Speech by Thanassis Pailis, General Secretary of WPC, at the Anti-NATO Meeting Organized by WPC in Brussels, 24 May 2017

Fellow militants,

We want to thank all the representatives of the peace movements, other organizations of the people’s movement from about 20 countries, all those who responded to the call of the WPC to its meeting today, as well as all those who assisted in the events of the WPC against NATO and the Summit which is escalating the imperialist aggressiveness against the peoples.

Here at the “double capital” of the two imperialist organizations, NATO and the EU, we salute the events and demonstrations of many movements in dozens of countries in the coming days against imperialism and its apparatuses and wars.

The decisive denunciation of NATO and the governments of its members that it organized and unanimously agree to its decisions and that participate in its aggressive acts is of great international importance.

It is well-known that the WPC since its establishment in 1949 has been at the forefront of the struggle against war all these years and of course of the struggle against NATO, which since its foundation has been the murderous gun hand of imperialism.

It is of particular importance today that apart from organizing the struggle of the peoples against NATO the peace movements constantly inform their people and especially the youth about the blood-stained history of NATO, about its character, its goals, which are none other than to secure imperialist domination with guns and terror.

NATO is the armed murderous bulwark of the interests of the monopolies and capital all over the world. Its mission was and remains the safeguarding of the interests of the exploiters of the people, the safeguarding of the dominance of capitalist barbarity.

For this aim, for example, when billions of people live in poverty and misery, the governments of the NATO member-states provide billions of dollars for its needs, even 2% of the GDP, as for example the Greek government does.

NATO was founded on the 4th of April 1949 by 12 countries initially. Its real goal of imperialists was to strike against the socialist countries and to impede the revolutionary processes in the capitalist countries.

A characteristic element which is of particular importance and must be known to the people and the particularly by the youth is that about 200 German generals and admirals from the fascist Hitler regime were integrated into NATO Command. In 1961, 136 of them were in...

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Open Letter to the UN Secretary General

W e, representatives of the organizations of friendship and solidarity with Korean people in different countries and international NGOs, address this letter to you after our gathering in Pyongyang, capital of DPRK, on 16th of August 2017 in the hope that the UN will fulfill its due mission in the settlement of the Korean issue.

In spite of the aspiration of humankind for peace, security and common prosperity of the world, the situation on the Korean Peninsula is getting extremely acute, arousing serious concern of the international community.

The US also stands against the peace movement in the settlement of the Korean issue. In spite of this fact, the US and its allies are making vicious attempts to shirk the responsibility for the worsening situation on the Korean Peninsula and go the way to the流泪 of the North Koreans. We, in this context, reiterate that the DPRK’s nuclear tests, satellite launches and test-fire of ballistic missiles, which are now used as pretexts for anti-DPRK “sanction resolutions”, belong to the sovereign state’s lawful right to self-defense, especially when the US is deploying the missile defense shield “THAAD” in order to obtain first strike option without response.

We also share the same understanding that any relevant international laws, including the UN Charter and the existing resolutions of the UNGA, have no provisions at all that the nuclear test itself is a “threat to world peace and security.”

We are concerned about the fact that you and the UN Secretariat give no answer to the repeated request of the DPRK mission to the UN to explain the legal basis of the UNSC’s “sanction resolutions”.

It is dangerously obvious that the UNSC’s anti-DPRK “sanction resolutions” are nothing but unlawful and illegitimate documents cooked up pursuant to a certain political purpose to oppose a country and its people.

As we assume the mission to promote mutual understanding and friendship among people of different countries, we...

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Halt the U.S. Drive to War with North Korea!

U.S. Peace Council July 14, 2017

U.S. television news programs (CNN, MSNBC, and Fox) have been pounding the war drums in the last few weeks and days, since North Korea successfully launched a long-range missile. The long drift to war with North Korea[1] has seemingly become, overnight, a U.S. drive to war with North Korea.

With its usual bluster and saber-rattling, President Trump on his recent tour of Europe continued to threaten “severe action” against North Korea. Trump has made matters worse by devolving authority to battlefield commanders who inflame tensions with their own incendiary statements. Example: the U.S. commander in Korea, General Vincent Brooks, stated publicly “the only thing which separates ar眉me from war” with North Korea is “political will,” which is a classic phrase.

Anyone is the U.S. could conclude, quite reasonably, that the U.S. is the aggrieved and threatened party; that North Korea obviously wishes to harm the U.S. people; that the U.S. confronts a new danger; that North Korea is the aggressor; that an innocent and remarkably patient U.S. is the intended victim.

Such a conclusion — all of it — would be false. Almost nothing of what the U.S. mainstream media says about North Korea is true. Only a grasp of the history and the broader context can shed light on this Korea Crisis.

A Few Key Facts

• The U.S. refusal to accept the legitimacy of the North Korean government (DPRK) is part of its long-term policy that any state in the world that follows an independent course is subject to being overthrown by the United States. Economic independence and sovereignty are considered by the U.S. financial and corporate elite as an act of aggression. Therefore, the DPRK, Viet Nam, Cuba, the USSR and now Russia, Syria, Venezuela, China and others have all been targeted by the U.S. politically and militarily. U.S. policy insists that it has the right to cụt the dependent states in order to determine a country’s political leaders and socioeconomic system, and to use whatever means it takes — economic sanctions, sabotage, assassination, war — to achieve those goals.

• North Korea acceded to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1965. In 1994, the DPRK agreed to freeze its nuclear program in return for the U.S. providing energy materials and generating stations. In January of 2002, President George W. Bush announced that the DPRK was part of the “Axis of Evil,” and subject to regime change and even nuclear annihilation by the U.S. By the end of 2002, the DPRK had essentially exited the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and began to develop nuclear weapons as a deterrent.

