



**WORLD PEACE COUNCIL
CONSEJO MUNDIAL DE LA PAZ
CONSEIL MONDIAL DE LA PAIX**

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77 Yars of Struggle for a World of Peace&Social Justice,
on the side of the Poor and the Oppressed

Report of the General Secretary Thanassis Pafilis to the WPC Secretariat 10th May 2026 in Prague

Dear Comrades and Friends

We salute all participants of this double meeting of the WPC, the European Regional and the Secretariat here in Prague.

We thank the Czech Peace Movement for the disposition to host us and congratulate them for their commitment in difficult times for the anti-imperialist peace movement.

Today, we commemorate the 9th May, Day of the Anti-fascist Victory of the Peoples and at the same time the liberation of Czechoslovakia and big parts of Europe from the Nazi-monster by the USSR and the Red Army. We pay tribute to the 25 million victims of the Soviet Union and to all others who fought and resisted against the fascist axis and lost their lives during the WW II.

On this occasion we would like to underline the unacceptable position of the European Union (EU) which is falsifying history by declaring the 9th May as “Day of Europe” in order to dilute the memory of the new generations about the real content of this anniversary. At the same time the EU has equated Fascism and Communism in Europe, not only as an effort to rewrite history but also in order to blame the victims of fascism and the liberators from it as “*equally guilty and totalitarian*”. It has to be noted that in the country where we are, there is currently a fierce anti-communist campaign reaching till the threat to ban the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM), which comes actually as a follow up of the banning of its Youth KSM some twenty years ago. We express our solidarity to the Czech Communists and condemn the threats and political maneuvers against our comrades.

Dear Comrades and Friends

The current period is of extreme dangers and threats to global peace in the world. The fierce competition of antagonist interests and the growing imperialist aggressiveness is being expressed by multiple aggressions and wars in many

corners of the globe. The world is being dominated by imperialism on international level and the victims are, as always, the peoples struggling for their just causes. There is a growing danger for a further escalation of the wars with global dimensions.

It is of greatest concern that the military spending worldwide in 2025 has reached the 2,88 Trillion USD. The USA is spending alone 954 billion USD and the NATO states together are spending 58% of the total. At the same time broad popular masses in all continents are getting impoverished more and more, food and fuel prices are growing every day, while the multinational corporations and the big capital are making huge profits.

While the NATO-Russia war on Ukrainian soil has entered in its fifth year and many hundreds of thousands have lost their lives, the principled positions of the WPC from the beginning are being proved right and timely.

While the WPC does not agree with any unilateral change of international borders at any historical moment and in any place, we reiterate that the continuation of this war is happening because of the imperialist drive to secure raw materials, spheres of influence, expansion of NATO and the encirclement of the Russian Federation while the historically fraternal peoples of Russia and Ukraine are paying a heavy price. Additionally, it has become more than clear that the USA, NATO and the EU are not interested in a political negotiated solution which will take into account all security concerns of the involved parties.

The consequences of this war are severe also for the peoples of Europe. The ongoing sanctions on Russia, which we condemn clearly, are favoring the US Natural Liquid Gas which is being sold to almost European countries at highest price. The recent 90 billion Euros subvention (supposedly as loan) by the EU to Ukraine will escalate only further the war and creates huge profits for the war industry in the USA and Europe. The reactionary regime in Kiev does not care about the unending bloodshed since it is the one which opposed during the first months of the war an existing approachment of both sides in the negotiations held then in Turkey.

As WPC we underline our demand to end the war and all hostilities and return to the political negotiations, the sanctions of the USA and its allies to be lifted and to withdraw the NATO troops from Russian borders. The WPC opposed clearly the enlargement of NATO with Sweden and Finland and we express our solidarity to the peace-loving forces in those countries in their struggle for their disengagement from NATO, which was always an offensive criminal organisation organizing wars, coups d' etat, interventions and violent regime changes.

Dear comrades

The Middle East remains the ongoing lethal hotspot of the imperialist crimes. When speaking about the Middle East, it is obvious that somebody has to refer to the key issue—namely **PALESTINE**, which overshadows and influences all developments in the region. Without justice and a resolution of the Palestinian issue, there can be no real peace in the Middle East.

There is no other issue for which so many UN resolutions have been issued. Although the UN decided in 1947 on the creation of two states, Palestine has never been established as an independent state. Instead, for nearly 80 years Palestinians have been displaced, persecuted, killed, and imprisoned, while their land and villages remain under continuous and expanding occupation by the state of Israel. In the most recent phase of the violence from 2023–2025, more than 70,000 Palestinians were killed, including 18,000 children. The Gaza Strip has been almost completely destroyed. This situation, of course, would not have been possible without the full support of the United States and the complicity of the European Union, which, together with the governments of its member states, justified Israel's actions under the pretext of the "right to self-defense."

