Editorial

A Year to Strengthen the World Movement Against War

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The year of 2016, just like previous years, has begun with putting even more challenges and urgent tasks before us. As we have outlined in our meetings, campaigns and debates, the World Peace Council (WPC) has the vital task of consolidating itself as a people’s international organization, involving societies and citizens in defense of peace, in a resolute stand against war and threats to the peoples’ sovereignty. We have a call, as an international organization, to interact with the workers’, youth, women’s, intellectuals, and a broad variety of patriots’, democratic and progressive activists’, and organized movements of struggle in the whole world, for the cause of democracy, social justice, national independence and peace.

We have underlined that the USA, armed with their war machine, their own armed forces and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), their military bases spread around the world, their Navy Bases entrenched in seas and oceans, their vast satellite spying network controlling land, sea and space, and armed with the European powers, have reorganized their forces, and are reacting to the relative demise of their hegemony with renewed aggressiveness.

The US imperialism has new guises to perpetrate the same crimes against the peoples all over the planet. With its current face, Barack Obama, for eight years the rhetoric has been one, and the practice, another. We know that Obama’s promise was, mainly, to end the war in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, despite reducing their troops, the US continues to be embedded in both countries, which were destroyed and where hundreds of thousands of people were killed since the 2001 and 2003 invasions. Furthermore, Obama offers these massacred peoples the technological innovation of the long-distance killing, with a sharp increase in the use of drones to conduct these dirty wars under a false modernized appearance, killing civilians all over Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan.

The planet’s militarization has been rapid, under a hegemonic view of international politics conducted through threats and war. In 2015, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), 2.3% of the world’s GDP was spent in the military sector. The US again hit the record, spending US$ 595 billion, over twice the second, China’s, US$215 billion.

Since its creation in 1949, NATO has been an aggressive military arm of imperialism. It is the largest and most dangerous military organization in the world, deeply interconnected with the foreign and economic policies of both the United States and the European Union.

Since the 1990’s, NATO has expanded its membership and theater of operations. NATO currently has 28 member states across North America and Europe. Another 22 countries are engaged in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC). A further 19 countries are partnered with NATO through programs such as the so-called “Partners for Peace”, “Mediterranean Dialogue”, the “Istanbul Cooperation Initiative” or the “Partners across the Globe Initiative”.

This expansion alone reveals NATO’s fundamental purpose: to be a key tool of imperialist domination of the globe. Over the past 2 decades, NATO and its affiliates have attacked Yugoslavia (and its province Kosovo), Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria with the obvious goal of overthrowing these countries’ governments.

Protest NATO’s 2016 Warsaw Summit! Build and Expand the WPC Campaign: Yes to Peace! No to NATO!

SYRIA: LET US MAKE OUR COLLECTIVE VOICE OF REASON BE HEARD

An Urgent Appeal by the U.S. Peace Council

To All of Our Friends in the Peace Movement

Dear Friends and Comrades in Peace,

As you are all well aware, after almost half a decade of violent proxy war, terrorism, and bloodshed in Syria, the warring parties have agreed to meet once again, this time in Geneva, Switzerland, to find a political solution to the ongoing war that has cost the lives of tens of thousands of innocent men, women and children, in Syria, left behind millions of Syrians homeless, and has turned millions of others into refugees flooding Syria’s neighboring countries and Europe. Many experts believe that this is the last chance for achieving a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis.

It is also well known that these negotiations are being held under extremely complicated circumstances. This conflict has more than two sides and it is not only not solely about the government of Syria and its opposition. Here we are also dealing with regional power rivalries, with each country pursuing its own interests, and the drive by the United States and NATO states to redraw the map of the Middle East to achieve their own imperial goals. It is also part and parcel of the global drive to encircle, contain, subdue Russia and China, as a continuation of the neocons’ global strategy.

At the global level, the United States and NATO consider Syria as a stepping stone toward a regime change in Iran and ultimately in Russia, and are trying to bring Syria under the West and NATO control by any means possible, including financing, organizing, and arming the militant/terrorist groups fighting the Syrian government, either directly or by using their proxy states and regional allies. This has inevitably put the US on a dangerous confrontation course with Russia, which sees the overthrow of the Syrian government and establishment of another pro-NATO state near its borders as a major threat to its national security. Russia considers this an extension of what NATO is doing in Ukraine. The shooting down of a Russian fighter jet by NATO member Turkey was a clear escalation of this dangerous and intentional confrontation.

At the regional level, the conflict cannot be reduced to a war between two opposing camps only. It is not simply the case of Syria, Iran and Russia on one side, and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Turkey, Israel, and others, on the other side. Although all of the countries in the latter group are acting within the overall U.S./NATO plan for regime change in Syria, each of them has its own particular agenda for Syria and the region as well, and is trying to push the events in the direction that serves its own interests.

Both Saudi Arabia (closest U.S. ally after Israel) and Qatar (home of the U.S. Central Command) are dead bent on overthrowing the Assad government by use of force. They have been acting as the main dispensers of money and arms to the militant rebels and foreign terrorists in Syria. Saudi Arabia, particularly, has been considering Iran as its main rival and enemy in the region ever since the 1979 revolution that took Iran out of the US/NATO sphere of influence. For the Saudis, the overthrow of Assad’s Syria, the only Arab state independent of US manipulation and a long-time ally of Iran in the Middle East, serves to weaken Iran and ultimately pave the way for regime change in that country.

However, despite agreeing on the goal of forced regime change in Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Turkey have different ideas about who should replace the Assad government. For the Saudis, who are intent on spreading their own extremist Wahhabi version of Islam in the region, the favorites are ISIS, Al-Qaeda-related groups like al-Nusra Front, and other extremist Islamic groups like the Islam Army, and the Asala wa Tamiya Front (Authenticity and Growth Front, also supported by U.S.). On the other hand, Qatar, like Turkey, supports Islamist groups affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood, like the Sham Legion and the Turkish...

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Joint Statement of the Peace Movements of Greece, Turkey and Cyprus

About the Direct Involvement of NATO in the Aegean Sea and Broader Area

The EEDYE, the Peace Association of Turkic States in the Cyprus Peace Council, expresses their deep concern about the recent developments with the direct presence of NATO in the Aegean Sea. Sharing the feelings with the vast majority amongst our three peoples we declare with one voice:

NATO Out of the Aegean Sea!

The recent developments with NATO’s involvement in the Aegean with the pretext to “protect” the Greek-Turkish borders and “face” the flow of refugees, confirm with facts that we have a move in order to justify the permanent deployment of NATO in the Aegean Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean, in the framework of scopes and antagonisms related to the ongoing war in Syria and the imperialist plans in Libya and elsewhere.

The recent decision of the European Union to involve NATO in the area, followed by NATO’s decision itself, constitute a serious escalation and worsening of the general situation. The hypocritical decision which was taken upon a common proposal of Greece and Turkey, of primary importance and the days of its implementation prove clearly the real motivation behind.

The recent history of the war in Syria by the imperialist forces, the involvement of Russia upon invitation of the Syrian government in the war against so-called Jihadists, the ongoing terror attacks in Turkey have created a real and unpredictable war scenario in our region. Additionally and in combination with all the above our peoples are facing new nightmares daily, witnessing the tragedy of the hundreds of thousands of refugees who are running for their lives after having violently been displaced by the fear, fighting the waves of the Mediterranean Sea.

Our three anti-imperialist peace movements have agreed in the framework of the tri-lateral cooperation as well as in the framework of the WPC, that behind the imperialist wars of aggression and mass destruction and bombings lay the imperialist plans for a “New Middle East”, implemented jointly by the USA, NATO and the EU, together with reactionary gulf regimes in order to secure energy resources, their transport routes and spheres of influence.