• The notion that North Korea poses a threat to the U.S. is false and absurd. It would be national suicide for the DPRK to start a war with the U.S. or South Korea, which have massively superior military capabilities. The DPRK has never threatened to start such a war, rather it has always asserted that it developed weapons of mass destruction in order to deter the U.S. and its allies from an (often threatened) U.S. attack such as those that decapitated Iraq and Libya. The constant denigration and demonization of the North Korean leadership (they are portrayed invariably as madmen, or clowns, or both) is a strategy to make the Big Lie of a threat from North Korea believable to an ill-informed and fearful U.S. public.

• The DPRK has offered to freeze its nuclear weapons program if the U.S. freezes its war practices targeting the...
The World Peace Council concluded successfully its anti-NATO actions in Brussels, as decided in its last World Assembly in Brazil last year, under the campaign “Yes to Peace-No to NATO.”

Several member and friendly organizations have organized or are planning to hold anti-NATO protests in their respective countries these days, in particular in the Czech Republic, Norway, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Canada, USA, among others.

The WPC participated in the INTAL (Belgian member of WPC) public event on 23rd May in Brussels, where amongst others spoke the President of WPC Soccorsi Gomes, the Executive Secretary WPC Iraklis Tsavaridis, the member of the National Board of the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation, Helena Quasqueiro, along with the co-ordinator of INTAL Veronique Coutier invited guests from Afghanistan and Syria.

On the 24th May the WPC held successfully its anti-NATO conference in Brussels, in which more than 100 people participated, representing 21 Organizations from 15 countries (Belgium, Brazil, Greece, Portugal, Cyprus, Turkey, Ireland, Nepal, Czech Republic, Serbia, Italy, Iran, Poland, USA and guests from Ukraine.)

The representatives of two International organizations, namely the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) and the World Peace Council Secretariat, August 9, 2017

The WPC organized its events in Brussels with its own resources and without and funding from any institution, government or foundation, as always.

The demonstration in Brussels can be seen in following video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xyPa5eEIIo.

The WPC Secretariat, August 9, 2017

President:

Soccorsi Gomes
Brazilian Center for the Solidarity with the Peoples and the Struggle for Peace (CEBRAPAZ)

General Secretary:

Thanassis Pafilis
Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (KEDEY)

Executive Secretary:

Iraklis Tsavaridis
Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (KEDEY)

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 Council (CPC)
• Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOPAZ)
• Cyprus Peace Council (CPC)
• Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (KEDEY)
• Japan Peace Committee (JPC)
• Latin American Peace and Solidarity Council (LAPSC)
• Palestinian Committee for Peace and Solidarity (PCPS)
• Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC)
• South African Peace Initiative (SAPI)
• Syrian National Peace Council (SNPC)
• US Peace Council (USPC)
Persistent Intervention for Peace!

Statement of the World Peace Council on the International Day of Victims of ‘Agent Orange’

The WPC is underlining 56 years from the start of the dirty imperialist war of the USA against the Vietnamese people the need for comprehensive and overall compensation of the victims of the toxic ‘Agent Orange’, their relief and overall support. The US administrations all these years never acknowledged their heavy responsibility towards a people and a country which fought with dignity for its freedom and the right to determine alone its fortunes.

As for bombs and ammunition alone, the USA dropped over Vietnam about 14 million tons of all kinds of bombs (while another 3 million tons in Laos). This is twice as large as the total tonnage of all bombs and ammunition dropped in the World War II, and equivalent to total power of two hundred atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Now, 42 years after the war, there are many unexploded ordinances still kill an average of 1500 Vietnamese a year (and 300 Laotian people). Most of these victims are mountains people and children.

42 years after the end of the US war in Vietnam the consequences of war are still visible at thousands of children being born with mental diseases and birth defects. This shameful chapter, the use of the chemical dioxin by the USA continues to poison Vietnam and the people exposed to the chemicals. The deadly mark left by ‘Agent Orange’ on the natural environment of Vietnam includes the destruction of mangrove forests and the long-term poisoning of soil especially in the known “hot spots” near former U.S. military bases.

The WPC expresses its full-hearted solidarity to the Vietnamese people and in particular with the Vietnamese Association of Victims of Agent Orange (VAVA), and demands the recognition of the responsibility by the US administration and the necessary steps and measures to support the victims and their families.

We call upon our members and friends in the world, not to give up raising and fighting this just matter of the Vietnamese people, which fought heroically and defeated the US imperialist aggression in 1975.

The Secretariat of WPC
10th August 2017

Respect for the Sovereignty of the Peoples and the Right to Their Free Determination is the Way to Peace

Venezuela in recent years has been facing the most aggressive media war on the part of the Latin American Right in collusion with the interventionist policies of the US administration that has tended a destabilizing and terrorist fence to ignore the advances of the Bolivarian Revolution.

The economic war, the misinformation, the media propaganda promulgated daily in the media at the service of financial capital try to undermine and blur the truth of what really happens in Venezuela and is nothing more than trying to justify the true goal of the empire by seizing the wealth of the peoples and maintain their hegemony.

Venezuela has become an example for Latin America and the world, in its struggle for sovereignty and self-determination to live in PEACE working to build a just and equitable society, and has been doing so.

As fighters for Peace we pronounce decisively and we do not accept; we reject the policies of the US administration that threaten military intervention against Venezuela, and all actions that threaten the region’s PEACE.

We call on all progressive organizations in the world to show solidarity with the Venezuelan people, to defend their right to free self-determination; and to protest by all means and peaceful actions against all the aggressions that are being carried out against our brother country.

Latin America is a territory of PEACE, Venezuela is a sovereign people, we support President Nicolás Maduro and we support the Bolivarian Revolution.

