

Editorial

Excerpts from the Report by Thanassis Pafilis, WPC General Secretary, to the WPC Secretariat meeting in Brussels, October 12, 2010

The meeting of the Secretariat today ... takes place in the city where two imperialist organizations are situated, the European Union and NATO, two political, economic and military structures hostile to the peoples of Europe and the whole world.... The Lisbon treaty of the EU and the new strategic concept of NATO to be approved in Lisbon next month are the reactionary guidelines of the two imperialist mechanisms, which work hand in hand despite all antagonisms and contradictions....

Our meeting takes place in the midst of the capitalist economic crisis, with severe consequences for the working people and popular masses in each country due to the anti-people and anti-labor measures the governments in the capitalist countries are taking in order to secure the interests of capital and the monopolies. Unemployment is reaching record highs with additional millions of people becoming marginalized and impoverished. New privileges are being given to big Capital and corporations while their profits are growing. In the year 2010 we observed the massive protests, strikes and mobilizations of working people and class trade unions worldwide. The anti-imperialist peace movement in every country supports and takes an active part in these struggles against the barbaric attack on workers rights, salaries and pensions, which had been the achievements of decades.

The EU, the IMF and the World Bank are serving together with the respective governments exactly in this trend of social cuts and increase of profits, against the will and interests of the vast majority in each country. At the same time military expenses are reaching the highest amounts ever. More than \$1.46 trillion (SIPRI data) were spent in 2009, half of this by the US alone, which constitutes an increase of 50% in ten years....

Last Year, the WPC initiated a campaign against NATO, this aggressive war machinery, which is acting worldwide. The WPC has stood firm against NATO from the very first moment of its founding. We are continuing our struggle today while NATO is heading towards its Lisbon summit where it will approve its new strategic concept. It will allow and enable NATO to act worldwide as the "World Sheriff," wherever the interests and profits of the multinational capital are at stake. The Group of Experts report, which serves as a basis for the next summit, was prepared by a group of personalities headed by the famous Madeline Albright. NATO was never a defense organization, nor was it only a European or North Atlantic matter. The overthrow of international balance of forces in 1991 made NATO an even more aggressive and reactionary war machine, an armed tool of imperialism. It is cynical to observe that NATO and its leading governments also tried to incorporate it into the UN system, as a civilian and humanitarian force.

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"Yes to Peace, No to NATO!" Campaign:

NATO is Not Welcome in Portugal!

1) *In its international relations, Portugal is governed by the principles of national independence, respect for human rights, the right of peoples to self-determination and independence, equality among States, the peaceful settlement of international disputes, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, and cooperation with all other peoples for the emancipation and progress of mankind.*

2) *Portugal advocates the abolition of all forms of imperialism, colonialism, and aggression, simultaneous and controlled general disarmament, the dissolution of politico-military blocs, and the setting up of a collective security system, with a view to the creation of an international order capable of safeguarding peace and justice in the relations among peoples.* – From Article 7 of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic.

On the occasion of the trip to Portugal by NATO's Secretary General, within the framework of the preparation of NATO's Summit, to be held in Lisbon in November, the Campaign "Peace, Yes! NATO, No!" – which encompasses 104 organizations – reaffirms its concerns and warnings regarding the real threats and dangers that are posed to the peoples as a result of the strengthening of NATO as an instrument for interference and aggression throughout the world.

Confronted with a growing crisis, the US seeks, through the Lisbon NATO Summit, to force its allies into committing themselves to escalate conflicts in order to ensure the exploitation of resources, the control of markets and the political domination which it needs, in order to survive through the use of military force.

The US, which is facing its most serious economic and financial crisis since 1929, sees exploitation, violence and war as the response to the quagmire in which it is trapped. The US military budget for 2010 is the largest ever in its history, and is approximately the same as the sum total of those of all other countries. The military budget of NATO-member countries is roughly 2/3 of the world's overall military budgets.

Those who promote the arms race, the militarization of international relations, the disregard for the sovereignty of peoples and war, are the same ones who are chiefly responsible for a deteriorating economic and social situation world-wide.

The Campaign "Peace, Yes! NATO, No!" also denounces the attitude of the Portuguese government which, whilst taking part in NATO negotiations, conceals from the Portuguese people the stances which it takes and does not promote a broad, serious and plural national debate regarding the serious consequences of tying Portugal to the ongoing escalation of militarism and war — an escalation which is in outright contradiction with the text of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic.

Portugal will soon host the NATO Summit, at the same time as its budget allocations for military aggressions against other peoples are growing. These aggressions run totally counter to the national interest and are in clear disrespect of the Constitution of the Republic.

In Portugal, as in the European Union countries in general, it is those who live from their work, it is the pensioners, the poorest

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WPC and CPPC Appeal:

DISMANTLE NATO!

The World Peace Council and the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC) salute the peace loving people of the world and the peace movements which stand up and continue denouncing imperialist wars, illegal occupations and social injustice, and call upon them to continue and reinforce the common efforts and struggles against imperialism and its mechanisms, particularly against NATO, the biggest war machinery in the world.

The WPC denounces to the peoples of the world the crimes NATO has committed and goes on committing against humanity with the pretext of either the protection of "human rights" or the fight against "terrorism" according to its own interpretation.

NATO was since its foundation in 1949 an offensive organism. After 1991, with its new military doctrine it became the world "sheriff" of the imperialist interests. It has been often connected to bloody regimes and dictatorships, reactionary forces and juntas. It

participated actively in dismembering Yugoslavia, in the barbaric bombardment of Serbia for 78 days, in the overthrow of regimes through "orange revolutions", in the occupation of Afghanistan. NATO continues its plans for the "Great Middle East", enlarging its range of actions through the "Partnership for Peace" and "special cooperation" in Asia and Latin America, the Middle East, North Africa, as well as the "European Army."

All governments of the member states share responsibility in NATO, regardless the leading role of the US administration. The whatsoever different approaches on some issues reflect particular views and rivalries but they always lead to the common aggressive confrontation with the peoples.

We condemn the policy of the European Union, which coincides with NATO's policy, and with the Lisbon Treaty that goes hand in hand with it in the political and military fields. The military expenditure of the EU in missions abroad has increased between 2002

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Abolish All Nuclear Weapons!

Socorro Gomes
President, World Peace Council

The mobilization of hundreds of social organizations of the peace movement and international solidarity all over the world in face of the nuclear weapons issue is of the greatest importance. The World Peace Council takes part in the *Disarm Now!* initiative with the conviction that the debates held here may contribute, with so many others, to strengthen the movement for peace, disarmament and the elimination of all nuclear weapons from the face of the earth. It is with that same spirit that the World Peace Council, as a member of the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will attend all talks in the review conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and will submit its deliberations to be debated by pacifist movements, social movements, non-governmental organizations, personalities and political, cultural and academic institutions. Forming a collective awareness of the threats that loom over the rights of the peoples, the sovereignty of nations and world peace is indispensable and cannot be postponed. We are an organization that has been fighting for 60 years for peace and for the abolition of nuclear

weapons. We have joined all who fight for a new international order, for a peaceful solution of disputes and conflicts. As one of the legitimate expressions of civil society, we consider our main duty to strengthen international cooperation, which is based on equal rights, peoples' self-determination, sovereign equality of national States and good will in fulfilling international obligations, which should constitute the grounds for all governments and multilateral organizations.

Those principles, consecrated by international rights, form the backbone of the United Nations and are aimed at maintaining peace and international security. They are, however, flagrantly disrespected by imperialist powers, which use their mighty clout to promote nuclear blackmail, perpetrate wars and military interventions, to threaten weaker countries and impose resolutions and treaties that are not based on the consecrated criteria of balance and equality. We understand that this fight must be essentially anti-imperialist, for it derives from the conception according to which the system oppressing sovereign peoples and nations is the

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EDITORIAL (from p. 1)

NATO is adjusting its structures and concept to the aims of imperialism and to the “prompt global strike” strategy of the USA, to the Missile Defense Shield, which is shifting towards the Balkans. It is using new pretexts (piracy, cyber threats, climate change, the need for energy security, natural disasters, etc.) along with the “war on terror” in order to appear as a “humanitarian” force. In reality, NATO is doing a make-over of its bloody and reactionary image, and is expanding its worldwide radius of murderous actions through special cooperation schemes. These cooperation structures are:

- Partnership for Peace (PPP)
- Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC)
- Mediterranean Dialogue (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia)
- Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and UAE)
- NATO-Ukraine Commission
- NATO-Georgia Council
- Cooperation with Contact Countries (Australia, Japan, Argentine, South Korea and New Zealand).
- NATO-Russia Council (NRC)

Together with the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC), the WPC has issued an International Appeal against NATO, endorsed by 35 organizations so far. We fully support the actions and events prepared by the CPPC and 104 more Portuguese organizations for the November 19-20 protests in Lisbon. We demand the dissolution of NATO as an enemy of the peoples and of peace, and call upon all to mobilize and take active part in the demonstration of November 20th in Lisbon.