The governments of our three countries have reached an absolute contradiction with the feelings of our peoples, support these plans, engaging our peoples in dangerous and reactionary war campaigns.

The armed groups of “holy warriors” are just the other side of the same coin of the imperial agenda, serving as abolition and justification for the escalation of the conflicts and the terrorization of the peoples.

Being consequent in our struggle for the disengagement of our countries (Greece, Turkey) and against the affiliation (Cyprus) to the imperialist war machine of NATO, we declare our presence of NATO fleet to the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea and demand its complete withdrawal.

We therefore demand:

To end the foreign interventions and wars of the USA/NATO and EU and of all others involved;

• To cancel the Dublin and Schengen Agreements along with the Frontex and other repressive measures against the refugees in the EU’s borders;

• To prevent the transfer of the refugees and mobilize the countries of their destination under the responsibility of the UN and the EU;

• To create humane and dignified conditions for the reception and hosting of the refugees;

• The abolition, in our three countries, of all military bases, which are providing infrastructure and support with the consent of the governments, for the imperialist wars.

No participation in the imperialist plans and crimes!

Seb March 2016

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President:

Socrates Gomes
Brazilian Centre for the Solidarity with the Peoples and the Struggle for Peace (CEBRAPAZ)

General Secretary:

Thanasis Pafilis
Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (EEDYE)

Executive Secretary:

Irrahel Tsartraridas
Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (EEDYE)

Organizational Members of the Secretariat:

• All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO)
• Brazilian Centre for the Solidarity with the Peoples and the Struggle for Peace (CEBRAPAZ)
• Congo Peace Committee
• Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (AOPV)
• Cyprus Peace Council (CPC)
• Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (EEDYE)
• Japan Peace Committee
• Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council (NPSC)
• 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)

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With the present and active participation of peace and anti-war fighters from a total of 27 countries, the IV INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR PEACE AND ABOLITION OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES was held in Guantánamo City, capital of the province of the same name, in the Republic of Cuba on November 23rd, 24th and 25th, 2015, convened by the World Peace Council, the Cuban Movement for Peace and the Sovereignty of the Peoples and the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples.

The Seminar was attended by a total of 211 participants from Angola, Australia, Brazil, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, Spain, United States, Philippines, Greece, Croatia, Bosnia, Comoros Islands, Italy, Japan, Laos, Mexico, Palestine, Panama, Puerto Rico, United Kingdom, Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, Dominican Republic, Switzerland, Turkey, and Venezuela.

This event took place within a context of a complex international political situation characterized by the proliferation of armed conflicts in several regions of the world, the political and military interventions, and the imperialist interference in the internal affairs of the states that, together with the effects of the Capitalism’s systemic economic crisis, have placed humanity at the brink of a Third World War, whose consequences will be devastating.

Under such circumstances, imperialist powers increase their budgets and nuclear military arsenals and redesign policies aiming to strengthen their influence and hegemonic positions. From this perspective, the role of foreign military bases, facilities, and stations as centers of pressure and geopolitical threats is increased, discrediting the pretenses that they are used to fight against drug trafficking, terrorism, and illegal migration.

Faced with these realities, the peoples of the world reinforce their resistance and fighting capacity. The participants to this IV Seminar, aware of these challenges and of the risks that for a true climate of peace represents the increase of tensions and war threats in the Middle East and some other regions in the world.

WE DENOUNCE

- The continuation of aggressive and interventionist policies by US imperialism and its NATO allies aimed at achieving their geopolitical purposes of domination is based, among other elements, on an extensive network of existing military bases, facilities and stations, where state-of-the-art weapons and highly qualified personnel in military sciences and the art of war are concentrated, ready to intervene in any country of the world they consider necessary.
- The development of modern technologies aimed at the global control of communications and their indiscriminate monitoring against States, political and social leaders, which already reaches a status of cyberwar.
- The permanence of an autocratic and ineffective United Nations System and a Security Council which serve little to the causes of Peace, nuclear disarmament and the care and protection of the environment.
- The capitalist and imperialist counter-offensive to stop and try to reverse the progressive political, economic and social processes in Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions of the world and with it, to slow down and stop the progress of integration and cooperation mechanisms such as ALBA, CELAC, UNASUR, MERCOSUR and others, signal a new era in the South-South relations.
- The economic and media war of imperialism and its domestic acolytes against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, its government and its people intended to reverse the social achievements of the Revolution led by the unforgettable Commander Hugo Rafael Chavez Frias.
- The systematic opposition of the United Kingdom to acknowledge the right of Argentina over the Falkland Island as well as the Sandwich and South Georgia Islands and to start bilateral negotiations on this issue, keeping, in turn, a military occupation over these islands.
- The colonial status of Puerto Rico which prevent the use of its people’s inalienable right to independence and total sovereignty.
- The unjust and criminal economic, commercial and financial blockade which for more than five decades the United States has imposed on the Cuban people and remains intact, ignoring the overwhelming majority of the international community, as well as the illegal occupation of the Cuban territory in the Guantánamo Naval Base and the center of torture and other violations of human rights built there by the United States.
- The discredit and repression of the social, trade union and workers’ struggles which reaffirm the rights of the workers, farmers, students and the poorest sectors of the capitalist societies, who have no other choice but to resort to the various forms of social protests so as to express their opposition to the effects of the systemic crisis of the capitalism system which oppresses them.
- Terrorism in all its forms and particularly, state terrorism, which, to a large extent, has been promoted by the U.S., and which has triggered the emergence and proliferation of extremist and fundamentalist organizations which threaten to spread throughout the world.
- The U.S. unconditional support to the Zionist government of Israel which continues to stand, by all possible available means, including genocide, against the right of the Palestinian people to build its own State in the terms and conditions agreed by the various UN Resolutions.
- The political and military interventionism of the U.S. and its allies against Syria and the right of its people to resolve internally and in a sovereign manner its internal affairs.
- The lack of support and effective and lasting solutions by the European Union to the migratory crisis that continent is facing, which has taken the lives of thousands of immigrants and refugees from Syria and countries from Northern Africa.
- The long colonial conflict suffered by the Saharan people, which, despite the UN resolutions, continue to be denied independence and the right to live in its own territory.
- The constant military exercises and maneuvers of troops from the U.S. Army, the Navy and the Air Force and its NATO allies and their strategy of “humanitarian interventions” in any country or region of the world.

In this 4th International Seminar of Peace and for the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases, we, the peace fighters and militants who have gathered here, along with all the progressive, anti-imperialist, anti-militarist, anti-terrorist, anti-interventionist and world peace-loving forces and organizations, reiterate our condemnation to political and military interventionism, to terrorism in all its forms and in any place of the planet, to interference in the internal affairs of the nations and to the imperialistic intentions of unleashing a Third World War in the quest for a new distribution of the resources and areas of influence and of the world’s political and economic reordering. Likewise, we join the denunciation of the climate change which puts mankind in danger and the erosion (avoncidad) by the United States and its allies from establishing firm and real commitments with international agreements, in this regard, such as, the Kyoto Protocol and others.

Orlando Fundora Lopez, Honorary President of WPC Is No More

The World Peace Council announces with grief the demise of our beloved comrade Orlando Fundora Lopez, Honorary President of the WPC, in the age of 90.

