

Editorial

WPC Condemns the Imperialist Aggression Against Libya

Imperialism has started a new war!

The World Peace Council expresses its vehement and strong condemnation to the imperialist aggression which has started against Libya.

The full scale military operations of France, the UK and USA with the support of the Arab League and several EU and NATO States, prove that the aggression was planned already for many days.

The imperialists are using the pretext of the humanitarian intervention and the protection of civilians, with the clear aim of taking control of the energy resources and imposition of a new friendly regime.

While having condemned the use of military force by the Libyan military against civilian protesters before, the WPC reiterates that it is the sole and sovereign right of the Libyan people to decide upon their government and upon their natural resources, which are the real target of the imperialist powers and the Multinational corporations behind.

Thousands of Libyans have been killed already and the massacre of the Libyan people by the imperialists is going on for the third day.

The developments prove clearly that the decision of UN Security Council 1973 to impose a No-Fly Zone over the Libyan airspace was just used in order to start a war against Libya.

The UN is making itself once more guilty of an imperialist aggression as it was in the case of the crimes against the peoples of Afghanistan, Iraq and so many others.

We demand the immediate end of the aggression and the withdrawal of foreign military forces from the area.

Stop the war on Libya now!

*Secretariat of the
World Peace Council
March 20, 2011*

NATO: ENEMY OF ALL PEOPLES! Lessons from Lisbon and the Anti-Imperialist Events in Portugal

Lessons from Lisbon and the anti-imperialist events organised there by the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation and the World Peace Council.

The NATO Summit Meeting in Lisbon 19-20 November, with its 28 leaders and other 32 guests, concluded with reactionary decisions for an even more aggressive and warlike dogma of the iron fist of imperialism which spreads terror and brings death to the peoples.

We can come to some useful conclusions concerning both the one year of the campaign up until Lisbon and the continuation of the struggle from here on, from the standpoint of the peoples and movements which are fighting against imperialism and NATO. Because although the Summit may have ended, NATO continues its imperialist campaign with impetus.

For the WPC, NATO as well as the other imperialist organizations (EU, WTO, IMF etc) is part of the global imperialist system, which is the cause of misery and woe, wars, the plundering and tyranny of the peoples by the dominance of capital and the transnationals.

This year the struggle amongst the movements and organizations against the NATO Summit continued between the consistent anti-imperialist pole on the one hand and the reformist, opportunistic, tardy and ultimately assimilated section of the movement which attempted unsuccessfully to usurp a section of the anti-NATO feelings.

The two approaches in the movement came into conflict - on the one hand the World Peace Council (WPC) and its members and on the other an alliance between unadulterated social-democracy represented by the International Peace Bureau (IPB) and the European Left Party (ELP) as well as various NGOs from the USA, Britain and Germany. All together the latter formed the "International Coordinating Committee (ICC)" aimed at organising "civil disobedience" events in Lisbon.

Two years ago during the respective anti-NATO events in Strasbourg (2009), the slogan was "60 years is enough", leaving it to be understood something, which we were all aware of, that for these forces (ICC), NATO was for decades a necessary counterweight to the Warsaw Pact while it existed. That only after 60 years and dozens of wars and crimes against humanity did they meekly pose the matter of its abolition.

Without the tiniest reference to the bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999, the matter of the protectorate of Kosovo, the plan for the "Greater Middle East," the occupation of Iraq, the threats against the peoples of Latin America and Asia, the imperialist role of the EU and its army, and also without any mention of the blood-soaked history of NATO with juntas and reactionary regimes at its beck and call, there was a general condemnation of the "dinosaur" NATO which is "obsolete."

With the French Peace Movement as the host in Strasbourg, they exhausted their anti-NATO activity to inviting the US President Obama to a friendly meeting in order to convince him to hold true to his promises for the pacification of Iraq and Afghanistan. The rest is quite well-known, a conference without any meaningful content was organised. The WPC organised its own a mass event in Strasbourg, while the international demonstration was

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No to US-NATO Intervention in Libya! No to Canadian Involvement in Libya!

As the crisis in Libya deepens, the Canadian Peace Congress denounces the rapid moves by imperialist forces — including the U.S., E.U., NATO, Canada and Israel — to intervene and exploit the conflict to their advantage. We call on the minority Harper Conservative government to withdraw the offensive Canadian JTF-2 Special Forces who have been deployed to the region, recall the heavily armed HMCS Charlottetown and refrain from deploying logistical air refueling and support power, and halt the implementation of offensive CF-18's to the region. Furthermore, the Canadian government must oppose the United Nations Security Council's imposition of sanctions which will only result in the death and injury of Libyan people, and reject any form of foreign military intervention including the use of no-fly zones which will involve massive bombardment to neutralize existing Libyan air defences.

While the composition and demands of

the movement against the Qaddafi regime are not clear at this point, there is a strong component that is decidedly reactionary in nature. This element, centred in Eastern Libya, includes the so-called "National Front for the Salvation of Libya" which is funded by the National Endowment for Democracy and is closely tied to anti-Qaddafi exiles; pro-monarchist forces which have never forgiven Qaddafi for overthrowing the king in 1969; and the Muslim brotherhood. These forces are pressing for theocratic, feudal and pro-imperialist objectives, and it is they who have attracted the keen interest and support of large oil corporations and the Western governments.

The recent, successful uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt have placed those countries at the delicate, opening stages of profound change. How these societies develop remains an open question, but two things are already clear: first, the events in Tunisia and Egypt have served as a catalyst for similar popular

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US Peace Council Statement on Egypt:

Victory Achieved, But the Struggle Against Imperialism Continues

On February 11, 2011, the heroic and united people of Egypt spearheaded by the deeply disenchanted youth of that country — dealt a serious blow to the interests and policies of the imperialist powers, especially that of the United States, in Africa and the Middle East. With this victory, Hosni Mubarak joined the rest of the deposed imperialist puppets, in the dustbin of history.

The US Peace Council congratulates the people of Egypt for this tremendous victory and expresses its deepest solidarity and support for their continuing struggles for independence, peace, freedom and social justice.

Yet, despite this great victory, the people's struggle is far from over. Although Mubarak has departed, the entrenched military and security apparatus of the Egyptian police state is still intact. Power has been transferred to the Egyptian armed forces, which has had 30 years of subservient ties to the US military and which is charged with defending the interests of the United States and Israel in the Middle East.

However, with this popular victory, the

US imperialism and the Egyptian military are now faced with an irreconcilable dilemma: respecting the genuine democratic rights and aspirations of the Egyptian people, or continuing to protect the repressive imperialist policies of United States, its European allies, and Israel in the region. With the transfer of power to the Egyptian armed forces, the period of pretence to neutrality has come to an end for the Egyptian Army. The Army must now decide which side it is on: US imperialism or the Egyptian people. Either way, the Middle East will not remain the same.

At present, the US is following a policy of containment of the people's movement. The plan is to create a façade of democratic state while preserving the existing imperialistic military, security and economic arrangements. Clearly, such containment is contrary to the interests and demands of the Egyptian people and can only lead to additional confrontations and bloodshed. It can only spread the movement to the rest of the region.

Alternatively, the establishment of a genuinely democratic state in Egypt, based on the true national interests and aspirations

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Communiqué of the South Asian Peace Conference

Katmandu, 12-13 March, 2011

1. The South Asian Peace Conference organized by Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council was held in Kathmandu on 12-13th March, 2011. Delegations from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan attended this meeting. A four member's delegation from CPAPD of China also attended the meeting.

2. On the occasion of this conference a public meeting was held on 12th March. The Conference was inaugurated by H.E. Jalanath Kanahal, Prime Minister of Nepal. It was also addressed by the Executive Secretary of WPC Mr. Iraklis Tsavdaridis and prominent personalities from Nepal and the leaders of the participant's countries.