LONG LIVE FREE VENEZUELA!!!
LONG LIVE THE BOLIVARIAN REVOLUTION!!!
EVER ONWARD TO VICTORY!!!

FUNDACION ESCUELA DE PAZ COLOMBIA
5th September 2017
The Congress of the Cyprus Peace Council (CPC) took place in Nicosia on 8th July with the participation of dozens of delegates from the whole island and the discussion and adoption of a declaration which you can see below. The Congress was attended by personalities and representatives of political parties and movements of Cyprus and by guests from the Grahamstown National Festival of Democratic Youth (WFDF), Jesse Jackson, represented by Alcidaa Guevara, daughter of the revolutionary “Che” and by the General Secretary of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), Jose Angel Maury. Furthermore the CPC received messages of solidarity and greetings from the World Peace Council (WPC), the WPC member Organisations from Turkey, Greece, South Africa, India, USA, Nepal, Syria and Brazil, which were read out at the Congress.

The Congress of the CPC concluded with the election of a National Council and Secretariat with the election of Stelios Sofocli as President and Fanis Christodoulou as General Secretary of CPC.

Final Declaration of the Congress of the Cyprus Peace Council

Nicosia, Cyprus — July 8, 2017

The Congress of the Cyprus Peace Council is convened at a time when:

- the imperialist order continues to provoke wars and misery all over the world, wars and brutal capitalistic crises are intensifying the gap between the wealth of the few and the poverty of the majority of the people,
- drugs and human trafficking are booming,
- military spending and armaments show a huge increase despite the global economic crisis,
- the environment is under threat for the sake of capital’s profits.

Our own homeland not only continues to suffer from the tragic consequences of the fascist coup d’etat, the Turkish invasion, illegal occupation, and partitionist status quo, but also from the destructive austerity policies that are indiscriminately targeting the vulnerabilities, the people and making them poorer.

Having all of this in mind, the Congress of the Cyprus Peace Council in Nicosia on 8th July 2017 under the slogan “Peace with Justice in Cyprus and the World” declares that:

1. Remains faithful to the principles and ideals of peace, justice and the building of a better demilitarized world, without wars and the militarization of science and the protection of the environment.

2. Stands against the militarization of Europe, the EU’s coupling with NATO, the orientation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the European Union’s Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) and its military missions and interventions throughout the world. It calls for the dismantling of the military bases and removal of all nuclear weapons from the territory of our continent. It calls for cancellation of the plans for the use of nuclear power in Cyprus, and denounces plans for the promotion of a plant to produce electricity powered by the use of nuclear energy in Akkaya, Turkey. At the same time, it strongly reacts to the European decisions that have turned the EU’s economy into a war industry, indeed on the pretext of generating jobs.


4. Welcomes the development of the World Peace Movement and the efforts to coordiant their activity. In this respect, it particularly welcomes the prominent role played by the World Peace Council, of which our own Council is an integral part and pledges to continue and step up as much as it can its own contribution to the universal effort.

5. Sends a warm greeting to the Cypriot people, Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots, Maronites, Armenians and Latins, all peoples, and struggles for the protection of the settlement status quo for a free and united Cyprus, the common homeland of all its children. It expresses its anxiety and willingness for the talks to arrive at a conclusion based on principles and an agreed framework that will ensure a mutually acceptable solution based on International Law, the UN resolutions on Cyprus and the High-Level Agreement, a solution that will safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms in conditions of lasting peace and security.

6. Considers as pressing the need to intensify our struggle for a solution that will lead to a united country within a federal, bi-zonal, bi-communal state with political and solidarity with all the peoples fighting for internationalism for freedom, justice and peace.

11. Expresses its gratitude to the forces all over the world supporting our people’s struggle and struggles throughout the world, expressing solidarity with all the peoples fighting for internationalism, for freedom, justice and peace.

12. Expresses its support and solidarity with all peoples struggling against imperialism. In particular, it expresses its support and solidarity with the heroic and martyr Palestinian people who is resisting the barbaric occupation of the state of Israel and struggling for its freedom and the recognition of a Palestinian state on the 1967 border with East Jerusalem as the capital. It expresses its support and solidarity with the peoples and making them poorer.

13. Demands the immediate respect of the people and making them poorer.

14. Expresses its solidarity with the suffering people of Syria, with the heroic Cypriot people who is resisting the US aggression and the hegemony of the imperialist machine and to rid the peoples of Cyprus of the US aggression.

15. Joins its voice with the Middle East peoples in their struggle and expresses its unwavering support and solidarity with the heroes, martyrs and fighters of the Middle East peoples.

16. Expresses its support and solidarity with the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the people of the world who are resisting war and the Cuban people, who are resisting the US aggression.

17. The struggle is continuing, together we all the peoples and peace-loving forces for PEACE AND JUSTICE IN CYPRUS AND IN THE WORLD.

The Congress of the Cyprus Peace Council calls on all the members of the Peace Council, as well all those who feel the need for promoting peace in Cyprus and in the world, to support the efforts towards its role as a more effective and decisive intervention by the movement. The Cyprus Peace Council, improving its organizational capacity in the period ahead, is aiming to:

- decentralize its activity by reacting to the European decisions, which are responsible for defining the circumstances, to meet the peoples’ obligations according to the statutes of the CPC.

- taking new members from trade union, educational and environmental organizations, from personalities from the arts and letters, sports and from all levels of society in collaboration with personali- ty, figures from the field of culture, education, and in the world, to support the efforts towards the reunification of Cyprus in conditions of permanent peace and security.

