

Editorial

Imperialist Powers Threaten Peace in the Middle East

The World Peace Council voices publicly its concern with the serious threats of imperialism to peace in the Middle East, which becomes once more the theater of its ambitions as well as its internal competitions.

A few months after the aggression by imperialism and its war machine NATO against the Libyan people and territory, the major imperialist powers orchestrate new belligerent adventures in the Middle East.

The United States of America and the European Union, accompanied by Israel and the Gulf monarchies, plan moves, create pretexts and generate internal interference set on destabilizing the countries in the region that do not fit into their plans and interests. Their current targets are Syria and Iran. The general plan is NATO's "Great Middle East," aiming at the control of energy resources and pipelines as well as markets for the multinational corporations and spheres of influence.

In Syria, they repeat the methods used against Libya: sabotaging infrastructure, backing terrorist acts, infiltrating mercenaries and smuggling weapons into the country. The objective is to create instability and chaos, in order to justify foreign intervention.

The USA and the EU use frontmen in the region, the Gulf monarchies, to impose sanctions through the Arab League, along with the government of Turkey that harbors the so-called opposition in order to bring the matter of Syria to the Security Council, an antechamber for military action.

The Arab League resolutions constitute interference into Syria's internal affairs. They violate the rules of this regional entity and further discredit it.

Another major source of concern is the deployment of a large number of U.S. troops into the Persian Gulf region, and Israel's provocation against Iran. The unilateral measures of embargoes and economical sanctions, put forth by the U.S. and the EU violate repeatedly the UN Charter.

We take note of the imperialist powers' complicit silence towards the selective murder of Iranian scientists by Israel's secret service, with evident US approval. Crimes against science are crimes against humanity.

We express our support to the complex struggle of the Iranian people for peace, democracy and social justice, and reject any interference in the internal affairs of Iran under any pretext. We state once more the inalienable right of every nation to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

We defend the elimination of all existing nuclear weapons, starting with those of the big powers, and the creation of a nuclear free zone in the Middle East, fulfilling the resolutions of the last Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review. However, it is upon the sovereign rights of the individual nations to develop nuclear energy for civilian purposes,

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Imperialist Aggression Against People Increased in Capitalist Economic Crisis

World Peace Council Salutes Peoples' Fight Back Against Imperialism!

*Report of WPC General Secretary
Thanassis Pafilis to the WPC
Secretariat, Brussels, Oct 17-18, 2011*

The World Peace Council held a meeting of its Secretariat on October 17-18, 2011. The meeting was held Brussels, where two of the imperialist organizations are based—NATO and the European Union. The WPC is well aware of the reactionary and wardriving nature of these two organizations historically, but especially even more after the year 1991. Thus, our meeting here in Brussels was also of symbolic nature to denounce the crimes of NATO and EU against the peoples of the world.

The high number of attending organizations was proof of the interest and commitment of the WPC affiliates, based also on the understanding of the crucial moments in which this meeting took place.

The capitalist economic crisis worldwide, and the capitalist governments taking care of their respective interests with brutal attacks on all social and labor rights, are increasingly impoverishing new masses of working people, especially youth and pensioners. Common ground in all cases (Greece, Portugal, Spain, Ireland and elsewhere in the world) is how to let big capital and the monopolies overcome the crisis by putting all the burdens on the working people. The profitability of banks and corporations is continuing while unemployment is reaching record highs.



We salute the social protests and strikes in various parts of the world against social cuts and attacks on labor rights, against the acute problems of housing, price hiking, and privatizations of state sectors, and unite our voices with the class trade unions and popular movements against the oligarchy in each country and the imperialist financial institutions such as the IMF, World Bank etc.

The deeper goal of the escalation of the anti-people offensive in Europe, in particular, is the reinforcement of the competitiveness of the European monopoly groups in the international capitalist market, where the inter-imperialist competition is appar-

ent. All the member states of the EU enrich their National Reform Programme and the Stability Pact with harsh new anti-people commitments, which directly endorse the directions of the EuroPact. Along with the privatization of remaining state sectors, new repression measures are applied against labor and popular struggles. In this context we salute the massive workers' strikes and mobilizations in Portugal, Spain and Greece against the identical policies of their governments, which go hand in hand with the interests of capital and the EU and IMF.

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Obama Splits G8 and NATO Summits

NATO Meets in Chicago, G8 Moves to Camp David

**Henry Lowendorf
US Peace Council**

Expect political storms from the NATO summit in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., in May. This meeting was scheduled back to back with a G8 summit until early March when President Obama moved the latter to the isolated Camp David, Maryland. Neither the significance of linking the two summits, nor Obama's moving one away, should be lost.

In the previous two centuries the global colonial powers carved up the world geographically. They used their national armies and navies to enforce their power, sometimes competing violently with each other. Today many of the same states use their joint financial power and have arranged their military structures to work together to compel obedience.

The G8 and NATO, one the coordinating group of eight of the richest capitalist economies in the world, those that control global finances, and the other the military alliance of North American and European countries, will meet to set future policies for both entities. Their policies, exercised through financial and military might, are intended to significantly influence world events and

solidify the control of the rich and powerful minority over the lives of the global majority of people, the earth's natural resources and its environment.

The agenda of the NATO summit in Chicago is to follow up on major decisions made at its previous summit in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2010. The NATO statement made in Lisbon repeatedly calls for defending the countries of the alliance from an undefined enemy. It trumpets an open-ended buildup of military forces for purposes that can only be endless intervention in the affairs of non-NATO countries. It makes assuring a favorable outcome to the war on Afghanistan NATO's top priority.

Despite NATO and the U.S.'s vast superiority of their military machines over their adversaries' in training, weaponry, logistics, communications and "intelligence," even access to basic necessities, a decade into the war still leaves great doubt over what a "favorable" outcome looks like, how and when it might be achieved and at what further cost.

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen stated that in Chicago NATO will be discussing its ongoing role in Afghanistan, its relationship with the regime of Hamid Karzai, and the timeline for a transition from

NATO occupation to maintenance of security by Afghan forces. The NATO occupation is currently weathering severe storms resulting from NATO and U.S. killings of civilians, troops urinating on Afghan corpses and burning holy Korans. Such actions have outraged Afghans and led to major protests. Moreover, the efforts to train Afghan forces to take over as NATO forces leave face severe setbacks as Afghan trainees attack the occupiers.

More than 300,000 Afghan security forces are being trained by 130,000 occupation troops. The focus of NATO's current efforts, according to Rasmussen, is a "stable Afghanistan." Stability by NATO's standards means installing and ensuring an Afghan government subservient to the economic interests of the occupying powers, in particular the United States, Britain and France. To approach stability on that basis, if at all possible, probably requires foreign military, or mercenary, occupation and foreign military bases for the foreseeable future.

Although Rasmussen calls NATO's posture "defense," historically its actions have been entirely offensive: occupation of Kosovo and the aggressions against Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, and Libya. While

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In Defense of a Peaceful Continent, Free From Colonialism and Foreign Military Bases: The Malvinas Islands are Argentinean!

Socorro Gomes

President of the WPC and CEBRAPAZ

The military escalation carried out by the United Kingdom towards the Malvinas Islands is an attack against Argentina's national sovereignty and against the security of the whole South Atlantic region. As such, it deserves the repudiation of peace-loving forces. The British government's stand of ignoring United Nations resolutions regarding the Malvinas Islands and refusing to negotiate was followed by a militarist effort to intimidate Argentina and the other countries in the region.

As the war between Argentina and the United Kingdom for the possession of the Malvinas Islands approaches its 30th anniversary, British colonialists send to the peaceful waters of South Atlantic the Crown

Prince to stay in the archipelago for six weeks, wearing a military uniform and joining the crew of modern warships.

The presence of the HMS Dauntless destroyer, one of the most modern and powerful aircraft carriers of the Royal Navy, and of a nuclear submarine armed with potent Tomahawk missiles, constitutes a severe threat to peace in the South Atlantic and is aimed at intimidating the Argentinean government and the other countries in the region as well.

The real objective of the United Kingdom with such a colonialist posture is, apart from deviating attention from the severe economic crisis it is mired in, to explore national resources, such as oil, and deploy its warships in a strategic position.

The United Kingdom makes use of the

illegal occupation of the Malvinas Islands to provide a base for NATO operations in the region.

