



THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL'S "PEACE ASSEMBLIES"

May 1983

The Soviet Union invariably supports the peace movement. The World Peace Council, in its turn, positively reacts to a// Soviet initiatives in international affairs. Wider mobilization of public opinion in support of the Soviet Union's peaceful initiatives ... would help further to improve the world climate. (WPC President Romesh Chandra, New Times, Moscow, #28, 1975)

"World peace" assemblies or congresses are major events staged by the World Peace Council (WPC) roughly every 3 years. The 1983 world assembly will take place in Prague, June 21-26. Since the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, these meetings have been held only in Moscow or various East European capitals. The first was held jointly in Paris and Prague (April 1949) because French authorities denied visas to the majority of delegates from Eastern Europe, where communist regimes had recently been imposed by the U.S.S.R. WPC triennial assemblies subsequently were held in Warsaw (November 1950), Vienna (December 1952), Helsinki (June 1955), Stockholm (July 1958), Moscow (July 1962), Helsinki (July 1965), East Berlin (June 1969), Budapest (May 1971), Moscow (October 1973), Warsaw (May 1977), and Sofia (September 1980). (See appendix for more details on the 1973, 1977, and 1980 assemblies.)

These assemblies are designed to attract maximum noncommunist participation by focusing on issues of concern to a broad range of social and political opinion. However, there are several features common to all the gatherings that underlie their pro-Soviet political bias.

- The majority of participants in the assemblies are Soviet and East European communist party members, representatives of foreign communist parties, and representatives of other Soviet-backed international fronts. Token noncommunist participation serves to lend an element of credibility.
- Discussion usually is confined to the inequities of Western socioeconomic systems and attacks on the military and foreign policies of the United States and other "imperialist, fascist" nations.
- Resolutions advocating policies favored by the U.S.S.R. and other communist nations are passed "by acclamation," not by vote. In most cases, delegates do not see the texts until they are published in the communist media.
- Attempts by noncommunist delegates to discuss Soviet actions (such as the invasion of Afghanistan) are dismissed as "interference in internal affairs" or "anti-Soviet propaganda."
- Dissent among delegates often is suppressed and never acknowledged in final resolutions or communiqués.

- All assemblies praise the U.S.S.R. and other "progressive" societies and endorse Soviet foreign policy positions.

This year the "World Assembly for Peace and Life Against Nuclear War," sponsored by the Czechoslovak Communist Party and the WPC, will be staged June 21-26 in Prague. Its major objective will be to unify disparate elements of the peace movement in opposition to the deployment of U.S. intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe. Some 2,300 delegates are expected, representing the WPC; "all peace and anti-war groups"; international trade unions; women's, youth, and religious organizations; as well as "outstanding" cultural and political personalities and some 300 accredited journalists. Results of the assembly will be incorporated into the WPC 1984 Program of Action.

Based on Czechoslovak media reports, it appears that WPC and Czechoslovak organizers anticipate disagreement over tactical and ideological questions regarding the West European peace movement and its role in the East-West balance.¹ *Rude Pravo* (February 12, 1983) stated that the assembly is:

... to play a key role mobilizing and strengthening the further cohesion of world peace forces.... understandably, there will re-

¹WPC and Soviet concern over tactical and ideological splits in the West European peace movement was expressed in a letter from WPC vice president Zhukov, sent in late 1982 to several hundred Western, noncommunist peace groups in Western Europe. The letter accused Bertrand Russell Foundation activists of fueling the cold war by claiming that both NATO and the Warsaw Pact bear equal responsibility for the arms race and international tension. Zhukov denounced the West Berlin Working Group for a Nuclear-Free Europe, organizers of a May 1983 European disarmament conference in Berlin, for allegedly siding with NATO, attempting to split the peace movement, and distracting the "peaceloving public from the main source of the deadly threat posed against the peoples of Europe—the plans for stationing a new generation of nuclear missiles in Europe in 1983." In addition, he criticized Western peace groups for favoring ties with "unofficial" peace movements in Eastern Europe. Zhukov ignored the fact that Soviet authorities have crushed the small Soviet "Committee to Establish Trust between the USSR and USA," barred its contacts with Western correspondents, and imprisoned several of its members.