- for the dissolution of the NATO imperialist order and to rid the peoples of a constant war machine, which planned the 1974 twin intervention by the movement. The Cyprus Peace Council, aiming at developing the peace-loving, anti-imperi- list and anti-war sentiment and sense of solidarity among the Cypriot people, in the period ahead is aiming at strengthening the movements calling for the Middle East to be declared a zone free from all weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical and biological). We call on Israel to sign and respect the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

In conclusion, the Congress of the Cyprus Peace Council calls on all the peoples and peace-loving forces for PEACE AND JUSTICE IN CYPRUS AND IN THE WORLD.
FARC Builds Peace as “the Most Beautiful of Tasks”

Colombia’s armed conflict has lasted five decades and killed over 220,000 people, forcing displacement on almost six million. Over 25,000 people are still disappeared and at least 7,000 political prisoners are in jail. The main armed political forces responsible for the conflict are FARC (the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) and paramilitary groups. Colombia is known as “the most beautiful of tasks” due to the efforts of the FARC in implementing a peace agreement that would end the half-century-long conflict.

In the new Colombian political party’s foundation as Fuerza Alternativa Revolucionaria del Común (alternative Revolutionary Force of the Common) in August, hosting the announcement of new challenges in a struggle of over five decades have translated it, “Common Alternative Revolutionary Force” (FARC-EP), Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (Ejército de Liberación Nacional – ELN), the leader Simón Trinidad’s (Ricardo Palmera), convicted to 60 years in jail in the United States after being extradited by his own country to receive trial in US soil, in 2004. To this day, the amnesty agreed upon in 2015 was effective to less than the third of the prisoners.

The struggle for social justice in a profoundly oligarchic regime was brutally repressed by the successive Colombian governments, with the direct support of the United States and the support to paramilitary forces responsible for an atrocity genocide. Besides provoking new levels of suffering to the Colombian people, for half a century the conflict was used as a huge entrance gate for US imperialism and the militarization of the entire Latin America.

The country, Plan Colombia and militarization of the US military bases were this policy’s most evident points. Therefore, peace movements in the whole world have followed up closely and with determination the Colombian people’s struggle for the end of violence and, in the region, stressed that Colombia’s Peace is Latin America’s Peace.

Since 2012, we have engaged and supported the dialogues developed by the FARC leadership and the Colombian government in Havana, Cuba, one of the process’ guarantor countries. The negotiations were held with solidarity and commitment by the revolutionary, democratic forces and the international community that would enable peace-building in Colombia.

Attentive to a process that can only be legitimate if it includes the population in their various regions and demands for a just peace, with the uncovering of truth, the end of paramilitary activities, repression, persecution of popular leaders, and political and social inclusion, the democratic forces have followed the negotiations closely as the promise of a new chapter in the region’s history.

In the new political party’s Congress, the leader Timoléon Jiménez (alias of Rodrigo Londoño Echeverri) has assured that FARC will continue to “struggle for the establishment of a democratic political regime that guarantees peace with social justice, respects human rights and an economic development with well-being for all who live in Colombia.”

It is evident that the party’s foundation is a decisive step for the constitution of a political instrument able to embody, besides other popular organizations, the Colombian people’s, the Peace movement’s and revolu­tionary hopes. But the challenges are still numerous, as the new party’s lead­er’s commitment is limited in time and space, which is why the Colombians must continue to count on our resolute solidarity.

Peace process, commitment with transformation

Defending the Colombian people’s and the insurgent forces’ legitimate right to make decisions about the future of their country, actions aimed to precede negotiations. Russia and China have endorsed the FARC dedication and the commitment of the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN – National Liberation Army) with dialogue, and celebrate the final path opened in 2016 and 2017. This new path has made possible to get the American government’s commitment to start a peace process on the Colombian armed conflict reinitiated by the FARC over the years.

USPC Statement ... (from p. 1)

country, actions aimed to precede negociations. Russia and China have endorsed this approach. The US, however, refuses.

The U.S. is Provoking the Crisis

North Korea would not have a nuclear weapon if it were not under increasing threat from the U.S., which has been trying to force regime change in the North since 1945 by war, subver­sion, diplomatic isolation, and economic strangulation.

A recent article noted that, “As University of Chicago history professor and author Paul Kennedy, a U.S. historian of the Korean War, writes, for North Korea the nuclear crisis began in late February, when President Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un met in Singapore. ‘It is the new U.S. ‘Strategic Command,’ announced that he was retargeting strategic nuclear weapons (i.e., hydrogen bombs) meant for the old U.S.S.R, on North Korea (among other places.) At the same time, the new CIA chief, James Woolsey, testified that North Korea was our most grave current concern.’ By mid-March 1993, tens of thousands of [US] soldiers were carrying out war games in South Korea, and in came the B-1B bombers, B-52s from Guam, several naval vessels carrying cruise missiles, and the like: whereupon the North public was reported to have said, ‘What’s all this for?’

It is the U.S. that has been provoking the DPRK with its threatening of military exercises (the U.S. military’s large-scale exercises, otherwise known as ‘Key Resolve’ and ‘Foal Eagle’), its provocation of the DPRK with its attacking of the North Korean proposal was symbolized by the giant, yearly military exercises by the Americans employed every last quislings for the района. Prof. Cumings wrote in the London Review of Books: To shore up their [1945] occupation, the Americans employed every last inhabitant of the Japanese they could find, including former officers in the Japanese military like Shigeki Yoshida, both of whom graduated from the American military academy in Seoul in 1946. (After a military takeover in 1964 Park became president of South Korea, lasting a decade and a half until his ex-classmate Kim, by then head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, shot him dead over dinner one night.) After the Americans left in 1948 the border area around the 38th parallel was under the communist rule of Kim Il-Sung.
The ‘putting America first’ policy of the Trump administration in the United States does not appear to have limited the desire of the US to see fit. Jamshid Ahmadi, the spokesperson for ADPSD-Iran, explains that in relation to Iran, Presidents Bush and Obama, as well as the dominant opponent of the 5+1 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), made under the Obama administration. The deal agreed to lift a range of sanctions imposed on Iran in exchange for Iran scaling down its nuclear energy program.