The occupation of the Malvinas is only the most visible part of colonialism in our region. The United Kingdom also possesses three other colonies in the waters of the South Atlantic: Ascension, Saint Helena and Tristan da Cunha, small islands that serve as support for military operations.

Ascension Island is used to support the transportation of American troops from the military base of Palanquero, in Colombia, to the African continent.

Apart from providing logistical support to allies, those colonial enclaves are near Brazilian territorial waters, where important oil deposits have been found.

Under such circumstances, the position

adopted by president Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner regarding the defense of the Malvinas as an inseparable territory of Argentina gains importance.

Likewise, the decision made in several multilateral forums – such as Mercosur, Unasur and Alba – with a view to support the Argentinean claim so that England returns to negotiations, therefore complying with the United Nations resolutions on the issue, constitutes a significant fact in Latin American solidarity.

We cannot accept the anachronistic existence of colonialism in the 21st century. The Malvinas are an indivisible part of Argentina.

In defense of a peaceful continent, free from colonialism and foreign military bases. ■

WPC salutes peoples' fight back (from p. 1)

The same governments that apply all the austerity measures to their peoples are the ones who participate, steer and support the aggressions of NATO, the EU and the USA in various parts of the world with billions of military expenditures for wars and aggressions. They are the same forces that try to present the anti-people measures as necessities in order to save the "national" economies, while the military-industrial complex marks growing profits at the expense of the peoples and their lives.

Some figures are describing the situation of who is benefiting from the crisis and who is paying for it. In 2006, the 400 richest Americans in the USA possessed 1.57 trillion dollars, which is more than what 50% of the population (155 million people) possessed, which means a ratio of approximately 400,000 to 1. If we look at the 50 million of the poorest people — who use food stamps to eat — in the USA, and even more so at the children who die of hunger in Somalia, the numbers lose their meaning. During the economic crisis this chasm has expanded as the richest 1% of the population of the US ended up possessing more than 70% of the financial assets, which is an all time record. Correspondingly, in 2010, 10.9 million of the richest people in the world had 42.7 trillion dollars, which is an increase of 9.7% compared to 2009, and a new record. These tendencies are valid in one or another way in all capitalist countries.

Since the last Executive Committee Meeting last April in Havana, the aggressiveness of imperialism has further increased. The imperialist aggression against Libya has de-



veloped into a fullscale war and intervention by the USA, France, Great Britain and the whole of NATO against the people of Libya for the complete control of the rich oil and gas reserves and the geo-strategic control of the area. The violent regime change the imperialists aim to impose in Libya will bring the willing allies of NATO to power, which were previously closed collaborators of the Ghaddafi regime. Independently of the foreign and economic policies of Ghaddafi, especially in the last eight years, we cannot consider what happened in Libya as a popular uprising and the imposition of the will of the people, those solely responsible to determine freely their future. The WPC cannot accept by any means this foreign intervention and aggression by the USA and NATO, which has caused already

many thousands of deaths. The US- and NATO-sponsored, trained and instructed opposition in Libya is being used as an instrument for the goals of imperialism and the multinational oil corporations in the region. The WPC demands the complete end of the military operations and withdrawal of all NATO troops, Air Force and ships from the area. The Libyan people shall decide freely and democratically upon their fortunes and become the masters of their lives.

Imperialism's aggressiveness in the conditions of deep capitalist economic crisis creates an even more explosive situation which could lead, through the sharpening of inter-imperialist contradictions and antagonisms, to generalized military confrontations, as a continuation of the imperialist wars against Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya. The

danger particularly in the broader Middle East region and the East Mediterranean Sea is growing due to the concentration of interests and realignment of powers.

Indications for the above are the growing imperialist pressure and intervention on Syria with the threats to repeat step-by-step what happened in Libya. The WPC expresses its solidarity with the Syrian people for their social rights and for the right to determine freely and democratically their fortunes. We observe and denounce the efforts of imperialist forces to interfere and intervene by triggering violent protests and creating conditions of internal instability. The goal of the EU, NATO and the USA is to impose a friendly-to-them regime through which a strategic control of the region and threats on Iran would come closer. We reject any militarist plans to attack Syria as part of a plan for a future attack against Iran.

The role of Turkey in the region is of growing importance. Without having abolished its commitments to NATO and US imperialism, Turkey is playing an active role in the Middle East for the promotion of the economic interests of its corporations, seeking for itself a role as a regional power, pretending to be the "protector" of the Palestinians' rights, while sharpening its hostile policies in the occupied island of Cyprus. Under these conditions we condemn the threats that the Turkish government unleashes against Cyprus. We support the struggle of the Cypriot people for a unified, independent Cyprus, for a federal, bi-zonal, bi-communal solution with a single sovereignty and international identity, without foreign bases and troops, a common homeland for both Turkish-Cypriots

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

EDITORIAL (from p. 1)

more so the signatories of the NPT.

The opting for weapon diplomacy, with aircraft carriers, has grievous consequences, intensifying the conflicts in this already tense Middle East region.

We support the genuine and peaceful social, political and economic demands of the Syrian people, but we state once again that no power has the right to decide for another people or nation. Mankind cannot tolerate foreign interference into the internal disputes of a people. The sovereignty of a country is the sole responsibility of each people.

We support the struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve their independent state within the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, solving the issue of Palestinian refugees on the basis of the UN Resolution 194, stopping all Israeli settlement activities in the Palestinian territories, releasing all the Palestinian prisoners from Israeli prisons, ending the unjust siege of the Gaza strip from the Israeli side, as well as the right of the Palestinian state to be a full member of the United Nations.

We call on the attention of the world, of the forces that defend peace, sovereignty and self-determination to these serious events. In doing so we express our solidarity with the Syrian and Iranian peoples, victims of sordid actions of destabilization, and at the same time condemn these criminal aggressions.

The democratic, anti-imperialist, peace loving forces of the world should break the silence and denounce the treacherous campaigns of imperialism that pave the way to this new aggression.

We make this call at the moment that the World Peace Council is preparing to hold its World Assembly in Nepal. We commit ourselves to continue the struggle and mobilize forces worldwide in order to create the basis for a new stage of anti-imperialist struggle, in the defense of peace, solidarity and the self-determination of peoples.

We are confident that with the people's struggle peace will prevail! ■

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World Peace Council Condemns Israeli Army Attack on Protestors!

**The Secretariat of WPC
March 1, 2012**

The World Peace Council expresses its vehement protest and condemnation of the recent violent attack of the Israeli occupation army in the Palestinian City of Hebron. The brutal attack with chemical gas and rubber bullets against thousands of demonstrators from Palestine and Israel took place during a protest commemorating the massacre committed by a Jewish extremist settler in 1994, during which 29 Palestinians were killed. The demonstration demanded the re-opening of the Shuhada Street, which is leading to Hebron's Mosque.

The WPC denounces the actions of the Israeli regime and its army and the arrest of six peace loving people, amongst them the chairman of the Democratic Front for

Peace and Equality (Hadash) and member of the Knesset Mohammed Barakeh, from the Communist Party of Israel, who was also one of the injured.

The war attitude and repressions of the occupation regime has been going on for decades against the Palestinian people and its lands, along with the attacks against the peace loving forces inside Israel.

We demand the immediate release of all arrested persons from the above protest.

We demand the withdrawal of the occupation forces from Hebron and all other Palestinian territories of the West Bank and the dismantling of the separation wall.

We reiterate our firm support to the inalienable right of the Palestinian people for their independent State within the borders of



Photo: Activestills.org

1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital and its recognition by the UN.

The WPC expresses its solidarity with the peace loving forces in Palestine and Israel, who fight shoulder by shoulder against the occupation and imperialism. ■

Urgent Anti-Imperialist Call from Cuban Movement for Peace and People's Sovereignty

The Cuban Movement for Peace and People's Sovereignty (MOVPAZ), America and the Caribbean Regional Coordinator from the World Peace Council, expresses its deepest concern for the serious events in the Middle East, guided to perpetrate another imperialistic aggression by the United States of America, Israel and NATO, with unpredictable consequences against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic.

In the current circumstances humanity has lost the political capacity for action against the imperialistic impunity that acts against peoples and governments in the world, in complicity with transnationals' massive means of information and the internet, reducing the guarantees of its survival dramatically.