3. The Conference expresses deep shock and grief and expresses condolences to bereaved families who have been victims of the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The Conference calls on the international community to stand by the people of Japan in their difficult time.

4. The conference expressed deep concern over the continuing deterioration in international situation in general and particular in South Asia. This complex and dangerous situation in different parts of the world is due to the aggressive policies of imperialism led by USA aimed at achieving world domination by intensifying arms race, especially nuclear arm race, prolonging military conflicts and aggressive wars and expanding military bases in different parts of the world, thus endangering peace and security of the peoples throughout the world.

5. South Asia possesses the largest number of population forced to survive in poverty, hunger and underdevelopment has remained one of the explosive areas of the world, a springboard of military provocation and armed conflicts as well as of arms build-up and interference that have seriously threatened peace and security in this area. The present developments in this region have proved that the US and the NATO having more common imperialist strategies for South Asia. The ongoing US and NATO military intervention in Afghanistan and Pakistan is not only jeopardizing the peace and stability of South Asia but also strengthening the forces of religious fundamentalism and terrorism in South Asia.

6. The growing menace of religious fundamentalism of all shades and terrorist activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan and increasing intolerance among the Hindu fundamentalist organizations of India poses grave threat to the peace and stability of South Asia. In Bangladesh the activities of religious fundamentalists somehow have been contained by

the state and through mass mobilization by all secular democratic forces.

7. The Conference takes note that while all nations in South Asia face common problems and challenges, the ruling governments have hardly any initiatives to meet these challenges jointly. On the other hand the lack of confidence building initiatives for building good neighborly relations among the nations are the main reasons for the continuation of mistrust among the nation.

8. In this context the conference underlined the important role of the peace and solidarity organizations of South Asia to build the friendship among the people of this area and to act in a way that the ruling governments

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NATO: ENEMY OF ALL PEOPLES!

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marred by repression, destruction, anarchy and chaos.

The multi-coloured "movementists" thought the process would develop in this manner in Lisbon. Both the dominant political forces and leaderships as well as the "International Coordinating Committee (ICC)" were deluding themselves. Those who were present in the Portuguese capital on the 19-20 November understood the reason why the initiative of the Portuguese Peace Council (CPPC), CGTP-Intersindical and 105 other mass organizations rallied and expressed all year round the anti-NATO sentiments which are deeply rooted in the Portuguese people and the reason why the mass demonstration had over 30,000 people (according to the estimates of the police and Media), while the Portuguese "chapter" of the ICC gathered only a few hundred demonstrators and in the last week joined the demonstration (which was in the end the only one), as its plans to hold a separate demonstration and to have a discrete presence failed.

The WPC, for its part, had a dynamic presence in Lisbon, as the culmination of its work, successfully organizing an international conference on the eve of the demonstration (with representatives from 19 countries), while on the demonstration it led a massive international bloc under the following slogan: "NATO enemy of the peoples and peace-Dismantle it!"

What is the thing which made Strasbourg (2009) different from Lisbon (2010), with its mass, protected, anti-imperialist march and rally? The answer is simple. In the case of Lisbon, both at the level of each individual country and internationally the following forces were responsible for the anti-imperialist events: those which rally together with the class-oriented trade unions, the movements which express the genuine anti-imperialist

feelings of the peoples, which do not side with one imperialist or the other and which do not have illusions concerning the possibility of changing the nature of imperialism.

The expensive campaign of the German "Die Linke" party (President of the ELP), which was the openly official sponsor of the efforts of the "ICC" and of the Portuguese "Left Bloc," collapsed in Lisbon. The world

anti-imperialist movement and the WPC have rich historical experience in the struggle against imperialism and NATO. In any case it is not the first time NATO has tried to present its own "Anti-NATO forces" in order to sow confusion.

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- 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)
- Vietnam Peace Committee (VPC)

Final Communiqué of the Second International Meeting of Peace Movements from Balkans and the Middle East

Chania, Greece — 19 March 2011

The international meeting of the Peace Movements from the Balkans and the Middle East, organized by the Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (EEDYE) with the support of the World Peace Council (WPC) took place on the 19th March in the city of Chania, Greece with the participation of delegates from the respective movements from Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Palestine, Serbia, Syria and Turkey.

The meeting concluded after a fruitful discussion and deliberation to the following communiqué:

The participants of the meeting express their serious concern about the increasing aggressiveness of imperialism in the broader region, the fostering of the competition and rivalry between the imperialist powers for the control of energy resources and means of transportation, the continuation of the imperialist occupation of foreign countries and as well as new threats surfaced to peoples and countries in the region. The ongoing economic and ecological crisis of capitalism will aggravate further the situation as it is shown now in Japan.

The peoples of the Balkans, since the early 1990's a focus point of NATO and the aggressive strategy of the EU, are suffering from the imperialist intervention till today. The secession in violation of the international law of the Serbian province of Kosovo, the installation of one of the biggest US Military Base in Camp Bondstil and the assembling of an EU- and NATO-protectorate alongside Bosnia-Herzegovina, proves the real goals of the NATO aggression of 1999. The meeting vehemently protests the military maneuvers in the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU recently taking place in the region, where "Battle Groups" are in use to oppress future popular protests or uprisings anywhere.

The participants in this meeting also stated their readiness to confront and fight back the large-scale propaganda and blackmail moves of both NATO and the EU. The aim of these imperialist Organisations is the full integration of the Balkan countries to the imperialist plans, on the basis of the so-called "NATO's New Strategic Concept", which was approved in Lisbon in November 2010.

The meeting underlined the fact that the fight against the imperialist military presence in Balkans against the so-called anti-missile shield, against the foreign bases and armies, against the participation of military forces from the Balkan countries in NATO and EU missions in other countries is of paramount importance especially now. Imperialism has been showing renewed "interest" for our region, carrying out multifaceted interventions. The reasons are both geostrategic and economic.

What is being sought is for settlements regarding the Aegean Sea to facilitate NATO through the establishment of a regime of "Greek-Turkish joint administration" to the detriment of peace and security in the region, and of the interests of the peoples of Greece and Turkey. The objective is for the plans of imperialist General Staff Commands to proceed faster with the "anti-missile shield", to penetrate the broader region and control the oil routes and any possible oil fields in the Aegean and eastern Mediterranean, to serve imperialist wars and interventions in Afghanistan, the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and elsewhere. This attempt finds strong support from both the Greek and Turkish governments.

We condemn the continued foreign occupation of part of Cyprus. We express our strong support for and solidarity with the people of Cyprus (Greek-Cypriots and Turkish - Cypriots) and their struggle against the occupation of 37% of the island for the past 37 years as a result of imperialist NATO plans, which led to the coup d'état, engineered by the junta in Athens, and the Turkish invasion in 1974.



We support the direct negotiations between the two communities for a solution and the reunification of Cyprus and its people. We unreservedly support the effort for a solution based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal Federation with political equality, as provided for in the UN Resolutions on Cyprus, in the High level Agreements reached between the two Communities (1977 and 1979) and in the principles of international law. This would be a solution that would establish one indivisible sovereignty, a single citizenship, a single

international entity, with all human rights and basic liberties ensured for all Cypriots. The meeting likewise expresses its support to the Cyprus Peace Council and the people's movement in their decision against the indirect incorporation of Cyprus into NATO, through the "Partnership for Peace."

The meeting expresses its full solidarity with the popular uprisings of the Egyptian, Tunisian and other peoples of the region.

These historical events show that it is possible to achieve overthrow of dictatorial regimes that are responsible for the suffering of millions of people and for the social-economic exploitation, plunder and poverty with the support of the imperialist mechanisms of the IMF and World Bank. The meeting salutes the peace loving forces and people in the region for their to promote deep changes in all levels according to the peoples' needs. The peace movements of the broader region gathered in Chania denounce the imperial-

ist plan for "New Middle East" as a strategy to control the energy resources and markets on the expenses of the popular needs and demands. They underline the right of the peoples to resist foreign military occupation and aggressions.