Killings and raids by Israel continue today at varying intensity, both in Gaza and in the West Bank. Palestine has been and remains a link in the chain of imperialist plans in the wider region. Currently, a "peace plan" promoted by the United States and Israel is moving forward, aiming to turn Palestinian Gaza into a protectorate. Trump even cynically referred to it as the "Riviera of the Middle East." And Israel, to demonstrate what critics describe as an apartheid state, has passed a law introducing the death penalty for "Palestinian terrorists."

The WPC stands firm in its positions for the end of the occupation of Palestine and the establishment of a free, independent and viable State of Palestine, within the borders of 4th June 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital. At the same time, we demand the withdrawal of all occupation forces from the other Arab lands (Lebanon and Syria).

From 2011–2014 and afterward, following the fragmentation of Libya by NATO, the Islamic State (ISIS) emerged and became active in Iraq and Syria. Russia's military presence in Syria after 2016, where it maintained bases in Tartus and Latakia, objectively helped the Syrian people and their government. Of course, Russia also had its own reasons, as it needed Syria to secure access to the Mediterranean Sea. Through intense battles, civil war, and continuous Israeli attacks on Syria, zones of control were formed—held by the United States in the Northeast, Turkey in the Idlib, Israel in the Golan Heights, and Russia within Syria—while Syria itself was losing parts of its sovereignty day by day.

This led up to December 2024, when, after a meeting in Doha with the participation of all the involved countries (except Syria), it was decided to transfer power to the armed forces of the then-designated terrorist al-Jolani, effectively transforming the country into a more "moderate-style" Islamist state and setting Syria back by decades. In Syria today there are no political and civil liberties, political parties and movements have been banned, the USA, its allies and Israel are actually in charge of the country. As WPC we express our solidarity to the anti-imperialist peace-loving forces in Syria in their struggle under very difficult conditions.

All these years, however, the United States and Israel have never lost sight of their target: Iran. Using pretexts such as the possession or intention to develop nuclear weapons, they have periodically carried out strikes against targets in Iran. On the one hand, Iran's oil reserves, its strategic location, and the Strait of Hormuz, as well as its alliances in the Middle East and internationally (Russia–China), have always been a thorn in the sight of imperialist powers.

Last year, in June 2025, for 12 days dozens of targets in Iran were bombarded, and it was claimed that Iran's nuclear program had been destroyed. However, the plan did not end there. Taking advantage of U.S.–Iran talks in Geneva to gain critical time, the United States sent two aircraft carriers to the region and placed its military bases on a war footing, launching a campaign over the past month involving repeated assassinations of leaders and bombings of cities and facilities. Among these, the horrific bombing of a school stands out, where 165 young girls were killed. This imperialist aggression of the USA and Israel is not only violating any sense of international law, it is cynical and brutal when the US President speaks about exterminating the Persian civilization!

Recently the blunt U.S. President, admitted what had long been known: that his goal and ambition was to gain control over Iranian oil. Meanwhile, they claimed to be concerned about human rights violations and the alleged possession of nuclear weapons. On the first issue, the hypocrisy is evident when looking at Saudi Arabia; on the second, it is widely known that Israel is the one that possesses nuclear weapons outside international legitimacy. As WPC we have always supported the struggle of the Iranian people for its political, people's rights and freedoms, for their right to determine freely their destiny without any foreign interference. We denounce the efforts to bring back into the political scene reactionary monarchs which are openly supporting the military invasion to Iran.

The WPC took a crystal-clear position from the beginning of this ongoing aggression, for which the USA has spent more than 25 billion USD already. The European Union is converting its economy into a War Economy, planning to spend more than 800 billion Euros on military spending which despite the contradictions and antagonisms with the USA, is serving the imperialist plans worldwide.

We called upon the members and friends of the WPC to mobilize and take the streets, to protest in front of the US embassies and to denounce this crime against humanity with events and massive actions. We are extremely concerned about the current situation, the deployment of more warships and many thousands of US troops in the region. As WPC we are warning that this war can expand and escalate into a conflict of global dimensions.

Along the aggression against Iran there is another bloody and dirty war going on, once more the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and its people is taking mortal dimensions. More than 1.300 Lebanese have lost their lives upon the indiscriminate bombings of the Israeli army on civilian targets, amongst them

residences, schools and hospitals. The Israeli army has entered and occupied parts of South Lebanon while more than 1 million people has been displaced.