A vote in Congress at the end of July this year, aimed at re-imposing sanctions upon the Iranian regime, was carried by 419-3 votes. The House bill would block the assets of any individual who works with Iran on its ballistic missile programme or sells it arms. The bill also authorises further cooperation with Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps or anyone whom the United States determines is complicit in Iranian human rights abuses. Robert Malley, a former White House coordinator for the Middle East under Obama, said: “It’s counterproductive because it comes in the context of an administration that has made its hostile intentions vis-à-vis Iran and the US president clear by refusing to engage Tehran diplomatically.”

US pressure on the regime in Iran is aimed primarily at containing the influence of the Islamic Republic in the Middle East and bolstering support for the United States’ key regional allies, Saudi Arabia and Israel. Recent reports suggest that intensive lobbying by the Saudi and Israeli governments has reinforced the Trump administration’s anti-Iran tendencies. Both governments are concerned about Tehran’s extensive involvement in Syria, its backing for Hamas and Hezbollah. As a result, they argue, Iran is gaining ever more influence in the Middle East, effectively bolstering the position of Saudi Arabia in the Muslim world and weakening that of the US, along with Israel, remain the eyes and ears of the US in the region.

As NATO-led Western interventions in countries like Libya, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan show, US policy does not end with that in the Islamic Republic of Iran, but also in Afghanistan and elsewhere in the region. The political vacuum created by US interventions has had the effect of giving a voice to Hezbollah and Hamas, and to various warring militia. The political vacuum created by US interventions has had the effect of giving a voice to Hezbollah and Hamas, and to various warring militia.

The Trump administration has been quick to lay the blame on Iran for the 2011 attack on Saudi Arabia’s largest oil refinery in Khurais and the bombed Saudi Aramco oil pipeline.

Is Iran Next on Trump’s Regime Change Agenda?

President Donald Trump’s administration has been quick to lay the blame on Iran for the 2011 attack on Saudi Arabia’s largest oil refinery in Khurais and the bombed Saudi Aramco oil pipeline. The Saudi-led coalition is therefore poised to strengthen its position as the leading regional power in the region.

The US State Department has recently released a long-awaited “retrospective” volume of documents on the 1953 coup in Iran, which led to the overthrow of Iran’s Prime Minister, Mohammad Mosaddeq. For decades, neither the US nor the British governments would publish their secret documents involving Iran’s overthrow. Until now this has been justified on various spurious grounds including protecting intelligence sources and methods, hewing to British government requests and, more recently, avoiding stirring up Iranian hard-line elements who might seek to undercut the nuclear deal Iran signed with the United States and other P5+1 members in 2015. The current document release constitutes an important component of a broader, more engaged approach to the region. The release of the documents may contribute to a larger strategy by the Trump administration to contain Iran’s influence in the region. The US is also concerned about the growing influence of Iran in Syria and Iraq and its support for Hamas and other militant groups. The US has been quick to lay the blame on Iran for the 2011 attack on Saudi Arabia’s largest oil refinery in Khurais and the bombed Saudi Aramco oil pipeline.

Is Iran Next on Trump’s Regime Change Agenda?

The US government has imposed sanctions on Iran in an attempt to weaken its influence in the region. The administration has repeatedly called for Iran to comply with the terms of the nuclear deal and to cease its support for militant groups in the region. However, the administration’s approach to Iran has been controversial, with some arguing that it has not been effective in containing Iran’s influence. The administration has also faced criticism for its handling of the situation in Syria, where it has supported rebel groups seeking to oust the Syrian government.

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A Tough Struggle for Peace

Peace Committee of Turkey

C
capitalism is going through a deep crisis throughout the world. This crisis of Turkey is dangerous, as it is helping escalate the aggressiveness of imperialism; on the other hand, it is causing shockwaves within the correlation of forces globally. In Syria, which is literally the main centre of the conflicts between big capitalist powers, the jihadist aggression that is incited by Western imperialism is shown its limits by the great resistance of the Syrian people. It is clear that this is an exercise also with the intervention of Russia in this country. On the other hand, the developments clearly depict that confrontations between imperialist powers become increasingly intricate; and humanity is feeling the threat of war more and more each day.

As it is well known, the Turkish government is heavily involved in the aggression against the Syrian people from the start. The Turkish armed forces are one of many that are actively present in this country, with the pretext of fighting ISIS. This pretext does not coincide with the truth. For a long time, it is clearly known that Western powers are actually behind the jihadist aggression, including that of ISIS. The Peace Committee of Turkey is opposed to the Turkish military presence in Syria and asks for immediate withdrawal of the troops positioned in this country. The way to confront imperialism and jihadist terrorism is primarily the withdrawal of the US and its allies’ forces.

Another important question is the situation in the region of Rojava, in the northern Syria. The Rojawa Kurdish authority has been collaborating with the USA for some time and has allowed this country to establish military bases in the region. Turkey, fearing the possibility of a secular or a libertarian struggle going on in the region, regarding the Kurdish population living in Syria.

A different issue regarding the Kurdish population is the referendum in Iraq Kurdistan was established as an output of the US invasion of Iraq. The fact that the majority of the people living in this region are Kurds, does not automatically mean the step to the step for independence. The fact that the present Kurdish authority was established with the direct involvement of the USA has severely damaged this legitimacy. The main criticism against the referendum is its timing; this criticism is superficial and inadequate. The peoples living in the region cannot have the chance to decide freely on their own fate, unless they dismiss the influence of imperialism.