The WPC has evaluated in its previous meetings the developments around the actions against NATO in Strasbourg (April 2009) and the implications of other forces and international structures, concluding that: “the WPC’s approach to the issue was brought out more clearly in juxtaposition to other forces that consciously attempt to cover up or to distort different sides of the issue, harboring amongst others delusions about the new US administration, and, mainly, they do not acknowledge the 60 years as a unified totality, but with slogans of the type ‘60 years are enough’ leave a clear implication that in the past the presence of NATO could be justified.”

Today, we are witnessing one more effort to dilute the real and historical content and character of NATO by forces sponsored and supported by the International Peace Bureau and other forces, persons who tried immediately after Strasbourg to prepare the ground

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NATO IS NOT WELCOME IN PORTUGAL!

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and least protected, that are burdened with “sacrifices”, whilst at the same time there are growing and immoral profits, subsidies and handouts. There is no lack of money for blackmail, interference and war.

Regarding the trip to Portugal by the NATO Secretary General, within the context of the preparation of that organization’s Summit which, among other goals, seeks to reformulate its strategic concept, the Campaign “Peace, Yes! NATO, No!” considers it necessary to denounce that:

1. The recently-disclosed contents of the so-called “analysis and recommendations of the group of experts for NATO’s new strategic concept” (a group which, significantly, was chaired by Madeleine Albright, Clinton’s Secretary of State during the illegal aggression against Yugoslavia in 1999), although devoid of fundamental novelties, can only give rise to greater concerns regarding the real dangers and threats which it poses for the peoples, and the qualitative leap which is being prepared for the NATO Summit in Portugal;

2. In this document, it is defended that NATO should “normalize” and foment its aggressive acts of interference using any pretext; that it encourage higher military budgets (namely of its European members); an arms race; the setting up of foreign military bases and the deployment of troops outside the borders of its member countries; the transformation of the national armed forces into mercenary expeditionary forces at the service of NATO – that is, of the interests and ambitions of domination of the U.S. and the big EU powers – interference, the militarization of international relations and war;

3. The document reaffirms and takes to a new level NATO as an instrument of worldwide interference and aggression, prioritizing its activities outside the borders of its member States – in other words, inside the borders of non-member States;

4. The ambition is to project NATO’s actions into every region of the planet (Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa, the Middle East,

Central Asia and the rest of Asia, “obviously” omitting North America and leaving Latin America in the hands of the US).

5. NATO actions are envisaged under the excuse of any (false) pretexts, with so-called “new threats” being concocted to try to justify NATO’s existence, doctrine, goals and illegal and criminal action;

6. In other words, NATO provokes and will provoke the situations that it will then use to try and “justify” its aggressions – before a public opinion that is intentionally manipulated through campaigns of disinformation;

7. International Law is again instrumentalized, whenever possible, to “legitimize” NATO’s illegal actions or, should that not be possible, is overtly flouted, claiming that any “threat” is reason enough to unleash interference and war;

8. Based on the experiences in the Balkans and Afghanistan, it is restated that



NATO seeks to enlarge its sphere of action through the establishment of so-called “partnerships” with countries, regional or international organizations (including the UN) with varying contents, form and duration, so as to pave the road for its direct presence and action, or to tie and place others at the service of its goals and strategy of domination in all regions of the world. NATO is to play, according to the needs or possibilities, the role of director and main actor, or of director of other actors (as illustrated by the examples in the Balkans – Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo – or of Afghanistan;

9. It reaffirms and lists all the hotbeds of

tension and “threats”, as defined by the USA, namely Iran, and puts forth the notion that a NATO aggression against that country may be justified;

10. It reiterates the promiscuity between the military and civilian spheres (humanitarian aid, civilian protection, ...), subordinating the latter to the former, in the service of a strategy of interference and domination;

11. It reaffirms the European Union as a European pillar of NATO and its key and strategic ally, stressing the content and significance of the Lisbon Treaty for this militaristic goal;

12. It defends the preservation and use of nuclear weapons in NATO’s doctrine and strategy, defending the deployment of this type of weapons, namely of US nuclear weapons, in other NATO-member countries;

13. It proposes that NATO considers as its own, the new offensive missile systems, including the anti-missile system in Europe;

14. It claims to defend a reduction and rationalization of NATO’s (administrative) expenses, but only in order to channel more resources towards wars of aggression against the peoples, as happens in Afghanistan, where it is confronting growing difficulties;

15. In a sentence, the document is a declaration of war against the peoples of the world.

With the increasingly overt and unacceptable goals of the NATO Summit, the demands and aspirations of the Campaign “Peace, Yes! NATO, No!” become increasingly relevant and legitimate:

To express the opposition of the Portuguese people to the holding of the NATO Summit and its war-mongering goals;

To demand that the government withdraw the Portuguese forces that are involved in NATO military missions;

To demand the dissolution of NATO;

To demand disarmament and an end to nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction;

To demand from the Portuguese authorities full respect for the contents of the UN Charter and of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic, full respect for International Law and the sovereignty and equality of the peoples.

The Campaign “Peace, Yes! NATO, No!” considers that it is not possible to reform or improve the new NATO strategic concept that is being prepared, by deleting or rewording some paragraphs. What is needed is its total and outright rejection.

The struggle for peace and against war is an integral part and a necessary condition for progress and social justice.

In order to embody these aspirations and demands, whose spirit and ideal is enshrined in the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic, the Campaign “Peace, Yes! NATO, No!” has, among other initiatives that were carried out or are planned, collected 13,000 signatures in a citizens’ petition to Parliament; convened a demonstration for November 20, in Lisbon, and scheduled a youth camp for July 23 to 25 in Avis. ■



WORLD PEACE

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Organizational Members of the Secretariat:

- All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO)
- Brazilian Center for the Solidarity with the Peoples and the Struggle for Peace (CEBRAPAZ)
- Congo Peace Committee
- Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ)
- German Peace Council (DFR)
- Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (EEDYE)
- Japan Peace Committee
- Palestinian Committee for Peace and Solidarity (PCPS)
- Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC)
- South African Peace Initiative
- Syrian National Peace Council
- US Peace Council (USPC)
- Vietnam Peace Committee (VPC)

Communiqué of the Middle East Regional Meeting of the WPC (Cairo, Egypt — September 26, 2010)

On September 26, 2010 the Regional Meeting of the Middle East region of the World Peace Council took place successfully in Cairo, Egypt. The meeting was attended by the peace movements of the region, in particular from Egypt, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Palestine and Syria and by guests from the Movements of India, Sudan, Cyprus, Turkey and Greece, along with the Executive Secretary of the WPC and a delegation from the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation (AAPSO) which hosted the meeting. The Regional Meeting was preceded on the 25th September by a successful regional Seminar jointly organized by WPC and AAPSO under the title: "The Peace & Solidarity Movement of the region and the 'New Middle East'"

After a fruitful exchange of views and information and the discussion of the Report by the regional coordinator the participants of the Regional Meeting agreed and issued the following communiqué:

The participants of the meeting salute the peace loving peoples and movements in the region with the most imperialist aggressions, cases of occupation and threats to peace and security and expressed their solidarity with the struggles of the peoples for their just causes, in their struggle for Democracy, peoples' and workers' rights, for prosperity and social justice.

While working people worldwide and in the region are facing the consequences of the capitalist economic crisis with brutal social cuts and growing unemployment, the participants of the meeting observed the growing military expenditure and aggressiveness of imperialism and the immense profits of the multinational corporations and monopolies.

The situation in the broader area is explosive. The Palestinian Tragedy is continuing for more than 60 years without indications for a near end. Israeli occupation and annexation of territories, settlements, separation wall, invasions, demolishing of houses, arrests of people and assassination is a daily policy, while more than 50 – 60 percent of Palestinian people are refugees. The ongoing slow genocide against the Palestinian people is a result also of the full support by the USA and the EU to the Israeli occupation. We demand the immediate lifting of the Israeli siege and blockade of the Palestinian Gaza strip, where the people live in inhuman conditions.

The ongoing occupation and destruction of Iraq, the killing of more than 110,000 Iraqi people, religious and ethnic wars for its division, and control of the oil reserves is brutal evidence for the unchanged strategy of the US administration and its willing allies which maintain 50,000 troops of occupation in Iraq, threatening at the same time neighbour countries and peoples. The meeting expressed its solidarity to the Iraqi people in its desire to liberate their country, and their right to resist their occupiers.

The Israeli aggression against Lebanon in 2006 and the recent incident at the border area underlines the aggressive attitude of Israel, which failed due the heroic resistance of the Lebanese people which, refused to accept the division of their country.