Orlando Fundora Lopez joined the revolutionary movement in Cuba before 1954 as trade unionist in the banking system participating in numerous of struggles and actions for which he was jailed and tortured several times by the Batista regime. From his exile in Venezuela he continued his struggle along with the local revolutionary movement from 1957-1959, again jailed and heavily tortured by the regime.

After the triumph of the Revolution he assumed the post of director of Radio Havana and later director of the Prensa Latina News Agency. In 1966 Orlando Fundora became chief of Information of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and after 1973 Chief of the Department of revolutionary orientation of the Central Committee. He was for decades a member of the Central Committee of the CP of Cuba.

Orlando Fundora Lopez assumed in 1985 the Presidency of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ) till 2006. In the Assembly of 2000 in Athens he contributed decisively to the anti-imperialist re-orientation of the WPC and the shift of its Headoffice to Athens. During the Assembly of the WPC in 2004 he got elected President of the WPC and in the Assembly of Caracas in 2008 Honorary President of the WPC.

Orlando Fundora Lopez dedicated his lifetime to the revolutionary and anti-imperialist struggle, to the just causes of the poor and oppressed all over the world. The WPC is losing a tireless champion of the struggle for Peace and for the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases.
T he mass mobilization that took place in the afternoon of Thursday 25th of Feb-
uary at the Ministry of Defense against NATO’s involvement in the Aegean ended with
the symbolic blockade of the Ministry’s gate and with the slogan “EU and NATO are the
sympathizers, not the killers of Machairas.”

The protest was organized by the Greek Committee for International Detente and
Peace (EEDYE), while EAME, OGE (Greek Women Federation), EEDDA (Greek Commi-
tee for International Democratic Solidarity), ORSA (Athens Federation of Craftsmen) and
MAS(Students Militant Front) issued a call for people to participate. A plethora of organiza-
tions of the people’s movement, workers, youth and women responded to the call.

A similar mobilization against NATO’s involvement in the Aegean was the All-Carte
protest at the NATO firing range on the island. The main aspect of the demonstration was
to denounce and to protest against the decision of NATO upon a common proposition of
the German, Turkish and Greek governments to send warships and navy to patrol in the
Aegean Sea, supposedly in order to stop the flow of refugees while the same forces (e.g.
NATO and EU) are the ones who are deeply involved in the crisis in Syria, Iraq and Libya.

The speaker at the rally was the president of EEDYE and MP of the KKE, Stavros Tas-
os, who stressed that the “SYRIZA-ANEL government plays the leading role in imple-
menting the very dangerous political line that serves the interests of the monopolies and
assesses our country even more deeply into the war plans of NATO and the EU.” Stavros
Tassos underlined that “The government bears enormous responsibilities for proposing,
in conjunction with Turkey and Germany, to dispatch NATO forces into the Aegean in
the name of protecting the Greek-Turkish borders from refugees.” The decision of the EU
given its support of NATO in the militarization of the Aegean — leads to “co-management,”
against our country’s sovereign rights. NATO is a butcher of the peoples; it is a murderous
war machine. It has no business in the Aegean; it is dangerous to the Greek people and
to the refugees and migrants whom it uproots from their countries, together with the EU.

The demonstrators demanded:
• NATO out of the Aegean
• No participation of Greece in the imper-
ialist interventions
• The euro-atlantic military bases in Greece

This initiative should have a response at the beginning, for the practical contradic-
tion between the extent of the crime and the urgency of the task of humanity. This
extensive crime involves almost all of the powers in the world, many governments.
The initiative should start investigating and trying from a very critical point. This
critical point can be the officials of the Republic of Turkey.

Peace-loving people of Turkey, inde-
pendent lawyers, intellectuals, researchers; they all have proven with their struggle in
recent years that they are ready to face this heavy burden, which has been put on their
shoulders much more than their counterparts in other countries.

In 2013, with the help of these forces, the Peace Association of Turkey prepared a
report that accused the government. Today, this report has been updated. In-
ternational conferences were organised in Istanbul and the bordering town of Antioch.
A number of crimes have been exposed to the international public opinion with the
help of these forces. This struggle is one in which high prices are paid. Peace forces
in Turkey are determined to confront the international war crimes committed against
people of Syria.

In Living Memory of Evangelos Machairas

Evangelos Machairas was an active lawyer and served as President of the Greek Commi-
tee for International Peace and Détente (EEDYE) from 1989 till 2011 and President of the
WPC from 1990 till 1994. It is with grief to announce his demise on 13th November 2015,
at the age of 94.

The WPC pays its tribute to the outstanding
peace fighter Evangelos Machairas, who has
served as President of the Greek Committee
for International Peace and Détente (EEDYE)
in other countries. in 1989 till 2011 and President of the
WPC from 1990 till 1994. It is with grief to announce
his demise on 13th November 2015, at the age of 94.

Evangelos Machairas was an active lawyer and served as President of the Lawyers’
Association of Athens, with an important contribution to the people’s movement in
Greece.

From 1996 he was elected Honorary President of the WPC, and from 2011
Honorary President of EEDYE respectively.

All who had the privilege of working with comrade Machairas know about his
restless, humble and militant character, which will serve as example for the future
generations.
Forward with Strengthening the WPC Towards Our Next World Assembly in November 2016 in Brazil!

(Excerpts from the Communiqué of the Executive Committee held in Guantanamo, Cuba in November 2015)

By holding its IC in Guantanamo, a few kilometers away from the US military base and its concentration camp of torture, the WPC reaffirmed its unconditional support for the Five Cuban heroes and its democratically elected government. We acknowledge and support the progressive changes affecting the entire Latin America especially in Venezuela, and the process of reconstructing the imperialist hegemony and geostrategic control of the Caribbean.

The WPC acknowledges the steps achieved in the “Peace Talks” between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP in Havana for the final signing of a comprehensive Peace Accord, underlining as well the challenges and risks to secure full guarantees for a political solution with justice and dignity, which the Colombian government and the openly hostile attitudes of the governments of many of the countries through which the refugees are crossing.…

We express our condemnation of the plans of the Greek government to install a new US military base in the Aegian Sea (Island Karpathos) and to extend the US and NATO military operations beyond the Soula Base and into other parts of the island of Crete, with plans to deploy US Drones on Greek soil.

The WPC denounced and condemned the recent military maneuvers of NATO under the name “Triton Juncture 2015” in Spain, Italy and Portugal, as one of the biggest in NATO’s history, with heavy military onshore, which received firm opposition from WPC member organisations, in Portugal. NATO proves once again to be the main global aggressor and armed tool of the US and the EU imperialism. The WPC supports the struggle within each NATO member-state against the greatest war machine of imperialism and the right to free people and demand the dissolution of NATO on a global level. The WPC is giving high priority to the struggle against NATO, particularly as NATO heads towards its next summit in Poland in July 2016.

Eastern Europe remains very tense, where the USA, the EU and NATO are dangerously deploying their military bases from the Baltic States to Bulgaria with tens of thousands of troops along with the “Missile Defence Shield” in order to expand their geo-strategic agenda aimed at Russia and Ukraine, where an orchestrated Coup in 2014 installed a reactionary government with the support of neo-fascist forces. We express our solidarity with the anti-imperialist and progressive forces in Ukraine and denounce the attacks against the population and cities in the eastern part of the country (Donbass) and the “witch hunts” organized by the illegal government through fabricated cases aimed at destroying the legality of the Communists and other progressive forces in the Ukraine.

The WPC notes with extraordinary concern the situation in the Middle East is escalating dangerously. The concentration of all sorts of military power in the region, Venezuela appointed Latin America and the Caribbean a Zone of Peace, rejecting the use of nuclear weapons and demanding the withdrawal of US troops and bases from the region.

