




new perspectives

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Special Edition

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Part I/II



Bureau Meeting
WORLD
PEACE COUNCIL
Berlin





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Berlin,
April 18–20, 1975

Meeting of the Bureau of the World Peace Council's Presidential Committee

The Bureau of the Presidential Committee of the World Peace Council gathered in the capital of the German Democratic Republic, April 18–20, 1975, for a session that aroused great interest among world opinion. On the 30th anniversary of the victory over Hitlerite fascism close at hand the participants in the three-day meeting discussed the tasks to be solved by the peace forces throughout the world to strengthen the international process of détente in the struggle for European security, against fascism and neo-fascism.

Romesh Chandra, Secretary-General of the World Peace Council, in his introductory speech drew up an impressive balance-sheet of the struggle of the peace forces all over the world and explained the new tasks facing the world peace movement.

Prof. Yevgeni K. Fyodorov, head of the Soviet delegation and member of the World Peace Council's Bureau, told the delegates that Soviet public opinion



would not slacken its efforts in the campaign for further international détente.

French Senator Raymond Guyot, a member of the World Peace Council's Bureau, drew striking lessons from history for the present-day struggle for peace.

Prof. Albert Norden, a member of the World Peace Council's Bureau, representing the peace movement of the GDR, thanked the World Peace Council for having chosen the capital of the GDR for this important meeting and declared that the world peace movement would always have a permanent home among the people of the German Democratic Republic.

Willi Stoph, Chairman of the GDR Council of State, sent a message of greetings to the participants in the meeting of the Bureau—and Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer, acting on behalf of the GDR Government, extended a cordial welcome to those attending the meeting.

The session of the Bureau of the World Peace Council's Presidential Committee, attended by representatives of peace movements from 40 countries, became another milestone in the work of the international peace movement and in the continuation of the ideas and aims of the World Congress of Peace Forces in Moscow. This special edition "New Perspectives" is publishing extracts from speeches given during the inaugural session and the documents adopted by the meeting.





Romesh Chandra

Impressive Victories in the Struggle for Peace

The World Peace Council is greatly honoured by and grateful for the support given to the Council ever since its birth by the people and the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

We come to Berlin from many lands to bring to the people of the GDR the solidarity of the peoples of the world during this year of the thirtieth anniversary of liberation.

The German Democratic Republic—the first German peace state—grew out of the glorious victory of the peoples of the world over Hitler fascism. The GDR is a symbol of the determination of mankind to safeguard peace. The GDR proclaims to the peoples everywhere that the sacrifices of the martyrs of the antifascist liberation struggle were not in vain. The German Democratic Republic stands as a bastion barring the road to fascism and war.

The Soviet Union played the decisive role in the victory over Hitler fascism. Twenty million of its best sons and daughters gave their lives in the struggle to defend the world against the hordes of fascism.

Today, the same Soviet Union is the most powerful defender of world peace, the most powerful sentry on guard over the independence of all peoples.

Every people, which fights for its freedom and for social progress, against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism knows that it can count always on the Soviet Union to support it.

We also pay tribute today to the glorious resistance movements, the partisans, the fighters in France, in Poland, in Yugoslavia—everywhere.

Yes, the year of the thirtieth anniversary of the greatest event in human history since the October Revolution, is being marked by the onward march of the peoples for peace and national independence.

We salute the people of Cambodia, led by the National United Front and their Royal Government of National Unity, on the occasion of the total defeat inflicted by them on the United States aggressors and their puppets. Today, the flags of the patriotic forces are flying over Phnom Penh and over every inch of the territory of Cambodia.

The hour of the final ending of U.S. imperialism's aggression and interference in Vietnam and of the replacing of the Thieu clique by an administration prepared to implement the Paris agreement, is now at hand.

The World Peace Council sends its congratulations and its greetings of total solidarity to the entire Vietnamese people at this moment of their most glorious victories.

We celebrate this week the first anniversary of the liquidation of fifty years of fascist rule in Portugal. On this occasion, we extend our full solidarity to the democratic forces of the army and the people.

The fascist junta in Greece is no more. The democratic forces—no longer in the concentration camps and torture chambers, no longer in exile—are working to build a new life for their people.

African liberation goes forward with mighty strides, as Mozambique and Angola prepare to follow Guinea-Bissau to full independence, as the liberation fighters of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa hit harder at the racist and colonialist regimes.

The Arab peoples are giving rebuffs to U.S. imperialism's conspiracies to divide them. The people of Palestine led by the PLO have won for their liberation struggle, for their legitimate national rights, the recognition of hundreds of millions and of the United Nations itself.

Europe will mark this year of the thirtieth anniversary through the successful completion of the Conference on European Security and Cooperation and the signing of the most vital accords.

For the present-day new international climate of détente and ever fresh successes for peace and for the policy and the principles of peaceful coexistence, the world owes much to the victory over Hitler fascism thirty years ago.

It is no accident that today the most aggressive imperialist forces—opposed to the process of détente, and anxious to grab still greater profits from their armaments manufacture—are using the most reactionary circles in several countries to impose fascist and neo-fascist regimes and to strengthen fascist and neo-fascist forces and tendencies. The fight for peace is inextricably linked with the fight against fascism and neo-fascism wherever it raises its head.

That is why at the top of the agenda of every peace movement today is the issue of solidarity with the heroic people of Chile battling against the fascist military junta and its Washington patrons. That is why everywhere today, we must mark this thirtieth anniversary by intensifying our vigilance and our struggle against the fascist and neo-fascist forces, whom imperialism is using to crush the independence of

peoples and equally to weaken the new international climate of détente.

Solidarity with the people of Spain fighting the last fascist regime in Europe! Solidarity with the people of Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia and the other Latin American countries with neo-fascist regimes! Solidarity with the people of South Africa battling against the apartheid fascist rulers of Pretoria! Solidarity with the peoples fighting the fascist rule of the Israeli occupiers of Arab lands! These are today essential parts of the struggle for peace.

The World Peace Council calls for actions against fascism and neo-fascism everywhere—anti-fascist conferences and congresses on a national, regional and international scale in solidarity with the struggles of the peoples against fascism and war.

The World Peace Council makes a special appeal on this solemn occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the defeat of Hitler fascism to all international and national organizations which seek peace, national independence, justice and social progress. Let us join hands in common action and unity.

The World Peace Council defends peace, defends the gains of the victory of thirty years ago, builds a new world from which war and plunder, hunger and poverty will be banished for all time.

Steady Progress Towards Peace

The Chairman of the State Council of the German Democratic Republic

To the participants
in the Enlarged Meeting of
the Bureau of the World Peace Council
Presidential Committee in Berlin,
the capital of the
German Democratic Republic

Honoured Delegates,
Dear Friends,

I take special pleasure in welcoming you on behalf of the State Council and of the people of the German Democratic Republic.

You have gathered here in the capital city of Berlin, a historic site, just a few weeks before the 30th anniversary of the liberation from Hitlerite fascism and of the end of the Second World War to discuss important questions of how to continue our struggle for peace and security of nations. Thirty years ago the inevitable defeat of the imperialist aggressor, who had unleashed two disastrous world wars, was sealed in Berlin with the unconditional surrender of

Hitler's Wehrmacht and with the liquidation of the fascist system of power.

The working people of the German Democratic Republic are getting ready to mark the 30th anniversary of the liberation of the German nation from Hitlerite fascism with new creative deeds to promote peace through socialist emulation in honour of this historic international anniversary. The people of the German Democratic Republic will be commemorating in these days and weeks the untold suffering caused to many nations, the German included, by German imperialism.

They will be commemorating in deep respect the immense sacrifices that had to be made to save the world civilization from the fascist barbarism by the anti-Hitler coalition, which mobilized all the resources at its command, and by anti-fascists of different nationalities who shunned no sacrifice in their struggle. Above all they will be paying homage to the heroic deeds of the Soviet people and of the Soviet Army, who bore the main burden in the Second World War and who opened up the way to a peaceful future to many peoples.

The victory of the Soviet Union and its allies in the Second World War also gave the German people a historic opportunity to learn from the criminal policy of German imperialism and to liquidate fascism and militarism once and for all in their own country in keeping with the resolutions of the anti-Hitler coalition. The people of the German Democratic Republic have used this historic opportunity and they are resolutely pursuing the course of peace, democracy and socialism. The first workers' and farmers' state has emerged from the anti-fascist democratic upheaval through the labour of the working people, whose political awareness has been growing steadily, and through the selfless support given by the Soviet Union. From the very beginning this state was part of the world-embracing peace movement. In the 25 years of its existence it has made an active contribution to protecting the peoples of Europe from war for three decades now.

It has been possible to make a fundamental turn from cold war to détente in the international arena thanks to the peace policy and the power of the Soviet Union and of the other socialist states and to the struggle of all peace-loving and democratic people in the world. But we are also aware of the endeavours being made by the reactionary forces to stem the process of détente. The sorrowful experiences in the course of history admonish us to be vigilant at all times and to bear in mind that to transform Europe into a continent of lasting peace is an objective that is in line with the vital interests of the peoples. An early positive conclusion of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe at the highest level would be a valuable contribution to this end.

It is imperative, despite all obstacles, to continue the process of international détente, to make it irreversible and to supplement it through military détente.