The meeting denounced the use of phosphoric and cluster bombs, as well as other internationally prohibited weapons, in the Israeli military operations against civilians in both Gaza and Lebanon. Up to one million unexploded cluster bombs remain in south Lebanon after the 2006 aggression, posing a continuing risk to civilians and environment.

The participants of the meeting observed the pressure and threats against Syria, with the Israeli forces attacking its territories while it is accused of cooperation with terrorists, aiming at international isolation of Syria due to its anti-imperialist policy.

The systematic campaign against Iran organized by Israel, the USA and its European allies on the nuclear issue creates tension and is preparing the public opinion in their countries and in the countries of the region for a new aggression. The WPC regional meeting is opposed to the imposition of economic sanctions by the UN Security Council against Iran and any further punitive sanctions by the EU, and supports the right for the peaceful use of nuclear energy for its country.



The attendees of the regional meeting expressed their solidarity with the peace loving forces in Iran in their complex struggle for peace, democracy and social justice. They emphasised the inherent link between the struggle for democratic rights and freedoms of the working people and the potential of the campaign to develop a popular and effective peace movement to resist the threats from the US-led world imperialism.

The Regional Meeting rejects the Imperialist "New Middle East Plan" which has in its core the geostrategical interests of the USA and its allies from political, economical and military point of view. Through cooperative or submissive governments in the region,

business for the oil and other multinationals are being secured. The military and political domination is secured through the Occupation and exploitation of Iraq and Afghanistan, placing at the same time threats to other countries through the huge military presence in and around the region.

The participants of the meeting denounced the new reactionary strategic concept of NATO which leads to a role as "World Sheriff" whenever the interests of imperialism are at stake.

The participants of the meeting reiterate their position for universal and complete nuclear disarmament emphasizing in the Middle East at the Nuclear Program of Israel which constitutes a threat to the peoples of the area.

Bank with East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and Sheba farms.

- Establishment of an independent Palestinian state within the borders of 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

- The complete and immediate withdrawal of all foreign occupation forces from Iraq and Afghanistan and the right to establish their free, democratic and sovereign states.

- A firm rejection of every threat against Iran and the support full support for the struggle of the Iranian people and their progressive forces to find solutions for the internal problems faced by the country on the basis of preserving the sovereignty and independence of Iran and without any external interference, denouncing any plan for a military attack on Iran under whatever pretext.

- Ensuring equal rights for all Arab citizens in Israel. On this respect, the WPC rejects the idea of recognizing Israel as a "Jewish State."

Today this meeting in Cairo shall be a boost for the further strengthening of the WPC in the Middle East. As stronger the WPC will be in the Middle East as stronger will be the resistance of our peoples to the imperialist plans.

Cairo, 26th September 2010

The Middle East Regional Meeting of WPC

Attending Organizations:

- Palestinian Committee for Peace and Solidarity
- Peace Association of Turkey
- Syrian National Peace Council
- Lebanese Peace Council
- Jordanian Peace and Solidarity Council
- Committee for the Defence of Iranian People's Rights
- Egyptian Peace Committee
- Israeli Peace Committee
- Iraqi Peace and Solidarity Council from the Middle East

Guest Organizations:

- Peace Association of Turkey
- All India Peace & Solidarity Council
- Cyprus Peace Council
- Greek Committee for International
- Democratic Solidarity
- Sudan Peace and Solidarity Council
- Delegations from AAPSO and the WPC.

Fidel: Imminent Risk of Nuclear War

October 15, 2010

The use of nuclear weapons in a new war would mean the end of humanity. This was candidly foreseen by scientist Albert Einstein who was able to measure their destructive capability to generate millions of degrees of heat, which would vaporize everything within a wide radius of action. This brilliant researcher had promoted the development of this weapon so that it would not become available to the genocidal Nazi regime. Each and every government in the world has the obligation to respect the right to life of each and every nation and of the totality of all the peoples on the planet.

Today there is an imminent risk of war with the use of that kind of weapon and I don't harbour the least doubt that an attack by the United States and Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran would inevitably evolve towards a global nuclear conflict.

The World's peoples have an obligation to demand that their political leaders uphold their right to live. When the life of humankind, of your people and your most beloved human beings run such a risk, nobody can afford to be indifferent; not one minute can be lost in demanding respect for that right; tomorrow will be too late.

Albert Einstein himself stated unmistakably: "I do not know with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones". We fully comprehend what he wanted to convey, and he was absolutely right, yet in the wake of a global nuclear war, there wouldn't be anybody around to make use of those sticks and stones.

There would be "collateral damage", as the American political and military leaders always affirm, to justify the deaths of innocent people.

In a nuclear war the "collateral damage" would be the life of all humanity.

Let us have the courage to proclaim that all nuclear or conventional weapons, everything that is used to make war, must disappear!

Outcome of the Meeting of the WPC Secretariat

Brussels — October 10-12, 2010

The Meeting of the Secretariat of the WPC took place successfully in Brussels from October 10-12, 2010. Participating were 10 members of the Secretariat from Brazil, Greece, Cuba, the USA, Palestine, Portugal, Syria, Germany, India and Vietnam. Also participating were 19 European organizations from Spain, Italy, Belgium(2), Germany, Turkey, Cyprus, Poland, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Serbia, Georgia, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Austria, Switzerland and Iran (guest), which held their regional meeting on October 11, 2010, attended as well by the Secretariat.

The two basic political texts presented were the speech of the President of WPC, Socorro Gomes, and the Report of the General Secretary Thanassis Pafilis. Both texts are considered documents of the meeting (see attached docs) and will be published on the website of the WPC.

The Secretariat observed the positive steps of the WPC in the different fronts of struggle in many corners of the world and expressed its appreciation for the regional meeting of the WPC Middle East in Cairo on the September 26, 2010.

One highlight of the WPC meeting was the visit of the Cuban delegation composed of Adriana Pérez O'Connor and Olga Salanueva, wives of Gerardo Hernández and Rene González respectively, who are two of the five Cuban political prisoners held unjustly in US prisons. The meeting welcomed the Cuban friends and expressed its unconditional support for the struggle to release the "Cuban Five" as well as the solidarity of the WPC towards Socialist Cuba. The WPC meeting agreed to run an international campaign from December till May 2011, which shall culminate with the International conference against the foreign military Bases in the province Guantanamo, Cuba.

Among the elements of the campaign will be a call to all WPC members and friends with a special WPC poster, a demand to the White House for the release of the Cuban Five, an intervention at the Human Rights Council of the UN during 2011, and coordination of common actions with other international organizations (e.g. WFTU, WFDY, WIDF, OSPAAAL). The Secretariat expressed its solidarity with the struggling people and government of Cuba against the criminal blockade and denounced the "com-

mon position" of the EU towards Cuba. It decided furthermore to symbolically honor the "Cuban Five" as Fighters for Peace during the next WPC Executive Committee Meeting.

A special point on the agenda of the regional meeting and the Secretariat was the



Adriana Pérez (wife of Gerardo Hernández), Socorro Gomes (WPC President), and Olga Salanueva (wife of René González) at the meetings of the WPC Secretariat and European Region, Brussels, October 10-12.

developments around the NATO summit in Lisbon and the activities of the WPC towards it. The meeting adopted a special resolution on the subject (see below).

The participants of the WPC meetings dealt with several other points on their agenda. They received reports from the regional coordinators of the Americas, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe. They

discussed and agreed on concrete future actions and a calendar of upcoming events.

The following events were highlighted:

- The continental conference of Peace Movements organized by MOPPADE in Mexico City on October 21-22, 2010.

- The international meeting "Yes to

on December 10, 2010.

- The Asian Peace Conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh on January 22-24, 2011

- The WPC self-organized event during the World Social Forum in Dakar Senegal, February, 2011.

- The WPC Regional Conference in Mocco, Dominican Republic from March 17-19, 2011.

- The WPC International Solidarity Mission to Palestine at the end March 2011.

- The meeting of the Executive Committee the WPC, April 29-30, 2011 in Havana, Cuba.

- Participation in the May Day events in Havana, Cuba.

- The International Meeting in the Cuban province of Guantanamo against the deployed US Military Base and concentration camp on May 4-5, 2011. The event will take place as part of the Continental Campaign against the Foreign Military Bases.

The organizations present in the World Peace Council (WPC) meeting in Brussels, October 10-12, 2010 agreed on actions for peace and against NATO during the NATO summit in Lisbon and concretely to:

- Endorse the international WPC/Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation appeal (<http://www.wpc-in.org>)

- Salute the peace loving forces of Portugal and support the aims and initiatives of the "Yes to Peace! No to NATO!" Campaign.

