of solidarity with the Chilean youth and people fighting against the fascist dictatorship, all actions of democratic world youth have proved that they consider the just cause of Chile as their own, that they do not spare and will never spare any effort to bring nearer

the day of the restoration of the possible anti-fascist unity of all democratic and progressive forces of the younger generation. Alongside Communists and Socialists this solidarity campaign with the Chilean patriots involves at the same level Social-Democrats, Radicals, Liberals, Christian-Democrats and Catholics. And the undeniable success of this campaign is proof of the fact that it is this broad unity which will ensure the victory of the progressive forces over the dark forces of fascism.

The international solidar-

ities and strength for tens of thousands of Chilean patriots fighting under the hard conditions of a fascist dictatorship and heroically facing up to their torturers. The Chilean people and youth are ripe for final victory, and they are convinced that they will topple the fascist dictatorships. They are strongly convinced for they are aware that all fair-minded people in the world side with them. The voice of international solidarity penetrates the walls of Pinochet's gaols and encourages the political prisoners. This voice cannot be stifled, it cannot be silenced by censorship or any draconian measures of the military junta.

A huge banner bearing the word «Venceremos» greeted Luis Corvalán as he entered WFDY headquarters, a visit which was a great honour to the Federation and its member and friendly organizations, to the entire democratic and progressive world youth. Luis Corvalán spoke highly of WFDY's contribution and the contribution of the younger generation to the cause of the Chilean youth and people. His visit to WFDY headquarters further strengthened the optimistic conviction of WFDY that democracy will triumph in Chile. His visit has given a new impetus to the international campaign of solidarity, which will reach a new stage on September 11 next, with the start of the already traditional *Solidarity Week* with the people and youth of Chile.

VENCEREMOS!

of democracy in the country of O'Higgins and Allende.

As one of the initiators and promoters of all these solidarity actions, WFDY does its best to continuously step up and further develop the world campaign for the Chilean patriots. It avails itself of every opportunity to unmask and further isolate the bloody dictatorship of Pinochet and his consorts. Its representatives have always been present and will be present in the future too, at all kinds of international, regional and national initiatives having the noble aim of supporting the Chilean patriots. And one of the fundamental features of this vast international solidarity movement among youth is precisely the stress laid on the broadest pos-

sible anti-fascist unity of all democratic and progressive forces of the younger generation. Alongside Communists and Socialists this solidarity campaign with the Chilean patriots involves at the same level Social-Democrats, Radicals, Liberals, Christian-Democrats and Catholics. And the undeniable success of this campaign is proof of the fact that it is this broad unity which will ensure the victory of the progressive forces over the dark forces of fascism.

The international solidarity meeting held in Milan has once again shown spectacularly that this unity of action of youth is a live and active force which gives no respite to the fascist clique of Pinochet, which condemns all barbarity of the dictatorship, which demands with irresistible force the release of the political prisoners and inquiry into the question of the thousands of «disappeared» patriots. Pinochet has already had to yield several times. He will continue to yield, he must do so in the face of the strong and unanimous condemnation which this international solidarity campaign represents.

Venceremos has become a slogan of the entire democratic and progressive youth movement. It is a boundless source of new

The Editor-in-chief

A historic visit



The day of May 20, 1977 will be an unforgettable one for WFDY and for the whole democratic and progressive youth of the world. On the flagpole in the front of the Federation's headquarters the Chilean flag flapped in the wind next to the banner of WFDY announcing the visit of Luis Corvalán, the General Secretary of the Chilean Communist Party. At 11 a.m. sharp Luis Corvalán arrived accompanied by Gladys Marin, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC, General Secretary of the Communist Youth of Chile, and Tomás Solís, amidst the enthusiastic cheers of Bureau members and WFDY personnel.

In the conference hall of the Headquarters, which was decorated with dozens of Chile solidarity posters, WFDY President Pietro Lapicciarella delivered a welcoming address. In his



reply Luis Corvalán stressed the importance of the international solidarity movement in the struggle of Chilean patriots against the fascist dictatorship and the share and contribution of the Federation toward stepping up that solidarity. (See full texts of the two speeches in this issue.)

After that Pietro Lapicciarella handed over the medal and diploma which had been awarded by the WFDY Bureau to the General Secretary of the Chilean Communist Party when he still was languishing in the prisons of Pinochet's fascist dictatorship. The WFDY President also presented the honoured guest a complete set of **WORLD YOUTH** magazines (for 1970-1976) as further evidence of the fact that WFDY has always focused attention on solidarity with Chile starting for the electoral campaign of 1970, through the

period in office of the Popular Unity and after the fascist military coup which drowned Chilean democracy in blood and wiped out the gains of the people.

Before the closing of this special meeting of the WFDY Bureau, Luis Corvalán wrote some words in the Golden Book of the Federation, stressing once again the importance of the role played by WFDY and the whole of democratic youth in the vast campaign of solidarity with the just cause of the Chilean people and youth.

This historic visit, the great honour bestowed upon the Federation by Luis Corvalán will give a new boost to the campaign of solidarity in support of Chile, which will never stop until the bloody dictatorship of Pinochet collapses and democracy in that far-away country is restored.

I. Sch.

Marxism could never be destroyed as no ideology that corresponds to its time and to the fundamental interests of society, could ever be destroyed. This was the answer that Luis Corvalán, general secretary of the Communist Party of Chile, gave to a reporter of the Italian Radio and Television who managed to interview him at the Military School on September 27, 1973, a few days after his arrest by the fascist apparatus of repression.

Luis Corvalán was born in Puerto Montt in 1916, and brought up in the rainy region of South Chile. His father was a devoted teacher and his mother an illiterate peasant woman. From early childhood he got familiar with the hard life of the peasants, the workers and the coal miners. The heart-rending reality of his country urged him to work for the improvement of the lot of his people. In 1932 he became a member of the Communist Party of Chile while still a student at the Teacher Training School of Chillán.

In 1937 Luis Corvalán was one of the founders of the Youth Liberation Alliance, an organization which played an important role in the anti-fascist struggle and in solidarity with the Spanish Republic. Later he became an active journalist for Chile's democratic press and in the columns of «El Despertador de los Trabajadores» (Awakener of the Workers), «Frente Popular» (Popular Front), and «Siglo» (Century), he denounced the crimes of nazism and developed the struggle for freedom and for the workers' demands.

In 1947 the traitor González Videla started the campaigns of persecution against communists and



A faithful fighter for his people

other democrats working underground. Corvalán organized propaganda for democratic rights. Finally he was caught by the police, arrested, tortured and exiled.

He was elected to the Central Committee of the Party and in 1958 became its general secretary. He became senator in 1961, made a trip to the USSR and Cuba, and in 1967, he participated in the Vietnam youth solidarity march which covered the 140 kilometres from Valparaiso to Santiago. He took an active and creative part in the forming of the Popular Unity which with popular backing put Salvador Allende Gossens in as President in 1970. He was arrested on September 27, 1973, a few days

after the fascist coup, and detained in different prisons and concentration camps. But his gaolers had to yield in the face of his dignity and courage.

«I have an easy conscience. I am fond of life but I am not afraid of death. I do not want to be included in the book of martyrs. If I were condemned to die, I would become a martyr against my will.» (Military School, 1973, interview for the Italian Radio and Television.)

In the Ritoque concentration camp in April 1975, Luis Corvalán heard over Radio Moscow that he had been awarded the International Lenin Peace Prize for 1973-1974.

The fascists could not bring any charge against Luis Corvalán, this well-known patriot and internationalist. They did not dare to start a trial for they were afraid of his incorruptible voice as accuser. They did everything to silence him. They transferred him to another concentration camp and their best to break his health. After going through an urgent operation in the Valparaiso Marine Hospital they sent him back again to Ritoque. He never lost confidence — not even for a moment — in the strength of the Chilean people and in the tremendous wave of solidarity of progressive mankind, and in the inevitable defeat of those who today oppress Chile.

On April 20, 1976, while still a prisoner of the junta, he offered the sum accompanying the International Lenin Prize to help the families of Chilean detainees and kidnapped persons. This gesture had great repercussions among public opinion.

José Benavente

WFDY reaffirms

(THE WELCOMING SPEECH
OF PIETRO LAPICCIRELLA)

Dear Comrade Luis Corvalán,

It is a great honour and pleasure for us all to receive you at WFDY headquarters. We thank you wholeheartedly for having accepted our invitation in spite of the fact that you have a short time at your disposal.

I welcome you on behalf of the WFDY Bureau.

Dear Comrade Corvalán,

In your person we welcome the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Chile, a party which, together with other Chilean progressive and democratic forces, has been waging a bitter underground struggle to free the country from the black night of fascism; a party which has been in the centre of the bestial hatred of the criminal junta of Pinochet, who have in vain been trying to uproot the party from the Chilean political reality by the most pitiless terror, tortures and murder; a party which has already paid a tribute of heroism by sacrifices in human lives in defence of the dignity of Chile, its traditions and aspirations for democracy and freedom; a party of Chilean workers, peasants and intellectuals who are fighting today to overthrow the dictatorship and to get Chile on the road to democracy and socialism.

And in your person we greet a fighter who has shown, under the most severe conditions in prison, full confidence in the ability of the people and youth of Chile to confront the dictatorship, and his conviction that it is impossible to destroy the rich democratic inheritance gained in Chile after decades of battles and struggles.

It is correct to define your attitude as a lofty one, free of personal bitterness, always concerned for the welfare of your compatriots, including those who have been turned into enemies of their own people by the criminal junta.

This was the reason why the junta, which tried to humiliate you, and through you the Communist Party

its commitment



of Chile, as well as the democratic forces as a whole, had to renounce its plan, after your imprisonment had become a shame upon the junta which it could not shake off.

Your release was a great victory for all progressive and democratic mankind and world youth, who have been in the first ranks of the struggle in solidarity with Chile, rejoiced over this victory which, due to its political value, gave new impetus to their will to fight until victory of the democracy and freedom in Chile.

WFDY can state now that it has taken its part in the work of solidarity with Chile; we are proud of the fact that we have always worked for the unity of the different youth forces, without claiming to be the first, but always concretely engaged in the initiatives as promoters and co-organizers.

In our action we only followed and interpreted the opinions and feelings of the great majority of world youth, who were deeply shocked and moved by the Chilean tragedy, for it meant the violent sup-

pression of a positive and peaceful effort for the advancement of Chile. Imperialism and the reactionary forces acted not only to defend their positions and privileges but also to eliminate an example. Youth and progressive and democratic forces throughout the world understood this attempt and condemned the coup and have fought and still fight for Chile, for their solidarity underlines their will to fight for the right to progress and democracy all over the world.

It would take a long time to list all the initiatives sponsored by WFDY, a summary of these is given in the materials we have handed to you.

What we wish to stress now, on the occasion of your visit, is that WFDY is well aware of the fact that the struggle goes on.

The recent demonstration in Milan, Italy, the solidarity conference and the mass rally with the participation of tens of thousands of young people from all over Europe and of democratic youth organizations, as well as personalities of different political persuasions from all the continents, have successfully proved that attention toward Chile is alive, and that youth fully proved to undertake new tasks of solidarity, first of all the campaign to save the lives of the «disappeared» persons, to force the junta to reveal their whereabouts.

WFDY reaffirms its commitment to this action in your presence; militant solidarity with the struggle of the youth and people of Chile will be, as in the past, one of our main activities, it will be the expression of our commitment for the principles of internationalist solidarity.

We work together with you, Comrade Corvalán, and with you, Chilean Comrades, and we shall do so until we reach our aim, the elimination of fascism and dictatorship.

Freedom and democracy for Chile!

SPEECH
BY LUIS CORVALAN

«We'll succeed in overthrowing the dictatorship...»