It prevails the shameless violation of the United Nations Letter and its principles, the kidnapping of its humanitarian agencies of help for development and of its mechanisms by imperial interests that harm the peoples' sovereignty and nations, just as they did with the Libyan people.

To this dangerous precedent of war and weapons diplomacy, exercised and repeated on several occasions by the United States of America jointly with the discredited and criminal NATO, they have added political regional bodies such as the Arab League, the European Union and financial and commercial institutions, using sanctions with the purpose to subdue, facts denounced countless times by Fidel Castro Ruz, leader of Cuban Revolution, personalities and other political leaders of several latitudes.

The Cuban Movement for Peace and Peoples' Sovereignty makes an international call to brake the American imperialistic irrationality—Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic—that puts the world toward the abyss; and it supports the positions presented by the Russian Federation and People's Republic of China chancelleries.

No powerful country is entitled to decide for some other people, and much less to intervene in, its internal affairs or to agitate others to.

We summon the International Community, all regional and international actors and all progressive forces in the world, to carry out an urgent anti-imperialist call in the United Nations podium to revert the existent silence before humanity crosses into the dangerous situation. ■

Joint WFDY/WPC Solidarity Mission to Palestine

**WFDY Coordinating Council, Budapest
WPC Secretariat, Athens**

The World Federation of Democratic Youth and the World Peace Council carried out a solidarity mission to Palestine from September 18-22, with the participation of 20 delegates coming from the member organisations of WFDY and the WPC from 14 countries.

The International mission, which took place upon invitation of the Palestinian Committee for Peace and Solidarity (PCPS), met with representatives of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), the Organisation for the Liberation of Palestine (PLO), the Palestinian Legislative Council (Parliament), the political parties (FATAH, PPP, PFLP, DFLP), youth organizations and movements. The two international organisations met also with representatives of the peace movement in Israel, as well as with the Communist Party of Israel and the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (Hadash) of the Knesset.

Following the very successful Solidarity Mission to Palestine, the World Peace Council and the World Federation of Democratic Youth reaffirm their commitment, side by side with the hundreds of millions of peace loving people in the world, to the youth and students in all corners of the world, and stand in total and unconditional solidarity with the people of Palestine who are suffering a slow genocide under the occupation of its territories. The case of the ongoing occupation of Palestine by the Israeli

regime constitutes a crime against humanity and a flagrant provocation against the thousands who suffered and struggled heroically for the noble goal of freedom and justice.

In this visit we witnessed and met: the consequences of the Wall that is tearing the West Bank apart; the growth of settlements that try to annihilate the viability of the Palestinian state; the suffering of the thousands of Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails and their families; the destruction of the Palestinian olive trees that are the main source of income of Palestine and, in some cases, natural patrimony of hundreds of years; the dramatic situation of hundreds of thousands of refugees in their own country that share the suffering with millions of Palestinians living abroad and prevented from returning due to the brutal Israeli occupation and control of borders; the dozens of Israeli military check points in the West Bank and Jerusalem; the discrimination against Arab Israelis in all spheres of life and the demolition of their houses; the efforts of the Israeli government that aims for the Judaization of the Israeli state.

Despite the many concessions made from the Palestinian side during the years in order to find a viable and just solution, the government of Israel refuses to accept the right of the Palestinian people for their independent state alongside Israel.

We express our sincere and full-hearted solidarity with the Palestinian men and women, the youth and the students in the



Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem in their desire to end the humiliation, the discrimination and the occupation. We express also our solidarity with the peace-loving forces inside Israel who are struggling side-by-side with the Palestinians for peace, justice, equality and the end of occupation of the Palestinian territories.

We condemn the support imperialism, first of all the USA, is giving throughout the years to the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the policy of complicity of the E.U., which is pretending to keep "equal distance" from the aggressors and the victims, but in reality supports the aggressors.

The hand of imperialism was once again visible this year when, despite the reason and the massive support of countries throughout the whole world, the USA and its allies from the EU blocked the UN resolution that would recognize

the independent State of Palestine within the borders of 4th June 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital. This fact shows also their imperialist attitude to the will and decision of the General Assembly of the UN, which by majority supports the resolution on Palestine. We keep on supporting and demanding the recognition and affiliation of Palestine as a full member to the United Nations.

By standing by the side of the Israeli aggressor and occupier, these actors of the imperialist world order have revealed their true nature as they tolerate the arbitrary massacres, displacements, tortures and imprisonments of Palestinian youth and people and their continuation. With this act, they have proved yet again that when they were calling for and executing military interventions in

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Outcome of the WPC Middle East Regional Meeting — Beijing, Nov 29, 2011

On the occasion of the visit of a delegation of the World Peace Council to China, invited by the CPAPD (Nov 20-30), a regional meeting representing peace movements from the Middle East took place with the participation of delegates from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt and Iran. The meeting was attended by guest delegates from Europe and Africa and the Executive Secretary of the WPC, comrade Iraklis Tsavdaridis.

The meeting discussed the ongoing developments in the Middle East, especially in some Arab countries, the uprisings of the peoples of the region for freedom, democratic changes, reforms and social justice. The meeting also discussed the efforts of the imperialist forces to intervene in the developments by political, economic and military means, as in the case of Libya and Bahrain, and the intervention against Syria. These forces are trying to solve the financial and economic crisis of international capitalism by spreading its problems onto the working class in various ways: making regional wars, chaos and military interferences that are threatening stability and peace in those regions, as well as intensifying the ethnic and sectarian conflicts that may lead to disintegration, while Israel — as a Jewish State project — remains the ultimate force in the region and represents an international imperialist regional frontline base that extends geo-politically towards Africa and the Russian and Chinese borders.

The State of Israel uses aggression, occupation, state terrorism and threats toward all the opposing regimes and political forces and the peoples of the region.

This, by itself, represents a flagrant interference in the rights and sovereignty of the masses of the region — mainly the peoples' rights in liberating their lands from occupation, for the development and their just causes.

Based on what is mentioned above, the meeting emphasized the following:

- Full support for peaceful national uprisings of the peoples of the region and their just

demands and the need to achieve them.

- Rejection of the use of all forms of violence and terrorism from any sides of the conflicts, believing that national dialogues are the only way to solve all issues.
- Condemnation of the Arab League resolutions that helped in facilitating the foreign interventions.
- Total rejection of all kinds of foreign — regional and international — intervention, which constitutes a threat to the sovereignty, unity and stability of the region and its peoples.
- Support to the struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve their independent state within the borders of June 4th 1967, with Jerusalem as its capital, solving the issue of Palestinian refugees on the basis of the UN Resolution 194, stopping all Israeli settlement activities in the Palestinian territories, release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli prisons, ending the unjust siege of the Gaza strip by Israel, as well as the right of the Palestinian State to be a full member of the United Nations.
- Demanding the end of Israeli occupation of Syrian and Lebanese territories, including the Golan Heights and Shebaa Farms.
- Rejection of all NATO policies and its military interventions, pretending to play the role of a substitute for UN legitimacy.
- Full support to the efforts of peace and solidarity movements in the region and the anti-imperialist international organizations seeking to achieve security, stability and peace in the world.
- Support for the complex struggle of the Iranian people for peace, democracy and social justice and rejection of any interference in the internal affairs of Iran under any pretext. The WPC believes

that it is Iran's right, the same as other nations', to develop and possess nuclear technology for peaceful applications, as they decide. The WPC denounces the threats of military attacks on Iran and the imposition of punitive economic sanctions against that country. The future direction of the developments in Iran is a matter only for the Iranian people themselves, with no external force under any justification.

- Total rejection of Israel's possession of nuclear weapons, considering those weapons a serious threat that we should get rid of, and making the region of the Middle East free of nuclear weapons.
- Solidarity with Syria in the face of foreign intentions that seek to create pretexts to interfere in Syria's internal affairs, threatening the security, stability and unity of the country.

- Support for the right of all peoples to resist occupation in all righteous ways of resistance, and liberation of occupied lands and when confronted with foreign threats.
- Condemnation of some Arab and Middle Eastern countries' stance and counter-revolutionary policies against the masses' attempts for justice and democracy.
- Support for the Iraqi people in their resistance and struggle against the US and Western occupation, and calling for the complete and real withdrawal from Iraq for its unity, sovereignty and independence.
- Condemnation of the military intervention in Bahrain and the counter-revolutionary attempts and suppression of peaceful popular movement in this country and other countries of the region. ■

Outcome of the Combined Meetings of the WPC Secretariat and European Region

Brussels, October 17-18, 2011

The enlarged Meeting of the Secretariat of WPC took place successfully in Brussels from October 17-18, 2011 along with the Regional Meeting of Europe of the WPC. More than 41 delegates from 27 Organizations took part in the meeting, which was presided over by President Socorro Gomes and the General Secretary Thanassis Pafilis, who also delivered the main political speech and report to the meeting.