- Call upon all peace loving forces and the anti-imperialist movement to actively support the CPPC in the preparations of the massive people's protests, which will culminate on November 20 with the "Yes to Peace! No to NATO!" campaign demonstration at 15 hrs. in Lisbon (Marquês de Pombal — Avenida da Liberdade — Restauradores).

- Endorse and call for active participation in the international meeting for peace and against NATO of the WPC and the CPPC on November 19 under the title: "Yes to Peace! No to NATO! NATO — enemy of peace and the peoples — DISMANTLE IT!"

- Call upon the peace movements in Europe, in all NATO member states and the whole world, to organize initiatives, protests and demonstrations in their own countries against NATO member governments and their support to NATO in common action days (November 19-20), coincident with the NATO summit. ■

NATO "New Concept" 11 Years Old

Zivadin Jovanovic

Belgrade Forum for a World of Equals November 5, 2010

On the eve of the NATO Lisbon summit there is a need to recall that eleven years ago Serbia (FRY) was a testing ground and first victim of so called new concept of NATO strategy which is to be formally endorse in Lisbon this November (19/20).

It is expected that the leaders of NATO members will, among other things, authorize themselves to undertake military actions beyond the area of their own territories, in fact, all over the globe. Their actions do not have to be of defensive but offensive whenever they consider this to be in their interest. NATO will not seek authorization of the UN Security Council for the use of military force. It imposes itself above UN, OSCE and all other international bodies. Division of burden and tasks with European Union will be the pillar of the new NATO strategic concept.

All this and much more, was evidently

tested in Serbia (FRY) in 1999. During 72 days of continuous military aggression NATO left thousands of dead, two thirds civilians, economy completely destroyed, environment polluted by depleted uranium missiles, hundreds of thousands of displaced. Even today, some of the buildings in the heart of Belgrade remain in ruins while over 200.000 of Serbs from Kosovo and Metohija cannot return to their homes.

NATO countries supported unilateral illegal secession of Kosovo and Metohija from Serbia (February 2008), then they led the process of recognition of illegal creature of theirs. In the 90-ties many NATO countries had been financing, training and arming terrorist KLA. In return, KLA was their ground force in the time of aggression. Today NATO is arming, training and financing illegal Army of illegal Kosovo and Metohija composed of elements of former terrorist KLA. USA, Britain, Germany and Turkey are leading participants in this process.

Peace, No to NATO" in Lisbon on November 19, 2010 (organized by the WPC and the CPPC), and the international participation in the demonstration for November 20, 2010 organized by the "Yes to Peace, No to NATO" Campaign.

- The International Day of Action for the Abolition of all Foreign Military Bases (based on the Continental Campaign against bases)

No wonder that Kosovo and Metohija is perceived by some as NATO-state, by others as a narco-state. In any case, military base "Bondstil" in Kosovo remains the largest USA base in Europe (some claim in the world). The Province, with about 9.000 KFOR (NATO) troops continues to be recruiting ground for drug mafia and transit route of heroin from Afghanistan to Central and Northern Europe.

The last weekend "representatives" of Albanians from Serbia, FYROM (Macedonia), Greece and Montenegro gathered in Tirana from where they formally proclaim their common objective – to establish Greater Albania. All Albanians in one state! Thus, NATO aggression on Serbia in 1999, NATO strategy in general, led to raise of secessions, legitimization of interventions, undermining of the role of UN and international law.

NATO made Balkan region of lasting instability. Is this the role of NATO that Europe and the world want to see in the future? ■

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ OF EEDYE ...

(from p. 7)

Greece, Turkey and Cyprus will do their part to create a "culture of common struggle" between Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots and to reinforce the common struggle to make Cyprus a country without foreign bases, independent, united and demilitarized.

We are fighting against border changes and for the withdrawal of foreign troops, the European Army and NATO from the Balkans. We say "NO" to new US bases and nuclear weapons in the Balkans. We demand the return of all our countries' troops who are taking part in military missions in other countries. We say "NO" to a mercenary army and to outsized military spending.

We are standing against the all-out offensive of imperialism with our common action for a mighty anti-imperialist, internationalist movement in our countries, in the Balkans and the southeastern Mediterranean Sea, action that will oppose imperialism and be vanguard in the consolidation of friendship, solidarity and cooperation with all peoples and within the framework of the WPC's anti-imperialist action. ■

Memorandum to the Regional Meeting of WPC Brussels — October 11-12, 2010

Harald Reppesgard (WPC/Norway)

Norway is strategically located. We are allies with the superpower USA and members of NATO, and we border to the former Soviet Union, today Russia.

Therefore, Norway has always been an important bayonet against the socialist world. We were, during the cold war, a spying nation for the USA and England against the Soviet Union, and delivered important information to the benefit of NATO's armament plans. The Norwegian government always denied these facts, but our country's participation in the arms race after 1945 is historically proven. It is also proven that Norway provided Israel with heavy water to produce nuclear weapons in the 1960's, in discordance with deals to cease the spread of nuclear weapons. Behind the facade of a small and peaceful country close to the North Pole and distributing annually the Nobel Peace Prize, it is a nation which has contributed to imperialism's armament. Weapons parts and ammunition produced in Norway have also been delivered to the Israeli army, and have been used against the civilian population of Gaza, among other places.

The peaceful Norway was a base for espionage against the Soviet Union during the cold war. The military intelligence agency violated Finnish and Soviet territorial sovereignty almost daily, using Finnish and Norwegian agents and provocateurs, under orders from the CIA of the US and MI6 of Britain. Norway has allowed espionage missions to be conducted via our airports, and Norwegian fishing vessels have spied on our neighbors at sea. Norway shares the blame for the balance of terror after the war. NATO and Norwegian defense are developing a new strategic concept for the northern regions, according to the leading Norwegian government authorities. In their view, the cold war is over. The "aggressive" socialist Soviet Union is gone. Russia is a democracy, not a threat to Norway, and also a member of partnership for peace with NATO.

Does this mean that they are ready for disarmament? No! Norway is to receive 50 new US fighter jets within 2-3 years. We have added 5 hyper modern frigates to our Navy, capable of attacking planes, rockets, and targets at sea and land. Our army is specialized for NATO's out of area strategy and imperialist concepts. We have professional soldiers in Afghanistan with the ISAF forces under NATO's command. Norwegian military units whose intended purpose is national defence, have become a vital part of NATO's hastened and pre-emptive aggression against other countries. Not least in the north against Russia, that is. We see many crises and problems with the many tasks that are to be solved in this area, concerning Russia.

Norwegian peace researchers point out that the biggest problem here is still that Norway is a member of NATO. Russia still views NATO and NATO expansion as a threat. This puts Norway in a pinch. Norway has no plans to end the NATO membership. On the contrary, it still sees NATO membership as its most important safety policy, partly because of Russia. There is an increase in military activity in the northern regions, along with an aggressive Russian rhetoric in conjunction with accusations that the Norwegian radar at Svalbard was gathering information for NATO, to mention one example of cases where the good relationship between Norway and Russia can be broken.

Several NATO reports predict conflicts in the northern regions as a result of climate change, making new sources of energy available in the Arctic. They especially mention the oil and gas reserves on Spitsbergen. If climate change makes these resources pos-

sible to exploit, a serious conflict between Norway and Russia can occur. Both the USA, Canada and Denmark will be pulled into this crisis, the reports predict. The activity in the Northern regions will no doubt be rampant as a result of increased availability of resources, and may lead to a conflict.