Kenneth Coates, director of the Bertrand Russell Foundation, replied that Zhukov's letter "does a disservice to your committee with its crude attempts to present us as mere agents provocateurs under the influence of Western powers." The Yugoslav daily *Delo* (March 3, 1983) criticized the Zhukov letter as "crude interference in the internal affairs of Western countries" and an indirect attack on the growing unofficial peace movement in East Germany and the Soviet Union.

sound all kinds of voices, all kinds of views. But the things that unite all people of goodwill in the conditions of the present international [situation] are much stronger and much more important than the things that divide them.

Rude Pravo (March 4, 1983) published the assembly's schedule of events with the caveat that it was "not yet finalized" and could be "added to in the course of the World Assembly at the delegates' wish." Discussions focusing on 11 global problems of the entire planet" will be considered by 11 commissions covering: the danger of nuclear war and the threat to life; European security and disarmament; the exchange of experiences and opinions of peace movements in support of disarmament; the UN role in the battle for peace and disarmament; the economic aspects of the arms race and of disarmament; peaceful solutions of disputes; education in peace and the prevention of war; and the war danger and the problems of the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The assembly will open the morning of June 21; that evening the participants will meet in Prague's Old Town Square for a joint peace rally "with the citizens of the capital." Other rallies and local peace marches are planned during the assembly. Negotiations on the 22d will deal with "all-human problems." On the 23d, delegates will tour various regions and districts of Czechoslovakia, returning to Prague June 25 to take part in a "solidarity forum" and "roundtable discussions" with athletes, journalists, soldiers, cosmonauts, as well as with members of "entrepreneurial circles." On June 26, the world peace assembly will conclude with a plenary session and will adopt the "final document-an appeal to the world public."

Background on the WPC

Since its inception in 1917, the U.S.S.R. has sought the support of noncommunist individuals and groups to lend credibility and general appeal to its domestic and foreign policies. To this end, the Soviet Union maintains a network of international organizations which, while purporting to be nongovernmental groupings of people with common causes, are in fact facades, or fronts, for communist policies and initiatives. They are financed and controlled by the U.S.S.R., and their campaigns are largely directed against the interests of Western nations. The World Peace Council is the archetypical front organization.

The World Peace Council was founded in 1949 as the World Committee of Partisans for Peace and adopted its present title in 1950. The WPC was based in Paris until 1951 when the French Government expelled it for "fifth column activities." The WPC moved to Prague and then to Vienna in 1954, where it remained until banned in 1957 for "activities directed against the Austrian state." However, it continued to operate in Vienna as the "International Institute for Peace" until it moved to its present location in Helsinki in 1968.

The WPC seeks support in the Third World by posing as an independent body identifying with such causes as the new international economic order; anticolonialism; and assistance to "liberation movements." In NATO countries it exploits fears of nuclear war by stimulating and/or sponsoring anti-nuclear rallies and advocating Soviet-supported disarmament policies. The WPC attracts some prestigious noncommunist figures-literary, humanitarian, scientific-who are motivated by a genuine concern for peace but not dissuaded by the preponderance of Soviet and pro-Soviet personnel in key WPC decisionmaking positions. Total membership information never has been made public. Most members do not belong

to the WPC itself but to about 135 national "peace committees" (e.g., the U.S. Peace Council, the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace (SCDP), and the Norwegian Peace Committee). Historically, it has been the function of such fronts to mobilize people not normally reached by local, Moscow-linked communist parties.

Soviet Organizational Control

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union's (CPSU) Central Committee maintains *de facto* control over the WPC through the International Social Organizations Sector of the International Department (ID) which is responsible exclusively for front organizations. This special branch falls under the general responsibility of Vitaliy Shaposhnikov, a deputy ID chief and a member of the WPC's Presidential Committee. Yuriy Zhukov, a WPC vice president, also is a candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, a member of the U.S.S.R. Parliamentary Group, a deputy chairman of the U.S.S.R.-U.S.A. Society, and the chairman of the SCDP (the Soviet WPC national affiliate). Through such direct lines to key WPC officials, the CPSU shapes WPC projects and activities as well as the content of statements and communiques.

Dissent Within the WPC

The WPC and similar fronts regularly face internal problems because their Soviet affiliation cannot always be reconciled with an image of independence and nonalignment. In 1949, for example, following the expulsion of Yugoslavia from the Cominform, the WPC expelled Yugoslav representatives and purged its ranks of so-called Titoists. Similarly, the Sino-Soviet dispute led to the WPC's ostracism of China. Nikita Khrushchev's revelations of Stalinist excesses at the 20th Soviet Communist Party Congress in 1956 and the suppression of the Hungarian uprising by Soviet troops the following November cost the fronts considerable popular support.