The meeting condemned the foreign military invasion to Bahrain, a country where the 5th US Fleet is based and where its people are in upsurge against the authoritarian regime of the kingdom. Likewise the participants denounced the killing of dozens of demonstrators in Yemen by the State Security forces.

All participants express their vehement and strong condemnation to the imperialist aggression which has started today against Libya. The full scale military operations of France, the UK and USA with the support of the Arab League and several EU and NATO states, prove that the aggression was planned already for many days. The imperialists are using the pretext of the humanitarian intervention and the protection of civilians, with the clear aim of taking control of the energy resources and imposition of a new friendly regime. While having condemned the brutal use of military force by the Libyan military against civilian protesters before, the meeting reiterates that it is the sole and sovereign right of the Libyan people to decide upon their government and upon their natural resources, which are the real target of the imperialist powers and the Multinational corporations behind.

The developments prove clearly that the decision of UN Security Council 1973 to impose a No-Fly Zone over the Libyan airspace was just used in order to start a war against Libya. The UN is making itself once more guilty of an imperialist aggression as it was in the case of the crimes against the peoples of Afghanistan, Iraq and so many others.

The meeting expresses its solidarity with the peace loving forces in Iran in their complex struggle for peace, democracy and social justice and rejects every foreign threat against Iran. The participants express their support to the Iranian progressive, popular and peace loving forces to find solutions for the internal problems faced by the country on the basis of preserving the sovereignty and independence of Iran. We reject any external interference, denouncing any plan for a military attack on Iran under whatever pretext.

We express our full hearted solidarity with the Palestinian people and their desire for an independent State. Forty four years after the occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip, Israel is violating international law, continues its expansionist policies continuing the building of settlements, colonizing East Jerusalem and the West Bank, evicting Palestinians, demolishing Palestinian houses, stealing away the land, water and resources that belong to the Palestinian people.

We reaffirm our support for and solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their legitimate and inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent and sovereign state of Palestine on the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, as well as the right of return for all Palestinian refugees in accordance with U.N. Resolution 194 and the release of all political prisoners from Israeli jails. The meeting demands the lifting of the siege of the Gaza strip and the complete withdrawal of all Israeli occupation forces from the Palestinian and Arab lands, including the Syrian Golan heights

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Declaration of the Lisbon Rally Against NATO

The Campaign “Peace yes! NATO No!” and the men and women taking part in the Demonstration “Peace Yes! NATO No!” Declare:

- NATO is an aggressive military alliance which presently represents the greatest threat to international peace and security.

- NATO, bent on crushing the rights of the people, violating national sovereignties and undermining international law, holds the world hostage to the arms race, the threat of a nuclear war and terror.

- NATO is responsible for heinous crimes, for ending innumerable human lives, for the destruction of countries and resources.

While thousands of human beings die of hunger and preventable diseases and with the excuse of the crisis and combat against the deficit attack the living conditions and rights of the workers, military spending keeps on growing — the military budgets of the NATO member countries together represent around 70% of the world’s military spending.

Those mainly responsible for the worsening of the economic and social situation at the national and international level are the same who promote the arms race, the militarization of international relations and war.

Portugal, a founding member of NATO through the hands of the fascist regime, has for more than 60 years bowed before this bellicose alliance and the interests of the US and great powers of the European Union.

The commitment of the Portuguese authorities clashes with the fundamental principles of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic and the United Nations Charter, of which Portugal is a signatory, such as: sovereignty, independence, non-interference, non-aggression, peaceful resolution of conflicts, equality

among States; abolition of imperialism, of colonialism and other forms of aggression, domination and exploitation; disarmament, dissolution of political and military blocs.

Following the line of the previous



ones, the present Portuguese government imposes new and increasing sacrifices on the workers and spends millions of Euros to adapt the Portuguese armed forces to NATO’s demands and sends

Portuguese soldiers to serve their aggressions.

The defence of peace and the struggle against war is an integral part and necessary condition to ensure the progress and social justice of the peoples.

peace, cooperation and friendship with all the peoples of the world.

The Constitution that established peace and defends, for example, that “All have the right to work” that «All have the right to social security», that «All have the right to healthcare», that «All have the right to housing», that «All have the right to education and culture», is the Constitution that could not leave out that all people are sovereign and have the right to decide their present and future.

The conquest of peace by the Portuguese people is linked to the struggle for better living conditions for the Portuguese workers.

It is because of this awareness that we salute the great General Strike called by CGTP-IN for November 24 and invite all Portuguese men and women workers to follow it.

Valuing the several initiatives, the wide participation and the great experience of unity represented by the Campaign in defence of peace and against the NATO Summit in Portugal — the Campaign “Peace yes” NATO no!” affirm their commitment to continue to strengthen the peace and anti-imperialist movement, persisting in an active intervention for:

- Opposition to NATO and its bellicose goals;
- Withdrawal of Portuguese forces involved in NATO’s military missions;
- An end to foreign military bases and NATO’s installations on national soil;
- Dissolution of NATO;
- Disarmament and the end of nuclear and mass destruction weapons;
- Demand respect and compliance of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic and the dispositions of the United Nations Charter, of international law and the sovereignty and equality of the peoples.

Lisbon, November 20, 2010

will be forced to take appropriate measures to overcome existing problems through dialogue and strengthen the economic and cultural cooperation for the benefit of the people of South Asia.

9. The Conference supports the demands the trial of the war-criminals of 1971 liberation war of Bangladesh and condemn the attack on Prime Minister Shaik Hasina by the fundamentalist organization.

10. The Conference expresses its full support and solidarity with the people of Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, Jordan and Libya for their struggle against the autocratic rules for democracy and human rights and opposes any interference in Libya from outside mainly from US, NATO and European Union.

11. The conference supports the Palestinian people in their struggle for an independent state within the borders of 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital and support the unity of Palestinian people and its territories.

12. The conference supports the demands of the WPC for the complete abolition of Nuclear Weapon states, the right of

each nation for the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

13. The conference expresses its solidarity with the people of Nepal and hope that it will carry forward the peace



Bangladesh Peace Council demonstration against US-NATO aggression in Libya

progress and finalization of the new constitution within the stipulated time to meet the aspiration of the Nepalese people thus

open the new era for peace and progress in Nepal.

14. The conference supports the struggles of the people of Burma for the restoration of democracy and for the release of all political

prisoners.

15. The conference expresses its solidarity with those Bhutanese people who

are fighting for returning to their own homeland.

16. The Conference calls upon all peace and solidarity organizations all mass organizations of students, youth, Trade Unions and other civil society organizations to build a strong movement against the policies of imperialist globalizations and war and to build South Asia a region of peace, stability, democracy, human rights, justice, equality and developments as well as get rid of foreign bases, occupation, terrorism, religious fundamentalism and weapons of mass destructions of all kinds.

17. To achieve the above objectives, the conference recommends to form a broad based South Asian Peace & Solidarity Network in proper consultations with member organizations of WPC, other likeminded peace and solidarity organizations and groups from South Asia. Conference believes that the functioning modalities of above network will be finalized later on by the member organizations of the network.

18. The Conference expresses their sincere gratitude to the Nepal Peace & Solidarity Council for hosting such important meeting and hospitalities they have extended to all participants. ■

Strange Democratization of Authoritarian Regimes

Standpoint of the Civic Association of Soldiers Against War — Prague

For several days, Libya has brutally exposed to air and missile strikes of the armed forces of several NATO countries. The UN Security Council Resolution No.1793 looses them hands to attack. The resolution in the past using several relied entirely dedicated interpretation of Article 27 of the Charter, which governs the Council vote to decide on non-procedural matters. This interpretation is a far cry from both the letter and spirit of this article.