The Secretariat of the WPC expresses its deep concern about the growing imperialist aggressiveness in all corners of the world, especially in the midst of the economic capitalist crisis, where a brutal attack on workers' and peoples' income, social and labor rights is taking place in many countries of the world. The rivalries and competition between imperialist forces for new spheres of influence, markets and natural resources is reaching high levels.

The meeting expressed its crystal clear positions against the imperialist aggression against the Libyan people, led by the USA, France, the UK, the whole NATO and their allies for the sake of control of the energy resources and geopolitical hegemony.

The Secretariat of the WPC expressed its solidarity to the Syrian people supporting their genuine social and democratic demands, condemning at the same time all internal and external manipulation by imperialist forces and their willing allies inside Syria aiming to bring the country into a civil war and a violent regime change.

The WPC denounces the imperialist plan for the New Middle East, of which the above developments are part, and underlines its positions for the right of every people to determine its future freely and democratically, without any foreign political or military interference.

The meeting discussed deeply the two texts and the respective regional reports. All present Secretariat members and several other attending organizations took part in the fruitful discussion, which agreed to consider as the political basis of the evaluations of the meeting the papers

of the President and General Secretary. Concrete decisions for future actions and initiatives were made:

1) The Secretariat of the WPC decided to hold the next Assembly of the World Peace Council in June/July 2012 in Kathmandu, capital of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, to be hosted by the Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council.

2) To plan together with the Regional Coordinators five regional consultative meetings in Africa, the Americas, Asia & the Pacific, Europe and the Middle East in the course of the preparations of the next Assembly.

3) To salute the workers' and peoples' struggles, strikes and massive mobilizations in Europe (Greece, Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, Ireland) as well as in other continents (Chile, South Africa, USA, etc.), underlining the need to join efforts between the peace movement and the class-oriented trade union movement against the attack of the governments, the EU and the IMF, which are serving the growing profits of big capital and the multinational corporations.

4) To issue a statement/open letter to the Secretary General of the UN in support to the initiative for the recognition of the independent State of Palestine within the borders of June 1967, and with East Jerusalem as its capital, and to continue the efforts for the approval of the proposal.

5) To issue an open letter to the President of the USA demanding the release of the CUBAN FIVE from US prisons and, particularly for Rene Gonzalez the right to return to Cuba.

6) To support the initiatives of the US Peace Council against the NATO summit in 2012 in Chicago.

7) To continue the Campaign Against Foreign Military Bases in Latin America, and against the installation of new bases in the region.

To explore together with our partner the Syrian National Peace Council, the possibility of an international fact-finding mission to Syria in order to express solidarity with the Syrian people, and the WPC's rejection of the imperialist plans in Syria and the region. ■

The 2012 World Assembly of the World Peace Council and World Peace Conference will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal

The WPC Assembly will be held July 21-22, and the broader World Peace Conference on July 23.

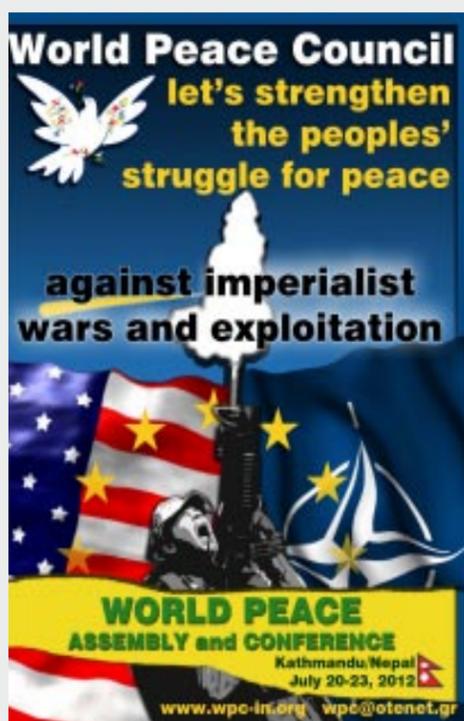
The World Assembly of the World Peace Council is a world forum of peace leaders and campaigners fighting against imperialism, neo-liberalism, war and capitalism. This is a forum where the world's fighters for peace and their organizations will discuss, share and devise resolutions and a people's plan for the future to achieve sustaining peace and a just society.

The program is organized by the World Peace Council (www.wpc-in.org) and hosted by the Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council (www.npscnepal.org).

Interested organizations should contact the WPC at wpc@otenet.gr receive an invitation and for conference details. Organizations may also contact the Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council at nepal-wpc@yahoo.com for information, including important visa, travel and accommodations details.

Regional meetings in preparation for the World Assembly are as follows:

- March 19-20, Kolkatta, India. Regional Consultative Meeting of Asia & Pacific Region, hosted by the All India Peace & Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO)
- April 6-8, Larnaka, Cyprus. Regional Consultative Meeting of Europe, hosted by the Cyprus Peace Council
- April 21-23, Amman, Jordan. Regional Consultative Meeting of Middle East, hosted by the Jordanian Peace Council
- May 12-13, Caracas, Venezuela, Regional Consultative Meeting of the Americas



Joint Communiqué of Cyprus Peace Council, Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace, and Peace Association of Turkey

Cyprus Peace Council, Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace, and Peace Association of Turkey held their second trilateral regional meeting on September 24-25, 2011, hosted by the Peace Association of Turkey with the support of the World Peace Council.

As anti-imperialist Peace movements of Cyprus, Greece and Turkey gathered together—while imperialism attempts to implement extremely dangerous plans both in our countries and the Balkans and, particularly, in the Middle East—we are conscious of the fact that establishing permanent and close coordination is a must, along with contributing decisively to the anti-imperialist struggle. We call upon the working class and the popular strata for common struggle against the imperialist barbarity, which results in crisis and wars. We furthermore call upon all peoples of the region to stay alerted and to create a counter-weight against the imperialist plans.

As fraternal Peace organizations of three neighboring countries, we address militant greetings and an anti-imperialist message of friendship and solidarity to the Greek laborers struggling against the offense mounted by big capital, the EU and the IMF under the

pretext of global capitalist economic crisis.

In a historical moment, the possibility of the reunification of the island of Cyprus comes to the political agenda; we express our solidarity with peace-loving Cypriot people of both communities, Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots. It is our duty to decipher the attacks of imperialist powers, which are responsible for the perpetuation of the Cyprus problem, and of the nationalist forces, which have accelerated their efforts to wear down progressive forces in Cyprus and have intensified the pressures on President Christofias.

We evaluate the efforts to present the growing aggressiveness of Turkey as a reaction against Zionist Israel, and sometimes as an independent line from imperialism's rivalries and the interests of its ruling class, as aiming to disorient the peoples of the Middle East. We express our militant solidarity to the progressive popular anti-imperialist forces of Turkey in their struggle against the expansionist and anti-people's regime led by the existing government. The initiative taken by the Turkish government to send warships to the Eastern Mediterranean is unacceptable and the pretexts are completely illegitimate.

The three peace movements express also

their solidarity with Palestine, which applied to the United Nations Security Council for full membership to UN, for the recognition of the Palestinian State by the international community. We condemn the U.S. and Israeli positions of blocking all bilateral negotiations for many years, and the latest clear refusal of the demands of Palestinian people by the U.S. We once again emphasize our position in favor of a two-state solution to the issue, and salute the struggle of Palestinian people for an independent state on the basis of the June 1967 borders and relevant UN resolutions, giving an end to the occupation of the lands of neighbor countries by Israel, guaranteeing also the right of Palestinian refugees to return back to homeland.

While warning our peoples on the hypocritical character of the tension between Israel and Turkey, we also condemn the strategic military and political collaboration between the governments of Israel and Greece.