The havoc in the region has caused a big flow of migrants from especially Syria. Over three million Syrians are now residing in Turkey, while some have gone to different European countries. The legal statutes in Turkey, regarding immigrants, are rather weak; the migrants have very limited rights. In this request, they are being made a cat’s paw in the hands of the Turkish government, capitalists and human traffickers. They are mainly used for cheap labour. The Peace Committee of Turkey demands the creation of the conditions for the migrants to return their countries and to be let to exercise their deserts rights in the countries they have taken refuge in.

The tension between the Turkish government and several EU-member countries’ governments, especially Germany, is another important point in the complex international relations. While the AKP government in Turkey is very reactionary, the governments of the relevant EU countries are that imperialist and colonialist. On the other hand, a part of the tension is false, because it is not possible for the Turkish ruling class and the government to sever the relations with the EU.

The peace forces in Turkey demand Turkey’s withdrawal from the membership process with the EU, the termination of the agreements between the EU and Turkey that bound the latter with the imperialist union, and withdrawal from NATO. As it is the most important military base in Turkey, utilised by NATO, the incirlik air base should be closed to all imperialist activity and disclosure of information regarding the nuclear weapons stationed in this base.

The Peace Association of Turkey was the only peace organisation that held a clear stance for all of these issues. Other organisations that use the notion of peace, fall into the error of regarding the EU as centre of democracy, to overlook the anti-imperialist struggle, to support the Turkish military operations on the basis that they are made against ISIS or PYD, etc. The Peace Association was banned on this basis, by a decree issued in November, 2016. This is one of many examples, which show that Turkey is drifting towards fascism, with the means of the so-called state of emergency. However, to establish a new regime in this way is not possible. Massive political and social tensions, the political crisis and the discontent of the masses will not allow this regime.

The struggle for peace in Turkey and the region she is situated in, is very tough. And now, the Peace Committee of Turkey is the peace force, ready to carry out this struggle. 

The WPC will hold its Executive Committee Meeting in Hanoi, capital of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, from 25-25 November 2017, with main aims to review the situation in regards to peace and security in the world and plan its future actions for the coming year. The EC of the WPC will meet for the first time after the successfully held Assembly of the WPC in November 2016 in Sao Luis/Brazil and will be hosted by the Vietnam Peace Committee. During the Meeting a special session will be held about the 100 years’ anniversary of the October Revolution and its contribution to Peace.

Czech Peace Movement: Yes to Peace! No to NATO!

In 1999 the Czech Republic joined, against the will of its people, the North Atlantic Treaty organization (NATO) and became a member of this aggressive and criminal military organization serving the interests of imperialism United States of America and European Union. Since its creation almost seven decades ago, NATO has been armed forces for the destabilization, violence and war that today mark the reality in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, etc.

The most important point of the Czech Republic, at important moments, expressed their clear option for Peace and antiwar actions, from the anti-imperialist forces in aggressions against other peoples. A wish that was not respected by successive governments that gave their support to NATO actions, including its wars of aggression, and spent hundreds of billions of Czech Crowns with the adaptation of the armed forces of the Czech Republic to the requirements of NATO and to serve its military adventures. The Czech Peace Movement, peace, anti-war and anti-NATO forces, was created within the successful move-
Three Years of Modi: Dark Clouds Threaten to Engulf Us

Nilupul Bass
General Secretary, AIPSO

It started with a bang. For peace activists like us in India, the beginning of the new government led by Prime Minister Modi had invited government leaders from our neighbourhood for talks. But this goal soon included Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Since the campaign for the formation of the government the Modi government had been presided with the top corporate of the country and the RSS pitching for Modi as PM, and the RSS had been pitted against Pakistan, there were legitimate doubts as to whether the Pakistani policy of the new government had developed such a cold feet that Prime Minister Modi and his government leaders from our neighbourhood policy is unprecedented.

AIPSO Condemns the Killing of Journalist Gauri Lankesh

WPC at the Congress of International Federation of Resistance Fighters

The 17th regular congress of the International Federation of Resistance Fighters (FIR) — Association of Anti-Fascists took place November 18 — 20, 2016 in Prague, Czech Republic. More than 100 delegations representing anti-fascist and resistance fighters organizations from about 20 European countries participated in this congress. The congress included the official opening ceremony of the Michel-Vanderbout Award as well as the commemoration of victims of fascism. The congress of FIR was attended also by the World Peace Council represented by Milan Krajcova. In his greeting speech he stated among other things: "Our two organizations, World Peace Council and International Federation of the Resistance Fighters — Association of Anti-Fascists have the same aims: to fight against fascism, war, terrorism and the arms race. The movement that fights against wars, terrorism and the arms race will expand, and in the victory over fascism barbarism in 1945, when the slogan — Never again fascism, never again war! — was raised. The congress is a victory of the peoples, inasmuch as well from the causes which have led to the war are present today in a period of growing imperialist aggression, economic distress and threats to the sovereignty of the peoples, in a period of deep global economic crisis of capitalism. Today, seven decades after the defeat of fascism in World War II, serious economic problems, like the problem of unemployment, in view of the current threats and dangers it is more important than ever to mobilize the peoples in the struggle against war, for peace, respect for the sovereignty and independence of the states, the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. It is necessary to fight against war, to denounce the arms race and for the total disarmament."
Palestine: The Two States Solution

Dr. Akel Tuzu
Palestinian Committee for Peace and Solidarity

After 70 years of the UN resolution 181, and 70 years of establishment of the illegal state of Israel, the illegal state of Israel, “Palestine,” is still waiting to be established.

The question is: In the current situation it is possible to get a solution that is really effective? and whose responsibility to end this tragedy of Palestinian people?

1980 the Palestinian leadership made the historic decision to accept the establishment of the Palestinian state on only 22% of historic Palestinian making the compromise, while according to the resolution 181 this state had to be established on around 46%.