Dear Friends,

Eighteen months after the Moscow World Congress of Peace Forces it is evident that the world peace movement has noticeably gained in scope, strength and clarity of purpose. More than ever before it is essential to give effective support to the continuation and stabilization of the process of détente. Under the current international conditions the all-embracing movement of the fighters for peace is more necessary and more promising than ever.

I sincerely wish your meeting and your noble efforts for the happiness of mankind every success.

Cordially yours
W. Stoph



Prof. Yevgeni K. Fyodorov

A Fast-Changing World

We meet shortly before the anniversary of the defeat of Hitlerite fascism, shortly before the victory which ended the biggest war in history.

The Soviet people had to suffer a great deal and take upon themselves tremendous sacrifices. We know very well what a world war means and of course we Soviet people are proud of every heroic deed we accomplished in achieving victory.

As we have always done so far, we respect and honour the contribution made by the peoples and armies of the anti-Hitler coalition, by the resistance fighters, partisans and anti-fascists of all countries and nations, including our German friends, who fought against fascism under incredibly difficult conditions in order to achieve victory.

In our own and in the coming generations an indelible sense of gratitude will remain for all time to those who

freed the peoples of Europe and all of mankind, at the price of the greatest sacrifices, from the threat of fascist enslavement.

The system of the socialist community of states developed by the national liberation struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America received tremendous inspiration, and the colonial system collapsed. The democratic forces throughout the world who champion peace, security and social progress were able to consolidate their position. The world has changed fundamentally within a short historical period.

And here, where Hitlerite fascism was dealt the final and decisive blow, the liberated people have set up the first socialist state on German soil. We are proud of their successes. We know and value the magnificent work in the cause of peace persistently and systematically carried on by the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and government and people of the GDR.

In their implacable struggle against Hitlerite fascism the Soviet people never confounded the German people with the Nazi regime. We appreciate the ever-expanding cooperation between our peoples in shaping a new life and in fighting for peace and socialism.

Systematic and consistent struggle for peace is the party line and government policy of the countries of the socialist community; this struggle is being conducted by the governments of many developing countries, and it is the main task of many national and international organizations which unite within their ranks hundreds of millions of progressive people in all countries.

Our movement of the friends of peace is an extremely important section of the broad front of the forces of peace. As we have discovered in the past few years, the variety of forms and differences in ideology and political views of these organizations do not prevent them from taking joint action.

The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, begun on the initiative and as a result of the tireless efforts of the socialist countries, is moving towards a successful conclusion. New horizons will open up for Europe as a result. In alliance with the other peace forces we must continue to take measures calculated to back up political détente by military détente.

Our movement fully supports the second Conference of the Social Forces for Peace and Security in Europe beginning this week in Brussels, and will take an active part in it.

Support for the Arab peoples in normalizing the situation in the Middle East, where a new conflagration can break out at any time, remains one of our first tasks. We must introduce energetic measures to remove the conflict situation in Cyprus, in the interests of the integrity and independence of its people.

We are fully aware of how important it now is to support in every way the democratic forces in Greece and Portugal

who have cast off fascism in their great and difficult task of finally liquidating the forms in which it appears, and of rendering aid to the democratic forces in Spain in their struggle against the last fascist regime on the European continent.

The experience of the activities of the anti-Hitler coalition during the war and current experience in uniting for joint action peace forces different in character shows what enormous and not yet by any means fully exhausted reserves, and how many potential supporters of our movement for securing peace and for security in Europe and throughout the world we have at our disposal.

Our people did their duty in the war, it is also doing its full duty in establishing and consolidating peace and will continue to do this.



Raymond Guyot

Unity Is More Necessary Than Ever

It is a great honour for us to be here in the capital of the German Democratic Republic, that invincible bastion of peace in the heart of Europe. We call on the nations of the world today to celebrate the 30th anniversary of liberation from Nazism.

The developments that have since taken place in the world show clearly that this is really a historic victory. It freed Europe from the bloody Nazi dictatorship and Asia from the rule of Japanese militarism. Imperialism, which carries within itself oppression and exploitation, can no longer decide the issue of war or peace at its discretion.

We in France make a point of recalling the attitude of the western powers, including France, which pursued a policy favouring Nazi aggression in the hope of witnessing the destruction of socialism in the Soviet Union. The people in

these countries, including our own, were the first victims of these calculations. It must also be recalled that the Soviet Union played a decisive role in this battle for freedom and national salvation, and that this battle was more costly to it than to any other nation.

As far as France was concerned, General de Gaulle stated—and I quote—that “the Russian efforts to inflict irreparable wounds on the German war machine were essential for the liberation of our territory.” As a leader of the French resistance I can confirm that this was indeed the case.

It must be borne in mind that the fundamental trend towards détente, peaceful coexistence and cooperation does in no way take place automatically. It is not yet irreversible. It is still being impeded and the fact that it is called in question may have grave consequences.

We all know that imperialism is still powerful, aggressive and threatening. This is why we should carefully consider not only the progress made so far but also what remains to be done. Peace has not yet been won. The struggle for peace goes on. So far our struggle has prevented imperialism from triggering off another world war, and this is because of the shift in the balance of forces. The point now is to compel it to provide guarantees for peace, by which I mean the establishment of a system of collective security in Europe, moves towards disarmament and the dismantling of foreign military bases.

To achieve this goal we propose to the nations of the world that they should celebrate the 30th anniversary. A lesson learnt from this big battle, which I should like to reiterate, is the lesson of unity. The nations of the world were able to triumph only because they fought their battle on a basis of broad unity. In building a world of peace today such unity is more necessary than ever.

Oskar Fischer

The Will of the Peoples Has Become an Influential Force

“The victory won by the Soviet Union and the other countries and forces of the anti-Hitler coalition marked a turning-point in world history. It sealed the historic defeat of imperialism, that is, of the forces of aggression posing a constant threat to the life and the possessions of mankind.” Oskar Fischer pointed out in his address, adding that “the fraternal socialist countries have gathered enough strength to curb the war-like circles of imperialism”.

He said that it was chiefly due to the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, in close cooperation with the

peace-loving forces on all continents, including in particular the mighty world-wide peace movement, that the outbreak of a new—this time thermonuclear—world war had been prevented and that Europe, the centre of two terrible world conflagrations, had the longest period of peace in this century.

Paying tribute to the world-wide peace movement Oskar Fischer pointed out: "We all have been witnesses of how the peoples' desire for peace has taken shape as a movement of hitherto unknown power and become an organized and influential political factor to be taken seriously." This fact, he said, was a guarantee that the meeting held in the GDR capital would lead to good results and would help to give a fresh impetus to security and détente on the European continent.

He went on: "These results will encourage the peoples to offer powerful and, therefore, effective resistance to the threat of fascism and neo-fascism in a number of countries. Developments in Portugal have shown once again that fascist dictatorships cannot permanently resist the peoples and that the way has been opened to democracy."

In moving words the Foreign Minister honoured the memory of all those who fought against facism. He said, "Who but those who eternally long for the past would try to make people forget the act of liberation of May 8, 1945, to erase it from the memory of the nations? Who but they would not wish to take part in events held to mark this 30th anniversary?" Millions of dedicated anti-fascists, men and women, in the fascist-invaded countries of Europe "courageously risked their lives in the struggle against the cruel Hitler dictatorship because they valued human life so highly."

Commenting on current developments in Europe the Foreign Minister said, "It is a great success for this unswerving policy of peace and for the efforts of all peace-loving countries and social forces on our continent that it has been possible to convene the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The successful conclusion of this conference—this can be said even at this stage—will open up for the first time in the history of the European nations the prospect of living in a region where peaceful, mutually advantageous cooperation prevails, in a region where détente is all the more firmly established the better we succeed in putting life into the principles of peaceful coexistence between socialist and capitalist countries."

At present, there is a real possibility of conducting the third stage of this conference at the summit level in Helsinki in the near future, which is in accordance with the hopes and wishes of the European peoples. To achieve this important aim further great efforts are needed because certain forces are still trying to put obstacles in the path of European security and to cast Europe back into the days of the cold war.



Prof. Albert Norden

Gratitude Towards the Soviet People

The victory of the Soviet Union in the Great Patriotic War has found its place for all time in the record of human history. Without detracting from the share of the other powers of the anti-Hitler coalition, it must be stated in all truth that it was the Soviet Union which bore the main burden in effort and sacrifice. The Soviet Union blocked the fascists' path to world domination, thus rescuing world civilisation and making it easier for all the national and social liberation movements to march forward.

The victory over Hitlerite fascism also opened up the path to a new future for our people. The German people were faced with the absolute duty to learn permanent lessons from the crimes committed by German imperialism in two world wars.

We swore in 1945 never again to permit a war to start from German soil. Looking back over the past thirty years of peace in Europe, we can say to the representatives of the world peace movement that we have not spared ourselves in the struggle for this peace, a struggle in which the land of Lenin has given us more help than we can tell in words.

During thirty years of this century the imperialists plunged the peoples into two terrible world wars. The socialist community of states headed by the Soviet Union have succeeded in securing for the nations of Europe a peace in this century which has already lasted more than thirty years. We are happy that our children do not know the suffering and misery which was caused by the generals, the land pirates, the lackeys and executioners of monopoly capitalism. We are happy that this longest period of peace ever known in Europe gives our young people the chance to grow up without fear of bombs and the flames of war.

The ideological descendants of the land pirates mourn the day of unconditional surrender. But those who work for peace and struggle against imperialism have every right to celebrate the Day of Victory, the Day of Liberation.