We held our trilateral meeting in a period when Syria is in the midst of bloody clashes. As the peace movements of three countries, we believe that the basic cause of these dramatic clashes in Syria is the plans of imperialism, especially by the U.S.A, to impose changes following the imperialist plan for the "New Middle East." As part of this plan,

the powerful imperialist forces have tried to support Turkey, to take advantage of the internal social problems in Syria, which are the result of the government's policies and mistakes, arming the reactionary forces and leading the country into a civil war. However, the argument that the opposition in Syria consists of those who defend the democratic liberties and the rights of laborers is totally unfounded. On the other hand, the representatives of world capitalism do not even hide that Iran will be next in line if the imperialist plan against Syria is successful.

As peace-loving anti-imperialist movements of Turkey, Greece and Cyprus within the World Peace Council, we are warning the Turkish government not to participate in the militarist plans against Syria. A military operation against Syria could pave the way for a general conflict and bloody war in the region. The resistance expressed inside Turkey against these plans, which has been initiated and steered by the peace-loving forces in Turkey along with the anti-imperialist forces, is expressing the positions of the global anti-imperialist movement.

By integrating the opposition movements in the Middle East into its plans, establishing a new religionist and totalitarian regime in

continued on page 6

Czech Republic SOLDIERS AGAINST WAR Against Unleashing New Arms Race!

*Colonel Jiří BURES (ret), SAW President
Lt. General Oskar MAREK (ret)
Major General Michal GONDEK (ret)
On behalf of the Republic Assembly of the SOLDIERS AGAINST WAR
Prague on November 19, 2011*

We, the retired generals and officers of the armed forces of the Czech Republic, participants of the Republic Assembly of "SOLDIERS AGAINST WAR", on the basis of our professional knowledge, consider it as our duty to warn the government and especially the citizens of the Czech Republic about a danger arising from a new round of armaments race, in particular of nuclear powers.

We have to point out, with regret, that our warnings concerning serious deficiencies in the US-Russia treaty on the reduction of strategic weapons were justified. Despite some reductions of state budgets, which have significant negative impact especially in the social sphere, military expenditures have an upward trend. Despite the rhetoric on disarmament and "the world free of nuclear weapons," the United States intends to spend in the next decade \$700 billions on the modernization of its strategic potential. Other states possessing nuclear weapons are modernizing and expanding their nuclear capability, too. Some other states aspire to acquire nuclear weapons. A significant role in this respect is played also by the persistence of the U.S. to build a reliable anti-missile defense of its territory, as well as a dense network of military bases located all over the world.

On the European continent, in addition to new U.S. military bases in Romania, Bulgaria and one of the largest in Kosovo, another one is to be built in Poland, and possibly in some other states in our region. Interceptors located now on these bases are to be replaced by rockets of "only" a short and medium range. All this leads to further increase of already substantial U.S. military presence in Europe. Furthermore, new or

enlarged U.S. military bases are located in Africa and Asia, in particular in some Arab states. The lately announced U.S. shipment of several thousands of modern warheads to the United Arab Emirates and dozens of fighter-bombers to Saudi Arabia shall undoubtedly increase the already existing instability in this sensitive region.

Legitimate questions and concerns are raised by the unusual "open-minded approach" of the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic in talks with President Obama concerning the location of a helicopter training center of NATO/U.S. in the Czech Republic. Does the prime minister intend, in this way, to enforce the U.S. military presence in the Czech Republic, repeatedly rejected by Czech citizens?

Currently, many examples indicate the continued and increasing effort of the United States and some other NATO countries to use, under various pretexts, their armed forces to promote their political, economic and strategic objectives. Should the scenario used in the U.S./NATO wars against sovereign UN Member States—Yugoslavia, Iraq, Afghanistan and most recently Libya—be applied in future disputes? One can only hope that after the tragic experience with the infamous UN Security Council resolution on the establishment of the "no-flights zone" or on the "protection of civilians" in Libya, Russia and the People's Republic of China together with other Member States of the Security Council, will not allow similar abuse of the UN against Syria or Iran, and possibly other states, whose orientation and politics could conflict with the interests of the U.S. and its allies.

All this confirms the ongoing U.S. efforts to maintain its hegemony on a global scale. It leads to the escalation of armaments, and to developing and deepening distrust between states. Instead of the expected lessening of tension in international relations, it leads to

US PEACE COUNCIL
ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTER SUMMIT
FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE
MAY 18-19, 2012 CHICAGO

Dear Fellow Peace Activist,

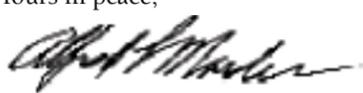
The Counter Summit for Peace and Justice on May 18-19 is a conference bringing together many peace organizations to express their opposition to the NATO and G8 Summits taking place in Chicago. The conference and demonstrations will address the insidious nature of NATO as the military arm of the G8 and its policies in pursuing wars, depriving the people globally of human needs.

You will find all the necessary logistical information about the conference on the website, www.natofreefuture.org.

If you would like to sign onto the call, and we urge to do so, please contact: Judith LeBlanc, jleblanc@peace-action.org, or Joseph Gerson at jgerson@afsc.org.

We are calling upon your organization, as an active voice for peace, to endorse and participate in this conference. These are times when all peace loving people must come together. Together we can secure a better and more peaceful world.

Yours in peace,



Alfred L. Marder
President

Member of the World Peace Council

the militarization of international relations and to the enhancement of the threat of new armed conflicts in various parts of the world. It shows also that the United States /NATO are prepared also in the future to violate the UN Charter, to carry out the destruction of common international law and seek to replace it by "club-law," based on the continuing—although inevitably weakening—superiority of their military and economic power.

Our civic association SOLDIERS AGAINST WAR is ready to lead an open, meaningful dialog on these issues in order to safeguard security and peaceful development not only to the citizens of the Czech Republic and the EU but also to other states on the

European continent, which are not bound by the membership of EU or other military-political groupings.

We call on all peace and anti-war organizations, initiatives and individuals in the Czech Republic, of the World Peace Council and of the European Peace Forum to engage in common active resistance against this dangerous policy and in the common struggle for the re-confirmation of the legally binding prohibition of the threat or use of force in relations among States, the obligation of States to settle their international disputes by peaceful means and to refrain from intervening in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of other States. ■

XXII Assembly of Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation: Broaden the Field of Peace, Fight Imperialism and War!

The strengthening of the peace movement in Portugal is a central aim of the CPPC during the next two years, as defined in the XXII Peace Assembly, held on November 19, 2011 in Lisbon. Besides its own organic strengthening, it is the aim of the CPPC to “establish bases of understanding with other organisations of the peace movement to pursue converging or common objectives, promoting positions, initiatives, campaigns and common platforms.” Without, of course, forsaking its autonomy and principles.

One of the actions to be undertaken during this period in time is the promotion and development of a “broad intervention in defence of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic and a Portuguese foreign policy in accordance with the first three points enshrined in its Article 7”, which, it should be recalled, establishes that Portugal is governed in its international relations by the principles of *national independence, equality among States, peaceful solution of conflicts or non-interference in the internal affairs of other States*, while advocating at the same time the *abolition of imperialism, colonialism and all other forms of aggression, domination and exploitation* in its relations with peoples, as well as *all round disarmament, simultaneous and controlled, the dissolution of political and military blocs*. The Constitution also recognizes the right of the peoples to self-determination and independence and to development, as well as the right

to rebel against all types of oppression.

At the top of its priorities remains the struggle against war and militarism, this including all actions against political and military blocs, like NATO; against the militarization of the European Union; against foreign bases, the end of the arms race; for a world free from nuclear weapons; against the participation of Portuguese troops and military forces in aggressions against foreign peoples and for an independent foreign policy by Portugal.

Another objective is to undertake the widening of solidarity and cooperation with other peoples of the world, in particular with the peoples subject to imperialist wars. CPPC should, namely, continue its solidarity with the resistance against aggression, occupation, foreign interference, blackmail, blockades or threats of military intervention, supporting the struggle of the peoples for their inalienable right to self-determination, sovereignty, freedom and the independence of their countries.

Grow and strengthen. To be able to undertake the decisions of the Peace Assembly, it pledged to take concrete measures to strengthen the CPPC and its national implantation. To promote the participation of members in its activities, increase the number of supporters, the creation of new nuclei and support for their regular functioning, a more regular edition of *Notícias da Paz* (News of Peace) and other publications, and the

strengthening of the presence of CPPC on the internet are some other objectives.