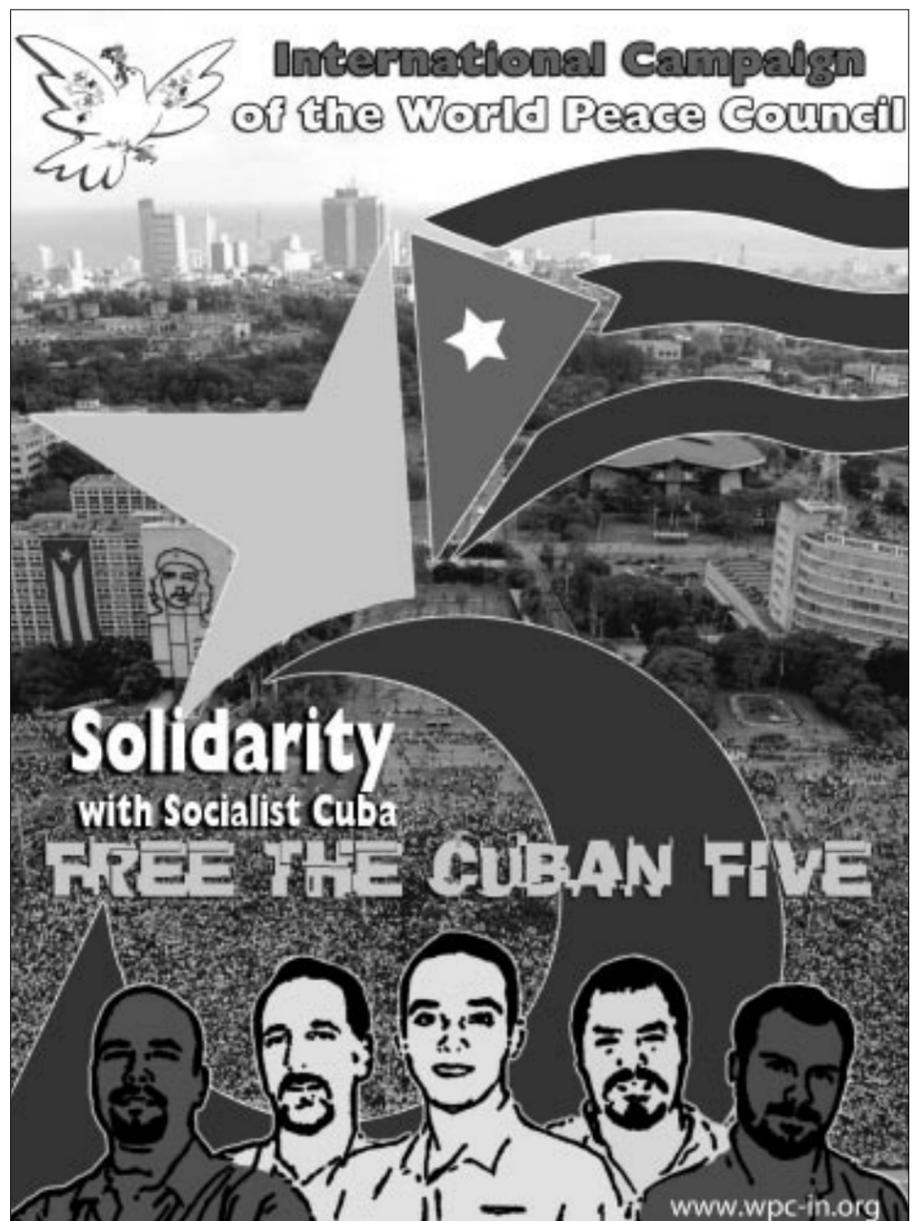
Enormous financial interests are involved in the Norwegian ocean regions, and we can not preclude that Norway will be subjected to political pressure. A conflict of resources may easily build up political undertones, increasing pressure against Norwegian sovereign rights. This is why Norway is in a different, more exposed position than other NATO member countries. Resource control in the northern sea region will still be an important task, and the fact that several governments disagree with Norway's view of the division of these regions makes the task more demanding. The Norwegian government is of the opinion that there is a need for a defense policy where presence in the northern regions will be of higher priority than it is today.

The government's strategy for the northern regions of December 12 2008, clearly states: We can conclude that Norway wishes that challenges in the Arctic and the northern regions must play a natural role in NATO's work toward the establishment of a new strategic concept."

One EU report dated March 10, 2008 had the headline: "Climate change may spark conflict with Russia". The report warns of increasing international tensions as global warming opens up new areas for energy exploitation. The report from the EU's top two foreign policy officials to the 27 heads of government gathering in Brussels for a summit this week warns that "significant potential conflicts" are likely in the decades ahead as a result of "intensified competition over access to, and control over, energy resources." The seven-page report has been written by Javier Solana, the EU's foreign policy supremo, and Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the commissioner for external relations. It predicts that global warming will precipitate security issues for Europe, ranging from energy wars to mass migration, failed states and political radicalisation.

The report warns of greater rich-poor and north-south tension because global warming is disproportionately caused by the wealthy north and west while its impact will be most catastrophic in the poor south. The rapid melting of the polar ice caps, in particular the Arctic, is opening up new waterways and international trade routes, the report notes. "The increased accessibility of the enormous hydrocarbon resources in the Arctic region is changing the geostrategic dynamics of the region." The Arctic thaw has already created "minor tensions" between Russia and NATO-member Norway over fishing rights around the Spitsbergen archipelago. "The islands of Spitsbergen ... have large deposits of gas and oil that are currently locked under a frozen continental shelf," the document states. "If global warming were to allow this to become a viable source of energy, a serious conflict could emerge between Russia and Norway." This "potential crisis" would draw in the US, Canada and Denmark "competing for large and viable energy resources and precious raw materials". With specific reference to Arctic exploration, the EU's report says: "The scramble for resources will intensify."

Afghanistan and Iraq must have our full focus and are today the most dangerous challenge against the peace in the world. I will nevertheless call upon WPC's attention to the development in the North that may escalate old conflicts between NATO and



Solidarity and Freedom for the Cuban Five!

The World Peace Council (WPC) is initiating a campaign in solidarity with the just cause of the liberation of the Cuban Five political prisoners who have been unjustly punished and are being held in US prisons. We call upon all peace loving organizations and forces in the world to rally around the WPC campaign under the slogan: "Solidarity with Socialist Cuba-Free the Cuban Five!" and carry out actions in support of their liberation.

More than twelve (12) years of injustice have passed for those Cuban Five, for their families, for their wives and their children in inalienable violation of their human rights, evidence of the imperialist double standards USA government's policy fomenting state terrorism towards third countries and particularly against Cuba.

The USA Supreme Court's shamelessness of rejecting the petition of the Cuban Five and particularly of Gerardo Hernández Nordelo — condemned to two life imprisonments plus 15 years, which have been denounced as a violation by the Arbitrary Detentions' Commission of Human Rights Council of the United Nations — shows what is the real political motivation: the US government's policy towards the Cuban Revolution.

We call on you to reverse this difficult situation for these human lives — the US government has banned the visits by their wives and daughter to two of the prisoners — and confront the hostile media manipulation in the USA which has contributed to their unjust convictions.

Russia, and generate new ones. Still the Norwegian membership in NATO represents, firstly, a major threat against our sovereignty to solve our controversies with Russia in our own terms without any interference, primarily from the USA; secondly, Norway and the Polar Sea will be prevailed over by

We call upon you to exercise pressure on the US government through petitions and publications, events and protests demand from it the unconditional release of the Cuban Five. Their imprisonment constitutes, among other things, an act of political revenge by the USA towards Cuba and its Revolution, which we vehemently reject.

We call upon you to denounce the "Common Position" of the European Union by which it is flagrantly interfering in the Cuban domestic affairs and are complicit with the activities of the USA.

This WPC campaign will be also an opportunity to show to the world the achievements and sacrifices of the Cuban society for more than 50 years under Blockade and the contribution of Cuba, for the peoples of the world, including in the USA. It will be a service to the defense of truth and in solidarity with the struggling people of Cuba and its national sovereignty and independence.

Your solidarity contribution of your help to disseminate and to discuss this truth will be highly appreciated. This campaign will culminate in May 2011 with the holding of an International Conference in the Cuban Province of Guantanamo, which will confront the US presence and abuse of the military base and its attached concentration camp.

Cuba is not alone!
Long live the anti-imperialist Solidarity!
Free the Cuban Five!

World Peace Council, November 2010

NATO's new out-of-area strategy: a strategy we saw demonstrated first in Yugoslavia, now in Afghanistan and in Iraq. Therefore, the Norwegian peace movement claims today: Norway out of NATO. NATO out of Norway. Fight NATO's aggressive and imperialistic conduct and advancement in the world. ■

ABOLISH ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS!

(from p. 1)

main cause of wars and the main stimulant to militarization and arms races.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is one of those international agreements characterized by imbalance, inequality and asymmetry.

As a peace movement, we have always saluted with enthusiasm the initiatives aimed at disarmament, the reduction of nuclear weapons and non-proliferation. We have made a principled stand for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. 60 years ago the World Peace Council issued the Stockholm Appeal, which is still impressively up-to-date. That document, which famously traveled the world collecting the signatures of 600 million people, stated clearly and simply:

"We demand an absolute ban on nuclear weapons, which are aimed at aggression and the mass extermination of people.

We demand the establishment of a rigorous international control to ensure the application of such ban.

We believe that the first government to make use of the nuclear weapon, no matter against which country, would commit a crime against humankind and should be treated as a war criminal.

We call all people of good will in the world to sign this appeal."

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, effective since 1970, was ratified by 188 countries, one of which, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, withdrew later. Only three countries — Israel, India and Pakistan — have not ratified the treaty. This treaty, to a certain extent, could have constituted a step towards peace, but there were some flagrant contradictions in its very conception and in the political conditions to which its application is submitted.

Criticisms regarding the NPT in a moment when the United Nations are once again reviewing the treaty are related to its asymmetric character.