Dear Comrade Lapicciarella,

Dear Comrades,

For the delegation of the Communist Party of Chile consisting of the general secretary of the Communist Youth League and member of the Political Bureau of our Party, comrade Gladys Marín, of comrade Tomás Solís, as well as myself, this meeting is a very moving experience, especially for me. I have often dreamt of the day when I would be free and be able to come and see you and express to you our deep thanks for all that you have done for the cause of freedom and democracy of the Chilean people, for all the excellent initiatives that you have staged during the 3 years and 8 months of fascist dictatorship in Chile, for all the work you have done in all the continents, enabling millions and millions of young people to meet and unite around the struggle, the dreams, the hopes, the aspirations of a small people in a far distant land who, nevertheless, had the courage to seek a new future in the Southern Cone of the Latin American continent, who had taken the path of revolution and then had to face the crimes and atrocities of a fascist dictatorship. That people, the Chilean people, appears now very close to all the peoples of the world and dear to all men and women who stand for progress. In the main, I know about your struggles, about your concern, your initiatives in connection with the anti-fascist cause of Chile. In essentials, I am informed about all this, because we had the chance, the good luck, to listen in secretly in our prisons to Radio Moscow and other short-wave stations using our little transistor radios. And I am informed about all this from the reports I always got from comrade Gladys Marín. You have just held in Milan, as comrade Lapicciarella has explained to me, a new act of youth solidarity which brought together thousands of young people from different countries, of different languages and of different tendencies. An act like that proves that

solidarity with Chile is strong and alive in spite of the nearly four years that have passed since the coup. There is something new, something that deserves stressing in this connection. Today it is not a solidarity movement full of compassion, it is not a question of the reaction of the world, of progressive people in all countries, of the youth of the whole world after the murder of President Allende, after the emotion caused by the fascist coup, the brutal fascist coup

of September 1973. No, it is something more than that. It is a feeling, an ideal, a movement becoming more conscious every day and which is able to unite millions of people of all the latitudes who cry out «Freedom for the people of Chile!» «Get the political prisoners out of jail!»

I think this is very important. Yesterday, when I had a talk with members of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Communist Youth League, I pointed out that for me



the finest thing is international solidarity, that solidarity which enables men and women of different colours, of different races, of different languages, from all the corners of the earth, to join together in a common language, to share in a common idea, to have common feelings. As in the present case, around the anti-fascist cause of the Chilean people. I see this as a great progress, a sign of the changes that have taken place not only in the balance of forces in the world, but in the conscience of mankind. Mankind rejects crimes, tortures, the violation of human rights, the crushing of values so dear to man.

In this universal solidarity movement the World Federation of Democratic Youth has written brilliant pages. You are one of the strongest currents of the powerful human stream of solidarity. You have had the intelligence and the ability to coordinate your actions with those of other international youth organizations, to help in many countries toward the development of solidarity with the people and youth of my country.

Comrade Lopiccirella has been to Chile, and a second delegation has been sent there. All this has been of inestimable value for us. All your actions have been an invaluable aid for our people and for our youth.

Dear Comrades,

It may be important to stress another fact, too. The fact that the fascist dictatorship has not been able to win over the Chilean youth. It would be beside the point to discuss here whether there is a fascist dictatorship in Chile; unfortunately there is fascism in my country, but that fascism has not been able to create a mass base of support among the Chilean people; the fascists have the backing only of limited groups of the oligarchy and other privileged sections of the population. The Chilean youth has not been contaminated; it has not been possible to contaminate in with the virus of fascism. But it is sure that Pinochet has around him a small gang of youths whom we call hangers-on. They are always at Pinochet's heels; they belong to the most powerful aristocratic families of Chilean society, but they are far from representing the youth of my country, neither the working youth

nor the student youth, nor the youth who don't work and don't study, for in the present conditions in Chile there are hundreds of thousands of young people who have no possibility to work or study. I am not going to describe to you the struggles being waged in Chile, but I can tell you that the Chilean youth has not only turned its back on Pinochet, but, alongside the working class, it participates in the struggle of the people against fascism, against the dictatorship, for the recovery of freedom, for the downfall of fascist tyranny, for the creation of a new democratic regime, so that the people of my country can resume their march along the road of great social transformations. In the factories, in the universities, in the high schools, in the urban districts, the struggle of the Chilean youth goes on. And the Chilean youth are encouraged and strengthened in this struggle by international solidarity. They know that they are not alone, as the Chilean people are also not alone, they know that millions of youths throughout the world are at their side, that the peoples of the world are at our side.

Dear Comrades,

Thank you, thank you very much for all you have done for the people and youth of Chile. Thank you very much for all you are doing and will do for us, thank you for your concern over the problem of the «missing» patriots, thank you for your strong voice which you raise each day in support of the life and freedom of Carlos Lorca, general secretary of the Socialist Youth, of José Weibel, deputy general secretary of the Communist Youth, of Carlos Contreras Maluje and hundreds of other young Chileans who are in prison or have «disappeared». For us the struggle for the life and freedom of the missing patriots is a central task of international solidarity.

Gladys Marin has just come back from the United States and she has pointed to me that the problem of the «disappeared» is causing great concern among all Americans who rally in support of the people of Chile. She has informed me that at the new meeting now being held of the Commission on Human Rights of the OAS — in which, as you know there are no communists or people close to revolutionary positions, but representatives of reac-

tionary governments and of some democratic governments in Latin America — a new resolution has been tabled which condemns the crimes of the military junta headed by Pinochet. And it is there that the situation of the «missing» must be cleared up. Pinochet denies the existence of the «disappeared», but nobody believes him, neither in my country nor anywhere in the world. This very morning we received the news that the Vicariate of Solidarity of the Archbishopric of Santiago of the Catholic Church has revealed that during the first days of May, 12 persons were arrested, adding to the long list of «disappeared». Among these 12 persons there are Socialists, Christian-Democrats and Communists.

The world knows that Pinochet has become jailer No. 1 of our time and it condemns this barbarous practice, this savage technique of torture and «disappearance», the imprisonment of citizens. We are sure that humanity will be able to have this drama cleared up, which we have called the most dramatic chapter of the Chilean tragedy. Pinochet often boasts that he is acting outside all internal or international pressure; he wants to appear like a man who is so solid and firm that no pressure of any kind could shake him. But this is not true.

Pinochet has not been, is not and will never be unshakeable in the face of the great strength of international solidarity. My own liberty and the liberty of many other political prisoners have been achieved due first of all to international solidarity. The strength of this solidarity can force Pinochet to open the gates of the prisons and release the political prisoners. The power of this solidarity strengthens the struggle of the Chilean people. Through this struggle, through the struggles of the popular masses of our country, of our working class, our people and youth, we shall succeed in toppling the dictatorship with your help, with the help of this powerful and gigantic international movement of solidarity. Thank you once again for all that you are doing and will do for freedom and democracy in Chile. Thank you!

Milan:

YOUTH WITH CHILE

The cause of the people and youth of Chile, the struggle for the ever greater isolation of Pinochet and his clique, for the restoration of democracy in the country of Salvador Allende have become, since the fascist military coup of 1973, the cause of the entire progressive and democratic forces of the world, among them millions of young people of all the continents. In Europe and in the other continents there is hardly any capital that has not experienced the militant anti-fascist atmosphere of meetings organized in solidarity with Chile fighting against the dictatorship, for saving the lives of Chile's best sons.

The International Meeting that took place in Milan, Italy, from 6 to 8 May, 1977, is a new proof of this. And for several reasons it is a reassuring proof. First of all, for it was organized by a national preparatory committee representing all tendencies of the Italian democratic youth movement, in close cooperation with the World Federation of Democratic Youth, one of the promoters of all solidarity activities carried out by youth for the Chilean patriots. The other reason is that the Meeting focused the attention of world public opinion on the fact that it was not confined merely to condemning the junta but it particularly stressed the fate of the more than 2,500 «disappeared» persons, a fact which is categorically denied by Pinochet and his consorts.

This concern about the fate of Chilean political and trade union militants who have «disappeared»



prevailed in all the discussions of the Meeting. The participants addressed a letter to United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim requesting him to intervene on behalf of the «disappeared» patriots and on behalf of all political prisoners in Chile. The demand of democratic world youth to receive full information about the question of the «disappeared» persons is highlighted in the plan of action adopted unanimously (see this issue of WORLD YOUTH for full text).

On May 8, after the closing of the Meeting, Milan was the site of a huge demonstration and meeting in solidarity with Chile. Over 30,000 young people, among them several youth delegations who had come from different countries of Europa — the strongest ones from Greece and France — paraded through the main streets of Milan, and across Cathedral Square, to participate in the meeting at the Piazza del Cannone. After a brief opening speech delivered on behalf of the Italian Youth Committee for International Relations by Roberto Vallini, Gladys Marin took the floor on behalf

of the Chilean youth, Mario Colombo on behalf of Italy's united trade union movement, Anselmo Sule, on behalf of the parties of the Popular Unity, Gilberto Bonalumi, on behalf of the Italy-Chile Association. The first part of the solidarity meeting ended with a long speech by Gian Carlo Pajetta, member of the Political Bureau and Secretariat of the CC of the Italian Communist Party.

The second part of the meeting consisted of an artistic programme offered by the Chilean «Quilapayún» and the «Inti-Illimani» ensembles, as well as by artistic ensembles from Italy, the German Democratic Republic and Hungary.

In our next issue we shall return to the theme of the Milan Meeting in a longer and richly illustrated article, for we want to give fully detailed information on the importance of this initiative which was one of the most outstanding activities of youth, both in the balance of WFDY actions and of united actions by the Italian democratic youth movement. This information will appear in our Holiday Issue coloured supplement.

Youth in struggle for their rights, for peace and social progress

In our previous issue we wrote about the seminar held in Brussels from February 25-27, 1977 on the following theme: «Youth and the struggle against multinational corporations, for their rights, for peace and social progress». In response to the general interest in the above theme by youth the world over, **WORLD YOUTH** is making its modest contribution to the realization of the common will expressed by the seminar participants: «to pursue a broad discussion of the struggle of youth against the multinationals, to deepen the analysis made at the European Youth and Student Meeting held in Warsaw in 1976...» and «to strengthen the unity and common actions of youth on the national, regional, and multinational level in the struggle against the multinationals and unemployment, for universal peace, youth rights, democracy and social progress, to overcome the political and economic power of the multinationals and their political allies, thus opening the way for far-reaching political, social and economic changes...» (from the Declaration adopted by the Brussels seminar). We would like to fulfil this task by continuing our series of articles exposing the penetration of multinationals into various countries of the world, and in this article, we give the opinions and standpoints of representatives of youth organizations belonging to different political and philosophical trends.

Taking into account the great importance of the theme, we shall also in the future be ready to publish your contributions: opinions, articles, suggestions, etc. with the aim of enriching and deepening the knowledge about youth's situation the world over, and strengthening the bonds uniting the youth of different continents in their struggle against this common enemy, for their interests and their future.

So, we give the floor to the youth:



Eugene, Braet, General Secretary of the Belgian Committee for International Youth Relations (CBRIJ);

On behalf of CBRIJ, the Belgian branch of CENYC, we congratulate the Young Communists of Belgium and the WFDY, the organizers of this initiative dealing with the important question of youth's struggle against the multinationals, for their rights, for peace and social progress. The more so as this initiative is taking place most timely in an atmosphere of struggle by workers for social justice. This struggle is reechoed in

Belgian cities, and it cannot in any way be separated from the struggle waged nowadays by progressive forces throughout the world for the establishment of a new international economic order, for a fairer distribution of resources, work and benefits.

Tory Kaneko: Democratic Youth League of Japan:

Under the pretext of «US-Japanese economic cooperation» based on the US-Japanese Security Treaty, the penetration of US multinationals into Japan continues and is spreading and growing as a result of the facilities offered and the complete freedom of foreign capital investment.

It is mainly US multinationals which are tightening their grip on the Japanese economy, taking advantage of the period of deep economic crisis to obtain control over a number of major industrial enterprises in the country. Today, over 90 per cent of Japan's energy requirements come from abroad, first of all from US oil concerns. US monopolies have a key position in the most up-to-date branches of Japanese industry, for instance, in electronics, aeronautics, nuclear power, etc., that is, in branches with the best prospects for development.

**Lev Komlev — Leninist Komso-
mol, USSR:**

In our country youth struggle for social progress, contributing by their active and conscious work to economic, scientific and technical development, to the broadening of socialist democracy. True to the principles of internationalism, the Soviet youth have strong feelings of admiration and solidarity for the struggle of progressive youth in capitalist and developing countries against multinational monopoly exploitation, for social and economic rights. We are



convinced that struggle is a major contribution to the joint struggle for peace, democracy and social progress. The very fact that our seminar has taken place in Brussels, the European capital of the multinationals, the centre of the Common Market, and the headquarters of NATO, allows us to point out once again the direct link that exists between the improving of international relations and the strengthening of the struggle of the peoples and youth for peace, freedom, democracy and social progress.

**Morel Marko — Union of So-
cialist Youth of Yugoslavia
(SSOJ):**

Last year at the 5th Conference of heads of State and government of non-aligned states, held in Colombo, the participants denounced the unacceptable policy and practice of multinationals which are reflected in their fabulous profits, in their plunder of natural resources, in their activities to check the development of national economies, violating the sovereignty of developing countries, and the principles of non-interference in the affairs



of other states. These activities violate the right to self-determination of the peoples and often lead to corruption and other undesirable practices further subordinating the developing countries to highly industrialized nations.