Our world peace movement is a child of the historic events which took place thirty years ago. Steadily growing and gaining in influence, it has helped to form the intervening years. It has become the biggest coalition of democratic forces known in modern history. The world peace movement is today an important guarantee that the wheel of history will continue to turn in the direction of a lasting peace for the people of all continents.

The European peoples know that safeguarding peace in Europe is very closely connected with détente in other parts of the world. All progress in Europe is valuable in the struggle against the still existing centres of war in the Middle East, Indochina and other danger spots in the world. The peace-loving forces of Europe feel closely linked in solidarity with the anti-imperialist and peace struggle throughout the world. Our hearts now beat higher because of the decisive victories won in the just national and social cause in South Vietnam and Cambodia.

The opponents of détente are preparing in their own way for the thirtieth anniversary of the liberation. Together with like-minded in other imperialist countries, right-wing extremist and conservative forces in the FRG in particular are adding fuel to the fire of anti-communist hysteria. The icy breath of cold war again sweeps through the pages of many bourgeois mass media, the revanchist associations are being mobilised and the Bonn Foreign Office, in a directive to its representations abroad, calls for a glorification of the fallen soldiers of the Hitlerite army. "For official reasons" documents are being produced about so-called crimes against Germans in the Second World War.

The anti-Soviet propaganda culminates in open and undercover attempts to distort the policy of peaceful co-

existence, in deliberate falsification of the aims of the peace programme initiated by the Soviet Union. The military strength of the Soviet Union, this guarantee of peace, is held up as a horrible threat, a danger for the so-called free world.

All this is done with the intention of imprinting on the minds of the population the idea that May 8th was not the Day of Liberation but a Day of National Calamity. It is done in order to disrupt the process of détente, to justify their own measures to strengthen the Bundeswehr and NATO.

We believe that the world peace movement cannot observe this without taking action, either. Let us all firmly repulse all attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries! The unmasking of the enemies of détente is and remains extremely important for our work. Let us also bear in mind the lesson of history which tells us that anti-communism and anti-Sovietism and defamation of socialism have never done the nations any good. They are the ideological vanguards of aggression, they serve no one but those who profit from armaments, who are prepared for any crime and are a threat to the existence of the peoples. All those who fight for peace and security today must therefore take up a position against anti-communism and anti-Sovietism.

Since October 1917 the Soviet Union has pursued a consistent Leninist policy of peace. Since then the political relation of forces in Europe and the world has undergone a decisive change. Today the aim of setting up a system of collective security which accords with the post-war realities is within tangible reach. Such a system is also within the realm of practical politics for Asia and other regions.

The world peace movement has strong support amongst the population of the GDR, amongst workers, farmers and intellectuals and a permanent home in the workshops, schoolrooms, laboratories and barracks, in government offices and in the smallest villages throughout our country.

Appeal of the World Peace Council
on the Occasion of the 30th Anniversary
of the Victory over Fascism

To the Peoples of the World

The World Peace Council appeals to all men of good will, to all for whom the peace and happiness of mankind, a sheltered future for their children and international friendship are the first commandment.

The triumph over the sinister forces of Hitlerite barbarism and Japanese militarism won thirty years ago was of world-historical importance. The hard-won victory of the anti-Hitler coalition, the heroism of the partisans, of those who fought in armed uprisings and of the resistance movement in the occupied territories put an end to the megalomaniac plans of the fascists to dominate the world.

In the course of this gigantic struggle, in which the Soviet Union made the biggest contribution and the greatest sacrifices, the fate of all the peoples, the future of world civilisation, was decided.

The sacrifices of the peoples were not in vain. They made it possible to give new dimensions to peace, democracy and social progress.

The mighty community of socialist states arose, the firm citadel of all progressive forces.

The disgraceful colonial system was swept away. The peoples of the liberated countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America became independent shapers of their own fate.

The struggle for the political and social rights of the working people in the capitalist countries was developed on a new scale.

The world peace movement was born. It has become the most powerful movement in history uniting people of different views in action to block the path of the forces of reaction, aggression and war.

The beginning of a change from cold war to the preparation of peaceful and normal relations between states with different social orders has begun.

The success of détente has created a new and more hopeful atmosphere. Peaceful coexistence is increasingly accepted as the only principle of normal relations between states. The danger of a nuclear war has begun to recede.

But the reaction has not given up. There are still hotbeds of war. Imperialism still brings the threat of war, suffering, and misery to the world. Nevertheless, conditions were never so favourable for ending the threat of war for all time.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the victory over

fascism the World Peace Council issues a solemn appeal to the peoples:

Let us make the 30th anniversary of the victory over fascism a mighty united campaign to advance the cause of world peace, to isolate completely the enemies of international détente and unmask their intrigues.

We appeal to you

to deepen international détente, to make it irreversible and to spread it through all countries and continents. Our aim is to remove all the wars and centres of crisis still existing in the world.

We appeal to you

to supplement political by military détente, to put an end to the arms race and reduce arms expenditure. Our aim is total disarmament.

We appeal to you

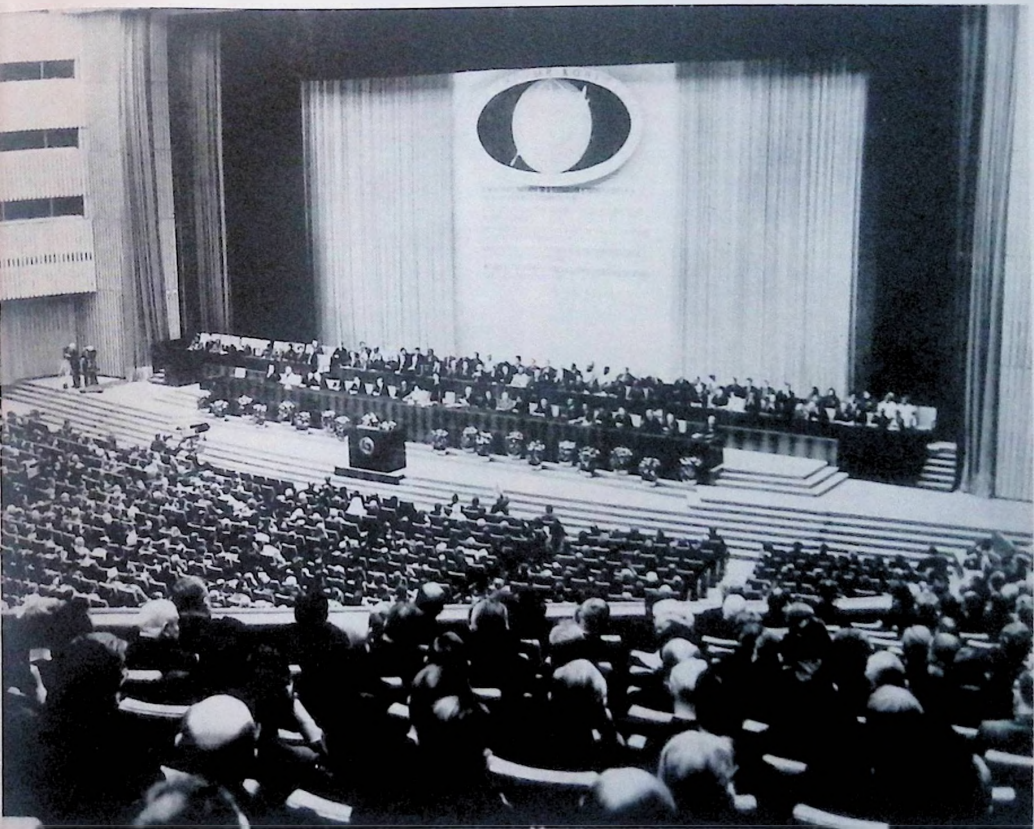
to put an end to hunger and want, to combat the plunder by multinational companies and the forces of monopoly. Our aim is to win this battle of the developing countries for independent economic advance.

We appeal to you

to combat passionately fascism, racism and neo-colonialism. Let us practice solidarity with all peoples courageously defending themselves against imperialist oppression and aggression.

Joint action by all anti-fascists was the condition for the victory thirty years ago. Joint action by all peace-loving forces today is the foundation for victory in our struggle for peace, security and national independence.

The tasks formulated in the appeal issued by the WPC Bureau meeting will contribute towards the implementation of the decisions adopted by the World Congress of Peace Forces in Moscow.



Declaration on the Thirtieth Anniversary
of Victory over Fascism
in the Second World War

The Cause of Peace Remains Our Great Common Cause

The World Peace Council, meeting in Berlin, capital of the German Democratic Republic, addresses this Declaration to all the peoples of the world on the eve of a great festive occasion for all peace-loving peoples—the thirtieth anniversary of the victory over fascism in the Second World War.

Three decades have passed since the guns of the Second World War fell silent, the most cruel and bloody war mankind has ever known. Centuries will pass, but the peoples will always remember with heartfelt gratitude the immortal exploits of those who with peerless courage and at the cost of immense sacrifices saved mankind from the fearful threat of fascist enslavement.

In the gigantic clash of arms and the furious battles that raged for nearly six years over the vast expanses of Europe, Asia, Africa and the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the fate of all peoples and the future of world civilisation, progress and democracy were decided.