Currently 74 US military bases are surrounding Latin America and the Caribbean, and its weapons of mass destruction aimed at the processes of neo-colonial, neo-imperialism and self-determination of our peoples.

Thirteen of these bases encircle Venezuela. Billions of dollars from drug and US capital are diverted to found organizations such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), which promote and organize the neo-fascist groups destabilizing the democratic and popular governments, like the constitutional government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Even the Liberator Simon Bolivar warned, on 5 August, 1829, when he stated in a letter to the Minister Charge d’Affaires of Her Britannic Majesty in the United States, Patrick Campbell: “The United States seems destined by Providence to plague America with misery in the name of freedom.”

While the Obama administration and its NATO allies favor deregulation of employment, layoffs and worsening of fundamental rights, bringing their citizens closer to the edge of misery and death, Venezuela, in response to the crisis of the world capitalist system, has achieved the claim of political, social and economic rights of workers, the working class and popular majorities historically excluded.

Based on these recitals, the democratic and left organizations, social movements and personalities agree: EXPRESS our full and active solidarity with the Venezuelan People, the Government of the Constitutional President Nicolas Maduro, the Communist Party of Venezuela, and the Committee of Solidarity.
funded Alahr al-Sham. In many cases, each of these groups is itself a coalition of dozens of Islamist groups fighting in Syria, many of whom are not even officially counted. All in all, according to BHR, “there are believed to be as many as 1,000 armed opposition groups in Syria, commanding an estimated 100,000 fighters,” each, of course, under the control of a single group, the movement of a dozen or more of these armed government involved.

Until recently the main focus of these governments and the United States was on an armed overthrow of the Assad government, and in fact, many analysts had gone “so precocious” before any agreements with the government of the Syrian government and the opposition, and allowing for a “transitional period” for regime change in Syria, including some in Riyadh consisting of over 100 extremist fighters, and to achieve this, in December negotiations. Saudi Arabia, for its part, is

Syria: Let Us ... (from p. 1)

Aside from the issues of who is a terrorist and who is part of the legitimate opposition, another round of maneuvering is under way. Each of these hostile countries is now jockeying for the inclusion of its own favorite fighters and the exclusion of those of others in the upcoming negotiations. Saudi Arabia, for instance, is pushing for inclusion of all armed Islamist fighters, and to achieve this, in December of 2015, organized a three-day conference in Riyadh consisting of over 100 extremist Islamist groups and political parties, calling for a “transitional period” for regime change in Syria, including some of those considered to be terrorist by the United States. According to Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister, “what is noteworthy is the presence of some terrorist groups linked to ISIL in the Riyadh Conference.”

The objective of this conference, titled “Conference of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces,” was to unite these armed extremist forces around a common platform for the negotiations. On December 10, 2015, the conference issued its “Final Statement,” which is not only for the “establishment of a state,”... with no place for Bashar al-Assad or the symbols and pillars of his regime in it or any coming political arrangements,”... but took the matter a step further, in response to the United States’ announcement that Bashar al-Assad’s circle leave office at the beginning of the transitional period,”... in other words, regime change from the beginning. There is a certain purpose to this, in fact, at the beginning of the negotiations even before they started. Although the Saudite position is in conflict with the current U.S. position, nonetheless, Secretary of State John Kerry thanked the Saudis for holding the Riyadh Conference. The Saudite motive for sabotaging the negotiations, as well as their recent mass execution of 47 people, including a Shiite clergy, stems from their nervousness about close ties that might develop between Iran and the United States as a result of their nuclear agreement, and potential new agreements during Syrian negotiations. The Saudite position is similar to that of the Assad conflict, and寞 ordered to be excluded from the negotiations to proceed and bring any results.

The first fundamental issue here is who should consider who as a terrorist and legitimate opposition, and therefore be allowed to participate in the negotiations. As far as Syrian government is concerned, all those who have engaged in violent armed struggle against the legitimate Syrian government and are responsible for the death and injury of tens of thousands, should be considered terrorists and must be excluded. Both Iran and Russia have announced their support for the Syrian position. According to Russian Foreign Minister, “We are still convinced that terrorists of all stripes should be excluded from the political process in Syria...” But this is not the U.S. and its regional allies in mind. They are insisting on inclusion of what they term “moderate” armed fighters in the negotiations. Iran’s response: “the terrorists will never be allowed to introduce themselves as moderate opposition and decide the fate of Syria and the region. The Syrian government, on its part, has announced it is ready to attend peace talks with the opposition in Geneva this month, but it wants to see lists of the opposition groups who were due to attend, and ensure that “terrorist” groups would not be represented.

Aside from the issues of who is a terrorist and who is part of the legitimate opposition, another round of maneuvering is under way. Each of these hostile countries is now jockeying for the inclusion of its own favorite fighters and the exclusion of those of others in the upcoming negotiations. Saudi Arabia, for instance, is pushing for inclusion of all armed Islamist fighters, and to achieve this, in December of 2015, organized a three-day conference in Riyadh consisting of over 100 extremist Islamist groups and political parties, calling for a “transitional period” for regime change in Syria, including some of those considered to be terrorist by the United States. According to Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister, “what is noteworthy is the presence of some terrorist groups linked to ISIL in the Riyadh Conference.”

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Building united action against war, militarism and imperialism

Invitation to the Third Trilateral Peace Conference

Canada-United States-Mexico

July 20-21, 2016 — Toronto, Canada


Since the Second Trilateral in 2009 our world has moved to a critically dangerous point, with increasing militarism and war, environmental decline and economic crisis. The major military powers, especially the United States, European Union and NATO — have concentrated their firepower in Eastern Europe and the Syria-Iraq region. This increasingly tense standoff between Western imperialism and Russia, the possibility of a military — and potentially nuclear — confrontation between these powers is very real.

One hundred years ago the peoples of the world were terrorized by the horrors of the First World War, a conflict that was sparked by imperialist expansion, militarism and extreme nationalism. It was one of the deadliest conflicts in human history, a tragedy that killed 17 million people.

Today, as the most powerful countries again drive to re-divide the world’s territory and resources, the stage is being set for another disaster. Global military spending has reached $1.8 trillion, a new arms race is underway and nuclear weapons are being re-developed, NATO is expanding its membership and scope, and the West — having redeveloped, NATO is expanding its membership and scope, and the Western powers are becoming increasingly aggressive to the point that the survival of the planet is threatened. In all parts of the world, millions upon millions of people are being forced into poverty, hunger, homelessness and displacement.

But this is also a time of rising resistance from the peoples of the world. In all countries, to different degrees and with different features, we see increased unity and mobilization. To advance their fight for peace and social progress, people are using many different tactics, including mass demonstrations, general strikes and online campaigns.

The Third Trilateral Peace Conference will provide a forum for peace and progressive activists to examine the explosive international situation and propose concrete strategies for coordinated actions across Canada, the US and Mexico. We cannot avoid the impending catastrophe without unity, a sense of urgency, and a commitment to action.

Please send requests for information to: info@canadianpeacecongress.ca. More information and updates will be posted to www.canadianpeacecongress.ca.

We look forward to meeting in Toronto!

Canadian Peace Congress

US Peace Council

Movimiento Mexicano por la Paz y el Desarrollo
The Struggle Against Imperialist War and Imperialist Peace

Presented by Iraklis Travadiadis, Executive Secretary, WPC

(Based on the contribution of the Greek Peace Committee (EDEYE) at the WPC regional meeting of Europe, Lisbon 19-20 March 2016.)