After its establishment 1948, Israel occupied more than one half of the territory of the state of Palestine (78%) of historic Palestine, and 1967 occupied the rest of this territory.

Odo agreement between Israel and PLO signed 1993 with timetable to be ended 1999 and the final solution of the “Two States Solution,” to be achieved.

23 years of negotiations under “Exclusive US Sponsorship” with no results, and with Israel to use these negotiations for public relations and to implement its plans of changing the facts on the ground by controlling more and more land owned by Palestinians, building more and more settlements especially in East Jerusalem which supposed to be the capital of the Palestinian state, to build the separation “apartheid” wall in the Palestinian land and Other measures against Palestinian population including three wars against Gaza and invading west bank with full support of USA which never been a neutral mediator.

After the so called Arab Spring, and the direct engagement of US in the conflict especially in Syria and the conflagration of the Middle East under the slogan of the so called “War against terror” and “democratization” of the region Palestinian issue was pushed aside.

USA and allies (NATO, EU and so-called Euro-Atlantic organizations) are trying to create a new coalition in the ME with some Arab countries and Israel claims that the priority is to war against terror and the Palestinian problems can wait the final arrangement after the end of this war.

Nowadays we can notice that the “Two States Solution” is in big danger, especially with Donald Trump as a president of USA and the extreme right government in Israel which representing the settlers, ignoring all the resolutions of UN related to the Palestinian issue especially the latest ones about the recognition of Palestine as non-member state by the general assembly of UN and the resolution of the security council about the settlements.

After the collapse of the negotiations and Israel behave as a state above the international law supported by USA, we believe that the international community has to take its responsibility to end this abnormal situation, to force Israel to return to the path of the resolution 242 of the UN law and the resolution, to end the occupation and to enable Palestinian people to exercise its right for self-determination and to abide by the resolutions of the UN between the borders of June 4TH 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital.

We believe also that time is not in favor of the peaceable solution and the two states solution is in danger, which means that the region will continue to be a threat for the world peace not only the peace in the region.

Solidarity with Palestinian people is very important and effective to continue its struggle against occupation and the peoples of the region against the imperialist plans and wars.

Dr. Akel Tuzu, Palestinian Committee for Peace and Solidarity

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(Editorial ... from p. 13)
Mass Event at the Acropolis in Commemoration of the Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Statement of the Greek Committee for International Detente and Peace (EEDYE) about the “Greece-US Defense Cooperation Agreement”


The US will continue to have the Souda base and the full range of its bases in the country at the disposal of their war plans. The SYRIZA-ANEL government, engages the country more deeply in imperialist plans and wars.

The Souda base has fulfilled and is carrying out a special mission earlier designated in the “Operation Agreement” of 31st August 2017.

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Both the government and all the bourgeois parties bear tremendous responsibilities towards the Greek people for the great dangers that expose it. These developments require readiness and vigilance.

Let us step up the anti-imperialist struggle against US-NATO-EU.

Let us strengthen our efforts to close the base of Souda and all foreign bases in Greece.

Disengagement from NATO and the EU to the people in our homeland!

The forward march of history has been severely disrupted and sought to be reversed by retrograde ideas. The history of human civilization stands testimony to this. But in the ultimate analysis, such policies end up in provoking and inspiring the widest possible opposition and resistance.

Fascists and authoritarian rulers have eventually failed. The history of the world and that of India are replete with such instances. An electoral minority, and surely not on the basis of the agenda that they are advancing and appears to be humongous at this point in time, cannot sustain itself. Hatred cannot triumph over harmony.

Violence cannot overpower peace. Unity cannot dominate over friendship and solidarity. The rule of majority cannot be substituted by majoritarianism.

“investment” projects under the influence of certain countries and multinational companies have put the country under huge external debt trap. Consequently, the government is selling “parts” of the country together with those constructions as debt settlements. In addition, Sri Lanka’s routine diplomatic affairs and missions abroad too have been miserably weakened through political interference including nepotism.

To face this crisis, only one way is left to the people of Sri Lanka. That is to rebuild the sovereign state with autonomous political and economic policies, by their own. This can be done only if the masses form a broader front to win these objectives.
Stop the U.S. War Crimes in Syria!

In the name of “uprising ISIS” in Syria, the U.S. military has started a brutal barrage of airstrikes and artillery shelling of Syrian cities. These airstrikes have demolished schools, colleges and universities, health centers, gas stations, whole neighborhoods, hospitals, water systems, post offices, mosques, bridges and many other civilian facilities. Even American military sources admit: “US-led coalition” has been using “white phosphorus munitions in the airstrikes of all Syria” to which the U.S. military has never denied.

According to various sources, these indiscriminate airstrikes have resulted in the death of many thousands of innocent civilians. On May 25, the New York Times, quoting the Airwars, reported that “at least 3,100 civilians were killed in America-led airstrikes from August 2014 to March 2017.” Airworzs has also “identified additional ‘contested’ episodes that resulted in 2,700 civilian deaths.” And even this is a clear underestimation. The main reason behind these blatant war crimes by the United States is the fact that the Syrian Arab Army and its Lebanese, Russian and Iranian allies have been able to turn the tide against U.S.-led terrorist strategy of forced regime change in Syria, liberating one Syrian city after another from the control of U.S.-armed and funded terrorist groups.

Join the Hands Off Syria Coalition!

World Peace Council calls upon all of its member organizations and other peace activists around the world to endorse and support the Hands Off Syria Coalition. The U.S. Peace Council is one of the founders of the Hands Off Syria Coalition, and the WPC has already endorsed the Coalition and has signed on their Statement of Unity.