Thirty years ago the banner of victory, the banner of freedom, was at long last unfurled over the Reichstag, by the men of the heroic Soviet Army, who dealt the final blow to fascism in its own lair. It is an unchallengeable fact of history that world civilisation owes its deliverance from fascism primarily to the massive struggle waged by the Soviet people. The Soviet Union was the main force barring the path of German fascism to world domination. The Soviet people bore the brunt of the war and played a decisive role first in the defeat of Hitler Germany, and then of militarist Japan.

During the war all the freedom-loving peoples of the world based their hopes of deliverance from the fascist scourge on the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union at the cost of 20 millions of its finest sons and daughters fulfilled these hopes with honour, victoriously carrying out the noble and historic mission of liberating humanity from fascism and saving world civilisation. The peoples of the USA, Britain, France and other countries also fought heroically and courageously in the war against Hitler Germany, fascist Italy, and militarist Japan. They made immense sacrifices and greatly contributed to the defeat of fascism both in Europe and in Asia. This valiant joint struggle of the nations allied in the anti-Hitler coalition left a legacy of priceless experience of lasting significance to future generations. It

demonstrated in practice the possibility and effectiveness of close co-operation between states with different social systems in pursuit of man's highest ideals.

The anti-fascists and patriots of European countries rose arms in hand to throw off the yoke of fascism. The annals of the anti-fascist struggle have recorded for all time the heroism and selfless dedication of the fighting men of the people's liberation forces, of the fearless partisans, of those operating underground, those who took part in armed uprisings and the Resistance movement, millions strong, that spread far and wide throughout France, Poland, Yugoslavia and other occupied countries.

As the world celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of victory, flowers will be laid on millions of graves, at the foot of millions of monuments. Sharing the grief of those who lost their nearest and dearest in the anti-fascist war all people of good will will be imbued with a sense of duty to the memory of the fallen and to coming generations to prevent a repetition of the greatest tragedy of history and to do everything in their power to preserve and consolidate the peace won at so high a cost.

The sacrifices made by the peoples were not in vain. The lessons of the Second World War must never be forgotten. Victory over fascism has radically changed the world situation. The powerful community of socialist states was set up. It has grown stronger and stronger and provides a reliable bulwark on which all the forces of peace and progress can rely. The shameful colonial system has collapsed under the blows of the post-war national liberation movements of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The peoples of the countries freed from colonial oppression today are the makers of their own history. The struggles of the working masses in the countries of Western Europe and North America for their political and social rights have achieved great successes. The role and influence of progressive world opinion have become ever more important in the solution of the vital issues of world development.

Our movement—a movement of partisans of peace to combat the threat of a new world war and the aggressive policy of imperialism—was also born after the war. It has become the biggest mass movement of our times. It now commands the support of millions of people of good will in all corners of the world.

In recent years, on the initiative of the socialist countries and other peace-loving states, there has been a move away from the cold war to establishing the conception of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems. This has produced results of historic significance. Recognition of the principles of peaceful coexistence means clear-cut opposition to all policies of aggression and oppression and also provides the basis for joint action by a steadily broadening peace movement. This has changed the world, and provides a source of hope and inspiration. For the first time since the Second World War there are signs that the threat of another holocaust fraught with far more fearful consequences than the last, is beginning to recede.

Tangible conditions now exist for placing on a solid and lasting foundation, the peace which was achieved on the European continent thirty years ago at the cost of tens of millions of human lives.

The European Conference of States on Security and Co-



30 years ago soldiers of the heroic Soviet Army hoisted the flag symbolizing victory and liberation from the yoke of Hitler fascism.

operation is nearing completion. This is the first conference in the history of the continent at which representatives of all its countries—socialist and capitalist, members of military alliances, neutral and non-aligned, large and small states—are discussing on an equal footing urgent problems relating to peace and security in Europe. The peace forces sincerely hope that everything possible will be done to ensure the complete success of the Conference.

The spirit of the struggle for European security and co-operation is beginning to spread to other continents. The Asian peoples, refusing to succumb to the imperialist doctrine of making Asians fight Asians, are discussing together ways towards Asian co-operation, Asian collective security.

The positive changes in the world today are the result of the active peace policy of the Soviet Union and of the other countries of the socialist community. They are the result too of the successes of the democratic and national liberation movements and of the realism which is increasingly evident in governing circles in a number of Western countries. The reduction of international tension must become a basic principle of policy, a process that cannot be allowed to be arbitrarily reversed. Détente is the cause of all peoples.

But détente does not come about of itself. The peace-loving peoples know that the forces of war and reaction have not yet laid down their arms. These forces are making frenzied efforts to prevent a lessening of tension and are seeking to fan the flames of military conflicts.

We cannot ignore the evidence that aggressive imperialist forces are still active, opposing all moves for détente, accelerating the arms race and even threatening to use nuclear weapons. They seek to stamp out every manifestation of trust and mutual understanding in international relations, to prevent any progress in the further reduction of tension.

Fascism still has its place in the armoury of imperialism as the ultimate weapon for the suppression of the peoples' will for peace, freedom and social progress. The tragedy of Chile, the situation in Uruguay, Paraguay, Nicaragua and other Latin American countries, in Spain, and, until recently, in Greece and Portugal, the crimes committed by the Saigon regime and the Park Chan Hee clique in South Korea, the genocide in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa, the repression practised by the Israeli rulers against the Arab Palestinian people in the occupied territories, the terrorist acts and the so-called "strategy of tension" of the neo-fascists in Europe, all demonstrate that fascism, whatever garb it may assume, is capable of the most savage crimes comparable only to the Nazi crimes during the Second World War.

Imperialism is using the most reactionary neo-fascist parties and forces in India and in certain other developing countries in its efforts to "de-stabilise" the governments which take positive steps for their independent economic advance.

Fascism is the breeding ground of war. It is the weapon used by the monopolists to destroy democratic organisations, above all those of the working people, in order to retain their power and privilege. No country where these forces are able to operate is immune from the danger of fascism. Peace supporters, therefore, have a particular and

sacred duty to wage an untiring, resolute struggle against fascism and neo-fascism in all their forms and manifestations. They must develop the anti-fascist consciousness of the masses and primarily of the young people, strengthen solidarity with the peoples struggling against fascist and dictatorial regimes. They must fight for the release of all patriots and democrats thrown into police cells and concentration camps. It is imperative to bring home to all people the truth about German fascism and the Second World War so as to teach present and coming generations to recognise and forestall the danger of new international tragedies. The social and political basis for fascism has by no means been completely eliminated.

The anniversary of the great victory must be marked by a new powerful offensive on the part of all peace forces to achieve the total isolation of the enemies of détente and international co-operation, and to expose their activities.

Today, there is no more important over-all political task than that of further reducing international tension, making this process irreversible and spreading it to all continents and countries.

We resolutely demand that political détente be complemented by military détente. Large-scale progress in economic, scientific, technological and cultural co-operation on an equal footing must be accompanied by arms reductions and cuts in military spending as a first step to general disarmament.

To make détente irreversible, it is necessary that the struggle of the developing countries for their right to own the riches of their own soil be crowned with success. Today the struggle for independent economic development, against the multi-national corporations and the forces of monopoly and feudalism, are an essential part of the struggle for peace and national independence.

By its very nature, reduction of tension must be a continuing process. It must be constantly carried forward. Any setback, any interruption, can lead to a relapse into the cold war.

Continued reduction of international tension must involve a just and lasting settlement of dangerous points of conflict. It is essential to put an end once and for all to U.S. interference in the internal affairs of South Vietnam and to replace the corrupt Saigon regime by an administration that will honestly and strictly carry out the Paris Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam. It is

imperative to make new efforts towards the establishment of a stable and lasting peace for all the countries and peoples of the Middle East, to liquidate completely the consequences of Israeli aggression and to restore the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine. It is necessary to give resolute support to the people of Cyprus, who are selflessly defending their independence against imperialist encroachments and fighting for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the territory of Cyprus, and to ensure respect for its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In this context, the World Peace Council's objectives are in full conformity with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

Experience has shown that lasting peace and security must involve strict respect for the lawful rights and interests of all peoples and for their independence and sovereignty.

The cause of peace, freedom and social progress for which the peoples fought in the years of the Second World War remains our great common cause. To worthily carry forward this cause and ensure its triumph means building a world without war, without violence and ensuring lasting, democratic, and just peace.

On this thirtieth anniversary of the victory over fascism, the World Peace Council extends the hand of co-operation and friendship to all international and national organisations and movements who seek peace, security, national independence and social progress.

The anti-fascist forces struggling together for the defeat of Hitler fascism were victorious in the past. Today, too, the unity and common action of the peace forces, the anti-imperialist forces, is the guarantee of victory over the forces of imperialist aggression.

The anti-fascist meetings, conferences and congresses to be held at national, regional and international levels, and all other events to mark the thirtieth anniversary will make a powerful contribution to the urgent tasks of forging the unity of the peace forces and building a new world, from which war and plunder, hunger and poverty will be banished for all time.

May the year of the thirtieth anniversary of victory over fascism be a year marked by new initiatives and new successes in the struggle for peace and happiness for all the peoples!

The Peoples Have the Strenght to Determine the Course of History

Europe and the world are today celebrating the 30th anniversary of the victory of the peoples over the criminal attempt made by Hitler fascism to enslave them.