Our meeting is taking place under conditions created by the further deepening of the generalized economic crisis, which shows more clearly every day the enormous aggravation and deepening generated by the system and its exploitative nature and essence. It manifests that the production all the suffers of the peoples, through both imperialist wars and imperialist peace! It is the matrix that also produces what is called terrorism.

As Peace Movements in Europe, with the EU, being one of the pillars of the imperialist system, we can only pay attention as WPC not only on military and warfare issues, but also to social and economic issues, to environmental and global questions.

The economic crisis and the consequences for popular masses in Greece are becoming day by day worse. Poverty and extreme poverty, foxing and unemployment (especially among youth (55%), heavy taxation and privatization of public sector, in order to the so-called ‘troika’ (EC, ECB, IMF) for their economic recovery to the detriment of the working and popular strata. This has not changed with the new government since one year. The war against the working class is getting even worse, despite the opposite promises and demagogy. Currently new “negotiations” of the Greek government are going on with the Troika. Greece is in a major crisis and new heavy burden are being proposed, once more, for the sake of the “exit from the crisis”.

In addition to that, within just a few months, the new SYRIZA–ANEL government has taken various initiatives, such as the proposal to establish a new US NATO base in theArticles of the WPC (1991–2016)   PEACE MESSENGER Page 7

Global Destabilization — How Did It Start?

10 Years After NATO Aggression in Serbia (FRY), Global Destabilization — How Did It Start?

Our friend Zahrati Zaharizy voiced a warning about the risk of global conflict. The media coverage and diplomatic relations are at a historic low. Expectations and repercussions are stemming from the profound changes in the global constellation of power. The lion’s share shifted toward the USA, and the so-called Islamic State and the globalized terrorism, militarization, the arms race, the global dystrict and confrontation.

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Great Dangers Posed by Militarization

Theoreticians and policy makers who have been enjoying immunity while spreading the myth of a United Nations Charter, generating chaos and ‘low-intensity conflicts’, and toppelling and appointing leaders of other nations, those who pay no regard to the legitimate interests of other nations and states, those used to making decisions on behalf of the people in the Eastern Europe, will certainly not stop short of taking chances! And this is precisely the source of a great danger.

Most dangerous are the ‘shadow’ structures and the powerful ones who demand their own monopoly, which rule from above, have trampled on its own end, may be destroyed, punished or at least halted. They deny everything and everywhere that peace, cooperation on an equal footing, observance of the international law and, of course, observance of the rights and duties of sovereign states and territories torn apart; the continuous erosion of the global community of nations.

The future peace and stability depend on the answers to these and similar questions.

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Global Destabilization ... (from p. 7)

There are no major international problems that could be solved without and equal participation of Serbia and the US. Despite the bad intentions of several heavyweights and other heavy-duty weaponry in the Smeđerevo Steelworks, yielding the highest quality and best price, even after the smoking was over, the Americans said it was no more profitable to stay in Smeđerevo, packed their bags, and left.

Let us recollect what the goals of the aggression were. Deployment of US troops in the Baltic states in a purely symbolic move to keep the situation under control. NATO once again took the first step in building the chain of deploying US military resources closer to the Russian border. Expansion of NATO and the benchmark of the infamous “Draug nach Osten” doctrine. In the name of spreading democracy and human rights, NATO again presented a blueprint for the new military campaigns in other parts of the world, in a blatant disregard of the principles in the international relations, the UN Charter and the UN Security Council as the most important body for the matters of peace and security. However, statistics and analysts revealed that from Serbia, devastated as it was left after NATO aggression, over the period from 2001–2001, it wasted out 55 billion through the so-called privatizations, and in particular through the privatization of state-owned enterprises, thus disbursing the valuable companies located in Kosovo and Metohija, built by means of the funds of the so-called privatizations in the total amount of companies seated in the USA and other NATO states.

Why? This aversion to resorting to referendums should be noted that Russia and China were not triggered, but instead accelerated by NATO aggression. The process involves many interests and participants, but a special role has been assigned to the Hague Tribunal. This is a mechanism that, among other things, aims to replace the historians and dictate its own — or rather, NATO’s — version of history, in particular a part referring to the territory of former Yugoslavia. For the vast majority of people in Serbia, the Hague Tribunal is but an extended arm of NATO Treaty, one of the strongest bodies that proclaims verdicts, primarily against the members of the Serbian peoples.

The law of the Hague Tribunal, the anniversary of the beginning of the aggression, is scheduled the sentencing of Radovan Karadžić, for which the countries of ex-Yugoslavia have not asked that was of no interest for the public, for the nation! Relevant provisions under the Constitution preceding the current one, whether in the Serbian or in the Yugoslav Constitution, has not provided that the country’s membership to international organizations (like, NATO or the Hague Tribunal) and the Parliament. The wording of the applicable Constitution does not contain this provision anywhere, and that is why it is up to the people and the government to decide on the future of the country in the so-called ‘carte blanche’ for total sellout of the remaining capacities in the public sector, or for the Western standards, or the “European and global” or Pritina, or for the complete surrender to NATO, or for the federalization of Serbia under the UN Charter and UN Security Council.

The funds are being allocated to weapons, which means many thousands of people from the Middle East seeking jobs in Europe. They are not sluggish lazy people seeking easy life, as maliciously depicted, nor ones striving to disrupt the Europeans’ wellbeing. These are maliciously depicted, nor ones striving to disrupt the Europeans’ wellbeing. These are malice depicted, nor ones striving to disrupt the Europeans’ wellbeing. These are maliciously depicted, nor ones striving to disrupt the Europeans’ wellbeing. These are maliciously depicted, nor ones striving to disrupt the Europeans’ wellbeing. These are maliciously depicted, nor ones striving to disrupt the Europeans’ wellbeing. These are maliciously depicted, nor ones striving to disrupt the Europeans’ wellbeing. These are maliciously depicted, nor ones striving to disrupt the Europeans’ wellbeing.

First of all, the West put an end to war in Serbia by excluding Serbia from the list of belligerents, the forces and training of terrorists, and by disrupting the supply of the so-called ISS. Instead of malice, there were actually attempts to invite investments and development of the countries in the Middle East and Central Asia, and thus further destabilization. The Western leaders, these and their allies, are people struggling to survive and in search for the daily bread. Unlike the Western leaders, these people have also alternative ways to survival. This is why they cannot be stopped by fences or patrols, on land or at sea.

The West holds the key to their plight — by stopping them from entering the European Union. First of all, the West should put an end to war in Serbia by excluding Serbia from the list of belligerents, the forces and training of terrorists, and by disrupting the supply of the so-called ISS. Instead of malice, there were actually attempts to invite investments and development of the countries in the Middle East and Central Asia, and thus further destabilization. The Western leaders, these and their allies, are people struggling to survive and in search for the daily bread. Unlike the Western leaders, these people have also alternative ways to survival. This is why they cannot be stopped by fences or patrols, on land or at sea. The West holds the key to their plight — by stopping them from entering the European Union. First of all, the West should put an end to war in Serbia by excluding Serbia from the list of belligerents, the forces and training of terrorists, and by disrupting the supply of the so-called ISS. Instead of malice, there were actually attempts to invite investments and development of the countries in the Middle East and Central Asia, and thus further destabilization. The Western leaders, these and their allies, are people struggling to survive and in search for the daily bread. Unlike the Western leaders, these people have also alternative ways to survival. This is why they cannot be stopped by fences or patrols, on land or at sea.