**Enrique Sepúlveda — Chilean
Socialist Youth:**

Our people was a free people that tried to build its future under conditions of complete sovereignty. The Chilean people and youth understood that freedom and social progress were



impossible while there were huge international monopolies. Freedom and monopolies do not go together. That is why the Popular Unity government started consistent policy of nationalizations, transferring to the social sector of the Chilean economy all enterprises in the hands of US monopolies, key enterprises for Chile's development.

**Jean-Charles Nègre — French
Communist Youth Movement
(MJCF):**



Our movement uses all its strength to organize and develop the struggle of youth, particularly young workers. We have just worked out the main objectives of this struggle: free the youth from the power of the monopolies, meet their demands for better living and working conditions, help them to combat unemployment. At the same time France's young communists demand economic revival, an end the vast plunder by industrial and financial giants. In this struggle our movement works untiringly to unite the young generation, to bring together youth regardless of political, philosophic and religious tendencies, with the sole exception of a handful of sons of multi-millionaires. At present, when the capitalist system is in deep crisis, the militant solidarity of the forces involved in the struggle the world over is a condition for new victories. Though the conditions under which we fight are varied and different, we have the same enemy: imperialist oppression and exploitation.

Jean-Pierre de Règne – General Secretary of the Belgian Christian-Social Youth and of the Christian Democratic Youth of the EEC:

At a time when there is a great awareness of the need for initiatives for détente and disarmament, the young Christian-Socialists are all out for cooperation with organizations of youth willing to promote the cause of peace and freedom, to work for the establishment of a new international economic order based on a fairer use of natural resources, distribution of work and benefits. In this sense the Brussels Seminar has been a valuable contribution to better mutual under-

standing among European youth organizations.

B. Nitcheva – Bulgarian Dimitrov Communist Youth Union (DKSM):

International companies are the main allies of reactionary forces all over the world. For example, during different moments for the Portuguese revolution representatives of foreign capital, together with Portuguese reac-



tion attempted to reduce the economic base of the revolution and hold back far-reaching economic, political and social changes in Portugal. Today nobody can be unaware of the fact that the legitimate Popular Unity Government in Chile was overthrown by a plot by multinational monopolies. The ITT has become a symbol of reaction right across Latin America.

Under the conditions of one of the sharpest crises that capitalism has even seen and because of the activities of multinational monopolies, the army of jobless in the world has reached the record of 18 million, most of them young people. The young generation in socialist Bulgaria, which is

free of unemployment, hunger and poverty, is fulfilling its patriotic duty taking part in the building of a developed socialist society, and, joining in numerous concrete initiatives of WFDY, gives active and concrete support to the struggle of youth all over the world for their rights, for peace and progress, for strengthening the anti-imperialist solidarity of world youth.

Isabel Barrio – young ITT worker, Portugal:



On April 25, 1974, the beginning of our democratic revolution, multinational monopolies controlled extremely important sectors of Portugal's economy. They soon realized that the Portuguese revolution had no intention of defending their interests in the country. So they started, as did the Portuguese capitalists, to sabotage the national economy, put obstacles in the way of the revolution and thus create conditions for setting up a new dictatorship. As far as the ITT is concerned, it tried to bring to a standstill all the factories it owned in Portugal. It was only thanks to the resolute action of the workers in those enterprises and the attitude of the pro-

visional government that the ITT failed to create more problems and more serious ones for our economy and our revolution.

Heinz Hoffman — German Socialist Working Youth (SDAJ), (FRG):

We accuse the leading circles in our country of blocking the realization of basic human rights: the right to development of the personality and the



right to work. In the FRG there are 1,250,000 unemployed, among them 300,000 youths who haven't even the right to vocational training. Thus hundreds of thousands of families, particularly young couples, face the serious everyday problem of earning their living, and their personal development is hampered by unemployment. We feel that it is necessary to step up both on the national and the international level the joint struggle of democratic youth organizations against the power of the monopolies, for the basic rights of the young generation. On the basis of its traditions of anti-imperialist struggle and expe-

rience accumulated in the course of 30 years, WFDY should initiate a world campaign for the right of young people to work and education.

Mohammed Haji Youssef — Somali Youth Union:

Multinational companies control a considerable portion of the national production and foreign trade of the developing countries. As a result of their efforts to obtain higher and



higher profits and maintain their dominating position over the national economies of those countries, they impose on the peoples and youth conditions of dire poverty, neo-colonialist conditions, which are accompanied by ever-growing unemployment. Aware of the pernicious role of the multinationals, youth and students in Africa, supported by all progressive forces the world over, are launching a vast campaign against the multinationals. This campaign is an essential part of the efforts aimed at creating a new international economic order, in favour of economic and social progress for the developing countries.

Peter Pagh Rasmussen — Danish Communist Youth (DKU):

In Denmark, too, youth are aware of the fact that multinational monopolies endanger their existence, their future and their jobs. In our country at present youth unemployment stands at about 74,000. As far as vocational training is concerned, 40 per cent of apprentices are obliged to work 20 hours a week in addition to their training, so they do a total of 60 hours a week. And even those who accept



such sacrifices to finish their training have no guarantee of a job, no guarantee of escaping the unemployed list. In our opinion the fight against youth unemployment is one of the most important tasks, around which broad cooperation is possible in the common struggle against multinational monopolies.

Correction: In issue No. 1977/4, page 16, last sentence of column 1 should read: **High joblessness was reported by delegates from Greece, West Berlin, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Ireland and other countries, amidst the everincreasing profits of the multinationals.**

The multinationals and

unemployment France



Big demonstration
by local government workers
in Paris

Today, if you ask a young Frenchman or Frenchwoman about his or her main concern, about the things causing them the most worry, the biggest problems, the answer will nearly always be unemployment.

In our country, 800,000 young men and women are familiar with the humiliating situation of unemployment. Thousands and thousands live in fear of losing their job or not being able to find one after leaving school or graduating from university.

The old capitalist society which denies them the elementary right to work, deprives them at the same time of the possibility to live, to study and get a decent job, it denies them fundamental liberties.

The national campaign of the French Communist Party and of our Movement «Poverty and Hope» threw light on the scandalous reality of 20th century France. 16 million people live in poverty and 6 million of them are young.

Anti-national policy

This situation is rooted in the undivided domination of the country by a small group of industrial and financial giants, attaining multina-

tional dimensions and taking part in the deliberately anti-social, anti-democratic and antinational policy of the Giscard d'Estaing-Chirac government.

A policy which sacrifices to the egoistic interests of these giant groups the interests of the workers, the youth and the nation. Therefore, nothing is more urgent and more important for us than to develop the struggle of the youth alongside the workers against the power of the monopolies, for the rights of youth, for democratic changes to get the country out of the crisis.

For more than ten years some of the big monopoly groups have acquired enormous power in France. With the help of the State they boost the exploitation and over-exploitation of workers, the plunder of our economic resources, to such an extent that today they find it more and more difficult to find profitable outlets for the enormous amounts of capital they have accumulated.

At the same time, the economic power of the socialist countries is increasing, their successes in peaceful competition with the capitalist countries, the struggles of the national liberation movements have abolished the last vestiges of monism and put the necessity of a new international economic order on the agenda. All

this, added to the crisis of the imperialist system of domination.

Thus the ruling power of the big bourgeoisie has since 1969 set itself new objectives to ensure the control of the monopolies over all possible sources of profit.

It was in 1969 that the political power set itself officially the fundamental objective to give the French economy an international dimension by the creation of world-scale enterprises.

The idea was to put all of the country's economic, social and political resources in the service of one single objective: to increase the investment of French capital in the system of multinational monopolies.

In fact, this policy has deeply affected the economic system of our country.

Several monopoly groups based in France have acquired or are acquiring multinational dimensions.

The Michelin group today invests more capital abroad than in France.

The Rhone-Poulenc group controls 43 companies in France and 39 abroad and 60 per cent of its turnover is from business abroad.

At the same time, foreign enterprises are taking stronger hold of

the French economy, in line with Giscard d'Estain's real policy.

In 1975 foreign capital controlled in France

— 18 per cent of industrial manpower,

— 24 per cent of industrial investment,

— 25.8 per cent of industrial turnover.

Over 30 per cent of these enterprises are American-based and represent 40 per cent of the sales and manpower.

For example, the ITT group has 36 subsidiaries in France producing telephone equipment and cosmetic products and deep-freeze foods.

Thus the development of French-based multinational corporations goes hand in hand with the surrender to foreign multinational capital of a number of sectors which are important from the point of view of the national economy.

The main aim of Prime Minister Barre's austerity plan is to further strengthen the accumulation and concentration of capital, to further increase the penetration of French and foreign capital in the multinationals, thus further heightening the over-exploitation of the workers.

Two remarks can be made concerning the development and activity of the multinationals in France.

The first is the close link between the difficulties concerning the utilization of capital within the country and the internationalization of capital within the context of the crisis of imperialism.

The State for the monopolies

There are very few multinational companies and groups which are not linked to a given imperialist power. It is the limits on profit-making imposed on monopoly enterprises in their own countries that force them to directly face international competition in order to seize every opportunity for profit. It is also for this reason that they seek all over the world for countries where the best conditions exist for exploitation, especially countries where manpower can be severely over-exploited. In the countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia, the multinational com-

panies, with the support of the imperialist powers they are linked with, pursue a policy of force to preserve their interests there. Thus the policies of destabilization, of support to neo-colonialist dictatorial and racist regimes like Brazil and South Africa — the gendarmes of imperialism — are among those favoured by these big trusts. This was the case with the French intervention in Zaire.

Our second remark derives from this: the internationalization of capital in the form of multinationals does not involve a lessening of the role of the State, on the contrary, its intervention becomes more and more indispensable to help the monopolies syphon off the largest possible part of the national resources, and promote monopolistic restructuration in the economic and political field.

At every turn, the State intervenes in favour of concentration and multinationalization. Thus, when the Honeywell Bull group seized control of the French CII data-processing company, the State supervised the operation and is paying out 88 thousand million old French Francs under various forms over a four-year period.

Whilst «Framatoure» owned by Belgian baron's Empain controls, under American licence, the building of nuclear plants in France, it is by a decision of the State that company gets substantial financial aid through the commissariat for nuclear energy.

Thus, the process of development of multinational monopolies is going on parallel with the strengthening of relations, within a highly complex network, between the State and these big industrial and financial companies.

In this context, it is now quite common in France for heads of these companies to become Ministers or Secretaries of State, or in the reverse order. This policy, on the national level, extends to the external level through actions aimed at creating and developing such European structures as facilitate the activity of the monopolies and multinationals.

In particular, this is done through the activity of the Giscard Administration, in order to strengthen the West-European bloc in the economic, political, military and other fields and furthermore to put France's foreign policy definitely within

the strategy expressed and headed by American imperialism.

Youth — one of the first victims

The consequences of this policy are tragic for the great majority of our people and firstly for the workers. Youth are one of the first victims of imperialist domination, i.e. the domination of big feudalist industrialists and bankers.

Be it the purchasing power and, in consequence, the standard of life, the living, working and study conditions, possibilities for access to culture, sports and leisure, or be it the general framework of life, democratic rights, there is no one field today which is not affected by this policy.

Now, I would like to speak more precisely about the consequences of youth unemployment.

One of the characteristic features of multinational capital is its chronic instability. The heads of these companies are always on the lookout for immediate and maximum profits keep changing the distribution of their capital. They make these transfers without any concern for the conditions for a harmonious development of the economy, or for the human, social and economic consequences of this practice. Each time there is a compression of manpower, of workers on the payroll. The most recent example was when the Wendel Sacilor group decided to liquidate its steel plant in Lorraine and become integrated in an European steel cartel dominated by West German trusts.

This means that 20,000 workers will immediately lose their jobs. This means that a whole region is exposed to under-industrialization, to a sort of desertification. Generally speaking, these practices of the monopolist and multinational groups engender great sectorial and regional imbalances, the sacrifices of essential sectors of national economy.

Thus for youth the main consequence of this situation is an unprecedented aggravation of unemployment.

At present the number of jobless in France is 1,465,000. 55 per cent of them are young men and women under 25.

A significant part of them are

youth who have never worked, young people who have just finished school or university, and they experience the humiliation of feeling that they are unwanted, and will remain a burden to their families.

Those who are lucky enough to find a job are faced with an endless working week, with speed-up, and they have to take jobs not suited to their qualifications and are thus badly paid.