WPC Organization

Council: The organization's highest authority comprising over 1,500 representatives of cooperating international organizations and national peace committees. It meets every 3 years.

Presidential Committee: Elected by the Council, it is nominally responsible for running the WPC between Council sessions. The committee has 26 vice presidents (of whom 11 are known to be members of pro-Soviet communist parties) and 146 members. It holds regular annual and occasional emergency meetings chaired by WPC President Chandra.

Bureau of the Presidential Committee: Consists of the WPC president, vice presidents, and representatives of selected national peace committees. Meeting three to four times a year, it plans future activities and "programs of action."

Secretariat: A full-time executive staff appointed by the Presidential Committee. It is responsible for proposing new activities and for implementing council, Presidential Committee, and Bureau decisions.

After the Soviet-led Invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968, Moscow had to replace nearly all major communistfront officials in order to restore discipline. Criticism of the WPC's close alignment with the U.S.S.R. persisted, however: The WPC's eighth world assembly in East Berlin in June 1969 was widely criticized by various participants for its lack of spontaneity and carefully orchestrated Soviet supervision.

As the British General Secretary of the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace and a delegate to the 1969 assembly wrote (*Tribune*, July 4, 1969): "There were a number [of delegates] who decided to vote against the general resolution for three reasons (a) it was platitudinous (b) it was one sided and (c) in protest against restrictions on minorities and the press within the assembly. This proved impossible in the end for no vote was taken." Those anxious to liberalize the WPC from the "straitjacket of its Soviet face" were blocked by the presence of too many proSoviet delegates and the practice of holding controversial discussions "behind closed doors."

Although opposition to Soviet control over the WPC occasionally occurs within the organization, leaders usually are able to confine criticism to small, private meetings. Dissenting views are seldom aired in large-scale, WPC-sponsored public gatherings. When they are, they either are suppressed during the proceedings or ignored in WPC-approved documents. Such was the case at the WPC's World Congress of Peace Forces in Moscow, October 1973. Before the Congress, the War Resisters' International, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, and the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace jointly appealed to all participating organizations to raise the questions of freedom of speech and the treatment of dissidents in the U.S.S.R. The appeal was not acknowledged. Four members of the American peace group SANE were denied visas by Soviet authorities because they intended to raise the issue of Soviet dissidents at the Congress.

A Belgian delegate, addressing the Congress' Commission on Human Rights, asked the Congress to "demand that the Soviet Government grant amnesty to political prisoners, and to bring to light those forms of repression practiced in the U.S.S.R.," declaring that the disappearance of a "silent minority" into camps, prisons, and psychiatric asylums "could not be condoned." Soviet-bloc delegates denounced these comments as "interference in the internal affairs of Socialist countries," and the Soviet jurist, V. Kudryavtsev, accused the Belgian delegate of "Incompetence and ignorance." *Pravda* (October 31, 1973) described the remarks as a "trite collection of anti-Soviet propaganda."

More recently, Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrey Sakharov's message to a 1976 WPC-sponsored forum on disarmament in York, United Kingdom, was not read to delegates as Sakharov had requested. At WPC meetings in 1977, questions from noncommunist participants about human rights violations in the U.S.S.R. never appeared in official reports. The December 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan generated considerable debate within the WPC; 2 months elapsed before the WPC was able to issue a statement endorsing it.

The Soviet Peace Fund and WPC

CPSU International Department Deputy Chief Vadim Zagladin, in an interview with the Vienna Arbeiter Zeitung (May 21, 1982) discussed Moscow's view of the European peace movement and explained how Soviet peace activities are meshed with those in Europe:

We highly appreciate the peace movement as an expression of the people's will to prevent war.... We also have a mass peace

movement, but it expresses itself in other forms.... Our young people are now writing letters to Brussels, to the NATO organizations. Over 6 million youths have written such letters. Although May 9 was an official holiday, several working brigades came to work and collected all the money they had earned for the Soviet Peace Fund.