Is there a plausible answer to these questions? The answer is yes, but there is also a condition — that the countries of Europe and the world take responsibility for the responsibility and also against Europe and the system of the international relations parties, but a special role has been assigned to the Hague Tribunal. This is a mechanism that, among other things, aims to replace the historians and dictate its own — or rather, NATO’s — version of history, in particular a part referring to the territory of former Yugoslavia. For the vast majority of people in Serbia, the Hague Tribunal is but an extended arm of NATO Treaty, one of the strongest bodies that proclaims verdicts, primarily against the members of the Serbian peoples.

The way out is in accepting the new realities in global relations, which do not support the setup of superior and subordinate actors, the privileged and the disenfranchised ones, the “exceptional” and the handicapped sides. The way out is in restoration of observance of the fundamental principles of international relations and international law, and most notably, in observance of the principle of sovereign equality in international relations, the UN Charter and the UN Security Council as the most important body for the matters of peace and security. However, statistics and analysts revealed that from Serbia, devastated as it was left after NATO aggression, over the period from 2001–2001, it wasted out 55 billion through the so-called privatizations, and in particular through the privatization of state-owned enterprises, thus disbursing the valuable companies located in Kosovo and Metohija, built by means of the funds of the so-called privatizations in the total amount of companies seated in the USA and other NATO states.

One can hardly comprehend such cynicism that politicians use to deplete their peoples by the allegedly righteous motives of military interventions! And their background consists of utter egotism, despoilment and sheer gluttony. It is the former minister of the Army of Serbia, the Hague Tribunal in 1999, in an interview to a US TV station, that said the Pentagon had provided the funds for the atrocities committed by the Army of Serbia and th

The KLA itself was a NATO ally, its ground troops and military hardware on European territory, and especially the USA, have directly and indirectly assisted the transfer of terror-}
We see this tactic applied to the bullying of resources and peoples. The places where the powers could exploit their channels for pillage and building of resources and peoples. We see this tactic applied to the Boliyanian Venezuela, to Honduras, Paraguay, Ecuador, Brazil, the African continent, and so on. In the Syrian Arab Republic, five years of war have killed hundreds of thousands of people, driving millions of others to displace or seek refuge outside their country. The attempt at overthrowing a legitimately elected government, by the US imperialism, has failed, but the people pay a heavy price for challenging the geopolitical game that sought to take down a government that is faithful to its country’s sovereignty, and which keeps resisting. The negotiations for a cease-fire continue to show that the US has only one goal, which is not the Syrian people’s protection. Therefore, we reaffirm our solidarity with the peoples who are resisting, oppression and colonialism; denounced the occupation of Palestine and of the Western Sahara by Israel and Morocco, the persistence of Puerto Rico’s colonisation by the US, of the Malvinas Islands by Argentina above the international low. We see this tactic applied to the countries as a precondition for peace in the Middle East.

M US meets its political and economic goals; it drives a wedge between the countries and people involved, and with a more active role by the peoples building a just world.

We also promote firm campaigns against the foreign military bases spread throughout the planet and against the imperialist interferences as seen in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America. The places where the powers could not entrench their hegemony, where alternatives to their dominance and subjugation were turned into progressive and nationalist cycles, invasion and promotion of coups is the imperialist solution to re-establish their channels for pillage and building of resources and peoples. We see this tactic applied to the Bolivarian Venezuela, to Honduras, Paraguay, Ecuador, Brazil, the African continent, and so on.

The struggle for de-militarization of the international relations is vital for a more just, peaceful and free world for all peoples, especially free from the threat of annihilation, or of another generalized, seemingly imminent, war.

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The struggle for de-militarization of the international relations is vital for a more just, peaceful and free world for all peoples, especially free from the threat of annihilation, or of another generalized, seemingly imminent, war.
Who’s the Enemy of Peoples? Isn’t It Imperialism?

Our times are characterized by the intensifying of imperialist aggressive- ness all round the world but especially in the pot of Eastern Mediterranean. A huge area that includes the Balkans, Eastern Mediterranean, M. East and N. Africa it is one of the most disputed in the realms. Gas- petted, pipelines, transitional stations, strategically important posts are all in this area.

Millions are threatened if we don’t oppose and defy the imperialist expansionist re-

region. The imperialism isn’t through what invisible and is in the abstract. The enemy is specific, and is mainly expressed in the face of US, NATO, EU, IMF, Multinationals, and their policies. On the other side is us – the peace movement which isn’t just a movement against war, isn’t a pacifist movement but a movement against war and against reasons causing wars, such as injustice, environment destruction, misery, and poverty.

We emphasize in Middle East and East-

ern Mediterranean not because we come from there but because is a fact that Eastern Mediterranean encounters very terrifying developments. The re-escalation of warfare in Iraq, and in Syria despite the cease fire, as well the ongoing terrorist attacks in Turkey, Somerset the scenario.

At the same time we express rage about the continuing tragedy of hundreds of thousands of people who have been displaced by force, became refugees and struggle with waves everyday in the Mediterranean Sea. The drama of these people resembles to the drama of displaced people in Second World War. Most talk about how to receive and host those people, few talks about what brought them in this situation and what is the role of NATO and EU.

NATO is the cruel Aegaeon Sea Warden and EU is sponsoring instability by giving billions to Turkey, the Country that needed a duty role in all these and especially in the Syrian Issue. But isn’t just the billions Tur-

key receives, is also the way that EU found thought about the uncoordinated drama of nations to politically support Turkey at the same time when Turkey still illegally occupies the 37% of Cyprus. Double-standards, closed borders, exploitation and bargains with criminals, this is EU, the EU of Memorandums and austerity. The imperialist policies foment the explosion of a generalized war and nourish even more storms that lie ahead. We don’t oversee or exempt the criminal actions of terrorists, but on the contrary we reveal the whole picture. What do they want in Syria and in Iraq the Western imperialists, their reactionary allies in the region like Turkey and the monopolarch regimes? Who bred the “jihadists”? The “Taliban,” and why? The answer is clear. It’s the oil, energy pipelines, strategic passes, and new markets for the international capital.

What if the victim is French, Cypriot, Syrian, or Palestinian? Does the human value depend on race, ethnicity or religion? We are all humans! In the era of barbarism the peoples form indiscriminate victims of a rotten, corrupt, criminal system that places man below the profits of monopolies and makes him/her a consumable item, a mere number for the dominant global power centres.

Who’s the enemy of peoples? Isn’t Imperialism? We must not avoid naming the enemy! We never lied who we are and what we are fighting for. Others hide behind words, not us – the continuers of Chandia, Kimanow, Fudora, and other peace fighters. So, let’s carry on the struggle shouting out heading towards our next WPC Assembly in Brazil:

Down with Imperialism! Yes to Peace!

Final Declaration ... (from p. 5)

In light of the foregoing we commit ourselves to:

• Oppose any form of aggression, whether open or covert, of interventionism and interference in the domestic affairs of states and call for the immediate withdrawal of the foreign occupation troops from the countries where they have been deployed, as well as for the closure of foreign military bases, facilities and stations.

• Intensify and expand the visibility of the actions of the Global Network against Military Bases, Facilities and Stations and the dissemination of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as Peace Zone approved by the CELAC Summit in Havana, January 2014, which are cardinal instruments to fight for peace in the Latin American region and the world.

• Further strengthen the international campaign for a world of peace, without nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons, which contributes to the halting of realistic threats of waging a third world war.