The World Peace Council wants to mark this occasion with fitting ceremony, because this victory, jointly won by the armies of the anti-Hitler coalition, and especially of the decisive role of the Soviet army, the resistance in many countries and the heroic struggle of the peoples for their liberation, represents a historic turning point for life on our planet and, moreover, provides the best example for the unity of the most varied forces which were able to reach agreement on the essentials.

The 1945 victory was a historic turning point, for after the horrendous cataclysm which left 50 million dead, caused enormous losses for the European economy and left a deep scar on the peoples—wounded in body and in mind as a result of those demented years—it was clear that never again would things be as they were before and a universal desire arose that such a tragedy should never be allowed to repeat itself.

An unquenchable thirst developed for freedom, justice and peace, which tended to stamp a current of democracy on European life.

In a certain number of European countries the States of the people's democracies were born. Allied to the Soviet Union, they formed the socialist community which was a new fundamental factor in the international arena.

In April 1949, NATO was set up under American leadership, thus making the Western governments responsible for introducing the policy of blocs in Europe.

In 1955, a re-armed West Germany was integrated into NATO and the Warsaw Pact was formed as a response to this.

But in these cold war years, a new and powerful movement of modern times was born, the people's movement for peace. And so the World Peace Movement came into being.

The WPC reaffirms the principles for which it has always clearly and unambiguously declared itself:

- peaceful co-existence between States with different social systems
- the inviolability of existing frontiers

- sovereign equality of States and non-interference in internal affairs
- the ban of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or independence of any State
- the solution of international conflicts within the framework of international law
- strict respect for the right of each nation to freely decide its own future
- co-operation in all fields, on the basis of mutual advantage and respect for the rights and duties of each State
- détente and good-neighbourly relations between States
- an end to the arms race and in favour of disarmament and other steps and initiatives aimed at guaranteeing détente and consolidating peace in Europe and in the world.

In Europe, elsewhere, the situation has not remained static. The evolution of the balance of forces indicates very clearly the mutations which are induced by existing facts and which condition men's reactions.

The socialist countries, scoring successes of all kinds in the fields of the economy, social conditions, education, etc., year after year, and representing the will of their peoples, showed that they were a factor for peace and stability throughout the world.

Any impartial observer may testify to the creative initiatives taken in recent years by these countries for the establishment of peace and security and for détente in Europe and in the world.

At the same time, a certain political realism is apparent among Western European political leaders who understand that, in the nuclear age, a third conflict on our continent would purely and simply mean it being wiped off the face of the earth.

So it is clear, in the nuclear era, that the policy of confrontation no longer has any sense or any future.

The various agreements and treaties signed in recent years between various socialist countries and the FRG, between the GDR and the FRG, the four-party agreement on West Berlin and the opening of the CESC in Helsinki, in particular, have contributed to the creation of a healthier

climate in Europe and marked the official recognition of the realities arising from the Second World War.

It should also be noted that there has been an important contribution made to the creation of a new climate in Europe by the peace-loving States, the neutral countries and, among others, by the realistic foreign policy of Finland.

In the countries of Western Europe, the working class and all the forces of progress have, throughout all these years, demonstrated their desire for social justice, democracy and peace.

Greece and Portugal which until recently were still under fascist domination have shaken the hold of the yoke which bound them. The Spanish people, through their increasingly powerful struggle, are proving their will to do the same and to free Europe from the anachronism represented by the Franco regime.

The WPC has repeatedly affirmed its solidarity with those peoples who are victims of fascism. Today, as in the past, it is in solidarity with their democratic struggle.

Finally, it should be noted that just as the political situation in Europe has not remained static, so the world as a whole, and particularly what is known as the Third World, has undergone fundamental changes which have had an important influence on European life.

The crumbling of the colonial empires in Asia and Africa, the emergence of new independent States, often as a result of a long national liberation struggle, and the commitment of these peoples to progressive policies characterised by a will for political and economic independence, have greatly contributed to the change in the balance of forces in the world which favours the establishment of new relations between States.

Europe is certainly the area of the world where the largest number of military troops are stationed and where are stocked the greatest quantity of means of mass destruction with which the States have equipped themselves. This throws into relief, more clearly here than elsewhere, the harmful nature of the doctrine of over-arming and the balance of terror.

Military and arms expenditure engendered by this state of affairs with their ever-increasing budgets are a greater and greater burden on the resources of States and jeopardise the legitimate satisfaction of the economic and social needs of the peoples, who are more and more aware of the absurdity of such a waste.

The main features of the economic crisis affecting the Western countries are inflation, high cost-of-living for large sections of the population, unemployment and economic recession and this means that the very future development of the countries affected is heavily mortgaged.

Therefore, it is through broad cooperation in all fields, and by exchanges at all levels and in all fields between partners with equal rights and duties, that the means can be sought which, in many aspects, could contribute to helping the peoples and their governments to solve the serious problems which they face.

It is in this context that the Conference on European Security and Cooperation (CESC) is being held, the first phase of which was successfully concluded in Helsinki in 1973 and

the second phase of which is drawing to a conclusion in Geneva. This has given rise to great hopes for the peoples of Europe. This Conference could and should, therefore, mark the end of a first phase in the process of consolidating détente in Europe and in the world and form a sure foundation for the establishment of new relations between States at political, economic and other levels on the basis of legally recognised equality.

The fact that thirty-five countries (thirty-three European countries plus the USA and Canada) are together debating in three commissions problems of European security, principles and standards governing economic, scientific and technical cooperation and problems of cooperation in the field of culture, among others, is already a great success in itself.

It is a question of drawing up principles fixing rules for security and co-operation for all the countries of the continent, whatever their social or political regimes, in respect for the independence and sovereignty of each state in Europe as it exists today, with its military alliances, and financial and economic groupings.

The WPC expresses the wish that the work of this conference will be successfully concluded as rapidly as possible by the signature, at the highest level, of the final documents which should also provide for appropriate measures and bodies to continue, on a permanent basis, the process already begun in Europe, and particularly to guarantee the implementation of the decisions taken in the mutual interest.

The WPC welcomes the initiatives taken by the International Committee for European Security and Co-operation.

It supports the Second Assembly of Representatives of Public Opinion for European Security and Co-operation which will meet on 26th–29th April, 1975 in Belgium.

The World Peace Council will actively participate in the work of this assembly. It considers it to be of great importance because it offers the possibility for a large-scale exchange of ideas on the vital problems of Europe between representatives of the most varied political and social currents of public opinion in the countries of Europe, bringing together political parties, trades unions, women's and youth organisations, international non-governmental organisations, religious circles, parliamentarians, scientists and artists.

The WPC and the national committees of the peace movements are ready to support all steps taken by this Assembly liable to strengthen security and co-operation in Europe.

The positive results which are anticipated from the conference could give a new impetus to the process of détente and suggest new positive developments in the situation in Europe.

Détente, in fact, is in the fundamental interests of all peoples; it contributes to creating conditions for social progress; it is a dynamic process.

Thus, it is clear to each and everyone of us, that it would be ridiculous if the European States participating in the CESC, whilst agreeing to develop their economic, social and cultural relations, to exchange their scientific and technological know-how and whilst laying the foundations for a security system, were to continue at the same time to make material preparations for war, to spend excessive sums to

maintain a superabundance of military forces and to build and put into service more and more sophisticated and, consequently, more and more costly weapons.

Thus, it is all the more necessary to complement political détente by military détente.

The end to the arms race and partial disarmament measures, leading to general and complete disarmament have become urgent necessities for the peoples and governments as a whole.

The establishment of collective security and fruitful co-operation should, in the near future, allow us to go beyond the ideology of blocs, defended by the protagonists of the cold war, and make progress with the achievement of new agreements which would create the conditions necessary to advance towards the progressive phasing-out of the antagonistic military blocs of NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

This is imperative for our continent, because the perpetuation of the division of the continent into blocs, plays into the hands of those forces, inside or outside the continent, which are hostile to détente.

The adoption by the European Security Conference of documents on security and co-operation in all fields would create the conditions favourable to arms reductions and limitation of military forces, the creation of nuclear-free zones, etc. In the short term, this should enable the conclusion of an agreement at the Vienna talks on reduction of military forces and armaments in Central Europe.

The adoption of such measures would contribute to creating an even healthier political climate which could in turn facilitate new steps in détente, and so on.

We know that the development of new relations between European States will be a long and difficult process.

But it is necessary not to let things stagnate, to continually search for new ways and means of presenting constructive alternatives unless we want the results already obtained to be put in jeopardy.

Peaceful co-existence and détente should be able to foreshadow the achievement of understanding which could form the mortar in a true Pan-European structure of understanding, co-operation and peace.

The establishment of a system of peace and of security and co-operation in Europe could favourably influence the settlement of existing international conflicts and prevent new international crises.

Inversely, it is clear that peace in Europe could not be consolidated except by a more deep-rooted détente in the other continents.

There is, therefore, an interconnection which will not escape anyone's notice. Peace and détente in Europe represent a decisive stabilising factor in the world.

The WPC invites not only its national committees, but also all the political and social forces agreeing with its analysis, to reflect on all these problems and on the tasks which they entail for the peace forces, and to work together—all the more so since forces hostile to détente are manoeuvring to oppose new developments in security and co-operation in Europe.

Action Proposals

In the immediate future, to mobilise wide sectors of public opinion to demand that governments and parliaments in each country should commit themselves to the rapid conclusion of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe at the highest level.

To conduct very broad campaigns to explain to European public opinion both the desire and the necessity for the nations to co-operate with one another to consolidate détente and security.