The validity of this statement does not alter the fact that in the past been under pressure from the U.S. and its allies repeatedly abused this interpretation to cover their actions, which lacked any legal basis. Maybe that is why this procedure is euphemistically known as Resolution or “UN mandate” and not as a Security Council decision.

Adoption of a resolution as justification i.a. protection of civilians, ensuring the security of humanitarian aid, effort to stop hostilities and respect previous resolutions of the Security Council embargo on supplying arms and other materials and entering of mercenaries to Libya. To achieve these objectives should result in an immediate ceasefire, end to stop of the violence, attacks against civilians and the ban on all flights - excluding humanitarian flights — in Libyan airspace. The Security Council also authorized Member States to take necessary steps to protect civilians threatened by attacks and populated areas of Libya, including Benghazi, as well as the fact that enforcing the flight ban.

But what is reality. For the second day after the resolution, despite the declared ban on all flights — except humanitarian — USA, Britain and France launched air and missile bombing of the Libyan territory. Only totally mindless person could believe that it is a step to protect civilians and ensure compliance with a ban on all flights. The only explanation could be that the prohibition does not apply to all flights on Air Force combat actions of the three, and possibly other “allied” countries.

Over the past 12 years is no longer a case of 4 democratization «authoritarian regimes» with military force — Yugoslavia, Iraq and Afghanistan — now Libya. The scenario is also almost identical — the inner turmoil State, caused by the economic situation, harassment, critics of the regime that may threaten the security and peace in the region. In doing so, not just evidence, but also a reputable news media and Western, and not least the expression of political and military officials the U.S. and its allies, confirmed by external influences on the induction of instability Gaddafi regime. According to these observations and reports actions against Libya have been long and carefully prepared, even with the help of foreign special troops deployed in the territory of Libya before starting the riots. There is no doubt that in any case not a peaceful, nonviolent protest of the political opposition. These are armed, violent insurgent attacks that have apparently grown into a civil war. The embargo on supplying arms and military equipment, the requirement to stop firing and violence seems to relate to a Libyan government bodies. Combat Operations rebels, financed, armed and even militarily supported from abroad continues.

These facts, in many respects resemble the situation during the civil war in Spain before 2 World War II. Also, if the government was deprived of the possibility of legal means to strengthen their defenses and options. Fascist insurgents on the other hand enjoyed the undisguised support from abroad, including substantial military assistance.

The attack against Libya, a gross, cynical disregard other commitments to UN Member States take in particular under Article 2 of

the Charter. They committed themselves, among other things settle their international disputes by peaceful means, and refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the objectives of the UN. According to the final paragraph of Article 2, “no provision of the Charter gives the UN the right to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state. Inadmissibility of interference in internal affairs and concerns of all Member States.”

These things will undoubtedly include the maintenance of peace and order in the country, including the actions of armed operations against insurgents, intrudes country into civil war. Armed intervention in the civil war on the rebels is a gross violation of this and other binding rules of international law. Instead of international law binding on all states of the international community is forced “the sword-law.”

The question arises whether a smokescreen of apparent mass popular support for storm protection of “human rights”, protect civilians and put an end of violence is hiding another, far less noble, entirely earthly, material goals and objectives. Whether this is really prepared for a long time elimination of Libya’s erratic emperor, «dictator», which, in comparison with other dictators, Arab oil sheikhs and kings, gave the brand part of the profits from exports of oil and gas to improve the living standards of citizens in Libya. This liquidation would also be a way with UN authorization, even questionable and by many sides rejected and criticized, dominate the Libyan oil and gas which were originally mainly U.S. and UK oil companies before nationalizing by “the dictator”. If Gaddafi and the Libyan revolution will be defeated, a fictional African dictator will not be destroyed. It will create a precedent for other globalized military action against all progressive leaders who seek to ensure that their peoples acceptable and dignified life. In this regard we had already heard the president of France.

It is widely recognized that controlling the air space is not sufficient to ensure the dominance of any state. Although the UN Security Council and does not explicitly exclude the presence of foreign occupying forces in any form in any part of the territory of Libya. Numerous experiences of ancient and very recent past, however, show that after very long time, it may happen that the attainment of the targets pursued operations against Libya by its initiators, can be attained only by air and missile strikes and going strong pressure on the deployment of ground forces. Even under the pretext of ensuring the protection and equitable distribution of international humanitarian aid. And of course with the consent or even at the invitation of “revolutionary” rebel “government” could serve as a justification of “revisions” where if the Security Council considers the landing ground of the armed forces of the States that are engaged in an attack against Libya. With the way the USA, Britain and France, and gradually, other NATO countries have acceded to the application of UN Security Council, particularly as regards the scope and form of the armed forces nor disagree States, which had originally abstained, including both permanent Security Council members — China and Russia Federation. Similarly, critical opinion has taken a number of other states, including the Arab League, African Union and Turkey. With increasing resistance to the ongoing attack against Libya and the increasing number of civilian casualties and damage to civilian buildings and infrastructure of the country faces in public opinion around the world.

Members of the civic association Soldiers against the war as well as a democratically

minded people in the world against the Libyan regime raise serious concerns. Along with them, but we share the view that a legitimate government, which seems to support a significant proportion of the population, which is recognized by the overwhelming majority of the international community has every right to oppose those actions reasonably.

Members of the civic association Soldiers against the war as consistent opponents of solving international problems of war shall be deemed part of this resistance. We join the ever stronger demand for immediate ceasefire and all attacks against civilians. However, not only by the Libyan armed forces, but also by the insurgents, and air and naval forces of NATO. They may be, in our view, consistent with UN Security Council used solely to check compliance with the no-fly zones and

arms embargo on the territory of Libya.

We believe that the most viable way to deal with dangerous situation around Libya renewal negotiations in the UN Security Council. They should also be taken concrete steps to initiate dialogue between warring parties in Libya without any preconditions from outside and foreign interference. Its aim should be to settle the internal conflict and create conditions for strengthening the process of democratization of Libya as a sovereign, unitary state.

On behalf of Council of the Czech civic association Soldiers Against the War (SAW):

Lt. Gen. Oskar Marek
(Board Member of SAW)

Col. retired Jiri Bureš
(President of SAW)

Maj.Gen. Michal Gondek
(Board Member of SAW)

World Peace Council Statement on Cyprus

The WPC expresses its solidarity with the Cypriot people and the Cyprus Peace Council in its desire and firm opposition to the entry of Cyprus to the “Partnership for Peace” of NATO.

The people of Cyprus, both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots are well aware of the role of NATO and its various war drive mechanisms in history, the invasion and partial occupation of Cyprus itself is a result of a NATO backed plan in 1974, which is lasting till today. The recent maneuvers of certain political forces in Cyprus to raise a motion in the Cypriot Parliament for the incorporation of the Cyprus Republic into NATO’s “auxiliary” structures has to be condemned as an act of submission to the imperialist plans. It is for the second time that the matter is raised after the firm rejection of such a plan by the President of the Cyprus Republic Dimitris Christofias in 2009. It further constitutes a provocation to the historical memory and will of the peace loving people of Cyprus, which is opposing firmly NATO, its old and especially the new concept after Lisbon 2010. Especially Cyprus with its geostrategic proximity to the Middle East would be used for the offensive plans and threats of imperialism and NATO in particular for this region.

The WPC is opposing NATO from its founding days and life has proved us completely right. NATO and its various cooperation structures are aiming in securing the interests of the Multinational corporations, their political spheres of influence and are spreading war and terror over peoples and regions.

The particular involvement of Cyprus into NATO’s structures would create an even more negative environment for a just, viable and fair solution in the Cyprus issue and would be one more obstacle for that.