Those who study are faced with an implacable system of social selection, an out-dated education system which does not keep pace with the demands of a modern economy either in content or form, a system of education which has always been subordinated to the short-time needs of the big industrial enterprises.

Youth aware and militant

In the face of this situation the great majority of youth do not remain inactive.

A growing number of young people are aware of the widening gap between the situation created by the policy of big business and the real possibilities offered by the wealth of our country both in human and economic resources, and by the enormous progress of science and technology.

It is on this basis that massive and intensive struggles are developing for the immediate satisfaction of our demands. In the political context of our country the struggle is directed against the political and economic power of the multinationals.

The fight against unemployment, for maintaining and creating new jobs is the central issue. Today workers go on strike by the thousand, occupy the enterprises, and often strikes last for months. The objectives of the strikers are the same everywhere: to oppose the closing up of enterprises, to preserve jobs and the economic apparatus. Late actions on the above themes rallied hundreds of thousands of youths. The application of the government's «austerity» plan has been rejected by the working masses and the youth.

Our Communist Youth Movement works with all its strength to organize and develop the struggle of youth, particularly of young workers.

We have just elaborated immediate objectives of our struggle to wrest from the government improvements in the situation of young workers, and measures to ease youth unemployment.

At the same time young Communists act firmly for economic revival, namely to step up consumption of goods by the population and for an end to the enormous waste caused by the big financial and industrial corporations.

In this general struggle our movement works incessantly to unite the young generation belonging to different political, religious and philosophic trends, with the exception of a handful of sons of multi-millionaires. The movement is anxious to link the struggle of youth with that of the working class.

All these struggles are aimed at securing the success and application of the Common programme of government of the left parties.

In France today there is no better way to fight against the power of the multinationals than this struggle for a fundamentally new policy.

By nationalizations, which are the core of the Common Programme, the democratic power will strike deeply at the system of domination of the multinational monopolies and their backing from the State.

These nationalizations would enable the nation to take control of the banks, and key positions in industry, the ones most closely linked with the State. Instead of being in the hands of a group of multinational monopolies, the strategically most important branches of the economy would be under the democratic control of the nation.

This would be an indispensable means of a policy of renewal, of social progress which would assure for youth the right to work, to a trade, to knowledge, which would assure for them a future matching their hopes and aspirations.

It would be an indispensable means for satisfying the major material and moral demands of the workers, of our people.

In order to achieve our aims, the great majority of the people having control of the country's affairs would carry out a major development of democracy.

The working people will have the means of exercising political power. Youth will also take a full share in the democratization of the country.

In all domains, and at all levels youth will have their say in all decisions concerning them at the enterprises, at schools, universities, in their towns and in the whole country.

The young Communists wage this struggle for the victory of the Common Programme all the more vigorously as they place it in the prospect of a through-going democracy, the thrilling prospect of socialism under French colours.

Finally I would like to conclude by mentioning an important aspect which extends the struggle to other countries, the question of the organization and development of joint actions by youth in capitalist countries against unemployment. Youth in industrialized capitalist countries face the same dramatic situation, suffer the same exploitation by monopolies and multinationals.

In the Common Market countries there are 6 million jobless, the majority of them young.

At a time when the capitalist system is in crisis, and is looking for a way to solve its contradictions and rivalries in order to form a front against the growing popular movement, the militant solidarity of the forces struggling against it is a condition for new successes. Though the conditions in which we fight are varied and different, we have the same enemy, imperialist oppression and exploitation.

In the world today, far more than in the past, every young person can see more clearly the international dimensions of the struggle for social progress, for socialism, the deep link that exists between national and international struggles.

This is why we believe that youth in capitalist countries affected similarly by the consequences of the exploitation of big business must develop and elaborate through their democratic organizations joint forms of struggle. Obviously joint actions can be effective only by respecting everyone's autonomy and identity, by taking into account the diversity of situations in each capitalist country.

But despite this diversity, we are convinced that there is plenty of room for the development of common actions in multiple and varied ways. As far as we are concerned we are ready to pursue the efforts that have already been undertaken. This is in the interest of youth and of progress.

Jean-Charles Nègre



Interview with Luis Orlando Dominguez,



First Secretary
of the UJC, member
of the Central Committee
of the CPC, and of
the State Council,
on the occasion of
the 3rd Congress of
the Young Communist League
of Cuba

This was not only a numerical objective but also proof of our confidence in the youth, the certainty

that they are being educated in keeping with the lofty principles of the Revolution.

Our young generation which formerly knew a world characterized by the exploitation of man and by the degradation of man's dignity, is the fruit of the Revolution, it has grown with the country, with our history and is educated on the basis of principles for improving the conditions of the people.

In this way the Communist Youth League is growing for the revolution is stronger and more powerful, and its own work promotes the creation of more goods, more production and the heightening of ideological and moral values.

Quality has been and continues to be the principle for the unbreakable line of broadening and building the UJC. This made possible the strengthening of the prestige and authority of our organization among the youth masses and among the entire people, and this fact was confirmed at the recent election of candidates to the organs

It is now precisely 15 years that Commander Fidel Castro raised before thousands of young people meeting in the Latin American Stadium the question of renaming the Cuban vanguard youth organization to the **Unión de Jóvenes Comunistas (UJC)**. That was April 4, 1962. The 3rd Congress of the UJC was held in Havana from March 31 to April 4, 1977. It was a historic congress held after the first congress of the CPC and at the same time under the slogan of the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students, to take place in Cuba from July 28 to August 5, 1978.

QUESTION: Luis Orlando, how has the membership increased between the two congresses and what was the criterion for selecting and broadening the mass organization?

ANSWER: The UJC is an organization of progressive youth, the reserve and auxiliary of the Communist Party of Cuba, whose main aim is to involve young people in the tasks of the revolution, to contribute to shaping them as communists ready to join the Party.

As compared to the 2nd Congress, the UJC membership has gone up by 245,300 and this was done with the aim of doubling the number of our militants at that period.



of People's Power, in which 1,760 UJC militants were elected to different posts in the respective bodies and organizations.

Young women in the ranks of the UJC have reached the number of 134,099, four times more than at the time of the 2nd Congress, and higher than the total of the UJC membership at that time.

The electoral assembly of youth was held in the form of consultations with the masses, linked with the process of selection for UJC membership and was one of the most important and most valuable experiences in the struggle to have in our historic conditions a youth organization based on the selection of the best young people of the country.

QUESTION: How is the UJC coping with the educational tasks Fidel has designated as fundamental ones up until 1980?

ANSWER: At the 2nd Congress of the UJC our commander-in-chief set

important tasks for the Cuban youth who have positively answered their commitments to make a decisive contribution to the revolutionary goals of education and carry out a real educational revolution. School development programmes have reached a satisfactory level, the application of the principle of combining study with work has proved to be effective, school enrolment has increased considerably and there are a lot fewer drop-outs.

Today there are about 20,000 student-teachers in the Pedagogic Department carrying on decisive work for the secondary and pre-university schools as well as successfully fulfilling many other complex tasks.

Very appreciable factors corresponding to these objectives are the application of a plan to further improve the National Educational System, the setting up of Ministry of Higher Education and the future promulgation of the Basic Law on Education.

For the success of the lofty aims

set by the Educational Revolution, the UJC has worked to spread among the young generation the principle that the main task of children and young people of school age is to study. Other fundamental aspects are to raise training to a

Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba conveys the Party's and Government's best wishes to congress participants



higher level and improve the quality of it.

The plans for study combined with work should also be developed as a basic principle for the training of young builders of socialism. We must deepen the education of our students according to the noble traditions of solidarity and respect, which our society will never renounce. We must work for the highest possible standards in the training of qualified people as required by our country's development, involving more and more young people of working class origin in the exercise of the noble functions of education and ideological and professional training, as a fundamental contribution to the improvement of the educational system, as well as to raise the cultural and technical level of young workers.

QUESTION: In this sense, how does the UJC carry on its activity jointly with the Party and the mass organizations concerning the tasks of the workers' and student movement?

ANSWER: The UJC, according to the orientation of the Party and in coordination with the CTC and the

Opening of the 3rd Congress of UJC

trade unions and the trade union youth commissions works untiringly to boost the education-work programme for young workers. This is the first condition which is inseparable from the objectives of a communist education for youth. The UJC also intensifies its activity in the field of the economic education of youth, which means enriching the conscience of every young person especially in the struggle to increase economic efficiency, and the efforts to rally young people to the struggle for productivity of labour.

The process of linking wage-rates with output, an expression of the socialist principle of paying each person according to the quality and quantity of his work, continues to be a special objective in the work of the branch organizations of the UJC among workers, in support of the CTC's efforts in this direction. This implies the carrying out of thorough political work by the UJC focused on the development and maintenance of the revolutionary and communist thinking of our youth through enhancing their participation in voluntary work and socialist emulation, and in the struggle for the respect of collective interests.

The exemplary attitude of the militants shown in the everyday performance of their tasks and their regular activity among youth to get them to take a similar attitude is an important element by which the UJC contributes to the realization of youth's contribution to economic development.

QUESTION: What is the significance of the 3rd Congress for the present work of the organization? Could you mention some fields of work that have developed since that Congress?

ANSWER: The 3rd Congress of the UJC took place in special conditions: somewhat over one year after the holding of the 1st Congress of the Party, an event of primordial importance for our people, and at a period of accomplishing its most important commitments: the putting into practice of the first Five-Year Plan, the commencement of the realization of a new system of management and economic planning, the adoption of a new Political Administrative Division and, on the national scale, the setting up of Organs of the People's Power. This



Delegates voting on the Congress resolutions

QUESTION: How is the UJC organizing and preparing for the Festival? In what way did Cuban youth participate in previous Festivals?

ANSWER: The holding of this magnificent event in Cuba will coincide with the 25th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks. It will be a great honour for our youth and people and it represents also a great commitment. From the moment that our country was chosen as the site of the Festival, we began working to make the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students a new success of the world's youth and students.

The UJC also forms an active part of the National Preparatory Committee chaired by the First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and President of the Council of State, our Commander-in-Chief, Fidel Castro.

The Union of Young Communists, the Federation of University Students, the Federation of Secondary School Students and the Pioneers' Union of Cuba represent the younger generation of Cuba in the IPC and in their capacity as hosts are in charge of the work and objectives of this great event. On this occasion our entire youth and people will have the honour of rais-

was undoubtedly a good platform for the organization of our 3rd Congress, being that the guidelines mapped out by the First Congress of the Party concerning children and youth, as well as its historic decision in all fields of national life and in foreign policy, offer exceptional possibilities for the Communist Youth League to draw up the balance of its activities and plan its objectives for work in the years to come.

On the basis of the 3rd Congress we shall determine how the organization will boost the qualitative process to make headway in political, ideological, cultural, aesthetic, moral, patriotic and internationalist education of the youth and children of Cuba, in keeping with the requirements of the development of the development of our society in its march towards socialism.

The organization will encourage the Educational Revolution, shock work and other economic tasks, the strengthening of international life and defence tasks. It will elaborate projects to find the best structure for the UJC and for student organizations, and for the requirements of the present and the future, and will submit to the National Assembly of the People's Power the fundamentals of the Children's and Youth Code and will open up a new and brilliant stage in the life of the Cuban youth which will serve the preparations for and holding of the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students.

ing the Festival banner together with the most representative democratic youth of the world with the same revolutionary enthusiasm and resolve for victory as the youth of Cuba has written in the pages of the glorious history of the struggles of our people.

Our pioneers' task is to embellish their schools, places of culture and camps. By the preparation of cultural and sports programmes to get acquainted with the life of children in other parts of the world, by making souvenir goods for the visitors, they will also be the hosts of pioneers coming to the Festival from other countries.

The World Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Union of Students are making a special contribution to the preparatory work and the holding of the 11th Festival. These organizations have for years assumed a decisive role in the success of the World Festival Movement as well as the Continental Latin America Student Organization (OCLAE).

Since the Founding Assembly of WFDY which initiated the holding of the festivals in 1945, the Cuban youth have always been present.

It is of particular significance that during the 4th Festival held in Bucharest in 1953, world youth could get acquainted with a group of young fighters of our country, worthy heirs to the traditions of the most noble and patriotic struggle who, headed by Fidel Castro, carried out the assault on the Moncada Barracks. One of these young people, Raul Castro, a few months earlier, had participated at a preparatory meeting for that event and signed the appeal calling for its realization.