To struggle to complement political détente by military détente. It would be important, for example, for essential political decisions to be taken to reach the first concrete results from the Vienna conference on mutual force and arms reductions in Central Europe.

To support every positive initiative for the holding of a World Disarmament Conference.

To clearly explain to the people as a whole and promote acceptance for the ideas of the evil influence of the ideology of blocs, the absurdity of the doctrine of overarming and of the balance of terror, demanding that the governments, on the basis of what has already been achieved in Helsinki and Geneva, should take concrete measures which would allow progress towards the simultaneous dissolution of the military alliance of NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

To make it widely known that although European problems naturally concern first and foremost Europe, they also affect the role which our continent plays in all parts of the globe, for it is obvious that not only the establishment of a stable and lasting peace in Europe, but also the establishment of real collective security and the development of economic, social and cultural relations between all the countries of our continent, would be a determining stabilising factor for the whole planet.

To call upon the peoples in Europe—in view of their responsibility—to firmly express their will to see the establishment of new relations between States and governments on a lasting basis.

Constructive co-operation, based on sovereign equality of States, will contribute to eliminating the last vestiges of the cold war, to developing friendship and mutual understanding, to furthering ideas of peace and humanism and to developing to the maximum the use of the cultural, material, technical and scientific resources of our continent for the solution of economic and social problems.

It is in this spirit we recommend the European Peace Committees to:

- make new efforts to consolidate and broaden their membership;
- increase cooperation with other forces and peace organisations;
- strengthen their unity of action with other groups and social organisations in their countries and with political parties, trade unions, women's organisations, youth organisations, religious circles, parliamentarians, scientists and artists, etc.;
- exchange experiences with peace committees in other countries and undertake joint actions and initiatives;

- make use of all opportunities for co-operation with governmental and non-governmental organisations whose programme is based on resolutions of the UN or its specialised agencies and conforms to the decisions and principles of the World Peace Movement.

Peaceful co-existence, détente and peace are not the magic fruits of some imaginary tree. They are the fruits of the daily struggle of those for whom words such as freedom, social progress, democracy and peace cover practical realities.

Peaceful co-existence, détente and peace in the "Old World" are, and can only be, created by man.

These ideals are not abstractions but concrete realities, the fruits of hard work, perseverance and human intellect.

So, the clouds are dispersing and the sun is coming out over Europe.

Our continent has experienced more wars, more conflicts, than any other. Every square yard of its soil is impregnated with the blood of those who have given their lives there.

Two world wars originated in Europe. Today it is seeing the birth of a new hope. But this hope is not limited to our continent, it concerns the whole planet.

The forces of peace and progress in Europe have made a great contribution to this new situation.

Since May 1945, Europe and the world have changed. The balance of forces has tipped in favour of the building of peace.

Although today we can positively assess the distance already travelled, there is no place for undue complacency.

The peoples of Europe, like those of the whole world, now have both the power and the will to influence the course of history.

We call upon all men and women, all political and social forces of all kinds who are keen to participate in this struggle, to unite and struggle together towards a common goal, overlooking their differences and concentrating on what they have in common.

The building of a solid and lasting peace, the establishment of détente and peaceful co-existence in Europe, no longer belong to the realm of an ambitious but unattainable dream. They are beginning to be put into practice and are now in the realm of the possible. Our slogan should be to assess the positive achievements and to take them further.

The World Peace Council, for its part, has always, and continues to be, determined to strive towards this end with all its might.

Fascism Must Be Combated by Political Action

I.

Fascism which since the end of the first world war tried to dominate the peoples of the world, suffered a decisive defeat, 30 years ago, by the victorious struggle of the peoples in the great anti-fascist coalition, especially of the Soviet people. This victory created an important condition for peaceful and independent development throughout the world. The defeat of fascism has encouraged peoples to organise and fight against different forms of oppression, and especially against colonialism. One of the main lessons learned from these historic events is the fact that fascism can be defeated. A condition for successfully combating it is an early recognition of the threat posed by it, of its nature and of its main characteristics.

Fascism is the most brutal and inhuman form of dictatorship used by the most reactionary imperialistic circles to suppress the masses in order to achieve their criminal objectives. It always finds support in the most chauvinistic and nationalistic quarters. It spawns on, and takes advantage of the lack of political experience and on the confusion of certain social strata and makes use of regional and racial conflicts and tensions. The reactionary ruling class resorts to fascism when it feels that its privileges and power are threatened. Its aggressiveness is an expression of weakness rather than strength. But this does not diminish the danger posed by fascism. Fascism remains the greatest threat to the peaceful development of any nation, nationally and internationally.

II.

The situation in the world has undergone substantial changes in recent years. The general correlation of forces has developed in favour of democracy and socialism. New possibilities of waging a successful struggle against reaction and imperialism have been opened up for the peoples. Détente has been a major positive influence on the world situation. Fascism has suffered decisive defeats, especially in Portugal and Greece. The peoples of Indochina have waged a difficult fight against American imperialism and

against the terrorist puppet regimes brought to power by it and they have emerged victorious.

In this position the situation and possibilities for fascist activities have been weakened considerably. We should not forget that fascism has not disappeared from the scene in some regions. In some cases defeats of imperialism have activated the ultra right-wing and even overt fascist forces.

Fascism still exists both in its old forms and in new forms. In some countries it represents the state power while in others fascists are striving to gain power. Forces of fascism and fascist tendencies exist in developed capitalist countries as well as on the periphery of imperialism.

Chile, for example, demonstrates the highly aggressive nature of imperialism. In that country a process of democratic liberation was taking place with the support of the great majority of the people and with full guarantee of human rights. The agents of US imperialism and multinational monopolies in collaboration with the extremist internal reactionary forces and the fascist clique in the



Seen in conversation are (from left to right) Jose Nunes (Portugal), Volodia Teitelboim (Chile), Ramesh Chandra and Josef Cyrankiewicz (Poland).

armed forces brought to power the bloody regime of terror and violence of Pinochet's junta.

In Spain we witness the ongoing decay of the fascist regime accelerated at all levels by the continuous and growing struggle of the democratic forces. Being the last bastion of fascism in Europe, it constitutes an international threat, especially to the democratic developments in Portugal, which has thrown off the yoke of fascism.

The apartheid regime in South Africa, which is pursuing a policy of colonial suppression at home and of expansion in the rest of Africa, e.g., illegal occupation of Namibia, is a threat to progressive development, peace and unity of the independent African states.

The rulers in Israel with their expansionist and racial policies have for a long time been fostering conflict and tensions in the Middle East although this is in gross contradiction to the interests of their own people. They obstinately refuse to withdraw their troops from the occupied Arab territories. They continue their aggression on Arab countries and oppress with fascist methods the Palestinian people and deny their right to self-determination.

In some countries in Europe neo-fascists are compelled to operate in the half-light. In Italy for example they try to cause confusion among public opinion by means of terrorist attacks in order to strengthen the strategy of tension. But notwithstanding the economic difficulties of this country their attempts will be repulsed by the unity of the democratic forces.

Reactionary military and financial circles in the Federal Republic of Germany are trying to win over a part of the population for fascism, even in new forms, by linking up with old fascist sentiments and ideas. To this end they are making use of the dissatisfaction of some sections of the population with the economic situation and try to infiltrate large bourgeois political parties.

Reactionary fascist forces in India are being encouraged by US imperialism to carry through their programme of "destabilising" governments that are refusing to go along with American policy. Under the pretence of "non-party democracy" they are trying to abolish the democratic constitution and to trample the people's rights underfoot.

In all these, and similar cases, fascism and neo-fascism are endeavouring to abolish human and all democratic rights of their respective peoples. They are trying to destroy democratic parties, organisations and trade unions; to foment anti-communism and chauvinistic sentiments, and to stupefy the masses with the aid of the modern mass media. Their objective is to halt progressive development and undermine the climate of détente with a view to securing profits and power for the reactionary circles; for their politicians, their army and their financiers.

For these reasons fascism and neo-fascism are a particular threat to peace.

III.

The struggle against fascism makes it necessary to expose the economic, political, ideological and military background of this vicious system to the public.

People at the grass-root level must be mobilised in this struggle: men and women of all social strata; believers and non-believers; workers, peasants and farmers; artists and scientists; craftsmen and businessmen. There will also be a place in this front for those realistic sections among industrialists, politicians, military men and the clergy who realise the dangers of fascism. They all know that they would lose their established positions, their future, and maybe, even their lives through fascism and war.

The lessons of the anti-fascist struggle prove that fascists and neo-fascists always use anti-communism and anti-Sovietism as their main instrument. Anti-fascism is not the monopoly of any one party. But the experience of history proves that fascists can never be combated by anti-communist positions.

Fascism must be fought not only with words, but above all by consistent political deeds. Its ideological and political foundations must be exposed and destroyed.

These lessons must be passed on to those people, especially the young people, who did not personally experience the horrors of war and fascism. For this, use must be made of political meetings and scientific seminars, international conferences, scientific books and text-books, works of art and all modern forms of communicating information through the mass media.