In the WPC we are all aware of the root causes of the suffering of the peoples in the region. The USA and its allies in NATO and EU, the Israeli murderous State of occupation but also several reactionary Arab regimes in the region who support or tolerate the imperialist plans. The ambitions and greed to set under the control the rich energy resources, the transport routes, markets and the spheres of influence, are the driving force for the ongoing imperialist crimes in the Middle East.

It is of extraordinary importance that the region of Middle East of the WPC will hold on 6-7 June its regional meeting in Chania/Greece where one of the biggest US military bases is situated (Souda Bay)

Dear Comrades

The WPC underlines its solidarity with the people of Western Sahara the last colony in Africa whereas its people is suffering under Moroccan occupation and is not been given the opportunity for a free and fair referendum in order to decide its future and fortunes. It is a matter of serious concern how the powerful states on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean but also in the UN itself are turning their back to Western Sahara by not honoring previous resolutions.

Dear Comrades

The region of Latin America and the Caribbean was always at the focus and interest of US Imperialism. All the dictatorships and reactionary regimes were openly installed or/and backed by the USA for decades long. The 4th US fleet and its South Command, supervising also more than 50 US military bases in the area, were and still are an imminent threat to the sovereignty and peace in the region.

One particular and special reason for the attention of the USA was since the triumph of the Revolution in Cuba on 1st January 1959, the island of the Revolution, the first socialist revolution in the American continent. All the US administrations could never accept that the Cuban people chose a different path, a different social and economic system by emancipating its people. The USA has never forgiven the Cuban people for its choice and was always seeking for an overthrow in Cuba, a revenge for all what the USA and its lackeys had lost. The reactionary Monroe doctrine was always present. Considering Cuba as the "backyard" of the USA, it has never stopped interfering, and above all, imposing a sophisticated net of sanctions, US laws and restrictions in order to asphyxiate the Cuban economy and its brave people. It is a general blockade on all levels. The period of the 1990's was already difficult and was called then a "special period" but Cuba overcame to some extend the absence of the USSR and the Socialist countries of Europe then. After 1999 Venezuela, under Hugo Chavez, developed a mutual cooperation in many fields. Cuba received the solidarity of Venezuela and also the international solidarity.

Cuba was all these years victim of hundreds of sanctions, regardless which party or president resided in the White House in Washington D.C. Additionally the USA put Cuba in the list of States Sponsoring Terrorism blocking Cuba from any international financial transactions, credits or loans. Under the current US administration all the above became even worse after the criminal aggression of the USA against Venezuela (on 3rd January 2026) and the kidnapping of its President Nicolas Maduro and his wife. Although it is not clear what exactly happened in the night of Rambo-style attack of the USA in Venezuela, the WPC denounced strongly the aggression and condemned the illegal abduction of the president that night.

The US military blockade of oil tankers with destination Cuba and the general threats against anyone who would send oil to Cuba started already in December 2025. On 29th January the US President issued an Executive Order in which he called Cuba an “*extraordinary and unusual threat to the Foreign Policy and Security of the USA*”.

Cuba has not received since the end of 2025 a drop of crude oil (with the exception of a Russian oil tanker some weeks ago) which has affected totally the daily live, the economy, the electricity supplies for homes, schools and hospitals, any kind of public transport, food supplies. The US President speaks openly about Cuba being their next target after Iran.

The World Peace Council is standing in militant solidarity with the brave Cuban people and its Revolution, we are rejecting all actions, sanctions and threats of US imperialism which are aiming at strangling the people, at a collective punishment and violent overthrow in Cuba. We express our solidarity to the ICAP Cuba and through it to the Cuban people, especially this year in which we all honor the centenary of the legendary leader of the Cuban Revolution Fidel Castro and his legacy. Many of our member organisations are active in the solidarity movement with Cuba and are organizing political actions and rallies in support of the Cuban revolution. In this context we shall explore the possibility of sending a WPC delegation in August to Cuba along with a special poster calling for Solidarity with the Island of the Revolution under the slogan CUBA WILL WIN.

Dear Comrades

As you all know, the WPC is planning to hold an important double meeting at the end of October in Montreal/Canada. The Continental meeting of the Americas & Caribbean will be held in combination with the Executive Committee of the WPC. The meetings will be hosted by the Canadian Peace Congress in cooperation with

the Quebec Peace Movement and with the important support of the US Peace Council (special report has been prepared by the Canadian friends).

The coming Executive Committee will have the opportunity to discuss all important international issues regarding the threats to peace and at the regional meeting we will have the chance to share with our friends from the region important and relevant assessments of our struggle in the region. The Meeting shall serve also the purpose to exchange views and decide upon the holding of the next 23rd World Assembly of the WPC for which exists a tentative idea to hold it in Turkey in 2027.

Thank you for your attention