Aware that the “best and most significant contribution” it can give to the strengthening of the peace movement around the world is the “strengthening of the peace movement in Portugal and its action”, the CPPC does not disregard—quite the contrary—the importance of its relations with the peace movement in other countries and, specially, the World Peace Council and its member organizations.

The Assembly decided that the CPPC “will continue to contribute for the articulation of the work among peace movements around the world, namely within the WPC, by means of a closer collaboration and ready to continue to assume the commitments that appear.” Hence, and until the next WPC Assembly that will be held this year in Nepal, the CPPC will continue to honor its responsibilities as a coordinating member of the European Region and of the WPC Executive.

The debate on the Report of Activities in the 2009-2011 two-year period produced a very positive evaluation of the action of CPPC in the campaign *Yes to Peace! No to NATO!*, which gathered more than 100 Portuguese organizations from various areas of intervention. This platform carried out numerous initiatives rejecting NATO and the holding and aims of the Lisbon Summit in November 2010. Special attention is merited for the

petition to the Assembly of the Republic with more than 13 thousand signatures and a great demonstration that brought more than 30 thousand Portuguese people to the streets of Lisbon.

Decisions that are already being applied. The Assembly is already bearing fruit. In less than three months, some of its decisions are being successfully applied. From the creation of nuclei to the stands on various issues, the edition and distribution of a new issue of *Notícias da Paz* to the participation in the huge demonstration held by CGTP-IN. CPPC is increasingly heard and has all the conditions to assert itself even more in Portuguese society.

Through the hand of the CPPC, there is an ongoing campaign against US and European Union plans to start a new war in the Middle East—in Iran or Syria. Dozens of personalities have joined the CPPC in this cause. We are planning debates and information sessions.

The XXII Peace Assembly and the activities meanwhile held lead us to the conviction that the field of peace has a wide camp for growth in Portugal and that the link between “austerity” and the exploitation hanging over the workers and the peoples and the wars of aggression around the world is becoming clearer.

The fight against these two expressions of the crisis of the system is complementary. ■

Joint Communiqué ... (from p. 5)

Egypt, by bombing Libya and using the opposition forces which were former collaborators of Ghaddafi, the imperialist powers U.S.A, France, Great Britain, Italy, NATO and the EU are aiming at full control over the region, in competition with other big forces. Mainly responsible for the bloodshed is imperialism, which tries to seek pretexts for military intervention.

The reunification of Cyprus is a much bigger necessity today, when Turkey has enhanced the policy of altering the demographic character of the Island by increasing the number of settlers in Cyprus, thus turning Turkish-Cypriots into a small minority in their own Country. The great need for reunification is expressed also by the intensification of the multiyear common struggles of the progressive Greek- and Turkish-Cypriots for unity and peace. On the other hand, the EU and the U.S. put pressure on Cyprus and seek ways by interfering to impose a solution that will serve their interests in the best possible way, so the imperialist status quo will be preserved.

We condemn the recent pressure, especially from inside but also from outside the island, on the Cyprus Republic to apply for the NATO Project “Partnership for Peace,” which was successfully blocked by the Presidency of Cyprus in accordance with the interests of all peoples of the region. We condemn, furthermore, the efforts to overthrow the democratically elected President Christofias.

At the same time, Ankara’s war threats and manipulation of the legitimate activities of Cyprus to search for natural gas or hydrocarbons as a pretext to escalate the tension is unacceptable. We condemn these efforts to escalate tension while threatening

Cyprus militarily. The problem is not in the accessibility to natural resources by Cyprus as a sovereign State, but in the ongoing 37 years of division and occupation of 37% of the Island. The Cyprus problem has not been created by the sister communities that make up the people of this country, nor by the peoples of Turkey and Greece, but by imperialism to keep its stronghold and to strengthen its hegemony in the region against the peoples.

Our trilateral meeting supports the solution of a Bi-zonal Bi-communal Federation with political equality, as set forth in the UN Resolutions regarding Cyprus, the top-level agreements between the leaders of two communities in 1977 and 1979, and the principles of international law. It is necessary to intensify the struggle for a solution that leads to a reunited country with one sovereignty, one citizenship and one entity that will ensure the fundamental freedoms, popular interests and humanitarian rights all Cypriots; a country free of all foreign armies and bases. We reiterate that this is the basic demand of both Greek- and Turkish-Cypriots, and the unique way under the circumstances for a just solution to the Cyprus problem.

As emphasized also last year in our Lesbos meeting, peace-loving forces of Cyprus, Turkey and Greece should form “a culture of common struggle” among the peoples of the three countries, in order to contribute to the solution of the Cyprus problem also.

As peace-loving and anti-imperialist movements of three neighboring countries, members of the WPC, we observe the critical situation regarding the Kurdish problem in Turkey, and we do emphasize our support for a just and peaceful solution on the basis of equality and fraternity of all the peoples

of Turkey. First of all, we call for an end to the bloodshed by a mutual ceasefire. We express our solidarity with the elected Kurdish representatives both in the National Assembly and in the local councils, who have been arrested for political reasons, and we demand freedom for them. We condemn the attitude of the Turkish government to raise barriers against the legitimate representatives of Kurds so to accelerate tension. We consider that the Kurdish problem can not be described as a problem between peoples who have lived together for centuries, but as one created by the ruling classes and imperialist forces. We call on the peace-loving Turkish and Kurdish peoples to stand shoulder to shoulder for peace and equality, against the nationalist and imperialist forces attempt to divide them.

As anti-imperialist peace organizations of Cyprus, Turkey and Greece, together with the World Peace Council, we demand the abolition of all nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and every means of mass destruction, beginning with the ones all of the major imperialist powers. We are against the installation of the so-called “anti-missile shield” in Europe, promoted by U.S.A, and averse to any possibility of the Aegean Sea being used for its reinforcement. We are also against the installation of nuclear power plants.

We demand the implementation of the International Convention of the Law of the Sea of 1982 and the definition of the EEZ – Exclusive Economic Zones. We demand no involvement, no participation of our countries in the imperialist plans and actions against the peoples of the region. We fight for the immediate abolition and withdrawal of NATO’s and all other foreign bases from our countries, for our countries’ disengagement from NATO

and other imperialist organizations.

We demand the return of all military troops and police forces from overseas. We expose and confront state terrorism and repressive mechanisms and laws against the peoples. We fight for the protection and real support of refugees and immigrants. We are alongside all our brothers and sisters raising the struggle against imperialist war, occupation and aggression, and resisting the offensive mounted by the bourgeois classes and their governments.

In our common region from the Balkans to Middle East, the common demand and aim of our three organizations is the end of the imperialist occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq, the end of the aggression against Libya and of the blackmail and intimidation Syria is facing, as well for the end of the occupation and division of Cyprus. We call on the international community to recognize the independent state of Palestine with the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

EEDYE, Cyprus Peace Council, and Peace Association of Turkey, having met in Istanbul in September of 2011 with the support of the WPC, and decided to create a program of common action, do emphasize that the struggle for peace and against imperialist war, and for the benefit of the peoples, is inseparably tied to the struggle against the imperialist-capitalist system, and call upon all the peoples of our region to strengthen solidarity and the common struggle for the overthrow of the imperialist plans, against the big capital and its representatives, against NATO and the EU. The peoples shall resist with all their forces against the interests of their exploiters and open their way for the society that will satisfy their needs and interests. ■

G8 and NATO summits (from p. 1)

it was not fully a NATO operation, the war on Iraq involved NATO countries and was catastrophic to that country. Despite the U.S. and NATO offering the excuse that violent intervention is necessary for humanitarian reasons, it is quite evident that none of these operations put human life first. Far from it. Pointedly, the NATO alliance has never defended nor has it had to defend its members from outside attack. It was designed and has been applied as a tool of imperialist conquest.

One issue that won't be resolved in Chicago or Camp David is Russia's opposition to a missile defense system. Former U.S. Presi-

dent George W. Bush extracted his country from the Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty and then moved forward to place such missiles and radar control into Poland and the Czech Republic. Bush claimed that these missiles were to protect against Iranian missiles. Obama continues the policy moving the "Missile Defense Shield" southwards to Rumania and Turkey.

The Russians, however, see the anti-missiles being inserted along their borders as part of a nuclear first strike threat and are planning countermeasures. All the U.S. and NATO military bases encircling Russia—with Ukraine and Georgia to be added to the menu—are clearly aimed at exercis-

ing pressure on Russia.