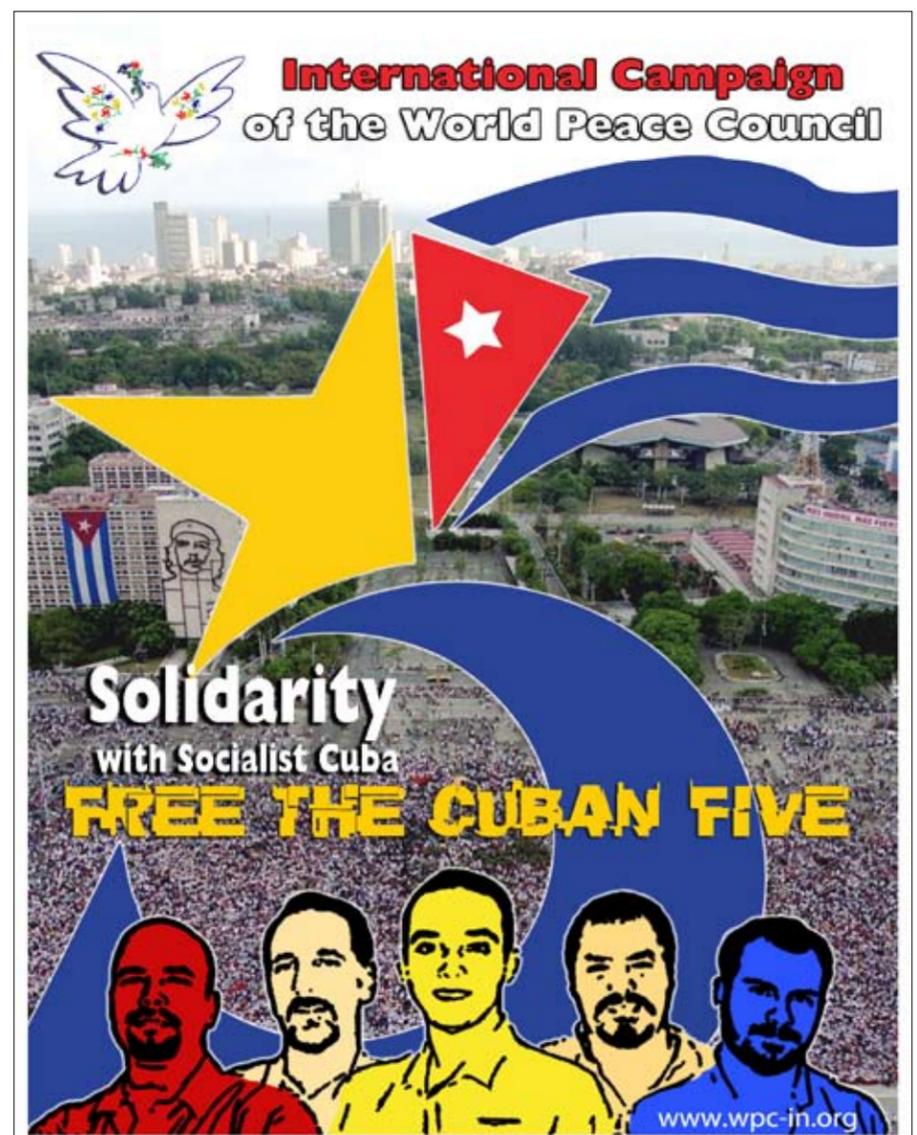
We express our support to the Cyprus Peace Council, one of the prestigious WPC members, which is expressing the genuine will of the Cypriot people and call upon all members and friends of the WPC in the world to express their solidarity against the imperialist plans in Cyprus.

NATO remains the common enemy of all peoples!

The struggle against NATO in each country and globally goes on!

Imperialism is not invincible!

WPC Secretariat
Athens, 21 February 2011



Speech by the Representative of Association for Defense of Peace, Solidarity and Democracy in Iran

International Meeting of Peace Movements from the Balkans and the Middle East, Chania-Greece, 19-20 March, 2011

It is not an exaggeration to say that the Middle East and the world are heading for a major disaster, while gripped by a deep multi-faceted crisis. This is a crisis whose casualties are the ordinary and working people of the world and also the opportunity for achieving sustainable peace and progress.

As far as the Middle East region is concerned, the continued presence and operation of occupying forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, the tensions in and around nuclear Pakistan, the chronic crisis in Palestine and Lebanon and the new flash point in Libya are the political realities in the region. Also, despite dramatic changes in the world in the past 20 years, the people of this region are still suffering, as a result of the aggressive and war-mongering policies of the Israeli government backed by the U.S. and E.U.

[We] totally reject the US, French and British action against Libya and state that, irrespective of our political evaluation of the Libyan government, we believe that no foreign intervention in that country under any pretext can be justified. [W]e totally condemn the military invasion of Bahrain by Saudi military forces and the suppression of the popular protests there. We believe that this could not have happened without at least the tacit agreement of the US, whose 5th Fleet is based in Bahrain. [We] register our strongest condemnation of the leaders of the Arab League, who have colluded with NATO in providing the fig leaf for masking the real intent of the NATO forces in attacking Libya.

We hope that during the course of this conference a better understanding will be achieved of the direction and significance of events in and around the Middle East and of the factors influencing the situation in this sensitive area of the world. These include:

- The aggressive policies of the US administration and its allies in the region (in particular Israel);
- The role that reactionary regimes in the region are playing; and
- The strength and potential of the democratic forces to influence the international balance of forces towards attainment of a

peaceful future for the region.

The controlling role of the U.S. in some countries of the region enables it to gain access to oil and gas reserves and gives it crucial geo-political control over a region that is the connecting bridge between three continents and their resources. The location of many countries in this region means they can control the supply and transportation of its vast oil and gas reserves to both the East and West. By gaining and maintaining complete control over the production and price of oil, the U.S. can potentially put pressure on its economic rivals such as China, Russia, Japan and the European Union.

The events of recent decades have demonstrated time and again that the U.S. administration is not a force for peace and development in the Middle East. The wars that devastated Iraq and Afghanistan, the opening of military aggression against Libya, the continued US support for the Israeli government, the occupation of Palestinian lands and the threats of further military attacks and interference aimed at pressuring countries like Iran all demonstrate that what the U.S. brings is the opposite of peace and development in every case.

By contrast, what peace activists have to offer are their plans, policies, solidarity, and their power to mobilize people to achieve a very different future. It is in this connection that we should elaborate in our policies the links between the struggle for peace and progress and the fight for democracy and human rights.

As peace-loving people, we are also democrats. Peace can best be maintained under democratic conditions, and our campaign for democracy and human rights can be most successful under peaceful conditions. The key to understanding the reality of the situation in the Middle East is to understand the vicious circle of imperialist adventures, the devastating and irresponsible policies of local dictatorships against their own people, and the manner in which these two lend a hand to each other in building the tense circumstances from which they both benefit....

On the situation in Iran, the consequences of corruption and the adoption of devastating

and repressive policies by the Iranian regime have been poverty and hardship for ordinary working people. It is important to know that in Iran not only the state and various branches of power have been militarized, but that the economy is also in the hands of military or para-military groups, particularly the Guards Corps. It is a fundamentalist repressive regime that lacks the support of the ordinary people, is faced with mass discontent and is militarized in every aspect of life. It will adopt any tactic to stay in power, from brutal repression to calculatedly creating tension and risk of war in order to avert social progress. The provocative rhetoric of the leaders of the regime about Israel and the Holocaust should also be looked at in this light.

Due to its irresponsible and belligerent foreign policies, the political and diplomatic position of the regime is very weak on the international scene. On the other hand, since Iran's national productive economy is ruined and the country heavily depends on oil revenue and foreign imports, the sovereignty of the country is being played into the hands of regional powers. In reaction, the regime brings into play its military might and national oil money to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and also to gain the support of other fundamentalist groups, as it has done for years in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Iraq, etc. We believe that such a regime might well at any moment irresponsibly ignite a conflict.