In response to the question "What did they do with the money?" Zagladin stated:

You have several peace committees for European security. They are printing newspapers, and all Soviet participants in peace demonstrations here in Vienna, Amsterdam or Brussels are being paid with the money from this fund. I think that we do not inform the public sufficiently about our peace movement....

According to available information, the Soviet Peace Fund is a type of financial clearinghouse administered by the SCDP. It is nationally organized with at least 120 representatives throughout the U.S.S.R. Like the SCDP itself, the Peace Fund is a "public" organization, allegedly operating without the involvement of official Soviet organs.

In a May 22 appearance on Moscow television, SCDP chairman Zhukov observed that some 80 million Soviet citizens participate in "replenishment" of the fund. "Donations" are mailed to SCDP headquarters or paid through the U.S.S.R. state bank. The most common method of collecting money for the fund is for individual factories, plants, and collective farms to hold a 2-day "work shift for peace," similar to the activity of the "working brigades" cited by Zagladin. Individuals participating in such work shifts then "donate" their day's wages to the fund. According to *20th Century and Peace* (December 1981), the Krasnoyarsk Peace Committee alone received 2 million rubles (about U.S. \$1.5 million) for the fund in 1981. Actually, such "donations" usually represent levies imposed by the central authorities on the individual local affiliates.

According to the English-language weekly *Moscow News* (No. 19, 1981), the Soviet Peace Fund helps finance some of the WPC's "large public initiatives." Former Peace Fund chairman Boris Polevoi asserted that his clients included the "leaders of the international democratic organizations working for peace: the fund regularly gives them assistance in organizing their undertakings" (*20th Century and Peace*, April 1980). Polevoi also acknowledged that the fund worked closely with the SCDP to "render financial aid to the organizations, movements and personalities fighting for stronger peace, national independence and freedom."

Referring to the October 1973 World Congress of Peace Forces, an event organized jointly by the SCDP and the WPC, the November 1973 edition of the WPC's Peace Courier reported that "Soviet public organizations ... covered all the delegates' maintenance expenses in Moscow." It also claimed that "Soviet citizens donated to the Soviet Peace Fund-which covered the delegates' maintenance expenses-about \$200,000. Moscow's Patriarchate also donated 3 million rubles."

Soviet Life (February 1983) reported that the fund "finances any undertaking aimed at strengthening peace and establishing better understanding among nations." It quoted Freda Brown, head of the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) and a WPC vice president, who asserted in 1979 at a WIDF peace conference in Moscow that the money to conduct the gathering had come from the Soviet Peace Fund.

Money collected by the Soviet Peace Fund is channeled to WPC headquarters in Helsinki either through the International Department or through the SCDP. Many peace committee chapters affiliated with the WPC are believed to receive Soviet assistance via local Soviet embassies and communist parties. (For example, in October 1981, Danish

authorities expelled Vladimir Merkulov, a Soviet Embassy second secretary and KGB operative charged with passing money to Arne Herlov-Petersen, a long-time KGB agent-of-influence and member of the WPC's Danish affiliate, the Copenhagen-based Liaison Committee for Peace and Security. Petersen used the money to finance a newspaper campaign calling for the establishment of a Nordic nuclear weapons-free zone.)

Financial irregularities forced the WPC to withdraw its application for reclassification to Category I Consultative Status in its relationship with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at a session of the Committee of Non-Government Organizations held February 9-19, 1981, in New York. According to the ECOSOC Report (March 16, 1981), WPC accounts

... are not submitted to an independent audit.... the financial statement submitted to the committee covered only a fraction of the WPC's actual income and expenditures.... In its application, the World Peace Council also stated that it does not receive contributions from any government.... But the representative of the organization [Romesh Chandra] carefully avoided answering specific questions put to him by members of the committee on that point. It is clear, however, that the World Peace Council has received large-scale financial support from government sources, and has gone to great lengths to conceal the fact from the committee.

Recent Anti-Western Campaigns

Since its original "Stockholm appeal" for "banning the bomb" in 1950, the WPC has consistently advanced Soviet positions on controversial international issues. For example, in conjunction with other front organizations, it established the "Stockholm Conference on Vietnam," active from 1967 until the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Indochina in 1973. It supported the "International Commission of Inquiry into U.S. War Crimes in Vietnam," created in 1970 as a subsidiary of the Stockholm Conference. Throughout the Vietnam war, the WPC sent many "peace" delegations to North Vietnam and regularly issued statements supporting Soviet policy on the war. In March 1979 following the Sino-Vietnamese border clashes, the WPC staged an "International Conference on Vietnam" to condemn the Chinese and organized a "special conference" in Hanoi to mark the 90th anniversary of the birth of Ho Chi Minh in 1980.