Since the victory of the Revolution, the participation of Cuban youth in the Festivals has taken on new dimensions. Hundreds of thousands of young Cubans have already taken part in our country in the preparatory work for the Festivals since the taking of power by the Revolution, and hundreds have taken part in them as delegates.

QUESTION: Could you mention the main tasks accomplished by the

Cuban youth since the foundation of their organization?

ANSWER: It would be difficult to enumerate the many activities the UJC has carried out since its founding. Undoubtedly, since the setting up of the AJR (Association of Young Rebels), aimed at improving the lives of thousands of youth and adolescents who, without any jobs, had a low cultural standard and had no hope for the future until the revolution, our organization has contributed to the development of tasks of major importance for the revolutionary process. Cuban youth have been present in the struggle against the enemy at Escambray, at Playa Girón and other towns, in the campaign against illiteracy and in the leadership of thousands of youth brigades of the Youth for Revolutionary Work and the «Cinco Picos».

The organization helped the mobilization of young people to join the ranks of the Revolutionary Armed Forces as artillerymen, pilots and gun technicians.

The productive tasks of our organization have played a large mobilizing role in the agricultural youth columns and in the development of the **Isla de Pinos**. This process further was consolidated by the setting up in 1968 of the Centenary Youth Column and other national detachments, the columns of Youth for Industrial Construction and the Maritime Youth Column.

At the 2nd Congress our organization assumed the task set by Fidel Castro, the Educational Revolution, carrying on considerable work in the forming of the «Manuel Asunción Domenech» Pedagogic Detachments for teachers and for the followers of Camilo and Che who, through the Columns movement, initiated the construction of secondary schools in the countryside, in the province of Camagüey.

The UJC has carried on outstanding work in the forming of the Youth Army of Labour to integrate the entire movement into the columns of the Work Units of the FAR in this new institution which is an important force for the country's development.

The 2nd Congress launched a movement to boost the priority economic tasks set by our Revolutionary Government in which young people play a vanguard role, namely, in «shock tasks».

In this respect young people have once again proved their abilities as builders of the future. This is shown by the building of fertilizer plants at Nuevitas and Cienfuegos, of concrete works at Mariel and Nuevitas, by the development of mining in the northern region of Holguin Province and quite recently the building of the Central Railway.

Our youth have worked with high aims, recognizing the historical heritage, the achievements and significance of the UJC and are preparing to accomplish yet more complex tasks in the field of science and technology in the harnessing and transformation of nature and at the same time they are tackling difficult and heroic tasks for the building and defence of their socialist homeland.

Finally, the development achieved by our pioneers' organization — with a membership of 1,889,000 representing 98.9 per cent of primary school students — must also be stressed.

The pioneers' organization has strengthened and the pioneers are very fond of their organization. This derives from the level of its development and the planning of its activities and its increasing participation in social efforts within the community and its presence in the country's most important events. An example of this is the participation of half a million children in guarding the ballot-boxes during the election of the organs of people's power

To sum up, we have achieved good results in our efforts for the education of a full and happy generation able to cope with its social tasks and to take difficulties in its stride. The pioneers have become a great school where they prepare for the future, and the pioneers' smile is one of the finest symbols of the Revolution.

Interviewer: E. Rios

A SWING TO THE RIGHT

The present stage of the struggle of the Arab liberation movement which has been going on since the 'fifties, is the people's response to the official policies of the governments led by the alliance of feudalists and bourgeois compradores. Those policies have proved to be unable to meet the aspirations of the Arab peoples for genuine national independence, development and social progress. Reactionary circles in the Arab countries, which held key positions in economic and political life pursued a policy of compromise in the economic, political, social, cultural and other fields together with British and French colonialists. Hence the fact that the anti-colonialist movement involved at the same time a revolt against the ruling alliance of the reactionary classes. And this explains the close connection between tasks for national (Arab) liberation with tasks for social liberation (in each country).

Apart from the specific internal problems in each Arab country, the solving of which has been one of the immediate aims of the Arab liberation movement, that movement has also had to fight against the policy of «national treason» of reactionary governments in regard to the Palestinian question. Arab reactionaries in fact favoured the creation of a base for imperialism in the region taking no account of the rights of the Palestinian people. Without entering into details on this most complex question, a look at the history of the region makes clear the fact that the colonialists with the complicity of Arab reactionaries were already at the time drawing the blueprints for Israel's future role in the struggle against the entire Middle East liberation movement.

This is the background to a conclusion characteristic of the history of the Arab liberation movement: struggle for the national liberation and progress of each country was linked in the conscience of the masses with struggle to solve the Palestinian problem in the interests of its people.

An anti-imperialist movement

Under the present economic and social conditions and the level of maturity of political life in general, the Arab liberation movement found itself faced with a variety of political theories, and organizations which stood in the way of a clear-cut and consistent policy on the internal level of each country, but at the same time determined the general orientation of the movement and its anti-imperialist character.

Around nationalist and anti-imperialist slogans reflecting the aspiration of the masses to independence and progress including the slogan of «socialism», interpreted in different ways and with the traditional confusion by theoreticians of the middle class, the broad masses of the small and middle bourgeoisie played an important role in the stepping up of the anti-colonial, and consequently, anti-imperialist struggle. They constituted together with the working class the broad social base of the Arab liberation movement.

As soon as this movement developed into a concrete force in the search for a road leading to real independence, it clashed more and more with imperialism and internal reaction whose economic, and therefore political, interests are closely linked. And in the struggle for the realization of the aspirations of the Arab peoples, both on the national and the social level, the clash with imperialism is becoming increasingly the principal and dominant clash, and struggle against imperialism is becoming increasingly sharp.

The clash grew deeper as new social forces joined the struggle for national independence and social progress, as new forces realized that colonial and imperialist rule were the main obstacle to the achievement of their aspirations.

The Arab liberation movement, in the face of the new threat from imperialism is strengthening its bonds with the socialist countries,

its solidarity with the national liberation movements and other progressive forces of the world, discovering in course of struggle common interests with them and becoming aware of the necessity to join with them in the common struggle going on at the world level.

The coming into power of certain representatives of the Arab liberation movement in some Arab countries made it possible to take some progressive economic, social and political measures. Such measures have been the core of progressive governments' policies and their results deeply reflect the class nature of these governments.

At first the progressive measures and achievements came out as elements of a policy which though anti-imperialist, suffered from a partial and «preferential» view on the development of society. But at a given stage in the face of the resistance of reactionary circles inside each of those countries, in the face of the plots and pressures of imperialism and its allies in the region, a vital question came to the surface: what was to be the road of development in general?

The response to that question revealed in different proportions the class nature of the forces forming the broad social base of the leading alliance of the Arab liberation movement. It thus threw full light on the contradictions and difficulties within this ruling alliance, on the possibilities to consolidate the gains of the popular masses and the possibility of a counter-attack by the still existing internal reaction and world imperialism keeping high up on their list of conspiratorial actions the question of reestablishing their positions in the region.

A choice has to be made

The consistent pursuit of the struggle for genuine national independence and social progress, the extension of progressive measures already

taken and the choice of a road of development in the interest of the popular masses required a constant and effective participation of the representatives of the social forces interested in waging an unswerving anti-imperialist struggle with all its complexities and consequences. The participation of the popular masses directed by the ruling circles, a participation often only sporadic in form, is no longer sufficient in the face of the bitter struggle of reaction against the progressive socio-economic and political measures and against the entire Arab liberation movement.

In the face of the conspiracies of world imperialism, of Israeli aggression and internal reaction, it has become inevitable to choose, with all the complexity of possibilities, between a policy leading to the consolidation of the liberation movement, to a realistic approach to the economic, social and political problems and difficulties, to the democratization of social and political life, to the mobilization of the popular masses and their involvement in the solution of national problems, to the strengthening of contacts with the socialist countries and other progressive forces in the world, and between another policy seeking a compromise with reaction and objectively aimed at a slow but consistent liquidation of the entire Arab liberation movement. On the basis of this choice a polarization of social forces and political trends is intensifying in a bitter struggle for power and, consequently, for the future of the entire Arab liberation movement.

The situation today

It is impossible and somewhat «prophetic» to answer the question today: who has won this battle? But it is absolutely necessary to recognize that the rightist trend and reaction have gained important positions. The fact that these successes are temporary, unstable and sometimes disputable does not alter the fact that there are real successes marking the entire political and social life of the Middle East.

There are clear signs of a swing to the right in some Arab countries,

replacing the anti-imperialist and progressive policy of the representatives of the liberation movement. This can be noted in all fields.

1. Instead of an economic policy oriented towards socialist construction there is a policy of «overtures» to foreign capital and big bankers, a policy of weakening the role of State sectors, mainly in the field of industry and agriculture, in comparison to national production, a policy of strengthening the «parasitic» sectors of the social services whose profits go only to a handful of very rich people...»

2. On the social level, this has been accompanied by an official policy of protecting the interests of big business against popular demands and widening the gap between the living standards of the broad masses and the privileged class.

3. While official demagogic propaganda demands democracy for the entire people and freedom for each person and organization, police campaigns are being intensified against the right of organization of the masses and mainly of the working class, and against any form of opposition in general. Political power is more and more acquiring the character of «personification» relying on anti-democratic police actions. The institutions of real democratic representation are most often replaced by institutions «designated by elections».

4. The swing to the right has proceeded quickly in the field of foreign policy. A radical change has come about in the official view and assessment of events and facts. The upsetting of relations has become farcical, to the extent of breaking with the deep traditions of friendship with the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, live traditions in the minds of the Arab peoples, and to the extent of considering the imperialist policy of the United States — which gives all kinds of protection and support to Israel — as the only power capable of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. Considering this, it is not surprising that the most reactionary Arab countries have the key role in official decision-making on Arab policies.

5. The consequences of this policy are disastrous for national slogans such as «Arab unity», and for unity itself. Clearer now than ever is the incapacity of the governments to reach a unity which would be based on the interests and aspirations of the Arab peoples in the struggle against imperialists domination, Israeli aggression and local reaction. This is the obstacle to reaching unity in general.

6. These general features of a swing to the right among certain official circles are strongly inter-linked. On the other hand, their effects are most dangerously felt in the field of the liberation struggle against imperialism and Israeli aggression, especially concerning the Palestinian question. Not only by the importance of the latter, but due to the fact that they are already a criterion and a symbol for the struggle of the Arab people.

The struggle between the two major tendencies of the Arab liberation movement which today dominates the entire political life by the scale of its development, is mainly concentrated on the Palestinian question.

This reality has given exceptional importance to events in Lebanon.

The struggle of the Palestinian resistance and of the progressive Lebanese forces is waged first of all for the fate of the Palestinian people. But it sums up and condenses the struggle of the Arab progressive forces against imperialist plans in the region.

The liquidation of the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon — the site of its main presence — which would also involve the liquidation of its powerful backer, the Lebanese national patriotic movement — would make it possible to impose an American type of solution not only to the Arab-Israeli conflict but also an imperialist and reactionary domination over strategic points in the area and would deal a fatal blow at all components of the Arab liberation movement.

Sanaa Abouchakra

Call of A-bomb victims and second generation victims to world youth

The International Symposium on the Damage and After-effects of the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will take place under the auspices of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in July and August this year in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Tokyo.

The aim of this International Symposium is to research into the damages caused by the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the suffering of the surviving A-bomb victims, and to inform the world's people of them.

The holding of the International Symposium was decided upon by the 22nd session of the Special Committee on Disarmament of the NGOs held in Geneva, February, 1976. This initiative has been supported by influential international organizations including: International Peace Bureau (IPB), World Peace Council (WPC), Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), World Council of Churches (WCC), International Union of Students (IUS), Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). The WHO and UNESCO have also indicated their willingness to give unreserved cooperation to the Symposium.

The International Preparatory Committee for the International Symposium started last January. It elected the WFDY as one of the Vice-Presidents of the Committee.

Behind the process of deciding to hold this International Symposium was ever growing international pub-

lic opinion for the total prohibition of nuclear weapons.

At the same time extremely important is the role played by the movement against atomic and hydrogen bombs in Japan, which is the only country that was seriously hit by nuclear weapons for the first time in the history of mankind. The Japanese people and youth have devoted their efforts to inform broader sections of the world's people of the damages and after-effects brought about by the use of nuclear weapons. They have consistently worked for the prevention of nuclear war, for a total ban on nuclear weapons and for relief to the surviving A-bomb victims.