The dynamics of these policies for the people of Iran are reflected in the uncertainty which is now facing the regime. Following the June 2009 presidential election and falsification of the results by the regime, protests have swept the country. The protesters are demanding change, freedom, an end to repression and the recognition of human rights in Iran. They have been met with violence, repression and imprisonment for many. This response is that of a regime that lacks confidence in itself and can only resort to the use of the state repression to hold on to power.

International solidarity with the ordinary people of Iran can very effectively put extra pressure on the regime for change. Such solidarity is vital in ensuring that the Iranian

people know that they are not alone in the stand they are taking against the anti-democratic practices of the theocratic regime.

Our position against imperialist intervention

It is imperative to reiterate that the crisis over Iran's nuclear dossier and the resulting international tension and escalation of friction in the Persian Gulf region genuinely concerns the progressive, left and patriotic forces in Iran and the international peace movement. In recognizing the national rights of a country, including the right to develop peaceful use of nuclear energy, we have always asserted our strong opposition to any foreign interference in Iran's domestic affairs. We have, at the same time, stated that Iran's theocratic regime is taking advantage of this issue simply as a guise under which to suppress the rights of people and divert public opinion from escalating domestic problems. The aggression of the US and its allies in the region, which has led, under various guises, to the military occupation of two neighbouring countries, its unprecedented military presence in the Persian Gulf and to the crisis in Bahrain and Libya demonstrates the danger of providing imperialism with the excuses it needs to intervene.

The progressive and peace-loving forces have a unique responsibility to not only oppose U.S. plans in the Middle East but to mobilize the people on a broad, anti-intervention program directed at building the foundations for peace, democracy, development and social justice. Clearly the struggle to put an end to the military adventurism of the U.S. and its allies in our region is important. In particular, an immediate end to the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, the return of occupied territories by the Israeli government as set out in U.N. resolutions and the avoidance of another destructive war, with Iran or any other nation, are important duties for the peace and progressive movements of the world.

ADPSD-Iran and CODIR pledge their support for this struggle and its noble goals. We are determined to continue our struggle to create the widest support for the struggle of the Iranian people for peace, human rights, democracy, and social justice. ■

NO TO US-NATO INTERVENTION ...

(from p. 1)

protests throughout the Middle East and North Africa; second, the emergence of powerful, sovereigntist people's movements poses a dramatic threat to the balance of forces in the region, which has until now favoured the policies of transnational energy corporations, the imperialist states of Europe and North America, and the government of Israel. This threat is the primary motivator behind the desperate attempts to generate pretexts for foreign military interference in Libya.

The current efforts by Western governments to demonize Qaddafi as a murderous madman who has committed crimes against humanity are eerily reminiscent of the similar treatment that Saddam Hussein received prior to the US-led invasion of Iraq, and should give pause for sober reflection. Reports of Libyan military strikes against unarmed civilians are distressing and such actions, if substantiated, deserve strong condemnation. However, it is dangerously hypocritical to demand that Qaddafi answer for these allegations without demanding that imperialist leaders answer for their role in bombing civilians in Yugoslavia in 1999, or for bulldozing trenches filled with live Iraqi soldiers in 2003, or for massacring thousands of civilians in US-NATO actions over the past decade, or for knowingly handing Afghan detainees over to torture.

The Canadian Peace Congress is concerned that some voices in the broader peace movement have called for the governments of

Canada and other countries to intervene in Libya, citing the doctrine of "Responsibility to Protect" or R2P. While the outrage over reports of civilian deaths is understandable, the R2P doctrine is framed in a manner that ignores the geopolitical realities of the current imperialist world order. From the experiences of NATO's intervention in Yugoslavia, two US-led invasions of Iraq, the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan, and the coup in Haiti in 2004, it is very clear that foreign interventions under the guise of humanitarianism immediately transform into violent, exploitative campaigns whose aim is to control regions, peoples and resources for the benefit of powerful international entities. By citing the "Responsibility to Protect", the peace movement inadvertently becomes a political fig leaf for imperialist intervention.

The danger of war, including the use of nuclear weapons, is very real and is being fuelled by the military involvement of the US, EU, NATO and Israel. There are reports that hundreds of American, British and French military personnel have already landed in Libya, along with Canadian JTF2 forces, to act as "defence advisors" to sec-

tions of the anti-Qaddafi forces. The United Nations Security Council has imposed sanctions on Libya and there are moves to militarily enforce a no-fly zone over the eastern part of the country, a military measure that would necessarily be preceded by massive bombardment. Several countries – including Canada – have already contributed heavily armed warships to a naval armada in international waters off Libya.

If there is to be any hope of peace, democracy and progress in Libya, this interference must be opposed and reversed. Libya must not be allowed to become a US-NATO military base in North Africa, the springboard for imperialist efforts to manipulate and corrupt the popular movements in Tunisia, Egypt and beyond. Ostensibly, imperialist moves to interfere in Libya emerge from their opposition to democratic, sovereigntist and progressive forces in Libya and throughout the entire region. Libya could serve as a dangerous precedent for imperialism to block all popular uprisings in the region and throughout the world.

It is the sole right and task of the people of Libya to determine the course of their

political and economic development, free from foreign interference. As the World Peace Council stated, "We underline the right of the Libyan people to express their anger and agony and their demands for changes in the social and economic field and their sovereign right to determine the political developments in their own country. The [imperialist governments] which are serving the interests of the multinational corporations and international capital are searching for opportunity to take more and open control of the oil and gas resources of Libya and expand their spheres of influence."

The key responsibility of the peace movement in Canada is to prevent Canadian involvement in aggressive, unjust and illegal military endeavours. In light of this responsibility, the Canadian Peace Congress:

- Declares its solidarity with the Libyan people and demands an end to the bloodshed;
- Denounces the UN sanctions against the Libyan people;
- Calls on the Canadian government to withdraw from its military interference, including cancelling the deployment of the HMCS Charlottetown;
- Opposes any foreign military intervention, including efforts to impose a no-fly zone over Libya.

Canadian Peace Congress
Executive Council
March 4, 2011



STOP THE WAR IN KOREA!

CPC CALLS FOR DIPLOMACY AND PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

As the political crisis in Korea deepens, the Canadian Peace Congress calls on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to immediately distance Canada from the war-mongering actions of South Korea and the United States, and to work toward a peaceful and diplomatic solution. Furthermore, the Congress reiterates its call for the Canadian government to work through the United Nations to normalize relations between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), based on non-interference, cooperation and peace.

The history of the crisis in Korea is the history of imperialist interference and aggression, in which the United States has consistently employed a policy of military build-up, provocation and war. This policy has been implemented both directly and indirectly, through the South Korean government. In its pursuit of a protracted conflict, the United States has utilized outright provocations – such as the massive troop presence in the peninsula, and also deception – such as the Bush government's reneging on the agreement to supply the DPRK with oil to replace electricity production lost by abandonment of its nuclear energy program. The objectives of this policy are to prolong the Korean war and the attendant US military presence in the region, to prevent the re-unification of Korea, and to encircle and contain China.

Despite the well-rehearsed statements in the commercial media that ascribe full responsibility for the current flare-up to North Korea, there is much evidence suggesting that the provocation was from the South. Even the New York Times acknowledged in a November 24 editorial that, the DPRK's "attack on Yeonpyeong Island occurred after South Korean forces on exercises fired test shots into waters near the North Korean coast." Certainly, such a tense situation requires restraint by all parties; however, it is dangerously hypocritical for the United States or South Korea to demand restraint from the DPRK while continually subjecting it to aggressive postures and provocations.