Additionally, the Chicago summit will discuss NATO's response to the violence in Syria and the ongoing democratic surges around the world in order implement the "Great Middle East Plan" and to arrange favorable outcomes to financial capital. Importantly, NATO's will discuss its long-term goals and capabilities to 2020 and beyond.

The U.S. Administration recently announced a policy shift: the target of the Pentagon will be refocused to the Asia Pacific region—specifically China—from its current wars in the Middle East and southwest Asia. Competition by the rapidly growing Chinese economy is to be countered militarily—with

a buildup of forces, more foreign military bases in South Korea, Australia and the Philippines, threats to critical shipping lanes and direct and indirect intervention. Thus, NATO policy will appropriately be redirected even further east from the home countries.

In the face of the capitalist economic crisis, NATO is faced with reinforcing its grip on the world with fewer resources. The U.S. is itself faced with begging its NATO allies to spend on their militaries what it itself can no longer afford. None of these goals reflect the needs of the vast majority of the world's population, which must call upon the prompt dissolution of NATO. ■

WPC salutes peoples' fight back (from p. 2)

and Greek-Cypriots, without foreign protectors and guarantors.

The recent second trilateral meeting of peace movements from Turkey, Cyprus and Greece, held in Istanbul under the auspices of the WPC, sends a clear message of anti-imperialist friendship and solidarity of the peoples of the three countries and reaffirms the will of the peoples not to allow war games on their shoulders.

Recently the Palestinian struggle entered into the center of the world's attention with the formal motion of the Palestinian National Authority and the PLO to the United Nations for the recognition and full membership of Palestine as an independent State, within the borders of 4th June 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital. The political maneuvers of the US administration to dilute the whole project, by exercising strong pressure and interference along with the leading forces inside the EU, are a clear expression of tolerance and cover-up of the brutal occupation of the Palestinian territories by Israel, its army and settlers. The imperialists are speaking about a "two-state solution", without mentioning

the borders, the capital, the timeframe, the settlements, and of course not the refugees, the political prisoners, etc. The EU and the US administration are cynical accomplices of the occupation that Israel maintains and expands through the settlements, which have multiplied since the Oslo agreement in 1994. The recent solidarity mission of the WPC together with the World Federation of Democratic Youth to Palestine took place during the very days of the discussion in the UN and was a concrete expression of the solidarity and support to the Palestinian cause. We keep on demanding the full recognition of the State of Palestine and its affiliation to the UN. We express our full-hearted solidarity to the Palestinian people, and to the peace-loving forces inside Israel who are struggling side-by-side with the Palestinians for the independent Palestinian State, within the borders of 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, alongside Israel.

Ten years after the invasion of Afghanistan by NATO and eight years after the occupation of Iraq by the USA and its allies, many thousands of civilians have lost their lives. The bombings of Afghanistan and Pakistan take new forms of aggression through drone

attacks, while millions of people are displaced and victims of an imperialist war with the pretext of "fighting terrorism."

The imperialist "New Middle East" plan, aiming at complete political control and control over energy resources, is taking advantage of the popular uprisings against totalitarian regimes in countries like Egypt and Tunisia some months ago, with the goal to install new willing allies of imperialism, whether through "moderate" religious regimes or through more western-type friendly regimes, without changing anything deeper in the socioeconomic system. The peoples of the region have nothing to win from such developments. The discussion in the world media about the so-called Arab Spring is distracting the attention of the people away from the invasion of Saudi Arabia into Bahrain, for example, or the ongoing occupation of Palestine by Israel, or about the real goal behind the efforts to overthrow the regimes of Libya and Syria, that is the geostrategic control over the area and its rich oil and gas reserves. It is hypocritical and cynical what the NATO governments claim when they speak about human rights in the Middle East. We observe a dangerous tendency with the efforts of imperialist forces to create popularity and acceptance for "moderate Islamic" regimes, like the one of Turkey, for the Middle East.

Part of the aggression against Libya is also to secure and install for imperialism its domination in Africa — the US administration is seeking to install its AFRICOM on African soil; others (France, Italy, Britain) are seeking to secure oil contracts and their positions in Northern Africa. Africa, with its rich natural resources, has become a target of multinational corporations for their exploitation and for new markets, while hunger, misery and underdevelopment are spreading all over the continent.

Under the lead of US imperialism, new plans to install foreign military bases in Latin America are going on. Threats against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador are still on the program, while the imperialists have not given up subversive actions against elected governments (as previously in Honduras). We support the campaign for the abolition of all foreign military bases in the region, and we are proud for having held in Cuba's Guantanamo province last May an international event against the US bases and its concentration camp. Cuba remains under the criminal economic blockade by the USA. the USA continues the acts of political and ideological revenge with the case of the five Cuban political prisoners in US prisons under false accusations of being terrorists. The WPC demands the immediate release of the Cuban Five.

Seven months after the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster, the Japanese people are still suffering from the consequences. Fukushima is by far the biggest nuclear disaster in hu-

man history. It makes Chernobyl look like a Sunday picnic, since at Chernobyl a reactor burned for ten days, while in Fukushima all five reactors, two of them in partial and three in total meltdown, burn out of control from March 11, 2011, and will continue to burn for at least 13 years. It is proved that as long as nuclear energy is being dealt for speculations and profits, human life will be treated as commodity. Protection measures are being sacrificed by the monopolies for the sake of profitability. The WPC expresses its solidarity with the peace loving people of Japan and its peace movement, and demands drastic measures of alleviation for the families affected by the disaster along with the end of the operation of the nuclear plants in Japan.

WPC took note with great concern that as India is emerging as a growing economic power in Asia, there is a plan to bring India closer to the imperialist agenda and to maintain US interests intact in the region. This is being backed by the planned propaganda of "strong and powerful India" for strengthening also the so-called "democratic developments" in the region.

The capitalist economic model followed by the ruling class in the emerging and growing economies in Asia, Africa and Latin America are not inclusive in their nature of development and are resulting in growing miseries and downgrading of the living standards of the common people.

The WPC supports the peace process and the efforts for a new constitution in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, where the Nepali people shall become the masters of their country and the richness it has, after the bloody civil war that followed the abolition of the monarchy.

The World Peace Council has marked increasing activities all over the world in the recent period, on regional, national and global levels. Without underestimating the difficulties and obstacles in our struggle, we strongly believe that we can improve our ability and effectiveness, our collective initiatives and campaigns by which we will uncover the imperialist aggressiveness and create better ground for the peoples and the peace movement to fight back the attacks. Especially in times of deep capitalist crisis we are aware of the aggressive nature of imperialism, which is not hesitating from provoking or carrying out even generalized wars or clashes.

We call upon the people and the peace loving forces to stay alert and vigilant, to rally forces around the anti-imperialist peace movement, together with the workers and peasants, together with the class-oriented trade union movement and the militant women's and youth movements, in order to organize the counter attack of the people against imperialism, its servants and governments, its structures and mechanisms. ■

International Call to Retire NATO, Fund Jobs & Create Peace

The Network for a NATO-Free Future is a coalition of peace, faith and economic justice groups hosting a Counter-Summit for Peace & Economic Justice at the time of the NATO and G-8 summits in Chicago, May 18-19, 2012. For conference details, workshop proposals and more information:

<http://www.NatoFreeFuture.org>

WPC/WFDY in Palestine (from p. 3)

Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya the imperialists only wanted to implement their imperialist plans, particularly the plan for a "New Middle East," with policies of bombing and pillage, and not even for one second defend anyone's human rights as they had hypocritically alleged.

In this critical moment, the WPC and

WFDY underline their full support to the continuation of the Palestinian youth and people's struggle, certain that the path of the popular resistance against the occupation and oppression may be long but it will for sure take us to final victory, the establishment of the independent State of Palestine, within the borders of June 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital! ■



Threats to Peace and Human Rights in the International Arena

Excerpts from the Speech of EEDYE Pres. Stavros TASSOS at the CebraPaz meeting, Sao Paulo, Dec 3, 2011

The almost absolute synchronicity of the resignation of the prime ministers of Greece and Italy, Papandreu and Berlusconi, on the 10th and 13th of November, respectively, and the pro-EU ultra-right to the social-democrat coalition governments that replaced them, indicate the insignificance of peculiarities in each country and the dominance of the structural crisis of capitalism, as well as the political identity of adopted solutions.