• Carry out actions which may contribute to raise awareness on the perils that climate change poses for the attainment and maintenance of a peace climate at world level,

• Contribute in all possible ways to the denunciation of terrorism as a scourge which threatens many nations and which intends to expand its criminal and blood actions around the world,

• Reiterate the strongest support to all genuine democratic and revolution- ary processes of the peoples, for social justice, the defense of the national sovereignty and independence and for a world of peace,

• Intensify our solidarity actions with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, its government and its people which continue to face an economic and me-
dia war and other destabilizing actions orchestrated by the national oligarchy with the conspiracy of the U.S. impe-

rialism, aimed at destroying the work and the path of economic progress left by the legacy of Commander President Hugo Chávez Fidelis and the regional and international impact of the Bolivarian Revolution.

• Reaffirm the confidence in the satisfac-
tory end of the negotiations for peace in Colombia which are taking place between the Government and the FARC-EP in Havana, Cuba and which shows encour-
ing progress.

• Strengthen and spread the demand made to the United States to return Cuba the territory illegally occupied by the Guani-
tamano Naval Base and the denunciation campaign for the closure of the center built there for torture and other violations of human rights, as well as the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade, which for more than 50 years has been imposed on the Cuban people in a flagrant ignorance of the will of the international community.

• Reaffirm our commitment of support to the Project of Latin American and Caribbean integration and firmly stand against the imperialist plans to curb its progresses.

• Work with greater determination so as to increase the role of education and culture in the struggle for peace and against wars, making them an element which favors the understanding among all societies that a better, more just and necessary world, is possible.

• Reiterate the supportive commitment to the cause of the Palestinian people in its just struggle to the right to build its own independent, secular and sovereign State, with Jerusalem as its capital, to the demand of the cease of the criminal Zionist aggressions against Gaza and the West Bank, the immediate release of all Palestinian political prisoners from Israeli jails, the cessation of the construction of new settlements of Jew-

ish colonists on those lands and the most extensive condemnation to the expansionist and interventionist policy of the Zionist regime.

• Keep and extend the denunciation campaign of the imperialist ambitions against Syria and in support to the free determination of the Syrian people of its internal affairs.

• Defend the right of all nations to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and celebrate the agreement reached by Iran in this respect, with the United States and other members of the negotiating group of countries.

• Continue to offer the most resolute sup-
port to the cause for the independence of Puerto Rico and the release of the Puerto Rican political prisoners in the U.S. jails.

• Extend solidarity with the Saharan people demanding the recognition by Morocco of the Saharan people’s right to settle down in an independent and sovereign manner in the Western Sahara territory.

• Encourage the denunciations against the continuation of a colonial situation in various regions of the world.

• Diversify the national fora of social and academic participation which contribute to the promotion of a more comprehensive approach of Peace as a necessity for the survival of the human race.

• The delegates attending the event also agreed to express their recognition to the political and government authori-
ties of the Guantánamo province, to the provincial branch of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples and the people of Guantánamo for their warm welcome and support extended for the successful fulfillment of the Seminar "Guantánamo, Cuba, November 25th, 2015"
The Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation celebrated in April 40 years since it was legally established, on April 24, 1976. Striking a memorable date, April 24, 1976 does not represent the emergence of the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC) and much less of the national peace movement. Neither does it symbolize, its legal establishment, only possible following the April Revolution, begun on April 25, 1974. Heri to the Peace Movement, born in Portugal in the last quarter of the 20th century, the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation was created and was active during the fascist dictatorship in Portugal.

In the footsteps of the construction of the world Peace movement, and contributing to it, the Portuguese supporters of Peace created committees for the defense of Peace in the work and study places, in neighborhoods, villages and cities, in cultural and recreational associations and organizations, and spanned actions throughout the Country: promoted petitions, held meetings and discussions, painted writings on walls and carried out bold street initiatives.

Until April 25, saying no to fascism's colonial war imposed on the Portuguese and African people, defending peace, disarma- ment, non-violence and human rights, as all Liked, facing fascist repression and persecution: many defenders of Peace were imprisoned and tortured and many others forced into exile never ceased to make their voices heard.

Its Statutes, registered 40 years ago, define the CPPC as a social and united movement of public opinion whose aim was to promote, by means of information and participation of broad strata of the country's population, the struggle for Peace and cooperation among peoples. To meet this purpose, the CPPC has always sought to act in cooperation with all the movements and forces of Peace, both national and foreign, striving to achieve the broadest unity among all those sincerely committed to defending Peace.

Four decades later, these remain funda- mental principles and practices of CPPC’s action.

In the past four decades, since the formalization of the CPPC, Portugal witnessed multiple conflicts and actions in defense of peace, disarmament and the dissolution of NATO and solidarity with the people victim- s of colonialism, aggression and foreign interference and fighting for emancipation, sovereignty and progress — in its own name or as part of larger platforms, the CPPC was its chief architect.

Due to the importance of the causes that motivated the mobilization, we have to point out the Peace movement’s actions in Portugal promoting the Stockholm ap- peal against the atomic bombs, against the military aggression against peoples and sovereign States led by NATO, US and other Western powers, like the aggression against the people of Korea, in the 50s, and when the Vietnamese people, for decades, faced the most heroic and French colonialism and US aggression.

The Peace movement in Portugal developed a courageous action to end the colonial war carried by Portuguese fascism against the peoples of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau and the right to independence of these countries.

In recent decades, the CPPC together with other organizations raised their voices in solidarity with the people of East Timor in their struggle against Indonesian occupa- tion, against the aggressions to the people of Angola, Iraq, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria and other countries, revealing their real motivations and defending the right of the peoples to decide sovereignly their destiny. Solidarity with the South African people in their struggle against the apartheid regime in South Africa. Solidarity with the Palestinian people in their determination to occupy Palestine and the brutal crimes perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. Solidarity with the struggle of the people of Western Sahara against the occupation of their country by the Kingdom of Morocco. Support for the peoples of Latin America, the Chilean people in their struggle against Pinochet’s fascist dictatorship, with the Cuban people in their struggle against US imposed interference and blockade, the Nicaraguan people in view of the US interference and aggression, with the people of Brazil in their struggle against the dictatorship and in defense of democracies, with the people of Venezuela against US interference.

Will remain in memory the great world conferences of solidarity with the people of Palestine, Latin American and African peoples in struggle against colonial- ism and apartheid. The CPPC also expressed its solidarity with the refugees denouncing their uprooting and the difficulties responsible for this scourge, among many other important examples.

To highlight are the marches against the installation and transit of nuclear weapons in Portugal, the installation of new US missiles in Europe and the demand for disarmament, rejection of nuclear weapons in the 80s, which mobilized thousands of people. The Nuclear-Weapons-Free-Zones that involved dozens of local governments. The dissolution of NATO also led to major actions, whose great example was the Yes to Peace! No to NATO Campaign that throughout 2010 gathered more than on 100 Portuguese organizations, promoting dozens of actions and culminated in the demonstra- tion of November 20, where dozens of thousands of people from Portugal and many other countries marched against NATO, again a broad campaign in 2015 against NATO’s expansion and war against Russia. The recent organization of several Concerts for Peace, that involve diverse cultural and municipal entities and have the participation of thousands of people and were attended by thousands of people.

The CPPC takes as its own principles enshrined in the Portuguese constitution by April Revolution in Portugal: the abolition of imperialism, colonialism and all types of aggression, domination and exploitation in the relations among peoples; national independence, respect for human rights, the rights of peoples to self-determination, the right to insulation against all forms of oppression; equality among States, the peaceful settlement of international disputes, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, a general, simultaneous and controlled disarmament, the dissolution of political-military blocs and the establish- ment of a collective security system with a view to creating an international order capable of safeguarding peace and justice in the relations among peoples; cooperation with all other peoples for the emancipation and progress of mankind.