The Canadian Peace Congress noted in a June 2009 statement regarding the crisis in Korea:

"The basic threat to peace in the Asia Pacific region is not from the DPRK, but stems from the continued provocative interference by US imperialism. The United States was the first state to develop nuclear weapons; it remains the only state to have used nuclear weapons against a population and is the only state to deploy nuclear weapons outside of its own borders. It is the United States which deploys 250,000 military personnel in the Pacific region, including nearly 30,000 who routinely practice ground invasions of the DPRK, in order to protect its economic and security interests. And, it is the United States who has refused to follow through with its commitment to dialogue with North Korea and instead raised the spectre of sanctions, regime change and now, military confrontation."

As the danger of war continues to grow, it is fuelled by US and South Korean plans to conduct massive joint military exercises in the Yellow Sea. These manoeuvres – which

follow on the heels of NATO's Lisbon Summit – are also intended to demonstrate imperialist might to China, and are therefore doubly provocative. The United States and NATO both maintain policies of first strike with nuclear weapons, and the Korean conflict may very well be a pretext for a demonstration of this policy.



Furthermore, the United States has signalled its willingness to internationalize the conflict by noting that Canada and other countries could be drawn into a war against the DPRK, citing the absence of a permanent peace to end the ongoing United Nations military mission to Korea.

Against these aggressive and dangerous

responses, the Canadian Peace Congress joins with the World Peace Council and its member organizations in condemning this US-NATO provocation. The Congress calls for:

- The cessation of military exercises and provocations, and for constraint and diplomatic talks to address the current crisis;

- The immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops and their weapons – in particular those from the United States – from the Korean peninsula, and the dismantling of all US military bases in the region;

- South Korea to demilitarize the four disputed islands;

- The United Nations to immediately

engage in meaningful talks with the North and South Korean governments to establish a permanent peace – ending the armistice and formally ending the UN military mission to Korea;

- Concrete steps to bring existing nuclear arsenals – in particular that of the United States – onto the immediate agenda of the United Nations, with a commitment to dismantle those arsenals as a concrete prerequisite for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament;

- The immediate end to the sanctions against DPRK and for the provision of UN-sponsored assistance to the DPRK, in the spirit of international cooperation and respect for sovereignty and the right to self-determination.

Furthermore, the Canadian Peace Congress calls on all peace organizations and peace-minded people in Canada to demand that the Canadian government oppose the drive to war and pursue concrete, diplomatic and democratic efforts to bring peace to the Korean peninsula. The Canadian people have consistently and overwhelmingly rejected war as an option for settling international affairs, and the Canadian government must reflect this view to the United States and the international community.

Canadian Peace Congress
Executive Council
5 December 2010

COMMUNIQUE OF BALKANS AND THE ME (from p. 3)

and the Lebanese Shebaa Farms.

We express our solidarity to the peace loving forces inside Israel which are struggling side by side with the Palestinian people for their just cause and denounce the discrimination and harassments of Israeli citizens by the regime because of their political support to the Palestinian cause.

The meeting took place in Chania, city of Crete, where the US military base of Souda Bay is located, from where the imperialists have operated various times in the past military attacks against peoples of the region. The meeting denounces the planned joint military exercise of Greece-Israel-USA for April 2011 starting from Souda Bay, as signals for a possible military attack on Iran and calls for a massive participation in the protest demonstration on 20th March in front of the US base of Souda Bay.

The participants salute the Peace Committees of Crete and the peace loving people of the island and thank them for their warm hospitality and for hosting this meeting.

Participating Organizations:

- Bulgarian National Peace Council
- Anti-fascist Committee of Croatia
- Cyprus Peace Council
- Egyptian Peace Committee
- Association for the Defense of Peace, Solidarity and Democracy in Iran
- Peace Committee of Israel
- Lebanese Peace Committee
- Palestinian Committee for Peace and Solidarity
- Belgrade Forum for the World of Equals Serbia
- Syrian National Peace Council
- Peace Association of Turkey
- THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL ■

Announcement of the Secretariat of WPC

The Secretariat of WPC announces the holding of the meeting of the Executive Committee on April 29-30, 2011 in Havana, Cuba, hosted by the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ), followed by the International Seminar Against Foreign Military Bases, to be held on May 4-5, 2011 in the Cuban province Guantanamo.

USPC STATEMENT ON EGYPT

(from p. 1)

of the Egyptian people, will undoubtedly lead to a loss of total US and Israeli control over the region. It will mark the beginning of the end for the imperialist domination of the Middle East.

It is for this reason that the US Peace Council, along with all freedom- and peace-loving people of the world, follows the events in Egypt with great concern. The first phase of struggle has ended in the victory of the Egyptian people, but their struggle for genuine democracy continues.

A concerted effort in support of the anti-imperialist struggles of the peoples of Egypt and the Middle East is needed. The US Peace Council calls upon its allies in the peace movement to redouble their organized efforts in support of the rightful struggles of the people of Egypt and the Middle East and demand the following:

- The US stop interfering in the internal affairs of Egypt, including use of direct military threats, manipulating the political process through funding or otherwise lending support to pro-US "opposition" figures, groups, NGOs and parties whose objective is to undermine the people's revolution.

- President Obama immediately issue an executive order to stop all financial aid to the Egyptian military.

- Mubarak's bank accounts be immediately frozen and all the monies taken from the country be returned.

- Trials be held for those who have committed crimes against the Egyptian people, including those who are still in power.

- An end to the US-endorsed blockage of peaceful exchange between Egypt and the Palestinian people.

- The United Nations guarantee the integrity, impartiality and freedom of the upcoming elections in Egypt.

For a genuine democracy to be established in Egypt, the people must be able to exercise their will through a truly free and impartial election. Undoubtedly, such an election cannot be carried out by a government that is controlled by the military and the officials of the Mubarak regime. This makes the immediate transfer of power to a new pro-people interim civilian government necessary.

The US Peace Council declares its full support for the struggles of the Egyptian people to achieve true democracy in their country.

February 12, 2011 ■

Peace NEWS

The Cyprus Peace Council Statement

The Cyprus Peace Council witnesses with indignation the efforts of political Parties to undermine the institution of the President of the Cyprus Republic, violating the separation of powers principle, plotting at the back-stage for the entrance of our Country to the Partnership for Peace, which comprises a pre-chamber of NATO.

We deem that the stance and behavior of the Parties: Democratic Rally (DISI), Democratic Party (DIKO), the Socialist Party (EDEK) and the European Party (EUROKO) is unacceptable, as they schemed and planned the submission of a resolution plan in the Parliament claiming for the entrance of Cyprus to the Partnership for Peace; a fact which quickly leads our divided country to the bloodshed military-political alliance of NATO.

As it seems, the memory of certain people has faded. Therefore, we remind them that the twin crime realized at the expense of the Cypriot people was planned during the spring Meeting of NATO in Lisbon, in 1971. Turkey, taking full advantage of the Athens Junta and EOKA B coup d'état, invaded the island, divided the island and spread death, destruction and refugees. The occupation forces of Turkey comprise a powerful pillar of NATO with an upgraded role in claiming a bigger share in territories division and peoples' exploitation in our region.

We therefore wonder: what is the patriotic duty that certain persons serve – persons who claim to be among the democratic resistance forces – when they proceed with such plannings that will, in essence, place Cyprus at a pre-accession stage to the warlike NATO, which comprises an enemy of the peoples and of peace?

We, in Cyprus, contrary to any voices and planning of politicians and Parties, will continue tenaciously to resist, by the side of the Government, not only to the entrance of Cyprus in NATO, but also to the Partnership for Peace, which is the European pre-chamber leading to NATO.

We therefore call all progressive, peace loving people to condemn all those who plan our entrance to warlike programs, Partnerships and Alliances. We call every Cypriot to honor the dead of the coup d'état and of the Turkish invasion, and to resist the plannings for our accession to the military camp of the guilty parties for the Cyprus tragedy.