As you know, Greece participates in two reactionary and warlike imperialist organizations, NATO and the European Union, the offensive character of which was intensified, especially after the year 1991. Characteristically, in the 2012 Greek budget where there are drastic cuts in the expenditures for wages, pensions, education, health, and social welfare, the expenditures for armament and NATO are increased by 66.7%, and 22.5%, respectively!!!

Capitalist and imperialist aggressiveness have one target: to safeguard the profitability of capital, which is its holy objective, with or without memoranda, within or outside the EU or other imperialist organizations, under the supervision of the IMF or not. Furthermore, capitalism now asks back, with a high interest rate, concessions that it made, or was forced to make, in the past century. The carrot is gone and only the yardstick is left for the people, to warn them and to punish them. As always, the imperialists are united when they declare war against the people, but they fight for the division of the loot like wolves, while their competition always leads to wars.

Greece is embedded in the new “strategic doctrine” of NATO as the global police, and in the imperialist plans and wars that the U.S.A. and its allies unleash against the peoples of Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans. The greater involvement of the country is to the benefit of the Greek plutocracy.

Included in these plans is participation in NATO exercises such as Steadfast Juncture 2011, committed by the NATO Response Force (the ground forces of which will be headed by Greece in 2012), or in CMX-11, the 17th NATO Crisis Management Exercise, for crises beyond military involvement in one front.

Greece has also co-signed the memorandum for the creation of the European Gendarmerie Force (Eurogendfor) that “responds to the need to rapidly conduct all the spectrum of civil security actions, either on its own or in parallel with the military intervention, by providing a multinational and effective tool ... at disposal of EU, but also of other International Organizations, as NATO, UN and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe-OSCE, and ad hoc coalitions.”

The Sep 8, 2002 Sunday edition of *Rizospastis*, the Greek Communist Party newspaper, revealed a classified document of Europol

entitled “European best practice and the handling of informers,” which is a handbook for the provocateur. In this document it is apparent that the creation of informers and provocateurs is “legitimized,” and that they are channels of communication even with organized crime. Indeed, the document states characteristically “... an informer is allowed to participate in a crime which others intend to commit...” Of course, the Greek government knows nothing about these documents, or the gross violation of human rights of the Greek people.

The new NATO administrative and command reforms for the Aegean and the so-called “anti-missile shield” have a direct relation with Greek sovereign rights in the marine area of the Aegean and beyond. They refer directly to the operational-military control of the region and the right of the Greeks and other peoples to determine their affairs, and also the right of Greece to defend its islands and marine area within its territories, in combination with the emerging developments concerning issues regarding the continental shelf and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The unified operational zone for NATO, without taking into account the national borders of the member states, has been scheduled from the mid-1990’s, meanwhile the entrustment of security and defense responsibilities of Greek sovereign space to NATO staff is presented as the “reduction of friction” in Greek-Turkish relations.

Taking into account the escalating competition over energy sources and routes, our wider region includes certain of the more inflammable fronts in which the imperialist contradictions manifest themselves, such as Greek-Turkish relations, the interventions and border changes in the Balkans, the situation in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as in Cyprus and Palestine, with the threats of the powerful imperialist countries and organizations against states and peoples, such as Iran and Syria.

In this context, the Greek-Turkish issues regarding the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean are being updated and directly linked to the new imperialist arrangements and the more general competition between the U.S.A.-EU-Russia-China. Their goal is the exploitation of the natural resources in the wider region, which has the interests of the domestic bourgeois class as its criterion and not, of course, the interests of the Greek, Turkish, and other peoples of the region. Ultimately they want to pave the way for the joint exploitation of the Aegean and of the wider region by multinational groups and private companies of the countries involved (e.g. the Vardinogiannis-Latsis groups from Greece).

The imperialist war against Libya with the active participation of Greece highlights the inter-imperialist competition between the traditional imperialist powers—the USA, France, Britain, Germany, etc.—and between the emerging ones over the oil and natural gas of this country. The naked imperialist intervention of the USA-EU-NATO who armed and

guided the former associates of Gaddafi took place so that they could acquire absolute and direct access and control of the contracts for oil extraction and for the installation of military bases in the region. NATO’s butchery against the Libyan people has nothing to do with the protection of the democratic rights of the people. This is demonstrated by the excellent relations that were maintained by the leaderships of the EU and NATO countries with Gaddafi in recent years, when they co-signed contracts with the oil companies, which expired in March 2011.

As EEDYE we are also worried by the course of the exploratory contacts concerning the determination of the continental shelf and the more general developments in the region. In relation to the referral of this matter to the International Court in the Hague, we would like to stress something that is well-known to all of you: the International Court does not come to verdicts based on international treaties, but chiefly based on criteria which serve the new world order of the imperialists. Consequently, its decisions cannot safeguard the interests of the peoples.

EEDYE supports direct bilateral negotiations between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities without arbitrations and time-frames, and the efforts of the President of the Cyprus Republic for the end of the occupation, for a Cyprus that will be a common homeland for Greek and Turkish Cypriots—without foreign bases and armies, without foreign guarantors and protectors—in the framework of a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation, that will constitute one international entity with one citizenship, based on the UN resolutions and high level agreements, that will ensure the human rights of all Cypriots and will create a real reunification of the country. We support the right of Cyprus to determine its EEZ, and to search for natural resources in it. We also ask the Greek government to exercise the rights that stem from the International Law of the Sea of 1982, and to determine the EEZ of Greece.

We condemn the crime committed by the USA and multinational corporations like Texaco during the period 1964-1990 against the human rights of people living in the Amazon area. The 18 million gallons of oil wastes deposited, without any treatment, into huge ditches of Ecuador’s Amazon area polluted rivers and lakes, destroyed crops, caused cancers of various types, genetically deformed children, skin diseases and diarrheas.

Furthermore, the oil, gas and other natural resources concessions to private monopolies threatens the quality of life of indigenous peoples, biodiversity, and wilderness areas of the Peruvian and Brazilian Amazon. Our position is that natural resources belong to the people, and their exploitation, with the use of the most modern technology to protect the environment and the quality of life of the people, should be done by the people in order to cover the needs of the people, not to maximize profit.

In Argentina the economic crisis of 1998-2001 was managed through the devaluation of

currency and with a different management of the public debt in the context of the capitalist system. Starting in 2002 there was a revitalization of the economy that nevertheless was based on minimizing the cost of the working force. It is our conviction that the change of currency and refusal of paying the debt, if it is not combined with the overthrow of the ruling class, cannot be to the benefit of the working people.

In our assessment, the foreign policy of Brazil, especially after 1993, is moving in two axes: seeking a widening role in the international scene, and building its hegemony in South America. We certainly support any measures taken to alleviate poverty, but poverty is inherent in capitalism, and without the socialization of the means of production, and the people in power, there cannot be production that is directed towards satisfying the contemporary needs of the people.

EEDYE supports the struggle of the workers of the Dominican Republic who demand salary increases, as well as increased funding of the public health and education. The general strike of November 14, against the economic policy followed by President Leonel Fernandez, indicates the determination of the people to fight for the bettering of their lives.

We also stand by the strikers of 13 out of 15 unions in the health sector of Panama, against the law for the cooperation of the public and the private sector that leaves wide open the door to the privatization of health.

The peoples of every country, who are the only producers of the wealth, will have no benefits as long as the criterion for the development of the states is the profit of the capitalists and the participation in the imperialist plans. The deep, synchronised capitalist crisis has its basis in the sharpening of the basic contradiction capital-labour and demonstrates the historical boundaries of the capitalist system. Thus, the interests of the people, more than in any other instance, are connected to the struggle for their own power, for the organization of the economy with as its criterion the satisfaction of the needs of the people.

The line of Bertolt Brecht, “Their War kills whatever their Peace leaves standing,” is timelier than ever.

We call on the peoples of the whole world together with the organizations of the anti-imperialist peace movement and the organizations of the labor movement in a struggle against the imperialist plans, against the unjust wars, and for the respect of fundamental human rights, like the right to work, to educate, to health care, to live in peace. We call on them to create their own alliance, to choose their own path, to fight for the development which will satisfy their contemporary economic, cultural and environmental needs and their true peace and cooperation.

In that context the slogan “without you no cogwheel turns—worker you can without bosses” is also timelier than ever. ■



WORLD PEACE

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