The 22nd World Conference against A and H Bombs held by the Japan Council against A and H bombs (Gensuikyo) in the summer of 1976 passed a resolution to urge the holding of an international symposium on the damage and after-effects of the A-bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Gensuikyo urged that the United Nations should hold the international symposium. Delegations which included A-bomb victims have been sent to the United Nations in the past three consecutive years. In Japan broad sections of prominent personalities and organizations representing different sectors of the people are involved in preparations for the International Symposium.

The successful holding of the International Symposium on the Damage and After-effects of Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be a great contribution to

the further rallying of international public opinion in a great cause for the human race, namely, the total banning of nuclear weapons.

I. Damage and after-effects of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the criminality of US A-bombing

1. Damage and after-effects

The United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and on Nagasaki three days later. This was the first use of nuclear weapons in the history of the human race.

On these days the atomic bombs exploded into huge fireballs of a radius of 140 metres at the maximum with the highest temperatures at millions of degrees. The people who were in the vicinity of the epicentres vanished in an instant leaving just shadows behind, and other people were burnt black. The fireball caused bomb blasts and a great fire. A number of people strove to find a way out of the fire but were driven back by sparks and hot blasts. In Hiroshima, window-panes within seven kilometres from the epicentre were all smashed, and inflammable objects within two kilometres were all destroyed by the fire which lasted two more days. 90 per cent of the buildings and houses in the city of Hiroshima were almost completely demolished or burnt down.

The atomic bombs dropped were radioactive as distinct from conventional arms. This is in fact what characterizes atomic bomb damage. A great many people were killed by the radiation. Atomic disease has constantly taken the lives of A-

bomb victims during the past 32 years. The radiation affected not only those people who were in the city of Hiroshima on the morning of August 6, 1945, but also people who came to the city later on and were affected by radioactive black rain, people who were looking for their blood relatives or who were engaged in relief work being affected by the residual radioactivity. This is another aspect of the damage caused by A-bombing.

«... a crowd of people whose skin peeled like rags ... wearing a loin-cloth with burnt holes and crying suddenly appeared in a row. (Quotation from «Collected A-Bomb Poems» by Sankichi TOHGE). Suffocated people flung themselves into the river that flows through the centre of Hiroshima City to try and cool their bodies. Those people who managed to stay alive hunted desperately for their families.

This is how the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with populations of hundreds of thousands became infernos all at once. More than three hundred thousand citizens of the two cities were killed by only two atomic bombs.

As many as 400 thousand people who managed to escape death and who resisted the acute radiation disease, are now obliged to live in uncertainty and pain.

These surviving A-bomb victims have been affected by keloids, cataract, leukaemia, anaemia, etc., which are all after-effects of radiation. An increasing number of surviving victims suffer from cancer, liver disfunctions, circulatory troubles, etc.

Microcephaly is marked in persons who were exposed to radiation in utero at a high rate. In this context further uncertainty and anxiety has arisen about the children and grandchildren (second and third-generation victims). A majority of the second-generation victims are growing up in good health but some of them complain of «being likely to get tired», or «feeling



dull». There have been some cases of death of second-generation victims, supposedly due to the genetic effects of radiation.

Successive Liberal-Democratic Party governments of Japan have always neglected to take the necessary measures to relieve, take care of and investigate the situation of the A-bomb victims; the second and third-generation victims are increasingly having health troubles, and the state of health of the second-generation victims has not been made clear exactly. The average age of the A-bomb sufferers is well over 50 now. They tend to get physically older than their actual age. Many victims are bedridden, and have been repeatedly hospitalized or have succumbed.

In addition to the suffering and ill-health, the surviving victims have to contend with appallingly poor living conditions. They have great difficulty in supporting their families. Their houses, properties and places of work have been destroyed. Most of them have been forced to abandon or change their occupation, and become extremely low-wage earners. Medical treatment costs are too high for the victims to be hospitalized or to go to hospital because of the disease; victims' working capacity decreases and they are

We must remove the spectre of a nuclear cataclysm!

getting older and older. This adds to the difficulties in earning a living. They are also exposed to delayed-lesions.

Such a condition brings on unspeakable mental anguish.

Today a number of surviving victims vehemently denounce the Japanese government's policy of refusing to pass legislation for relief to the surviving A-bomb victims, ie. health care and the safeguard of the livelihood of all victims. Based on their own horrifying experience A-bomb victims demand indignantly a total ban on nuclear weapons. All the surviving victims desire to live in a world where they can feel «It is so nice to be alive». Second-generation victims are also joining in the movement against A and H bombs together with broader sections of the young generation.

2. Criminality of A-bombing by the USA.

As mentioned above, the damage from the A-bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki experienced by the Japanese nation was the largest and most inhumane act of all previous war disasters in history.

The atomic bombs killed human beings indiscriminately, both com-

batants and civilians, and destroyed completely the cities and citizen life, as well as properties. At the same time the atomic bombs left not only hundreds of thousands of A-bomb victims but also a fear of genetic effects on second and third generations of A-bomb victims. This testifies historically that a fresh use of nuclear arms could bring about disastrous effects incomparable to any disaster caused by conventional weapons.

The A-bombing of Japan by US imperialism was a criminal act that defied humanity and violated the then international law which banned massive and indiscriminate destruction of cities and other acts causing excessive suffering in a war.

After the Second World War the US armed forces occupied Japan and seized the resources for investigating the effects of the atomic bombing. It is said that they made pathological specimens with the bodies of A-bomb victims to research secretly the radiation effects on the human body.

This fact tells us that US imperialism made a nuclear attack upon Japan precisely as an experiment to study the effects of A-bombing on the city and on the human body. We can see clearly the criminality of the A-bombing.

II. Japanese youth demand total ban on nuclear weapons

The nuclear development and arms race motivated by the United States are intensifying; it is hard to break the circle, thus an extremely serious stage is being reached.

According to the report submitted to the Conference of the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) in Nairobi in the spring of 1976, the destructive power of nuclear weapons stockpiled by the world powers is equivalent to two million Hiroshima bombs. In other words, they can kill all human beings on the earth scores of times.

In addition, nuclear proliferation is intensifying on a global scale as can be seen in the emerging of new nuclear possessing countries in the past few years.

The Centre for Defense Information directed by retired Rear Adm. Gen. R. Larocque released a material which estimated that the United States deployed 7,000 tactical nuclear weapons in Europe and 3,500 in the Pacific of which 680 were in South Korea.

US President Jimmy Carter, speaking of the elimination of nuclear arms from the world, on the one hand, is an active advocate of expansion of the Trident, a new-type nuclear powered submarine, and clarifies his plan for continuing nuclear development and the armaments race.

Moreover, what is most important for us Japanese youth is that Japan, the only A-bomb victim nation, is deeply involved in the nuclear strategy of the United States within the framework of the Japan-US military alliance, and is considered as the stronghold of its domination over Asia. It is well known to the world that over 100 US bases and military facilities in Japan were used as the base for aggression against Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The United States has not abandoned its «policy of strength» even after the defeat in the war of aggression against Indochina.

The constant port calls of US nuclear submarines in Japan, the deployment of nuclear detachments in the US base in Okinawa, the nuclear bomb-dropping exercises, etc., infringe on the sovereignty of Japan and endanger peace in Asia. The Japanese government openly puts larger dependence on the United States «nuclear umbrella», cooperating with this dangerous nuclear strategy.

These facts show that the total prohibition of nuclear weapons, their abolishment, is a most urgent task which brooks no delay.

The Japanese people and youth have maintained that the conclusion of an international agreement for a total ban on nuclear weapons is the only way to put an end to the vicious circle of endless nuclear arms development initiated by the United States and to make headway toward a peaceful future for the human race. It is to this end that they have been struggling.

This position has been endorsed by broad Japanese public opinion and has enjoyed wide international support.

The 21st World Conference against A and H Bombs (Hiroshima, 1975) adopted the «Hiroshima Appeal» which called for the conclusion of an international agreement on the total prohibition of nuclear weapons and for the realization of measures to ban their use. Support for it has been expressed by the NGOs IPB, etc., at their international conferences. The national liberation

struggles and broad anti-imperialist forces also give their backing to the Hiroshima Appeal.

At the same time the 5th Conference of Non-aligned nations (Colombo, 1976) urged in its Political Declaration a total ban on nuclear weapons as it did in the previous session in 1973.

III. Japanese youth with the second-generation victims in the fight for the total prohibition of nuclear weapons

The Japanese democratic youth movement in cooperation with broad sections of democratic forces has been involved in the movement to call for the conclusion of an international agreement on the total banning of nuclear weapons, following and developing the movement against A and H bombs in Japan hand in hand with the A-bomb victims and second-generation victims as an integral struggle against imperialism, for peace, independence and democracy, while carrying on the campaign for support of the Indochinese peoples, the youth and student festival movement, etc.

The Democratic Youth League of Japan (DYLJ), guided by the Communist Party of Japan, has been in the forefront of these struggles fighting in defence of the livelihood and rights of the second-generation of A-bomb victims in cooperation with trade union youth sections, ZENGAKUREN (All-Japan Federation of Student Autonomies) and many other youth organizations including the Association of Second Generation Victims.

Seventy per cent of the 10 thousand participants in the annual World Conference against A and H bombs have been members of the young generation, including second-generation victims in the past 22 sessions.

It is already 32 years since the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The majority of the Japanese population is made up of young who have never lived in wartime.

The DYLJ believes that we must not forget the tragic past of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In this sense we will do our best to let the youth masses know the facts and the truth about atomic bombing and its after-effects so that we will win an international agreement to totally prohibit nuclear weapons.

Hisashi Juki
member of the Central
Standing Committee of DYLJ

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The struggle of the Young Generation for peace, Security and Cooperation in Asia

The 60th anniversary of Great October is an important landmark in the life of the Soviet people, in the development of the world liberation movement. The USSR and progressive humanity as a whole are approaching this significant date with new victories, of socialism, the teaching of Marx, Engels, Lenin, the ideals of proletarian internationalism,

The world's democratic youth is playing and outstanding role in the struggle of all mankind for deepening and expanding the process of international détente. The multifaceted efforts of different detachments of the youth movement for turning Asia into a continent of peace, security and cooperation are one of the most important trends in that struggle.

Asia is not only one half of mankind, it is also smouldering hotbeds of dangerous military conflicts which have flared up more than once here over the past two or three decades. Asia is not only a heritage of the heavy colonial past but it also accounts for countless natural resources, industriousness and talent of its people.

The entire history of the present century provides convincing evidence that genuine equal peace and real security for all countries without exception, mutually beneficial and goodneighbourly relations in the political, economic and cultural spheres can only be ensured on a broad collective basis, guaranteeing equal and equitable rights for all its participants, big and small, belonging to different social systems.

The history of the emergence of the idea of collective peace origin-

vividly demonstrating their great revolutionary transforming force.

The history of the struggle for peace, security and co-operation in Asia are closely linked with the history of the Soviet Union.

Today we publish the article on the subject by D. Kapustin, who is now scientific editor of «Problems of Far East» Magazine.

ates in the Leninist principles of peaceful coexistence of states with differing social systems. It is a well-known fact that namely these ideas underline the mutual relations of the young Soviet state with the countries of the East. One of the first

attempts of achieving collective peace was the Soviet draft to create the Pacific Pact in the 30s aimed at bridling Japanese militarism and averting its aggression against China, the USA, the USSR and other Asian countries. Nowadays in the new historical conditions the Soviet Union continues the course at implementing the idea of regional collective security and first of all in Asia. This course was confirmed by the 25th CPSU Congress whose resolution underlines that ensuring security in Asia on the basis of the joint efforts of the states of that continent is one of the urgent tasks in the further struggle for the cause of peace, freedom and independence.

At the same time it is well-known that imperialism has tried and is trying to distort the principles of collective security, creating under this signboard closed military and political blocs against other countries and peoples. But life has rejected these attempts. The collapse of the SEATO bloc and considerable weakening of such political alliances in Asia as CENTO, AZPAC and others are the best evidence of this.

Kati Hannikaine, Secretary of the World Peace Council and Dr. Vladimir Lukin, of the Institute on the USA and Canada (USSR Academy of Sciences) at the plenary session of the Seminar.





Valery Lordkipanidze, First Vice-President of the Committee of Youth Organizations of the USSR (KMO) addressing participants at the Seminar: José Consuegra, Rector of the Simón Bolívar University, editor-in-chief of *DESARROLLO INDOAMERICANO* (Indo-American Development), President of the Society for the Protection of Natural Resources of Colombia and Carlos Lozano, WFDY Secretary (from left to right).