The antineutron bomb campaign initiated in mid-1977 claimed that the United States was pursuing military policies that disregarded the interests of its European allies. The WPC proclaimed August 6-13, 1977, a "Week of Action" against the bomb and organized peace and antibomb demonstrations in Europe, Africa, Latin America, and the Near East. President Carter's decision to postpone development of the neutron warhead was then touted as a victory for world "peace forces."

APPENDIX: 1973,1977, AND 1980 CONGRESSES

World Congress of Peace Forces: October 25-31, 1973, Moscow

Approximately 3,200 foreign delegates from 144 countries attended, allegedly representing 1,100 political parties, national organizations, and movements and 120 international organizations. Some 4,600 Soviet delegates took part as well. (Pravda, October 26, 1971)

WPC President Romesh Chandra delivered the opening speech broadcast live by Radio Moscow. Then-Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev followed with a lengthy review of world affairs and praised the work of the WPC. He stated:

The need of the present ... is to unite all the peace-loving forces of mankind in the name of a peaceful development of all countries and all peoples.... The masses are looking for guidelines from the world mass movement.... Let me assure you that in your actions to strengthen peace you will find the fullest and most effective support from the CPSU, the Soviet Government and all the Soviet people.... (Radio Moscow, October 26, 1973)

Fourteen commissions were set up to examine the global issues of: peaceful coexistence and international security, European security and cooperation, peace and security in Asia, and national liberation in the struggle against colonialism and racism. All but two of these commissions were chaired either by Soviet officials, WPC Presidential Committee members, local communist party members, or heads of other Soviet-controlled international fronts. Given the composition of each commission, the large size of the Soviet organizing committee, and the fact that the preliminary discussion papers were all reported to have been drafted by Soviet officials, Soviet stage management of the entire affair seems evident.

At the close of the Congress, a final appeal "for peace to the peoples of the world" was adopted. In his concluding address, Chandra admitted the appeal represented "a consensus" of the views of the Congress delegates but not the views of everyone (*Morning Star*; November 1, 1973). A number of delegations-including the Japanese, Romanians, and Australians-handed in written protests concerning the language on an Asian collective security system in the final communique, but the Congress refused to alter the passage.

The final communique:

- Accused the United States of "doing everything possible" to halt the implementation of the 1973 Paris peace accords to end the war in Vietnam;
- Condemned Israel's "unceasing aggression" as a "threat to peace" in the Middle East;
- Called on "various public organizations" (i.e., Soviet-backed fronts), to "expand and intensify" detonate and European security;
- Criticized "U.S. imperialism" for prolonging the "acuteness and large scale" of Asia's problems, blamed South Korea for "placing obstacles in the path" of peaceful reunification with the north, and asserted that the creation of a system of collective security in Asia must be open to all Asian states "irrespective of their social systems";

- Condemned “International imperialism” for prolonging Third World social and economic ills and for supporting “colonial and racist regimes” and called on the United States, United Kingdom, France, Netherlands, and Spain to relinquish their “colonial yoke” over unidentified peoples struggling for national independence;

- Accused multinational corporations of destroying the environment;
- Criticized interference in the internal affairs of other states while calling for an “appropriate mechanism” for protecting human rights;

According to the New York Times (November 4, 1973), the World Federation of United Nations Organizations abstained from approval of the final communique while the World Veterans’ Association dissociated itself from its results, both citing the communique’s “one sidedness.”

World Assembly of Builders for Peace: May 6-11, 1977, Warsaw

About 1,500 delegates from 125 countries and 50 international organizations attended this meeting. Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev asserted in a message to the assembly that the WPC could “always rely on the invariable support and assistance from our people, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union” (TASS, May 6, 1977).

In his opening speech, WPC President Chandra asserted that implementation of the “peace program” of the U.S.S.R. and the other socialist states had been decisive in the “victories” scored by many people in their “struggle for a new life.” Reactionary forces, under the pretense of upholding the Helsinki Final Act, were spreading poisonous slanders about the socialist countries in order to create a climate of mistrust and hatred.