Theoretically, the NPT would be based on three points — non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. However, as far as the practical effects are concerned, it is essentially a non-proliferation treaty to which disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy are merely accessory aspects. Countries that do not have nuclear weapons accept not to import, build or acquire nuclear weapons and those that possess weapons accept the duty of not transferring nuclear weapons to those that do not have them. And here lies the main negative aspect of the NPT — the monopoly of nuclear weapons is frozen and the issues of disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy are merely

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Speech by the Executive Secretary of WPC at the International Friendship Meeting of the VUFO

Speech by Iraklis Tsavdaridis, Executive Secretary WPC, at the International Friendship meeting of the VUFO on the 35th anniversary of the liberation of South Vietnam — Ho Chi Minh City, April 30, 2010

The WPC would like to express sincere thanks to the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organisations and our warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the victory and liberation of South Vietnam and the reunification of the fatherland.

I would like to convey the appreciation of many generations of peace fighters and the respect of more than 100 Organizations from respective countries worldwide.

Celebrating today 35 years from the defeat of US Imperialism in this country and in this city, we celebrate the victory of Peace and Justice over the invasion, occupation and mass killings against a people which fought bravely for its dignity, freedom and independence.

We celebrate and congratulate for the reunification of Vietnam.

Vietnam represented for us always the soul and heart of WPC activities for many decades. Numerous of posters, leaflets, statements, con-

order to condemn and denounce the US government for its crimes against the Vietnamese people. Till the end of the dirty war, every year a similar conference was being held to remind and increase the pressure on the USA

to withdraw its occupation troops from Vietnam. Similar events took under the auspices of the WPC around the world.

Dozens of peoples, millions of people all over the world identified themselves with your struggle. Generations of youth and students were inspired by your glorious and heroic resistance twice, first against the French imperialist-colonial rule and later against the US imperialists. And you won both times, against enemies with multiple strike force and arms, face to face.

The reasons for your triumph on 30th April 1975 were the noble and just ideals and principles on the one hand and the wise and brilliant leadership of President Ho Chi Minh on the other. Vietnam today remains still a source of inspiration for many peoples. ■



ferences, protests and rallies were held along with interventions at UN and other international fora were held during the years.

In 1965 a special conference was held in Stockholm under the leadership of Romesh Chandra, then General Secretary of WPC in

DISMANTLE NATO!

(from p. 1)

and 2009 from 30 million Euros up to 300 million Euros.

The peoples and peace loving forces of the world do not accept NATO in its role as world "sheriff." They reject any effort to incorporate NATO into the United Nations system. They demand the dissolution of this offensive military war machine. Even the fake pretext of the existence of the Warsaw Pact does not exist any more today.

The World Peace Council and its members and friends will organize in dozens of countries various national and international initiatives against NATO and its new strategic concept, announced to be adopted at the next summit in Portugal. We shall organize, together with the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC), events and conferences in Portugal and central mass activities anticipating and during the days of the NATO summit (November 2010) in Lisbon.

Under the slogan: NATO Enemy of the Peoples and of Peace, DISMANTLE IT! the WPC is calling upon all Organizations in NATO member States and the entire world for the endorsement of this appeal, underlining the following aspects:

- NATO has been an aggressive and reactionary force since its founding in 1949. The Warsaw Treaty had been created later and was dissolved earlier.

- NATO has had its hands dipped in the blood of many peoples for 60 years and cannot constitute "a peacemaking force" within the UN framework.

- Despite the domination of the USA, aggressions are waged together with other imperialist forces, which do not change the character of NATO.

- NATO is directly bound to the EU and vice versa, as a large number of EU countries are also members of NATO, as well as through the militarist traits and commitments embedded in the "Lisbon Treaty".

- All governments of NATO member

countries bear responsibility for its action; they support its imperialist plans.

- The NATO war against Yugoslavia in 1999 was a milestone for the new dogma at the time of its summit in Washington 1999. The fact that the EU was never a "democratic counterweight" to the USA was revealed then.

- NATO acts as a global policeman with collaborators on all continents, carrying out its Plan for a "Greater Middle East" and actively intervening in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and elsewhere.

We fully support and endorse the Portuguese campaign "Yes to peace, No to NATO!" which unites dozens of movements and social organizations. We call upon all peace loving organizations to unite our voices and forces under this appeal and meet in November 2010 in Lisbon.

*World Peace Council (WPC)
Portuguese Council for Peace and
Cooperation (CPPC)*

EDITORIAL (from p. 2)

for exclusive actions in Lisbon, without the CPPC and the WPC, as they tried on other occasions before. We rejected those actions and their hostile behavior towards the WPC.... Our approach is one of anti-imperialist unity, aiming at the broad massive awakening and struggle against NATO, the member states governments, and their decisions and actions.

We do not believe in any kind of transformation of NATO, nor do we have any illusions about the role of the EU as counterweight to NATO or the USA. We are very confident that the massive popular anti-NATO actions of the CPPC and the WPC in Lisbon will be the best response to all kinds of political games. The protest against NATO and its summit in Portugal will mark a further important step forward in the anti-imperialist struggle of the peoples.... ■

Moroccan Authorities' Brutal Attack on El Aaiun Protest Camp in Occupied Western Sahara

As was expected to occur, according to various Saharawi human rights activists and residents of the camp, Moroccan authorities had, early this morning, sent troops and police to forcibly dismantle the Gdaim Izik camp, where more than 25,000 Saharawi have set up tents to claim their human rights in the Western Sahara, and the respect of their right to self-determination.

The brutal intervention in the camp started at 6:00 AM local time Monday, November 8, 2010; Moroccan military forces have been arriving in the area since yesterday to dismantle the camp. The military forces, gendarmerie and auxiliary forces are accompanied by helicopters flying over the area and launching tear gas as well as flares that explode in the air to create panic among the residents.

According to the latest reports, at least one Saharawi civilian has been killed and

hundreds injured in the clashes as a result of the military and police brutal intervention. Several media sources have quoted witnesses as stating that Moroccan security forces targeted women, children and elderly people.

On October 30, 2010 WFDY Preside Comrade Tiago Vieira, was Comrade Tiago was denied entry to assess the situation in the protest camp near El Aaiun in the occupied territories of Western Sahara. Equally, several journalists, three Spanish regional MP's and Izquierda Unida MEP Willy Meyers were all detained at the Morocco frontier over the weekend as they tried to visit the camp to witness first-hand the reality on the ground, and were forcibly returned to Spain. Morocco has refused to allow international journalists or independent observers access to the camp in El Aaiun.

To prevent an escalation of this potentially tragic situation, WFDY calls upon the international community and all its member

and friend organizations to exercise pressure on the Moroccan Kingdom to stop its military offensive against Saharawi civilians, lift the military blockade imposed on El Aaiun and the rest of the Saharawi cities, and to allow full access to media, NGOs and international observers into the territory.

We also call upon the UN and the international organizations to urgently intervene to protect the defenseless civilians from the hatred and xenophobic acts committed against them by the Moroccan settlers and the security apparatus.

Moroccan veto to the press and the international observers to avoid witnesses to its intervention illustrates the need to integrate Human Rights Monitoring to the MINURSO mandate.

*The CC/HQ of WFDY
November 08, 2010*

Joint Communiqué of EEDYE, the Peace Association of Turkey, and the Cyprus Peace Council Mytilini, Lesbos, Greece — 22 May 2010

The Peace Committees of our countries address militant greetings and an anti-imperialist message of friendship and solidarity to the peoples of Greece, Turkey and Cyprus as well as of all the Balkans from Mytilini, where we have met within the framework of the event held by the Peace Committee of Lesbos on 22 May 2010 in order to strengthen our peoples' struggle against NATO's imperialist plans for the broader region, an event which is included in EEDYE's campaign against the deployment of Greek troops abroad and in the WPC's campaign against NATO.

We also salute the militant mobilizations of the working people of Greece and all of Europe against the offensive mounted by capital, the EU and the IMF, which is undermining the working people's future.

Together we note that we are living through a period marked by the intensity of imperialist aggressiveness, a flare-up in local wars and the utter violation of the principles and rules of international law established after the peoples' victory over fascism, with the decisive presence of the Socialist countries.

After the war in Yugoslavia and with the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, NATO, in its role as world policeman, is escalating its operations all over the planet, adopting a plan on "Allied Security in the 21st Century" and thus leading to the creation of a literally explosive arena which is a threat to the entire world. Within this context and despite

the peoples' opposition and protests, the governments of NATO member countries are preparing to approve NATO's new doctrine in November 2010 in Portugal, a doctrine which constitutes the most aggressive one ever known to mankind. If this course of events is not reversed, new sizeable crises are bound to break out, accompanied by fresh interventions and wars, more widespread and intense.