The idea of collective peace on the Asian continent presupposes the radical restructuring of international relations along the principally new guidelines, excluding military confrontation, political blackmail, economic forms of neo-colonialism. This idea is aimed at strengthening the political and economic independence of Asian countries, at establishing equal and all-round cooperation. Realization of the idea of collective peace will liberate vast resources both manpower and material spent on the arms race, and will channel them to the upsurge of the material and cultural level of the broad popular masses.

The results of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe have been a new remarkable stimulus for the struggle of all peoples and youth for peace and security in Asia.

The enemies of deepening the relaxation of tensions have often exaggerated the «Asian specifics» to prove the absurdity of applying the Helsinki experience for Asia. But was the road to European security smooth? And have there been no barriers erected on this road?

It is important to emphasize that there is an organic link between the results of the All-European Forum and the struggle of Asian peoples for peace, security and cooperation. The ten main principles of mutual

relations among states announced in Helsinki and which are the highest achievements in the cause of ensuring collective security and business-like cooperation among states with a differing social order, have embodied in them and further developed the well-known principles of the ten-point Declaration on promoting universal peace and cooperation adopted in Bandung in 1955 at the summit conference of Afro-Asian countries. By way of comparison it is not difficult to see the similarity in the context and meaning between most of these principles.

It is of no less importance to point out that Asian peoples have accumulated their own rich experience of the struggle for peace and security in Asia. Started by the famous decisions of Bandung, it was continued by the collective decisions adopted within the framework of the Afro-Asian solidarity movement, the non-aligned movement, as well as in the course of the UN Session and its specialized bodies. This experience includes the efforts of the People's Republic of China which in the 50s was an active supporter of collective peace and security in Asia and the Pacific area, a champion of creating nuclear-free zones in these regions.

Security on a collective basis in the highest form of ensuring a lasting peace and mutually beneficial

cooperation, signifying participation of all or as many as possible states of a given region. But the concrete ways for its achievement can only be determined and agreed upon by the participants themselves. The practices of the past years show how numerous these ways and forms can be in approaching the solution of this vital problem. Among them are the creation of the regional zones of peace and security, nuclear-free zones, zones of freedom and neutrality, collective struggle for the withdrawal of foreign troops from the territories of other countries and dismantlement of foreign military bases, collective efforts aimed at liquidating the military hotbeds and seats of tension in different parts of Asia and many others.

Rich experience in this respect has been accumulated by the international youth movement uniting in its ranks a broad range of national, student, trade union, scientific, religious and other organisations. Suffice it to recall that at all major youth forums of the past years the young people of the planet raised their voices in support of the just struggle of the heroic people of Vietnam and other peoples of Indochina against the US aggression, in support of the youth and people of Korea, fighting for a peaceful democratic reunification of their country without foreign interference, in support of the Arab peoples' struggle against the Israeli aggression.

The struggle for collective security in Asia has been one of the main topics of the 10th World Festival of Youth and Students. A number of meetings, seminars and discussions of the young participants in the Berlin Festival was devoted to its various aspects.

The 9th Assembly of the World Federation of Democratic Youth held on 10-17 November 1974 in Varna, Bulgaria, attended by the envoys from 106 countries unanimously fav-

oured «the advance of the cause of peace and security in Asia, the struggle for the creation of a system of security on a collective basis on the continent». The specially set up commission actively and fruitfully discussed the topic «The Youth and Asian Peoples in the Struggle Against Aggression and Interference of Imperialism and Militarism, for Peace, Security, National Independence, Social and Economic Progress». More than 20 speakers have given a high estimate of the WFDY activity in this direction, noting the active and constructive role of the Leninist Komsomol and Soviet Youth. The participants outlined a number of concrete measures in stepping up the struggle for peace and security in Asia. In particular, a proposal was approved to hold an international youth conference dedicated to the struggle for turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace, security and cooperation.

Such conference was held under the auspices of the WFDY on 15-19 October 1976 in Madras, India. Its organisers were the All-India Youth Federation and the All-India Federation of Students. The participants in the conference joined their voices in support of the mounting international movement for turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace, security and cooperation. The adopted resolution noted that a decisive factor in attaining this goal is the liquidation of foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean, the disbandment of military blocs, withdrawal of foreign troops, elaboration of new measures and agreements in view of guaranteeing independence, national sovereignty, peace and security of every nation. The young envoys from 30 countries of the world noted in the final document that this struggle «has found consistent support in the socialist countries, the national liberation movements as well as young, independent and progressive states». They came out in support of bilateral and multilateral efforts for the sake of security and cooperation of Asian countries, for the establishment of goodneighbourly relations among them.

It is very important that the young participants in the Madras Conference stressed the fact that the struggle of the peoples of the Indian Ocean could never be separated from the common struggle of progressive forces, taking place in Asia and the world over. Clear understanding of

this is seen in the fact that the «oases of calm» in the unstable world of today must be regarded not as the final goal or the end result but as a «step», as a component part of a larger regional entity based on the principles of collective peace, security and cooperation. Such understanding was demonstrated in those sections of the final document where welcome was expressed to the historical victory of the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia over US imperialism, its allies and the internal reaction and noted the great positive influence of that victory on the situation in Asia and the world, where solidarity was voiced with the struggle of the Korean youth and people for the withdrawal of US troops from South Korea, for a peaceful, democratic and independent reunification of their homeland.

The traditional seminar of young researchers on problems of cooperation in the Pacific Ocean basin sponsored by the Committee of Youth Organizations of the USSR and the Student Council of the USSR together with other Soviet public and scientific organizations has become another wide broad international youth forum which also considers questions of Asian security and cooperation. This seminar is being held every summer in the Soviet Far Eastern part of Nakhodka.

The last year's Third Seminar held on August 18-25, was attended by the young delegates from 16 countries of Asia, America, Australia and Oceania as well as representatives of some international organizations — UNESCO, the WFDY, the IUS, the World Peace Council, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, the World Federalist Youth. Three topics were discussed at the Seminar: «The Youth and the Spread of International Détente in the Pacific Ocean Basin», «The Role of the Youth in Protecting and Rationally Using the Pacific Ocean Resources», «The International Youth and Student Cooperation in the Pacific Area and Prospects of its Development». A colloquium was also held devoted to the present-day concepts of Pacific cooperation.

The history and the results of work of the Nakhodka seminars convincingly show that the idea of broad and businesslike cooperation of the youth in the Pacific area countries is assuming more visible contours.

According to the participants in the Third Nakhodka Seminar, whose opinion is recorded in the unanimously adopted documents — the Communiqué and «The Basic Conclusion of the Seminar» — the meeting of the young researchers has been very fruitful, contributing to the deepening of mutual understanding and cooperation between the youth organizations of the Pacific Ocean countries in the interests of ensuring peace, stability and security in this key region of the globe.

The struggle for peace, security and cooperation of Asian peoples continues to remain in the focus of attention of the progressive youth movement. Many aspects of that broad and important topic will be discussed at the 10th WFDY Assembly to be held in February-March of 1978 in Berlin. This topic will also be trackled at the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students in Havana whose preliminary programme envisages the holding of a number of measures under the common slogan of stepping up the struggle of Asian youth for emancipation and national sovereignty, in defence of independence and territorial integrity, against new conspiracies of imperialism and international reaction, against the socio-economic backwardness and the consequences of colonial rule.

The young generation has much in store to expand and step up the struggle for turning Asia into a continent of peace and goodneighbourliness. The progressive youth of the world can and must direct its efforts toward solving such collective tasks as for instance, the creation of nuclear-free zones in various parts of Asia, turning South East Asia into a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality, making Micronesia a region free from foreign military bases and banned for testing the weapons of mass destruction of humans. These and other trends of the struggle can become significant factors in creating a system of Pan-Asian security.

The idea of collective peace in Asia is being met with the growing support of Asian public. Realization of the fact that there is no other alternative acceptable to all is also becoming stronger. The struggle of a new, peaceful and prosperous Asia is broadening with every passing day and the democratic youth of the planet is marching in the front ranks of that struggle.

D. Kapustin

Strategic Moves and Counter moves

Surprise in Mauritius —

American presence in Kenya?

The results of last December's elections on Mauritius Island caused considerable surprise in the capitals interested in the region of the Indian Ocean, from London to Washington and from Pretoria to Paris. On the «sugar island» with its nearly one-million population, the MMM had obtained the largest number of votes: this is the Militant Movement of Mauritius, the oppositional party headed by Paul Bèrenger who had gone back to the island after the student rebellion of 68 in Paris.

Islands sold

Bèrenger's program of foreign policy included the revision of the country's relations with the Western powers, in the first place of its relationship with South Africa. More precisely he means to break with the racist regime in Pretoria which has a considerable impact on economic life in Mauritius; its air company is still allowed to utilize the island's airport for its flights from Johannesburg to Australia.

Bèrenger's earlier declarations gave rise to even more serious concern in London because of the MMM's electoral victory: he had said that if his party were to come to power they would deal with the fate of the naval and air base which had been yielded by Great Britain to the United States: the place in question is Diego Garcia, this small island in the geometric centre of the Indian Ocean where an up-to-date American military base has been developed of late at the cost of one hundred million dollars.

The present leaders of Mauritius had sold Diego Garcia and the Chagos islands to Great Britain for the mere trifle of 3 million pounds during their negotiations about independence with the understanding that the Chagos islands would be used only for economic purposes.

However a few months later London exchanged a note with Washington about «the probable use of Diego Garcia and the remaining parts of the islands Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches, parts of British territory in the Indian Ocean.» (The latter belong to the Seychelles which became independent in 1976.)

The British forced the hands of Mauritius when the island was in a difficult situation and craved for independence; by means of this bargain they tore the Chagos archipelago from it and Sis Seewoosagur Ramgoolam who has been at the head of the Mauritius government since independence in 1968 accepted this state of affairs. Diego Garcia has been the main obstacle to peace in the Indian Ocean in recent years and Mauritius worries not only because of its nearness; the revelation that the population of Diego Garcia had been resettled by force on Mauritius has also stirred up a political storm.

This is why the electoral triumph of Bèrenger's party aroused concern in London and other Western capitals. In fact, coming to power of the MMM with its frequent ultra-leftist slogans would have caused much concern to the American and British because of their strategic positions in the Indian Ocean which are subject to constant criticism and protest as is.

Excitement however, wore off after a few days: although the MMM had won the greatest number of mandates on Mauritius this did not entail absolute majority. Ramgoolam's Mauritius Labour Party has again formed a coalition with Gaétan Duval's Social-democratic party which lost two-thirds of its votes in the present elections and so they could avoid the transfer of power. The essentially neutral position of the government of Mauritius is unlikely to change and Ramgoolam will remain the president of the Or-

ganisation of African Unity — until the OAU's summit meeting this summer.

American «island strategy»

Although no substantial change has happened in the government's policy on Mauritius, transformations have taken place in many countries of the region — which can change the former global situation. And let us not forget over half of mankind live in appr. 30 coastal countries of the region of the Indian Ocean.

The Soviet Union has been forwarding proposals for putting an end to the arms race in the Indian Ocean and declaring the region to be a zone of peace: they proposed to the USA to discuss the limitation of naval exercises and declare the region a nuclear-free zone. Washington, however, insisted on the alleged «Soviet danger» and continued its military expansion.

After the American retreat from Indochina the USA reappraised their Asian policy and transferred their bases lost on the mainland to the islands surrounding Asia in the Pacific and Indian Ocean. In the region of the Persian (Arab) Gulf Iran and Saudi-Arabia are the scenes of large-scale American arms supply: at the same time the British base on Masira-island near Oman has become an American military base. To the South of India on a level with Tanzania Diego Garcia has become the most important American base in the Indian Ocean (fit for accommodating atomic submarines and B-52 giant planes). The next links in the chain are the two American bases Exmouth and Cockburn Sound established in Western Australia. These are connected with the still existing military bases in Thailand, and Simontown in South-Africa, in the «southern gate» of the Atlantic Ocean. French bases exist in Djibouti, on the Comores Islands and on Reunion.

The list is far from complete but it conveys an idea of the NATO-countries' extensive system of bases in the region of the Indian Ocean.

True, many links are missing and others have «weakened» in recent years.

The SEATO (including the USA, Great Britain, Australia, New-Zealand, Thailand and the Philippines) has practically dissolved. (Pakistan left the Organization in 1972.) The last British naval units left Singapore last year. Djibouti (French Afar and Iss, an overseas territory) will obtain independence this year and who knows how long the French military base can be maintained there. The future of the American telecommunication base near Asmara in Ethiopia is also uncertain. Quite recently the United States have tried to prepare their «permanent presence» in Kenya by means of developing the country's army and organizing a spectacular parade of their warships and aircraft units in Mombasa, resp. Nairobi. With these efforts the USA want to make up for their doubtful base in Asmara.