To endorse the Coalition, please go to the following link:
http://HandsOffSyriaCoalition.net

Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement (ACSA)

Between the USA and Sri Lanka Renewed Despite Protest

The USA never extended such assistance during the war or afterwards. Applicable period of time of the agreement was from 1996 till March 2007. Sri Lanka has renewed this agreement, in the framework of Plan LASO (Latin America Security Operation) of the John F. Kennedy Administration, an operation carried out by the most right-wing regime in the history of Latin America. The FARC, whose struggle as the FARC’s and other insurgent forces in Colombia has been based on armed struggle as the only way to secure the leadership of the Colombian people’s struggle thus created. And this is not just related to Syria. It is part of the broader U.S. plan for a new Middle East under direct control of the U.S. and NATO, as well as further encirclement of Russia and Iran as the main forces, who, based on their own strategies and policies, are the most important at the state level, the U.S. imperialist plans in the region. Time is running out. Peace forces around the world must unite and mobilize if they want to avoid such an outcome.

Declaration of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty (MOVPAZ)

The Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples (MOVPAZ) reiterates its strongest rejection of the media and psychological campaigns that, orchestrated and directed by the United States government and accompanied by sectors of the national and international oligarchic right, violate the free exercise of democracy and peaceful life in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

For several months, the Bolivarian people, their government and the democratically elected President Nicolás Maduro, have been facing the aggression of the most reactionary forces in the region and the world led by imperialism and its main exponent, the current President of the United States, Donald Trump, who in sharp rapturous commemoration with the extremist sectors of the local opposition stimulate and support the imposition of political, economic, commercial and financial sanctions against the Bolivarian revolution with the purpose of frustrating and reversing social achievements and the example of humanism and solidarity that this process heads with dignity.

The threat of a military intervention does not escape the brutal siege that today tends to that fraternal Latin American and Caribbean nation.

In the present circumstances that Venezuela of Bolivar and Chavez is confronted with, the expressions and genuine actions of support and solidarity coming from the peace-loving sectors of the whole planet are now more necessary than ever, and especially in our Region that sustains the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a “Zone of Peace” is in full force.

In view of the above, the Cuban Movement for Peace and Peoples’ Sovereignty (MOVPAZ) reiterates its call to all organizations, movements and people who love Peace to multiply the denunciation against imperialist aggression against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and to carry out actions in strong solidarity with the Venezuelan people and their leaders.

Havana, September 12, 2017

On the occasion of the 100 years anniversary of the Great Socialist October Revolution the WPC will attend the international event organized by the Communist party of the Russian Federation (CPIw) with a delegation comprised by its President Boris Kolesov, the General Secretary Thanassis Pafilis and the Regional Coordinator of Asia/Pacific Rabiendra Aiklihari, the events will take place from 2-7 November 2017 in St Petersburg (Leningrad) and Moscow.

continued on page 10
Dear comrades and friends, fellow peacekeepers in the struggle for a world of peace and social justice!

Dear comrades of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDSY)

The World Peace Council (WPC) salutes the many thousands of youth and students who, in a world of global and imperialist aggressions against sovereign states, have contributed to promote a "security trend" that violates and disregards fundamental rights, guarantees and freedoms in many countries, as the last years’ developments have shown.

As an organization and movement struggling for a cause that concerns all of humanity, we feel connected to the hardships affecting the majorities of deprived and oppressed all over the world by an unequal socio-economic system. The current threat of war are directly related to the wide range of crises affecting the world. The dominant economic system shows its exploitative and oppressive nature ever more, in the contradictions between those owning capital and the dispossessed. In addition to economic and financial aspects, the systemic crisis also affects energy resources, food and the environment.

The 19th World Festival of Youth and Students coincides this year with the 100th anniversary of the Great Socialist October Revolution, which shook the world and opened a new phase for the peoples of the USSR and the world. We pay our tribute and respect to the peoples of the ex-Soviet Union which struggled and built the first socialist society that had the courage to fight for socialism and communism as WPC, in order to defeat the enemy of our dreams and aspirations and comply with the needs of the youth and the students for education, decent jobs and recreation, in a world where the peoples will be the masters of the wealth and their destinies.

— Imperialism is not all-powerful!
— Long live the anti-imperialist Solidarity of the Peoples!
— Long live the World Festivals of Youth and Students!

Showed that the threats to humankind are even bigger. The organizations and terrorist groups that US imperialism and its allies have helped create and to which they gave resources and weapons are sowing violence against the peoples of the countries and are instrumentalized to promote a "security trend" that is part of the fierce competition for a world without war.

The period during this XIX. WFYS takes place is unfortunately one of growing imperialist aggressiveness in all spheres and in all continents. In a period of deep economic crisis, the world is facing new dangers and threats to peace, including ongoing imperialist military interventions against sovereign countries and the revival of Fascism in old and new forms. Humanity is facing the dangers of a generalized war of global dimensions. However, this is also a time for hope, based on the struggles of the peace-loving peoples of the world, that this eventuality can be stopped. We need to recall lessons from historical struggles, and unite all consequent and broad forces for peace and progress in a strong mobilization whose strength, breadth and conviction can prevent new tragedies from occurring.

The United States’ doctrine of “full-spectrum dominance” defines its global orientation and combines dismantling sovereign countries in the Middle East, confronting the expansion of the emerging economy of China, and promoting a non-conventional war against Russia. The latter tactic is part of the fierce competition and creates a comprehensive “wall of containment” against Russia that extends through the Balkans and Eurasia. It is an action led by NATO and the EU, which has been broadening its bellicose machine and seeking the incorporation of countries of the ex-USSR. The most relevant, recent episode directly involving Europe is Ukraine’s destabilization through a Fascist coup d’État. At the same time, an aggressive response to this doctrine will deteriorate the situation and further increase tensions.

The escalation of imperialist wars and aggressions against sovereign states in the Middle East, Africa and Asia have