IV.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the defeat of Hitler fascism, this Bureau Meeting of the World Peace Council Presidential Committee held in Berlin, GDR, pays tribute to the millions of victims of the nations of the world that suffered the ravages of the Second World War, and especially pays tribute to the 20 million Soviet people who sacrificed their lives in this struggle. The World Peace Council emphatically warns of the threat posed by the fascist activities on different continents of our globe. It calls on peoples throughout the world to act in solidarity with those nations and peoples that are engaged in a valiant struggle against fascist oppression and terror. It supports all international and national initiatives taken by organisations and which are suited to intensify the struggle against fascist regimes and against fascist forces, such as the forthcoming World Congress against Fascism to be held in India and other such forums. The World Peace Council calls on all peoples and on all supporters of the peace movement to support the nations that have recently shaken off the yoke of fascism by aiding them materially and politically so that they may consolidate their victory over fascism in their respective countries.

For the Prompt Implementation of UN Resolutions

Resolution on Cyprus

The Bureau of the WPC Presidential Committee meeting in Berlin, capital of the GDR, on the 18th–20th April to mark the 30th anniversary of the victory over Hitler fascism deplores the further deterioration of the situation in Cyprus which is the result of flagrant non-compliance with the repeated Resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly of the UN calling for the withdrawal of all troops from the island, the return of all refugees in safety and the respect of the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-alignment of the Cyprus Republic.

The island is now directly threatened by NATO circles with partition and liquidation of its independence, with the ultimate aim of its territory being turned into a military base serving imperialist, aggressive interests in the Eastern Mediterranean. This trend of events creates an explosive situation, thus having a negative influence on peace prospects in the Middle East and the positive processes of European Security and Co-operation.

These facts create a situation of urgency for the Peace Movement and all progressive forces the world over. The WPC believes that now is the time for the intensification of the solidarity campaigns with Cyprus. It is in this connection that it pledges full support to the Conference on Cyprus to be held in London on 10th and 11th May, 1975 organised by the Continuing Liaison Council of the World Congress of Peace Forces and sponsored by prominent British MPs and personalities.

We demand the immediate implementation of the UN resolutions on Cyprus and the urgent convening of an International Conference, under United Nations auspices, as proposed by the Soviet Union, and supported by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

The Cyprus Republic must be saved and its people, Greeks and Turks, must be given a real chance of solving their constitutional problems themselves, in a peaceful, democratic way. The Cyprus problem is the concern of the United Nations and all peoples of the world and not of the NATO military alliance.

Tragedies like the one in Cyprus where a small country is being pushed by cold-blooded imperialist strategic interests to destruction and mass misery, should not be allowed to happen.

Message to the "Women Walk Home" March in Cyprus

The World Peace Council warmly greets the "Women Walk Home" March of 20th April organised to press for the implementation of the provisions of the UN Resolutions on Cyprus concerning the safe return of all refugees to their homes. The WPC believes that the plight of the 200,000 refugees forced to flee from their homes and not allowed by the occupation forces to go back deserves the greatest concern of the broadest circles of the international community. The World Peace Council pledges itself to intensify the solidarity campaign in support of the Cyprus Republic and for the implementation of the United Nations Resolutions on Cyprus.

Ramesh Chandra,
Secretary-General
for the Bureau of the
Presidential Committee
of the World Peace Council

Light After 48 Years of Darkness

Statement on Portugal

On 25th April, 1974, the Armed Forces Movement (AFM) and the people of Portugal sounded the death knell of 48 years of fascist dictatorship.

All the world's progressive forces hailed the end of Portuguese fascism and the revival of democracy.

The ending of the colonial wars and the negotiations on an equal footing with the peoples of Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde Islands and Sao Tomé and Principe, and with the national liberation movements of these countries are an expression of political responsibility on the part of the newly-emergent Portuguese democracy. The heroic struggle of the liberation movements of Mozambique, Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tomé has materially contributed to this process.

The PWC and the peace forces as a whole have welcomed these massive achievements of the Government of Portugal.



A big rally in the Portuguese capital, Lisbon, in support of the democratic government of Portugal and the popular Armed Forces Movement.

In the field of home policies, the abolition of the former fascist laws, the restoration of civil liberties in all fields of political, trade union and social life, have also been assessed as decisive steps along the road to democracy, justice and freedom.

For 48 years, the Portuguese people suffered under a vicious dictatorship, 48 years during which their fundamental rights were trampled underfoot, 48 years during which arbitrary acts destroyed justice.

Therefore we can salute the wisdom, strength and courage of those, who have undertaken to bring back the light after half a century of obscurantism.

However, the internal forces of reaction and those of imperialism have not ceased their activities and since 28th September, they have been trying to check the democratic process in Portugal.

The latest attempted coup, fomented by disloyal officers in collusion with international capitalism, was aimed purely at protecting the interests of the privileged to the detriment of the people.

The Revolutionary Council and the Portuguese Government have taken a number of important steps such as:

- stronger measures to purge former supporters of the fascist regime from the police and the administration,
- democratic nationalisation of banks, insurance companies and key industries,
- introduction of agrarian reforms,
- measures to safeguard the revolution against activities opposed to the democratic process.

These measures, because they are highly democratic in character and reflect the freely expressed collective will, have received the full support of the Portuguese people from the moment they were announced, corresponding as they do to the principal demands of the people.

However, it is clearly apparent that Portugal must today confront an international conspiracy. The first phase is the conditioning of international public opinion by the major Western mass media—press, radio and television.

Completely unfounded or false news is being daily fed to the four corners of the earth. The truth is being distorted, or concealed and the slightest incidents blown up to huge proportions. The World Peace Council denounces this vicious campaign which aims to condition international public opinion in order to later justify more serious measures still, directed against newly-democratic Portugal.

But we shall not allow this to happen!

The WPC launches an appeal to all its national committees, to all political and social forces, all trade unions anxious to protect democracy, freedom and justice, to raise their voices in unison to denounce this campaign of mystification, to restore the truth and to support the new democratic Portugal.

It invites them to observe the period of 23rd May to 1st June as a week of international solidarity, during which press conferences, meetings, and debates will be organised to inform public opinion about the real situation in Portugal

on the widest possible scale, and to rally public opinion against any kind of attempt to intervene in the internal, autonomous developments of Portugal.

During this week, officers of the Armed Forces Movement in Portugal and members of the Portuguese Committee for Peace and Co-operation will accept invitations to take part in various initiatives planned in each country.

The national sovereignty of each nation in its own land, justice, liberty and democracy are the inalienable principles which must govern relations between the peoples of our planet.

The sovereign people of Portugal have undertaken to build their own future themselves with the help of all progressive mankind and we shall not let anyone jeopardise their efforts.

Message to the Government of Portugal

The participants in the Bureau meeting of the World Peace Council gathered in Berlin, capital of the GDR, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the victory over Hitler fascism send their warmest heartfelt greetings to the Government, the people and armed forces of democratic Portugal.

The defeat of fascism in Portugal on the 25th April, 1974 will go down in history not only as a great victory of the Portuguese people but at the same time as a great contribution to the struggle against imperialism, fascism, for democracy and social progress in the whole of the world.

The consistent progressive policy of your government and democratic measures taken in the interests of the people of Portugal aimed at finally uprooting the remains of fascism and ensuring further democratic progress in the country has raised high the prestige of the New Portugal in the eyes of all the peace-loving forces of the world.

The World Peace Council wishes you new successes and expresses its full support to you, the people and the armed forces of your country.

As we stood by the side of the Portuguese people at the time of their heroic struggle against fascist rule, the world peace forces stand today by your side in your struggle to build the new Democratic Portugal.

Israel Must Withdraw from All Occupied Arab Territories

Middle East Resolution

The situation in the Middle East remains dangerous. This is because of the refusal of Israel, encouraged by the United States, to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories and to respect the national rights of the Arab Palestinian people.

The World Peace Council demands the immediate convening of the Geneva Conference with the full participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, on an equal basis.

The United Nations General Assembly in its resolution of November 1974 has clearly laid down that in all efforts for a settlement of the Middle East problem, the Palestine Liberation Organisation must be represented.

The World Peace Council calls for actions in all countries in support of this demand.

Despite the failure of the Kissinger mission and the declaration by the US government that it is willing to attend the Geneva Conference, it still tries to encourage the idea that solutions can be found outside the Conference.

Yet the clear evidence shows that today a just solution in the Middle East can be found only through the Conference. The aim of the United States is to weaken the united front of the Arab countries and to encourage Israel to continue the policy of aggression against Lebanon and other Arab countries. The attack by pro-fascist elements on the Palestinian population in Lebanon is a warning that reactionaries continue manoeuvres which can create new danger points in the Middle East.

The Geneva Conference must meet. The only way to peace lies in the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 338 with its call for the evacuation of all territories occupied by Israel after the 1967 war and of the General Assembly Resolution of November 1974, on the rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

Seen on the platform (from left to right) are: Azil Sherif, Minister of State, General-Secretary of the Iraqi Council for Peace and Solidarity; Dr. Camilo O. Perez, President of the Panamanian Committee for the Defence of Sovereignty and Peace; and Khaled Mohey El Din, General-Secretary of the Egyptian Peace Council.



Support for the National Liberation Movements in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa

Resolution on Southern Africa

The World Peace Council draws the urgent attention of the peoples of the world to the secret U.S. policy document—the National State Security Memorandum 39—prepared by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in consultation with the C.I.A., the State Department, the Pentagon and a host of other "experts".