With the independence of Mozambique American warships cannot take up raw material and supplies in Maputo as they used to when the harbour belonged to the Portuguese colony. The Malagasy Democratic Republic has already announced the need for liquidating the French bases on Madagascar and they demand from the Paris government the withdrawal of its troops also from Mayotte belonging to the Comores.

The government of the Republic of the Seychelles established last June, 1976, has managed to restore its control over Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches — although the USA had already an agreement with Great Britain concerning their fifty-years lease for military purposes. The Seychelles permitted only the functioning of the American astronomical station on Mahé for the yearly sum of one million dollars. The islands cannot be used directly for military purposes.

The chances of the peace zone

Even this sketchy picture shows that the costal countries of East-Africa, the states of the Indian sub-continent, Sri Lanka and the other independent islands are jealous of

their independence and they reject the establishing of military bases. All these states voted for the resolution at the 31st Session of the UN General Assembly in December stating that the realization of the UN-Declaration of 1971 concerning the Indian ocean as a zone of peace would contribute to international security.

The political declaration adopted at the Colombo summit of the non-aligned countries also devoted a special chapter to the Indian Ocean. Especially India and the host country, Sri Lanka, insisted on the danger of the region becoming the scene of a new arms race which would not only harm international security but also hamper the economic and social development of the coastal countries. Hence the Colombo document condemned the establishment of foreign and imperialist military bases and especially the threat of an American military base on Diego Garcia.

The delegates of the region's democratic youth took their stand in the same spirit: the participants in the international conference in Madras organized by the WFDY, the All Indian Youth Federation and the All Indian Student Federation affirmed that the first and most important step was the liquidation of military bases in the region which corresponded to the national interests of all countries in the region and would considerably promote the undisturbed and peaceful utilization of this vitally important sea route. The countries of the Indian ocean see the guarantee of their development in independence, in the utilization of their natural resources without any limitation, in the averting of imperialist and neo-colonialist machinations. Therefore they increase their determination to take a stand against imperialist bases. There is no doubt that the young people of the region who have raised their voice in unity at the Madras Conference for declaring the region a zone of peace, will continue their struggle. And in this fight they enjoy the sincere and concrete support of all member organizations of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, and of progressive and democratic youth throughout the world.

T. Sebes

On the map of Black Africa the pink and the light green, the yellow and the blue shades marking the different colonial empires are gradually fading and dissolving. The classical world colonial empires are in their last throes, giving way to the more disguised, better thought-out neo-colonialism which prefers to arrange things behind the scenes.

And the white spots on the black continent are becoming rarer. Apart from overthrowing the fascist regime which ruled for half a century, the most important result of the collapse of the Portuguese colonial empire, the shrinking of the «Lusitanian Giant». The former colonies of Angola and Mozambique which hermetically sealed off White Africa

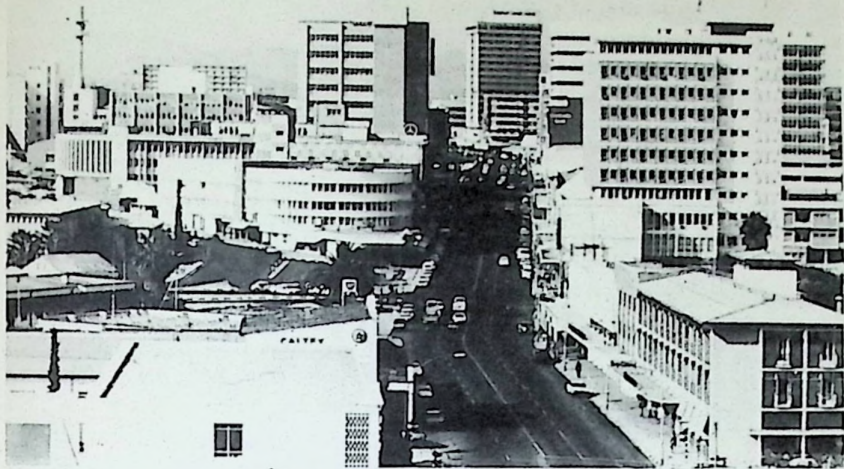
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(the racist regimes) from Black Africa, have embarked on the road of independent development. They created a new balance of forces in the southern part of the continent and this put on the agenda the problem of South Africa, Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and Namibia (South-West Africa) still under white rule.

From bad to worse

Namibia, originally called South-West Africa, is a country about which we did not hear much in the past, and hear little at the present, but we may hear quite a lot about it in the future. Anyhow, it is the black African country which has been most dealt with by the UN. Was that just bureaucracy? Largely not, though one can hardly say that the UN sanctions were too effective in this particular case. Namibia's population of three quarters of a million felt that to be so anyhow, for in the last three decades there were no improvements in their living conditions, and no change in their political situation either.

The country's territory, including Walvis Bay, is 824 sq.km, and as a state it is still officially classed as: a former mandate territory of the League of Nations administered by the South African Republic, despite UN resolutions.



Windhoek, capital of Namibia: commercial centre in a street that still bears the name of the «Kaiser». Its luxury shops are only for the white minority.

and ignores the repeated protests of the UN.

In 1966 the UN officially repealed the mandate, so, in accordance with international law, Namibia should for the past ten years have enjoyed the right to act as an independent state in the international arena. The UN puts the responsibility on South African Republic for the present situation of Namibia and the Security Council has repeatedly reaffirmed — the last time in 1976 — the authority and responsibility of the UN in connection with Namibia. It condemned the brutal policy of oppression of the Pretoria government, as well as the annexation of this trust territory and above all the fact that South Africa uses Namibia as «a base for attacks against the neighbouring countries».

World public opinion's concern with the problem of Namibia is well illustrated by the setting up of a special Namibia Commission, and the fact that out of 151 UN resolutions adopted in a single year, about a score dealt in one way or another with South Africa. Three Security Council members (USA, Great Britain and France) regularly veto the proposals to expel the Pretoria government from the UN, but it is obvious that they wouldn't dare to openly take the side of the South African regime based on apartheid.

tion of Namibia



Another face of Windhoek: black demonstrators demand freedom for the six members of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO), arrested by the Pretoria racist authorities.

Namibia, the biggest colony of the one-time imperial Germany (on the maps of our grandparents it was called German South West Africa), was conquered by South African troops fighting on the side of the Entente States in 1915, in the First World War. Later it became a mandate territory of the League of Nations. After the Second World War the new world organization rejected all kinds of territorial annexation

and declared Namibia a trust territory of the then Union of South Africa. But the Pretoria government declared unilaterally its disagreement (and repeatedly reaffirmed it since then) and stated in the UN that it would not allow this vast territory to be included in the Trusteeship System.

But with the passing of time all former trustee territories have become independent states with the sole exception of Namibia. In 1961 South Africa turned its back on the British Commonwealth and became a Republic. Since then it has considered Namibia as one of its provinces, denies Namibia the right to embark on the road of independence

In the shadow of apartheid

Namibia's native population — amounting to four-fifths of the 750 thousands total — cannot but resent the fact that despite international protests and resolutions, South Africa has annexed their country and they life deprived of all rights by the white regime.

A few data will suffice to show the real state of things in Namibia: since the last century two-thirds of the country's native population have lived in the so-called «police-zones», i.e. territories taken over by the whites, and they live in ghetto-like conditions. The coloured population are deprived of the right to

vote. Their settlements are separated from the white districts by «buffer zones». Mixed marriages are strictly forbidden. Sexual intercourse between whites and coloureds is punished by a five-year jail term. Coloured people may enter the «police zones» only on producing a document showing that they work there. They cannot move about within the «police zones» without a special written permit, even to go and buy a train ticket.

Nothing is changed by South African Prime Minister Vorster's solemn statement that «we have no claim on one inch of the territory of South West Africa»... This statement indicates the big changes that have taken place in southern Africa these past three years. The several hundred thousands-strong coloured population could have applauded this imposing statement only from the so-called «Bantustans», or Black reservations, that is, if they believed such phoney claims.

Obviously, Vorster made his statement in Afrikaans-Boer (the South African version of the language of the Dutch conquerors or in English. These are Namibia's officially enforced languages, but a large section of the rich white population have German as their mother-tongue. The composition of the 95 thousand-strong white population is well illustrated by the fact that in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, a street is named after Göring (the father of the German fascist politician) and another after Rommel. The atmosphere in the Namibian capital, where by the way, there is a small monument with the following suggestive inscription: «Berlin — 11 thousands kilometres», is very well reflected in this «flash» in DER SPIEGEL: «Whether they came to the Kalahari and the Namib desertland as settlers or as soldiers of the Kaiser, or as simple refugees, or as farmers or businessmen, they kept up the high esteem of the German race, and indeed there are no poor Germans in South West Africa. Now, however, they must bow down to the Black majority, says Der Spiegel in its introduction, and goes on with its report from Windhoek: «It is a quiet Friday evening here in Wind-

hoek. Portly gentlemen with suntanned faces are bustling around the taverns. «The Emperor's Crown», «The Thüringen Hof» and the «Hansa» beer parlours are packed with people. The brass band with its members clad in leather breaches and Tyrolian hats strikes up a German march...» The atmosphere is hot, the mood is aggressive. Namibia, neighbouring on the young People's Republic of Angola, is on the path of battle, it's like a powder-keg ready to explode...»

SWAPO at the head of the masses

It is not only on the diplomatic front that the Black population fights against South African domination. Already 20 years ago a national liberation struggle was proclaimed inside Namibia by the South West Africa People's organisation (SWAPO), based primarily on the largest tribe, the Owambo. The name of Sam Nujoma, the 48-year-old SWAPO leader, becomes familiar to more and more people all over the world. Earlier he lived mainly in Zambia, Namibia's eastern neighbour, but of late he has been showing up more and more frequently in Angola where he fights together with his movement.

The writer of this article met him in Luanda under very special conditions which were well-planned and arranged, for obvious reasons.

«The national liberation struggle is determined mainly by the political goals», said Sam Nujoma answering my first question. «This means of course that we must break free of the colonial yoke. To this end we mobilize the masses. Everybody must be made to understand why we have to make sacrifices today. This is why in the past years SWAPO has intensified its work for the masses. This is why we concentrate on political mobilization.»

After the political work, what next?

«Naturally we consider armed struggle as a child born out of our political goals. That is, we believe

armed struggle plays a complementary role. If we cannot attain our direct political goals by political means...»

For example?

«... Well, by mobilization, strike action, demonstration and educational work. If these don't do, we must resort to armed struggle.»

Sam Nujoma refuses to speak about himself.

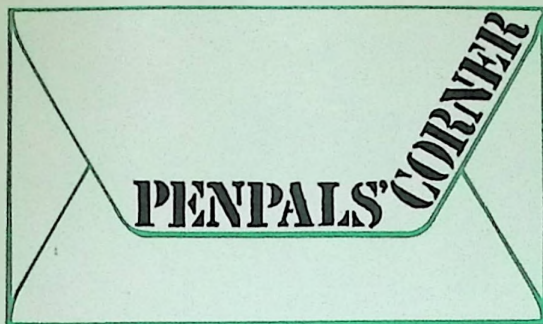
«No, no. I never speak about myself. Namibia is not free yet. Today the struggle for independence should be in the focus of attention. When we achieve our aim, maybe then I will. But not now.»

SWAPO fights on. The war is not yet over. By new means the South African Republic has opened a new front. It invited those corrupt, pocket-guided, tribal chiefs to Windhoek for talks in a gym-hall (hence the name of the event: «gym negotiations») and started a «constitutional dialogue» hinting at a «half-way» independence for Namibia. Naturally SWAPO declared war on the participants of that conference which had a single aim: to preserve South African interests in a disguised form, by means of declaring an alibi-state ostensibly christened «independent».

It is not difficult to find the main background motive to the Namibian controversy. Why has Namibia caused so many inflicts in the past thirty years? The explanation is easy, if one casts a glance at the geological map of this vast South-West African country. Namibia is not only of strategic importance (from its coasts traffic from the southern Atlantic and military movements around the Cape of Good Hope can be well controlled), but is extremely rich too. Its soil contains fabulous treasures: industrial and fine diamonds, germanium and vanadium and something which has made the dispute over Namibia particularly sharp of late — uranium.

This is why the white spots are disappearing more slowly in the southern part of Black Africa. But the emergence of the Angolan People's Republic to the north implies the beginning of a new era in Namibia's struggle.

L. Benda



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