In view of this, we condemn the constantly increasing manipulation of the UN by NATO and the imperialists, who circumvent the principles of the Founding Charter of the UN, which often appears to be two-faced and to have double standards.

In our region intra-imperialist rivalries and the differences between many states and large monopoly interests are strongly manifested, and thus we consider that the developments harbor huge dangers. The situation in our neighborhood is made more dangerous by the continued presence of NATO and the European Army, by the acceleration of plans to bring the entire Aegean under NATO and make the partitioning of Cyprus definitive, perpetuating the Turkish occupation of the island.

Imperialism has been showing renewed "interest" in our region, carrying out various types of intervention. The reasons for this interest are both geostrategic and economic. What is being sought is for settlements regarding the Aegean to facilitate NATO's

smooth operation through the establishment of a regime of "Greek-Turkish joint administration" to the detriment of peace and security in the region, and of the interests of the peoples of Greece and Turkey. The objective is for the plans of imperialist General Staff Commands to proceed faster with the "missile defense shield", to penetrate the broader region and control the oil routes and any possible oil fields in the Aegean and eastern Mediterranean, to serve imperialist wars and interventions in Afghanistan, the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and elsewhere. For this reason, the imperialists of USA, NATO and EU have recently been intensifying procedures to expand Euro-Atlantic imperialist structures and to accelerate the settling of all issues between Greece and Turkey and in the Aegean, with NATO controlling it completely. This attempt finds strong support from both the Greek and Turkish governments. Erdogan's recent visit to Athens following Papandreou's corresponding visit to Istanbul served precisely this objective.

Our movements' position remains steadfastly in favor of the peaceful settlement of differences between Greece and Turkey, aspiring for peace, friendship and cooperation between our peoples. We are fighting steadily and unwaveringly against NATO's plans and every type of joint administration and NATO control over the Aegean, for our countries to leave NATO and to get rid of foreign bases. We do not accept the plans for the "missile

defense shield" or any commitments made by our countries to NATO, the USA and the EU as regards Greek-Turkish relations, the Aegean, the Cyprus issue and the broader region of the Balkans.

We condemn the continued Turkish occupation of part of Cyprus. We express our strong support for and solidarity with the people of Cyprus (Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots) and their struggle against the occupation of 37% of the island for the past 36 years as a result of imperialist NATO plans, which led to the coup d'état, engineered by the junta in Athens, and the Turkish invasion in 1974.

We support the direct negotiations between the two communities for a solution and the reunification of Cyprus and its people. We unreservedly support the effort for a solution based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal Federation with political equality, as provided for in the UN Resolutions on Cyprus, in the High Level Agreements reached between the two Communities (1977 and 1979) and in the principles of international law. This would be a solution that would establish one indivisible sovereignty, a single citizenship, a single international entity, with all human rights and basic liberties ensured for all Cypriots. We stress the need for the solution to the Cyprus issue to stem from and be based on the will of the entire Cypriot people. The peace-loving and anti-imperialist forces of

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ABOLISH ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS!

(from p. 6)

addressed in formal terms.

Article 6 of the NPT states that all signatory states are obliged to carry out negotiations on efficient measures regarding the cessation of the nuclear race and nuclear disarmament. Likewise, they commit to conclude a treaty on generalized disarmament under a strict and efficient international control. At this point, the generality, rhetoric and contradiction become clear.

The world needs disarmament and the elimination of all nuclear weapons, not only non-proliferation, not only vague appeals to the good faith of those that possess such weapons so that agreements are made, according strictly to their conveniences and needs, on reducing arsenals.

The Review Conference of the NPT in 2000 offered the hope of disarmament by adopting 13 steps that stated verifiable and irreversible measures for disarmament and the reduction of the role of nuclear weapons in the defense strategies of great powers. Those 13 steps also included the implementation of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Unfortunately, however, those efforts made by the countries of the Coalition for a New Agenda, among which were non-aligned countries, were frustrated.

The abandonment of commitments made in the NPT Review Conference in 2000, the exclusive emphasis on non-proliferation, the prioritization of nuclear weapons in defense strategies, the inefficiency and lack of transparency in agreements to reduce strategic weapons, and the United States' insistence in creating defense shields, as well as its refusal to the commitment of not being the first to use nuclear weapons, reveal that the great powers holding nuclear weapons, especially the United States, are not willing to take significant steps towards disarmament. Since 2001 nuclear blackmail has increased as the United States, by announcing its new doctrine of national security based on preventive war, reaffirmed its right to resort to all kinds of weapons, including nuclear ones. Our main preoccupations concentrate in that aspect.

The NPT has not resulted in significant or concrete steps towards disarmament and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The emphasis on non-proliferation has led to another serious distortion in terms of pressures to force countries to adhere to the additional protocol and renounce to the irrevocable right to develop nuclear technology with peaceful ends, a right that is formally acknowledged in the NPT. This right, on which grounds non-nuclear nations — mainly underdeveloped and developing countries — agreed to ratify, is being flagrantly violated as we can see by the attempt to sanction and threaten countries that are trying to develop nuclear weapons with peaceful ends.

As we approach another review conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the peace movements express their fair concern with the maintenance of great arsenals of nuclear weapons. The presidents of the United States and Russia have just announced a bilateral agreement to reduce strategic weapons, which is considered the most significant in the last 20 years, agreeing to reduce arsenals to 1,550 strategic warheads in seven years. The agreement has nothing but a symbolic meaning as it is connected to the bilateral relations between those countries in the geopolitical field — it has no meaning in terms of reducing the danger of destroying the world.

As a demonstration that the announced reduction of warheads has nothing to do with the efforts for peace, the development of the "Prompt Global Strike" project was announced a few days ago. That is a new weapon to be assembled in long-distance missiles that are able to fly at a speed several times faster than sound. Therefore, as they are launched in the United States, they are able to hit any place on the earth in less than an hour. The justification is to maintain the so-called dissuasive power, even as the nuclear arsenal is reduced.

The world's largest nuclear power has announced its new defense strategy and held an international conference in Washington a few weeks ago on nuclear security with the proclaimed objective of fighting "nuclear terrorism" and preventing terrorist networks

from acquiring the capacity of producing and handling the atomic bomb.

Amid the rhetoric on disarmament, the United States proclaimed once again that it has the right to use nuclear weapons in circumstances viewed as "extreme" in order to "defend the vital interests of America and its allies." And once more the superpower refused to declare that it would not be the first to use nuclear weapons. Under such circumstances, to what use are speeches that favor non-proliferation? Before such threats, how should the government of countries that do not possess nuclear weapons behave? Should they succumb to blackmail and pressure or affirm their sovereignty and their rights demanding international treaties where the key is equality and commitments are valid for all?

As a movement of peace and solidarity with countries and peoples attacked or under the threat of aggression, we could not be silent before the evidence that, as a new defense policy is launched and as a nuclear safety conference is held, two countries were placed under international suspicion and threatened with war in case they do not submit to imperial designs.

Six-and-a-half decades ago, when it entered the international stage as a superpower willing to dominate the world and organize it according to its own interests, the United States perpetrated a nuclear attack against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, causing the deaths of more than 200 thousand people and incalculable destruction. That was an unnamable crime against humankind for which that country has not been punished. Today, that same empire makes threats of using again its nuclear weapons against countries viewed as "violators" of international laws that do not accept its impositions. With an infinitely greater arsenal, what price would peoples and nations pay in case those threats are carried out? Such distress is justified since, as we have highlighted, the United States, while launching its new defense policy a few weeks ago, has refused to commit to not being the first country to make use of nuclear weapons.

The progress of the international situation

is characterized by war actions and impregnated with new threats. Not a long time ago, under the pretext of preventing a country from using weapons of mass destruction, in spite of international law and without an authorization by the UN Security Council, the United States started a war of occupation with objectives that had nothing to do with what was proclaimed, as it became clear shortly after. The occupation forces admitted that Iraq did not possess weapons of mass destruction. In Central Asia, under the pretext of hunting terrorists and preventing the return of a fundamentalist force to power, another war is carried out, charging a high price in terms of human lives and material losses. In Palestine, a country that possesses nuclear weapons — although it would not confirm that fact — submits the Palestinian people to an indescribable martyrdom. In Lebanon, during the attacks by the Israeli air force three-and-a-half years ago, the Secretary of State of the allied power on the occasion declared that those were the "birth pains of the new Middle East." Today humankind listens to slogans on peace and disarmament, but until now the announcements of a world free from wars and without nuclear weapons are nothing but rhetoric or the manifestation of a vague ideal. In practice, blackmail and threats still prevail, demanding attention and combativeness from our part.

The severity with which we face historical experience and the dangers and threats looming over peoples are not disconnected from our convictions that peace and disarmament are possible. Those convictions date to the origins of the World Peace Council and to its founding document issued 60 years ago, the Stockholm Appeal, which, besides demanding the abolition of nuclear weapons, condemns countries that make use of those weapons as perpetrators of crimes against humankind.