True to its history and confident in the righteousness of its principles, the CPPC remains convinced that the way towards a world of peace and justice is possible. It is possible to act side by side with all those who, in Portugal and in the world, intervene with the aspiration and conviction that a just world, democratic, solidarity and peaceful world is possible.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON “REALITY AND CHALLENGES OF THE PROCLAMATION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AS ZONE OF PEACE”
Palacio de Convenciones, Havana, Cuba, September 21-23, 2016

Official Announcement
The Proclamation of the region of Latin America and the Caribbean as Zone of Peace, subscribed by the Heads of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC, the Spanish acronym), held in Havana in January 2014 is a symbolic, in its own name, of the profound and politically far-reaching confluence of Heads of State and Governments in the region, based on respect for the sovereignty and individuality of its members and on the Purposes and Principles established in the Charter of the United Nations and International Law, which is an indisputable strength in the face of the imperial policies and actions opposed to these principles.

The Proclamation extols Peace as “... supreme good and legitimate aspiration of all peoples, its preservation being a substantial element of the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean and a principle and common asset of the ... CELAC”. In accordance with these postulates, a substantial part of its text emphasizes on the need of demilitarizing the region, giving rise to distinctive features for the existence of a true Zone of Peace.

In spite of the approved Proclamation, Latin America and the Caribbean are not exempt of vulnerabilities. In order to have a lasting Zone of Peace, it is necessary to eradicate the multiple problems breaking Peace in the countries of the region, as well as others derived from the policies and actions of imperialist countries.

With this first international seminar, the CPPC aims to make Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ) intends to:
• Convoy the peace movements, the regional and international civil society, re- searchers and political leaders interested in debating global problems and their incidence in Latin America and the Caribbean, the vulnerability region of distinctive features of the countries that configure it.
• Foster a culture of sustainable peace in the region that will grant priority to the rise of human and cultural levels, access to public health and sports and empowerment of women, as well as eliminate the inequalities and all kinds of discrimination.
• Eliminate the possibility of reestablishing neoliberalism, the terrible consequences of which subsist in the region.
• Promote solidarity among the peoples and support to the democratic and revolu- tionary governments that foster social welfare and cooperation among peoples.

The seminar will address some main themes that contribute to the comprehen- sion and challenges of this unique historical moment in Latin America:

• Eliminate the possibility of reestablishing neoliberalism, the terrible consequences of which subsist in the region.

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• Eliminate the possibility of reestablishing neoliberalism, the terrible consequences of which subsist in the region.

Solidarity with Venezuela ... (from p. 5)

International (COSE), member organization of the Executive Committee of the World Peace Council (WPC), victims of a new and more dangerous aggression by the government of the United States.

Demanding the repeal of the new, infam- ous and interventionist decree signed by President Raul Haueness Obama against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as we did last year, the call and declare April 19th as “GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH VEN- EZUELA”.

• Convene all social movements and or- ganizations that bring together and represent the working class and working people, to demonstrate on the 1st of May their militant solidarity with the Venezuelan people. • Promoting in all parliaments in the world motions and actions aimed at a forceful rejection of interventionist actions against Venezuela and its legitimate right to self- determination and sovereignty.

• To denounce and reject the concerted terrorist action by a group of one Spanish and another of extreme right presidents, who demanded of the Organization of American States (OAS) the applica- tion of the irresponsible Inter-American Charter against the will of the people of Venezuela. •
Foreword with Strengthening... (from p. 5)

Over the skies and on the ground in Syria and Iraq, US and its allies are creating new Palestinian territories and bases for imperialist war operations. The WPC reaffirms with concern and rejection the escalation of imperialist war operations and the threats to peace against the imperialist aggressions. We call upon all peace loving people in the world to unite forces and efforts to build a strong global peace movement... 

The WPC Statement on the Recent Military Exercises of USA and South Korea

The World Peace Council (WPC) expresses its vehement condemnation about the recent and ongoing heavy military exercises of the USA and South Korea under the names “Key Resolve” & “Eagle 16” around the Korean Peninsula placing new dangers to peace and stability in the area, aiming in the escalation of the situation through pressure on the DPRKorea. These sanctions are not promoting the peace in the area. The USA and its allies in the region have never given up their plans which do not exclude a violent regime change in Pyongyang. These plans are part of the US strategy of “Pivot to Asia” and constitute war plans against a sovereign country.

The WPC historically supported the replacement of the armistice agreement between the USA and DPRKorea, by a genuine peace agreement, demanding at the same time the withdrawal of the US troops from the South Korea. We defend the right of each country and nation to defend itself from foreign threats and aggression. The WPC supports the complete and total abolition of Nuclear Weapons and rejects the “First Strike” privilege claimed by the USA. At the same time while struggling against all Atomic & Hydrogen bombs, as well as against all weapons of mass destruction, we highlight the fact the arbitrary and hypocritical position of the USA and its allies, who are the only ones who have used atomic bombs in history and who possess thousands of nuclear heads so far.

As World Peace Council we support the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula and express our solidarity to the Korean People, for their right to determine free from imperialist interference and hegemony their fortune.

The WPC campaign against NATO NO TO NATO!

Protest NATO’s summit, July 2016 in Warsaw!

The WPC campaign against NATO NO TO NATO! is a part of imperialism’s direct interventions and is threatening a generalized war for expansion to the East and the aggressiveness of the USA and its allies. The WPC reaffirms, with growing alarm, its determined position for the immediate and complete abolition of all nuclear weapons, demanding an end to the logic of blackmail and first strike that threatens all humanity. The Stockholm Appeal, launched 65 years ago by the WPC, remains current.

Seven years after the end of the World War II, and since the founding of the United Nations in 1945, the WPC has believed that the principles of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are essential tools for the movements that are tirelessly struggling for peace among peoples and states along with the World Peace Council, esteem the principles set forth in those documents as humanity’s common goals. Therefore, it is also very important to recall the abuse of the UN’s role today, its double moral standards, due to its instrumentalization by the USA and its allies for their domination over the world....

The WPC is pleased to announce the holding of its next Assembly for November 2016 in the city of Sao Luis, Brazil, with CEBRAPAZ as the host organization. The next Assembly of the WPC shall become once more a meeting point for workers, social justice, free from imperialist domination and exploitation.

We add our solidarity to the millions of workers and organizations that have been in the past four years in the first line of the struggle, facing the challenges and the threats to peace against the imperialist aggressions. We call upon all peace loving people in the world to unite forces and efforts to build a strong global peace movement... 

The Struggle Against... (from p. 7)

The WPC, aiming in uncovering the criminal practices of NATO NO TO NATO! and its history. This differentiates us also from forces which have “discovered” NATO only after 1991 and which have contributed for very short all NATO’s previous milestones. A milestone for WPC and for the peace movement in Europe was still in 1982 when the WPC was the first to support the proposal of Gorbachev as special guest!!!

The WPC was present even in the Chicago summit of NATO in 2012, in conference and rally, as well as in the Warsaw Summit 2014, although we could not mobilize massively to these two occasions.

Heading towards the Warsaw summit in July and taking into account the further expansion to the East and the aggressiveness of NATO is carrying forward in many corners, it is necessary to explore and to plan what we can realize in Warsaw in difficult conditions. Important factor in our opinion is to carry out our campaign in as many as possible countries. NATO is the enemy of all peoples and of peace in the world!

It is imperative to explore and work for the conditions to hold a WPC event in Warszaw during NATO’s summit.