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 pretext and generate intense rivalry in the interests of the big powers, and the creation of new nuclear weapons, starting with those of the big powers, and the creation of a nuclear free zone in the Middle East, becoming once more the theater of its ambitions as well as its territorial ambitions.

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 of 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 (Europe, 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 apparent.

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.

Obama Splits G8 and NATO Summits

NATO Meets in Chicago, G8 Moves to Camp David

Henry Lawendorf
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 transmits 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 continued on page 3

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, October 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 war-mongering 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.

Continued on page 7
In Defense of a Peaceful Continent, Free from Colonialism and Foreign Military Bases: The Malvinas Islands are Argentinean!

Socioro 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 deprives the population of peaceful living forces. The British government’s stand of ignoring United Nations resolutions regarding the Malvinas Islands and refusing to negotiate was followed by a militant 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 Palamquero, 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 Malvi- nas as an inseparable territory of Argentina gains importance.

Likewise, the decision made in several multilateral forums – such as Merouss, Un- asur 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 ex- istence of colonialism in the 21st century. The Malvinas are an indivisible part of Ar- gentina. 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 prevent 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 chaos 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 7.7 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 Meet- ing 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 Gaddafi regime. Independently of the foreign and economic policies of Gha- ddaf, 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 re- sponsible 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 in- strument 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 condi- tions of deep capitalist economic crisis cre- ates 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 inter- ests and imperialist conflicts.

Indications for the above are the growing imperialism 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 grow- ing 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 in- terests 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 Cy- prus. We support the struggle of the Cypriot people for a unified, independent Cyprus, for a federal, bi-annual, bi-communal solution with a single sovereignty and international identity, without foreign bases and troops, a common homeland for both Turkish-Cypriots and Greeks.

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

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

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Organizational Members of the Secretariat:
• All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO)
• Brazilian Center for the Solidarity with the Peoples and the Struggle for Peace (CEBRAPAZ)
• Congo Peace Committee
• Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ)
• German Peace Council (BFR)
• Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (EEDYE)
• Japan Peace Committee
• Malaysian 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)
more so the signatories of the NPT. The option 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. Mass kind cannot tolerate foreign interference into its internal matters. The sovereignty of a country is the sole responsibility of each people.

The supreme 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 settler 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, and those serious events. In doing so we express our solidarity with the Syrian and Iranian peoples and governments in order to create the basis for a new stage of anti-imperialist struggle, in the defense of solidarity and the self-determination of peoples.

We are confident that with the peoples struggle peace will prevail! II

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 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 (POL), the Palestinian Central Council (PCC), 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 (Hadas) of the Knesset.

Following the very successful Solidarity Mission to Cuba, 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 countries and in the Palestinian people, to fight bias 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 thorns 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 Judaisation of the Israeli state.

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 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 EU, which is pretending to keep “equal distance” from the aggressors and the victims, but in reality supports the aggressors.

The policy 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 blacked 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.

The Cuban Movement for Peace and People’s Sovereignty makes an international call to break the American imperialist 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 to the dangerous situation.

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

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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, as well as representatives of the WPC, comrade Iraklis Tsouvalis.

The meeting discussed the ongoing developments in the Middle East, especially in some Arab countries, threatening the existence of the region for freedom, democratic changes, reforms and social justice. The meeting also discussed the efforts of the imperialist forces to isolate and delegitimize these movements, 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 the means to maintain stability 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 imperalist imperialist regional front line base that extends geopolitically 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.

The meeting represented 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 of their societies.

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清晰isms are the only way to solve all issues.
- Condemnation of the Arab League resolutions that helped in facilitating these international involvements.
- 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 occupa- tion 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 cracks on Iran and the imposition of punitive economic sanctions against that country. The future direction of the developments in Iran is a major challenge for the entire people themselves, with no external force under any justification.
- Total rejection of Israel’s possession of nuclear weapons and the establishment of a new region of nuclear 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 pretenses 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 military invasions.
- Condemnation of some Arab and Middle Eastern countries’ stance and counter-revolutionary policies against their people, in their attempts for justice and democracy.
- Support for the Iraqi people in their resistance and struggle against the US and other imperialist forces and 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.