The cause of peace, disarmament and the abolition of nuclear weapons is, first and foremost, an issue for peoples and nations that fight to consolidate their sovereignty and development, a struggle that demand collective awareness, unity and broad social mobilization. It is a struggle for all humankind. ■

World NEWS

United States:

People from across the US are invited by SOA Watch to join a weekend of vigil and protest, November 19-21, against the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia. The November 19-21 vigil and protest weekend includes a massive rally at the gates of Fort Benning, benefit concerts, workshops, a solemn funeral procession to commemorate the victims of SOA terror, nonviolent direct action, teach-ins, film screenings, nonviolence trainings and more. A one-day organizers conference on anti-militarization is taking place on November 18.

Among the prominent participants in these events are leaders from the resistance against the illegitimate US-supported government in Honduras; Padre Jesus Alberto Franco, a renowned leader from Colombia, risking his life working with Afro-Colombian, indigenous and mixed-race farmers in resistance; Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit; Marie Dennis, director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns and Co-President of Pax Christi International; United Auto Workers' president Bob King; and Rebel Diaz from the Bronx.

Statement of the WPC about the Coup Attempt in Ecuador

The World Peace Council denounces the attempted coup d'etat against the President of the country Rafael Correa in an effort to destabilize the country and allow domestic and foreign reactionary forces to intervene. The attempted coup comes as continuation of the coup d'etat in Honduras, this time in a country where the anti-imperialist peoples' movement achieved the shut down and withdrawal of the US Military Basis of Manta (Ecuador) few years ago.

The WPC expresses its solidarity to the peace loving people and the anti-imperialist movement in Ecuador, condemning any effort to disrupt the will and feelings of its people and calls for vigilance for any future subversive and imperialist interference.

We note with deep concern the maneuvers of US imperialism to deploy more Military Bases in the region and as well as the reactivation of the 4th US Naval fleet in the area, both instruments of imperialist domination in South America.

We defend the right of the people of Ecuador to determine its future freely and democratically, against the local oligarchy and its foreign imperialist allies.

WPC Secretariat
October 1, 2010

Spanish Council in Defense of Solidarity and Peace (CEDESPAZ): Report to the European Coordination Meeting Brussels — October 2010

Firstly we want to say hello to all European organizations, regional coordination and WPC. Have fraternal greetings on behalf of each and all the colleagues of CEDESPAZ, Spain.

In these days of compromise and fight we want to welcome the initiative of the comrades of the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation, on the mass mobilization, which will be held in Lisbon next November for peace and against existence of this terrible organization, guarantor of violence and slaughter, which is NATO.

Through this humble paper we want to show all our sympathy, solidarity and congratulations to the Portuguese colleagues for organizing this great event. We also wish to express our support and our commitment to assisting with it. Also, We wish you luck and success in the demonstrations and the day of general strike against the unfair measures taken by the Portuguese government against the workers.

In March 2009, the WPC European coordination meeting, held in Belgrade, said it was important to stress the undeniable connection between the culture of violent resolution of conflicts, lack of solidarity and the interests of capitalism, which produce invasion, war and injustice. Imperialism, the great predator of the people, faces an important challenge coming from Latin America's people and thousands of citizens around the world who struggle against this giant on behalf of values such as social justice, peace, solidarity....

It is for this reason that the fight against NATO, against what it means, and against what it argues, is the struggle of the anti-imperialist movement, the supporters of the peace and social justice.

NATO, a tool of capitalism to serve the interests of the powerful, campaigns freely and with ease throughout the world, imposing terror among the most disadvantaged, causing economic wars and supporting puppet rulers who crush civilian populations.

In this sense, Europe and the European peace movement must be an outcry against this oppressive and repressive organ of economic power. In November all organizations, led by the WPC and the CPCC, must be present in Lisbon, shouting: NO NATO! NO BASES!

Likewise, we believe in the idea that fighting against NATO is struggling for peace and against inequality, so this should become a permanent campaign for all WPC organizations. From CEDESPAZ we participated actively in demonstrations against military bases on Spanish territory, as in events and discussions that have occurred in different locations throughout our country and, indeed, it will be one of our campaigns set in each annual work plan.

From CEDESPAZ, we want to put out an unfortunate situation, essential in this sense, like the stunning events that occurred around the Israel Defense Forces' military interven-

tion against ships with humanitarian aid for the Palestinian people and the maintenance of the repressive and genocidal system in Gaza and the West Bank.

CEDESPAZ considers it regrettable to observe how European Institutions do not take any measures against such brutal events. Perhaps it's time to reclaim actions from these institutions and to highlight their double standards and their despotic behavior to overlook everything that comes from Israel, while they gaze and stand steadfast against the revolutionary processes of Latin America's people.

In this sense, CEDESPAZ had different activities involving reporting on the situation of the Palestinian people, like the Solidarity Conference held in Cadiz (July 2009), acts in Madrid, Valencia and Seville (January 2010), and other public events in April and July 2010.

Undeniably, the Saharawi people are one of the root causes of our international solidarity action. The situation of the Saharawi people, beyond their own situation in the refugee camps, is living in an upsurge recently placing the Saharawi population without any international guarantees. No human rights for the Saharawi people are guaranteed.

Repression, isolation and exploitation of this people goes before the eyes of the entire international community, without anyone to step forward and guarantee minimum rights for the Saharawi people. The Moroccan regime is never revealed by the international community as the slaughterer.

CEDESPAZ has done during 2009 and 2010 various actions, which led last November to the National Conference on the Establishment of the Network of Institutions for the Recognition of Western Sahara (REDIRSO), which has a very large number of public institutions in Spain working for the recognition of the SADR. This meeting was attended by fellow Iraklis Tsavdaridis, WPC Secretary, partner Taqaz Akel, from the Palestinian Council, and a significant group of Portuguese representatives and CPCC itself.

In the same way, we took part in the activities that have been developed in solidarity with Aminatu Haidar; from the state platform of Madrid, acts in Valencia, Extremadura and Andalucía, culminating in a big event in solidarity with Western Sahara next November 2010 in Seville.

Like the Sahara, Cuba and liberation processes in all of Latin America still have a role in our goals of solidarity in daily work. In October 2009, CEDESPAZ organized activities in different parts of Spanish territory in protest against the coup d'etat in Honduras, which culminated in a ceremony in Seville that largely covered the venue of one of the theaters in the city, and had many personalities from culture, social and political organizations, public institutions, etc....

Different activities in reflection and analysis of human rights violations in Colombia, the massive entry of NATO military bases in

Colombian territory, the situation of Ecuador after the attempted coup, and our participation in solidarity activities with the Cuban Revolution and the release of the 5 heroes in Madrid have also filled our activities over the past months.

In the national arena, we have been actively involved in all activities and platforms to defend the Spanish Republic, as an aspiration of a social and institutional model more in line with our objectives to incorporate the culture of peace, and the values of social justice and equality. The republican model is, for our organization, a step forward in overcoming the hierarchical structures inherited from the Fascist past that has placed the Spanish people under the military yoke for 40 years. These structures and models inherited from the past represent a brake that, joined with the capitalist development in Spain, has broken up a large part of associations and political development. To CEDESPAZ the struggle for the Republic in Spain is the struggle for a social model based on popular sovereignty, peace and equality.

International capitalism is imposing its adjustment measures, engulfing rights won after years of struggle and the blood of workers across Europe. CEDESPAZ has actively supported the general strike called by class trade unions in Spain. Both in public events, manifestos and in the proper conduct of the General Strike, CEDESPAZ did not want to stay out, so disseminated and supported many activities that have been developed in this regard.

In Spain, we have faced a labor reform imposed by the IMF (through its recent report on the Spanish financial situation), and executed by the Social Democratic government of PSOE. The extension of the retirement age to 67 years, measures to reduce wages for public employees and pensioners, cutting spending on basic necessities, plans to privatize public services, and legal amendments to facilitate firing and cutting severance pay, make this PSOE reform one of the toughest measures against the interests of the underprivileged in our country. Millions of people have paralyzed the country facing the government's opposition, the Popular Party and the media. Millions of people demonstrated on September 29 to stop an economic model in total decline. For the first time in many years, even the organizations miniaturized by the social democracy have been on the streets with the slogan "Not like this" and "Don't let workers pay for this crisis".

The Struggle for Social Justice and Equality is our struggle, and our presence in the demonstrations, an obligation to fight.

Finally, we believe in the good sense to continue to coordinate some activities, mainly in the fight against NATO, the fight against economic crisis, as well as some actions of solidarity with oppressed people; we value positively the important work of the WPC executive, as well as all its organizations. ■



WORLD PEACE

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