In terms of this document which is U.S. policy for Southern Africa, the following main points are made:

1. "The whites are in Southern Africa to stay . . . There is no hope for the Blacks to gain their political rights through violence which will lead to chaos and increased opportunities for the Communists.
2. While enforcing our arms embargo there was to be liberal treatment of dual-use equipment which could serve both military and civilian purposes.
3. Removal of constraints on Export-Import (EXIM) Bank facilities and encouraging investments.
4. The U.S. has a NASA tracking station and an air force tracking station in South Africa. The NASA station continues to be of primary importance . . . South Africa's port facilities are of long term strategic importance to the conduct of operations in the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans. These port facilities are the best in Africa and their availability to the Navy would be useful in peace time and essential in wartime."

Imperialism's agent in Africa for the prosecution of this plan is John Vorster, South Africa's fascist Prime Minister. Within the context of this plan, Vorster has launched a much publicised and well-orchestrated campaign around what he

terms "a policy of détente with the rest of Africa", with a view to not only fulfilling U.S. aims for this area but dividing independent Africa; dividing the Liberation Movements and the African countries; and, driving a wedge between the progressive African countries, the Liberation Movements and their allies in the socialist countries.

U.S. policy has steadily aimed at fulfilling the objectives of this document. Recent events in Southern Africa have forced the imperialists to hasten the process.

This meeting of the World Peace Council, therefore, taking note of:

1. the dramatic change of the balance of forces in Southern Africa following the democratic revolution in Portugal and the victories of the fighting peoples of Guinea-Bissau, Angola and Mozambique;
2. the intensified struggle for liberation in Namibia and Zimbabwe; and
3. the heightened level of confrontation between the oppressed and their oppressors in fascist South Africa

calls for the mobilisation of the progressive and democratic forces the world over to support and protect the victories of the former Portuguese colonies in Africa, and to intensify solidarity actions with and support for the national liberation movements in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.



M. P. Naicker, South Africa, Director for Publicity and Information of the African National Congress (2nd from left) talking to Bärbel Schindler-Saelkow (2nd from right), member of the Presidium of the Committee of Anti-Fascist Resistance Fighters and of the Presidium of the GDR Peace Council.

Solidarity – Now More Than Ever

Resolution on Vietnam

Holding that the current development of events in South Vietnam is the unavoidable result of two years of systematic and grave violations of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam by the United States and the Saigon administration, the World Peace Council warmly congratulates the people of Vietnam, particularly the South Vietnamese population for the major victories they have just recorded in their just struggle for independence and freedom.

US imperialism, although heavily defeated, has not abandoned its manoeuvres to impose US neo-colonialism upon South Vietnam. The White House is urging Congress for hundreds of millions of dollars in order to continue the war and maintain the fascist aggressive clique of Nguyen Van Thieu. Under the pretext of 'humanitarian evacuation', the United States has abducted thousands of South Vietnamese children from their homes. Extremely dangerous is the persistent demand by President Ford for his right to use US armed forces in the so-called 'evacuation of Americans' from South Vietnam.



Prof. Huy Thong Pham, Vice-President of the Vietnamese Peace Committee (centre).

South Vietnam is Free

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSV proclaimed on April 30, 1975 in a statement broadcast by Saigon's radio station "Liberation" that it had taken complete control over the entire territory of South Vietnam.

Some hours before that the Saigon puppet regime had unconditionally surrendered to the liberation forces.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSV published the following political principles in a 10-point programme:

1. Complete abolition of the regime and its apparatus of rule, of the armed forces and all organizations, cancellation of all decrees and elimination of all forms of oppression and reprisals practised by the puppet administration. Dissolution of all reactionary parties and other political organizations that had collaborated with the USA and the Saigon administration.
2. Implementation of democratic liberties for the population and equality between the sexes.
3. Pursuit of a policy aiming at the unity of the whole people, at national reconciliation and concord.
4. All inhabitants of the liberated areas are free to engage in their occupations. They are obliged to maintain order and security and to support the revolution.
5. Property left by the puppet government is to be administered by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam.
6. All industrial and craft enterprises, all trade, transport and communications facilities as well as all other public utilities must continue to operate.
7. Peasants will be aided in resuming and developing agricultural production, fishery and forestry will receive support.
8. All cultural, scientific and technical institutions, all schools and hospitals will be re-opened to serve the population. Activities serving the interests of a national healthy culture will be encouraged and developed. Scientists and technologists who make their outstanding abilities available for the benefit and construction of the homeland will be entrusted with important tasks.
9. Consistent implementation of the principles concerning the officers and soldiers of the former puppet administration, proclaimed by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam on March 25, 1975.
10. The lives and property of foreigners are protected. All foreigners living in the country must respect Vietnam's independence and sovereignty and strictly observe all directives and measures issued by the revolutionary administration.

The World Peace Council strongly condemns all these new crimes perpetrated by the US imperialists against the South Vietnamese population, and demands that the US administration end all its involvement and interference in South Vietnam and cut all aid to the corrupt reactionary clique of Nguyen Van Thieu, that it implement the Paris Agreement on Vietnam, respect the national fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese population.

The World Peace Council reaffirms its full support to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people, the National Front for Liberation, the PRG and people of South Vietnam to defend the Paris Agreement on Vietnam. The World Peace Council is deeply conscious of the limitless sufferings endured by the Vietnamese people, and appeals for wide campaigns by national committees, international and regional organisations and all peace and justice loving people to send urgent assistance, first and foremost, foodstuffs, medicines and clothing to newly liberated areas under the control of the PRG of South Vietnam.

Message to the Vietnamese People

The Bureau of the Presidential Committee of the World Peace Council, meeting in Berlin, Capital of the GDR, from 18th to 20th April, 1975, on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the victory over fascism, extends its warmest congratulations to the Vietnamese population, the PRG and the National Front for Liberation of South Vietnam for the resounding victories they have recorded in their hard struggle to

defend their national rights and the Paris Agreement on Vietnam.

We are conscious that together with the great victory of the Cambodian people, the victories of the South Vietnamese people who have pushed the aggressive and fascist clique of Nguyen Van Thieu into the corner of irreversible collapse, constitute a real contribution to the cause of peace and national independence in Asia and in the world. These victories also encourage the world's people in the common struggle against imperialism and its offspring—fascism and neo-fascism.

The World Peace Council reaffirms its full support for the just position and struggle of the Vietnamese people, and demands that the US administration stop all its involvements in South Vietnam and all its aids to the Nguyen Van Thieu clique, seriously implement the Paris Agreement on Vietnam, and respect the national fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese population.

The World Peace Council has called for wide-scale solidarity actions by national committees, international and regional organisations and all peace-loving people in the world as contributions to the final victory of the Vietnamese people.

The population of Saigon giving an enthusiastic welcome to the victorious liberation forces of the RSV.



Cambodia Has Found Peace Again

Message to GRUNK and FUNK

Since yesterday, 17th April, the GRUNK flag has been flying over Phnom Penh and over the whole of Cambodian territory.

We hail your great victory over US imperialism with the same joy as all your friends all over the world. Five years of courageous struggle under the leadership of GRUNK and FUNK have brought to nothing all hopes of domination over the Cambodian people. We stand beside you today as you set about the task of re-building your country now that peace has been restored.

Your victory represents a powerful stimulus to all those who are struggling in the various ways freely chosen by them, to put an end to the intervention of US imperialism in the affairs of their countries.

We shall resolutely pursue our efforts of solidarity in order to respond to the needs of your heroic and wounded people in the new conditions.

Women in the Struggle for Peace and Freedom

In this International Women's Year, and on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the victory over fascism, the meeting of the Bureau of the WPC Presidential Committee pays tribute to the millions of women all over the world participating in the peace movements, struggling for peace, national independence and social progress, to end the threat of new crimes against humanity.

The World Peace Council salutes especially the women participating in the glorious struggles against colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and oppression and those suffering in prisons and concentration camps under fascist or neo-fascist regimes.

The World Peace Council calls for growing solidarity with women everywhere who are playing a decisive role in the struggle of their peoples for freedom and peace.



Fanny Edelman, General-Secretary of the IWDF (right), speaks to the meeting about the importance of the world congress in International Women's Year. Centre: Freda Brown, Australia, President of the International Preparatory Committee for the world congress. Left: The Rev. Konrad Lübbert, Federal Republic of Germany, Chairman, German branch of the International Fellowship for Reconciliation.



At a ceremony the participants in the WPC Bureau meeting paid homage to the eminent peace fighter, Isabelle Blume, for many years Coordinating Chairwomen of the Presidential Committee of

the World Peace Council, Chairwoman of the Belgian Peace Union, Lenin Prize winner.



Romesh Chandra handed the documents of the Bureau meeting to the public at an international press conference held in Berlin on April 21, 1975.

Front cover:
The city centre of Berlin, capital of GDR

Inside front cover:
Representatives from the Bureau meeting laying a wreath at the Berlin-Treptow memorial to pay tribute to the Soviet soldiers and officers fallen in the battle for Berlin.

Inside back cover:
A child care centre in Berlin was given the name "Isabelle Blume" in the presence of Romesh Chandra.

Back cover:
Emblem of the Berliner (Brecht) Ensemble by Pablo Picasso.



Frinde allen s' allern • Puhj a uss vukhina nardandam • Peace for all nations • La paix pour tous les peuples • Map azca mapodeu • Paz a todos los pueblos



La paix pour tous les peuples • Puhj a uss vukhina nardandam • Peace for all nations • Frinde allen s' allern • Map azca mapodeu • Paz a todos los pueblos

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