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, 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 backed by the Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council (www.nepalpasc.org).

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

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

- March 19-20, Kolkata, India. Regional Consultative Meeting of Asia & Pacific Region, hosted by the All India Peace & Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO)
- 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
- May 26-27, Rome. Regional Consultative Meeting of Europe, hosted by the Italian Peace Secretariat
- June 3-4, Brussels. Regional Consultative Meeting of Europe, hosted by the European Peace Secretariat
- June 6-7, Havana. Regional Consultative Meeting of Latin America, hosted by the Cuban Peace Secretariat
- June 30-July 2, Jakarta. Regional Consultative Meeting of Asia & Pacific, hosted by the Indonesian Peace Secretariat
- July 6-7, Brussels. Regional Consultative Meeting of Europe, hosted by the European Peace Secretariat
- July 17-18, Brussels. Regional Consultative Meeting of Europe, hosted by the European Peace Secretariat

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 Soumro Gomms and the General Secretuary Thanasios Pallis, 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 labour rights is taking place in many countries of the world. The realities and competition between imperialist forces for new spheres of influence, markets and natural resources is reaching high levels.

The meeting confirmed 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 geo-political hegemony.

The Secretariat of the WPC expressed its solidarity to the Syrian people supporting their genuine social and democratic demands, condemning all 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 Conference 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 taking 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.
Czech Republic SOLDIERS AGAINST WAR
Against Unleashing New Arms Race!

Colonel Jiří BURET (ret), SAW President
Lt. General Oskar MAREK (ret)
Maj. General Michal GONDER (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 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 a new arms race in the Middle East.

We have to point out, with regret, that our warnings concerning serious deficiencies
in the US-Russia treaty on the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons were justified
and some reductions of state budgets, which have
been agreed by the existing government in the US-Russia treaty on the reduction of
strategic nuclear weapons. Furthermore, the United States intends to spend in the next
years several billions of modern warheads to the United Arab Emirates and Dracones of fighter-
fighters to Saudi Arabia shall undoubtedly increase the already existing instability in this
sensitive region.

Legitimate questions and concerns are raised by the usual “open-minded ap-
proach” of the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic to NATO President Cameron con-
cerning 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?

Meanwhile, many examples indicate the consequences of our participation in the United States
and some other NATO countries to use, under various pretenses, their armed forces to promote their political, economic
and strategic objectives. Should the scenario used in the U.S./NATO wars against sover-
eign U.N. 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 U.N. Security Council resolu-
tions 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 actions as in Syria or possibly other states, whose orientation and politics could conflict with the interests of the U.S. and its allies.

We call on the U.S. and European governments to make a peaceful and 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 organi-
izations, 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 rela-
tion to the military and political collaboration between the governments of the United States and Greece.

As fraternal Peace organizations of three countries, as aiming to disorient the peoples of the
Middle East. We express our militant solidar-
ity against Zionist Israel, and sometimes
also the right of Palestinian refugees to return
giving an end to the occupation of the lands
of neighbor countries by Israel, guaranteeing
their solidarity with Palestine, which applied
their solidarity with Palestine, which applied
for many years, and the latest clear refusal
of the Palestinian State by the international
organizations, and the EU but also to other states on the

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, its policies in pursuing wars, depriving the people glob-
ally of human needs.

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

If you would like to sign onto the call, and we urge to do so, please: 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 en-
derse and participate in this conference. These are times when all peace lov-
ing people must come together. Together we can secure a better and more peaceful world.

Yours in peace,

Joseph Gerson
US Peace Council

Member of the World Peace Council
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 organizations 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 is the preparation 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 envisioned in its Article 7.5, 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 rebellion against all types of oppression.

At the top of its priorities remains the struggle against war and militarism, which includes all wars of all kinds, be they of a national nature, 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 all peoples to achieve justice and equality on the basis of 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.