THE CENTRAL SECRETARIAT
Nicosia, 19 February 2011

Speech by the Executive Secretary of the WPC at the PANA Event in Dublin, Ireland

Upon the invitation of the Peace & Neutrality Alliance (PANA) of Ireland, the Executive Secretary of WPC Iraklis Tsavdaridis visited Dublin on 24th and 25th March 2011. PANA, which is a grass root oriented movement, active in the fields of the struggle for peace, against war and aggression, against the militarization of the EU and against NATO, is a friendly organization with which the WPC shares many things. During the visit of WPC to Dublin the strong ties and mutual appreciation were reaffirmed. PANA organized a meeting of the WPC with 5 members of the Irish Parliament (Dail) and spoke at a public meeting at the Ireland Institute of Dublin (The Peace Movement vs E.U. and NATO), attended by more than one hundred Irish peace activists. The event was jointly organized by PANA, the CPI and the Peoples' Movement of Ireland.

Excerpts of the speech:

The recent period several peoples of the Middle East and North Africa have shown with their massive uprisings that it is possible to achieve democratic changes and to get rid of totalitarian regimes. The massive popular participation especially in Tunisia and Egypt is an encouraging signal for all the peoples of the region and the world. The teachings of these uprisings are valuable for all of us. They show that it is not true that such revolts and upsurges belong to the past; that people can impose their will, despite the complex situation and the contradictions from case to case. We consider Libya to be a different case. We have no illusions about the character of the regime in Libya, particularly in the last years. The genuine and popular protests of Libyan people cannot be expressed by some ex-ministers of Ghaddafi and by a tribal competition within the Libyan society. The imperialists did everything to reach the decision of the UN Security Council for the imposition of a No-Fly Zone in order to unleash a criminal attack on the country that has rich oil and gas reserves.

This aggression like the previous ones against Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Iraq has many sides and aspects, but it has one thing in common with all the others. Imperialism, its leading forces and structures, is neglecting and violating every sense of International law as it was established for decades long and is carrying out a bloody war against a sovereign country, once again with the pretext of humanitarian intervention.

Imperialism is used to impose violent "regime changes", even in cases which were serving long time their interests and collaborating with them. The cases of Mubarak in Egypt or Ben Ali in Tunisia, both outstanding members of the club of the Socialist International till their recent expulsion, shows how the imperialists are dealing with their collaborators after they have no use for them anymore.

Their goals and intentions are becoming meanwhile so obvious. We can even observe the different competitive interests which are clashing between the imperialists in the case of Libya, while altogether are bombing and attacking a country which was selling big part of its oil to the European Oil multinationals, namely British Petroleum and TOTAL. Is it a diabolic coincidence that the Libyan contracts with the French TOTAL expired just the day

France started first its military attacks? Was it by chance that French President N. Sarkozy not only received the "opposition" forces in Paris but also recognized them as "legitimate representative of the Libyan people"?

The imperialist aggression against Libya has of course main and secondary "players". France, UK and the USA have launched a full-scale war, from air and sea. More NATO partners have announced their readiness to be part of the aggression like Norway, Denmark, Canada, and Belgium. From the Arab world two first class allies of imperialism have joined, the UAE and Qatar, while Saudi Arabia, first invaded Bahrain in order to "export Democracy" there. Greece and its government led by the President of the Socialist International G. Papandreou already gave all ports and airports, facilitating the military operations from the very first moment. But even the governments of other NATO states which are not openly participating in the aggression like Germany are not objecting the operations; neither will they veto a decision in NATO to assume the coordination of the operation "Odyssey Dawn" after the first week of bombings.

Developments prove that the inter-imperialist rivalries are more than ever existing, only that they do not mean anything positive for the peoples and their rights. We call upon all the peace-loving peoples of the world not to accept and to fight back the decisions of the UN, of the willing alliance under the French President and of NATO tomorrow.

Just a few months ago when NATO held its summit in Lisbon adopting its "new strategic concept" we were stating that it constitutes a further expansion of NATO's actions under new pretexts and "threats", with the abolition of even the last respect to the International law and the founding charter of the UN, serving clearly and offensively the interests of the Multinational corporations and big International capital. NATO is the "world sheriff," which is becoming a force of execution of the arbitrary decisions of the UN and the case of Libya is one more example for the manipulation of the UN and its abuse.

The imperialists of the EU and NATO are speaking about International Law and the protection of the lives of civilians. Apart from hypocritical and dubious it is also of double moral. Where is the International law in the case of the Palestinian people who are suffering from a slowly genocide and are deprived of their right for an independent State, not to mention the dozens of resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly of the UN? Why the International Law is not applied in the case of the occupation of Western Sahara or the partial occupation of Cyprus till today?

In the course of preparations for the military aggression and occupation of Iraq in 2003, the main argument was that the regime in Baghdad was in possession of Weapons of Mass Destruction. Later, when this flagrant lie was revealed nobody amongst the governments of the EU or NATO raised the question of withdrawal of the foreign troops from Iraq, the killings of civilians and destruction went on and is still going on. Meanwhile the oil of the country is flowing under the US control and a puppet regime has been installed.

In the case of Afghanistan the US and its allies called for a "war against terror", against

the Taliban, which were trained, financed and guided for decades long by the CIA. The invasion and occupation of Afghanistan resulted again in a puppet regime in Kabul and in new records of the opium production and its export for use of the International drugs trafficking.

But also in the murderous 78 days long bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999 by NATO, many lies have been revealed especially afterwards. The goal of USA, the EU and NATO to divide the former Yugoslavia in parts and create EU and NATO protectorates like the ones of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo was serving the goals of Imperialism in the broader region, their plans for the "Missile Defense Shield", their interests in Central Asia and the "New Middle East Plan".

The strategy of imperialism is very clear all these years, despite the contradictions or rivalries that appear from time to time. It is at least naive and dangerous if somebody believes that the various imperialist forces are different from each other or the one better than the other.

The WPC is proud for its firm and principle positions for more than 60 years towards NATO for example. Our peoples know that NATO was behind dictatorships and reactionary regimes and dozens of coups in all corners of the world.

The WPC did not discover NATO just recently, or only after the invasion of Afghanistan or Iraq, neither did we ever believe that the new US President Obama would bring the slightest change in the US foreign policy, even before he was awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize, which constitutes a farce for the award itself. The WPC never believed in the EU as a "democratic counter pole" to the USA. The imperialist character of the EU is clearly stated and reaffirmed in its Lisbon Treaty and on daily basis in various parts of the world. The EU's complicity is visible in relation to the crimes against the Palestinian and Saharawi people who are under Israeli and Moroccan occupation respectively. The double standard policy towards the Israeli aggressions against Syria, Lebanon or the threats against Iran is speaking for themselves. The reactionary role of the EU is visible with the so-called "common position" towards Cuba.

All governments of the EU and NATO states share the responsibility for the imperialist crimes and plans of the two organisms. The whatsoever contradictions between the forces inside the NATO or/and EU or between them, are underlining only the fierce competition of their ruling classes for bigger shares in profits and markets. Thus we denounce not only NATO, but also each and every government that signs and steers its policies.

We are very concerned with the situation regarding peace and security worldwide. The preemptive doctrine of the USA, the new strategic concept of NATO, the militarization of the EU along with the abuse of the UN and the prevailing of the "law of the jungle", creates an explosive framework for humanity worldwide.

The WPC will keep on its firm positions and actions on the side of the poor and the oppressed, till the workers and the peoples will defeat imperialism in each country and worldwide. The future of humankind cannot be seen in imperialist wars, occupation and social injustice.

The struggle continues the victory will be ours! ■



WORLD PEACE

World Peace Council

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