Growth and strength. To be able to undertake the decisions of the Peace Assembly, it is necessary 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 nucleuses and support for their regular functioning, a more regular edition of Notícias do 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 make to the work of the people is the work 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 role in international peace movement in other countries and, specially, the World Peace Council and its member organizations.

The Assembly decided that the CPPC will continually 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 in the Declaration. Hence, and until the next WPC, an idea 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 Committee.

The debate on the Report of Activities in the 2009-2011 two-year period produced a very positive evaluation of the action of the CPPC in the campaign ‘Fies 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 nucleuses to the stands on various issues, the edition and distribution of a new issue of Notícias do Paz to the participation in the huge demonstration held by CGTP-Unity of the blackmail and intimidation subjects, 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 Ghalibald, the imperialist powers USA, 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 this is the creation and support of a nationalist and imperialist forces attempt to make up the people of this country, nor have created by the sister communities that have been created by the ruling classes and imperialist against the peoples. We condemn the recent pressure, especially those of the military character, which tries to seek pretexts for military intervention.

The reunification of Cyprus is a much bigger necessity today, when Turkey has embarked on a new phase of provocations, graphic character of the Island by increasing the number of settlers in Cyprus, thus turn the graphic character of the Island by increasing the number of settlers in Cyprus, thus turn the Cyprus militarily. The problem is not in the Turkey and Greece should form “a culture of non-aggression” and averse to any possibility of the Aegean crisis of the system is complementary. The reunification of Cyprus is a much bigger necessity today, when Turkey has embarked on a new phase of provocations, graphic character of the Island by increasing the number of settlers in Cyprus, thus turn the Cyprus militarily. The problem is not in the

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and pillage, and not even for one second. This is the brutal occupation of the Palestinian territories by Israel, its army and its complicity. This new wave of military violence by the EU, are a clear expression of tolerance toward Israeli imperialist conquest.

The recent second trilateral meeting of peace movements from Turkey, Cyprus and Greece, held in Istanbul under the auspices of WPC, sends a clear message of anti-imperialist solidarity and friendship 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 notion 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 maneuverings 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 acyclic 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 imperial war with the pretext of “fighting terrorism.” The imperialist “Middle East” plan, aiming at political control and control over energy resources, is taking advantage of the popular uprisings against totalitarian regimes, in the countries of the Middle East, in Iraq 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 the fundamental imperialist 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 Egypt, that are installing new systems 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 related to imperialist domination in Africa — the US administration is seeking to install its AFRICOM on African soil; others (France, Italy, Britain) are trying to secure arms contracts and military 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 self-determination 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 recently in Honduras). We support the campaigns 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 concentric cordon. 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 disaster, the Japanese people are still suffering from the consequences. Fukushima is by far the biggest nuclear disaster in human 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 two 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 15 years. It is proved that as much 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.

The 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 into NATO. 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 developments, but resulting in growing miseries and downtreading of the living standards of the common people.

The WPC supports the peace process and the efforts for a new constitution in the Federated 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 conditions for the peace 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 and 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 anti-imperialist working people, 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.
The threats to peace and human rights in the international arena

The absolute autonomy of the regime of the prime ministers of Greece and Italy. Papandreou and Berlusconi on the 10th and 13th of November, respectively, and the pre-EU ultra-right to the social-democrat coalition governments that replaced them, indicate the insignificance of pecuniaries 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 re-actionary 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 security, the measures 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 object, with or without memora nda, 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 carpet is gone and only the yolked 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 last loaf wolves, while their competition always leads to wars.

Greece is embroiled 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 greater involvement of the country is to 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 176 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 (Eurogendar) that “responds to the need to rapidly conduct all the spectrum of civil security actions, either within 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 conditions.”

The Sep 8, 2002 Sunday edition of Ria-Novosti, 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 against its territories, in combination with 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 entrenchment 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 Vardignamitis-Latis 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-NEO which 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 lynchpin by 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 warned 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 the declarations of the parties. The court can only decide on the basis of the interests of the peoples. 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-azonal federalism, 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 refund 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 labors 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 coppeduels turns—worker you cannot boss” is also timelier than ever.