Ten commissions were established to examine the arms race and disarmament; development and the new international economic order; European security and cooperation and the Helsinki Final Act; the Middle East; solidarity against colonialism and apartheid and for national independence; nonalignment and the struggle against the “Imperialist policy of destabilization”; human rights; the struggle against fascism and neofascism; racism and discrimination; and environmental protection.

The resolutions adopted by the commissions:

- Condemned imperialism and neocolonialism for spreading hatred among nations;
- Demanded the liquidation of religious discrimination, exploitation of foreign guest workers, and the unequal rights of working women;
- Called on the Nonaligned Movement to struggle against the “Imperialist policy of destabilization”;
- Appealed to progressive forces to fight reaction and the rebirth of fascism in certain countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia;
- Expressed “serious concern” over “Israeli aggression” against the Arab peoples; and
- Reiterated Soviet proposals for “complete and general disarmament.”

The world assembly also sent a message to the Soviet Union stating that: “The heritage of [the October Revolution] of 1917 is alive in the deeds, spirit and constant efforts of the Soviet Union to safeguard world peace and to strengthen security of all nations and states.”

World Parliament of Peoples for Peace: September 23-27, 1980, Sofia

About 2,260 delegates from 137 countries and more than 100 international organizations, including the United Nations and the World Council of Churches, attended. According to a Sofia radio report (September 27), the WPC called it an “expression of the anxiety of the people of all continents aroused by the attempts of the Imperialist forces and, first of all, the USA, its allies and China, who wish to revive the spirit of the policy ‘from the position of force’ to reverse the world to the times of cold war.”

A message to the parliament from Brezhnev accused unnamed states of “undisguised threats,” “striving for world domination,” and relying on the “diktat, violence and wars as normal methods (of) tackling international issues.”

Bulgarian President Zhivkov delivered the opening address, which condemned the United States and NATO for “provoking a chain of reactions” and “pushing the world toward a further escalation in rearmament.” He maintained that “the fact that the world lives in peace today is due to a tremendous extent to the peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union.” Zhivkov did not mention the December 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Nor did WPC President Chandra, who focused instead on the “victories” of the peoples of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Ethiopia, and Nicaragua and criticized U.S. nuclear strategy, calling it “absurd” and meant to “deceive the world public.” Afghan leader Babrak Karmal, however, sent a message condemning international imperialism and declaring that the “limited contingent of Soviet forces” would return home only when Pakistan and Iran would advance “reliable guarantees of future peaceful and good-neighborly relations” to Afghanistan (TASS, September 23, 1980).

CPSU Central Committee member and International Department Chief Boris Ponomarev accused the United States of trying to achieve “nuclear superiority” and pursuing aggressive, expansionist policies; denounced the U.S. and NATO “war machine” for anti-Soviet propaganda; condemned “Japanese militarism,” Israel’s “aggression” against the Arab states, and U.S. efforts to “foist” new nuclear weapons on Western Europe. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, does “everything humanly possible to avert a world war and curb armaments. The Soviet Union threatens nobody; not the United States, nor China, nor Japan nor Western Europe.”

A “peace appeal” adopted “unanimously” early in the parliament’s deliberations:

- Categorically rejected the “dangerous and inhuman doctrine” of the “new nuclear strategy”;
- Demanded a halt to the buildup of armaments, an end of “saber rattling,” a cessation of acts of aggression and military blackmail, and the elimination of the threat of nuclear war; and
- Called on unidentified “governments” to give up new armament programs; halt the production of nuclear, neutron, and chemical weapons; reduce military stockpiles; and “embark on negotiations” (TASS, September 24, 1980).

The parliament’s delegates formed nine commissions to consider inter alia economic independence and the new international economic order and the role of transnational companies; the energy problem, environmental problems, and their relation to the problems of peace and national independence; European security and cooperation; and the peace and security of Asia.

The parliament also staged an “International public court,” putting on trial “Chinese chauvinism and hegemonism,” the “blood-stained clique of Pol Pot and Ieng Sary,” Haitian President Jean Claude Duvalier, the “military junta” of El Salvador, and the “main defendant-American imperialism.” All were accused and found guilty of “violating human rights and of crimes against humanity.”

A unanimously adopted “World Peace Parliament Charter” summarized the main goals and tasks of the world’s “peace forces” under four main rubrics: “Peace is the Inalienable Right of the Peoples”; “The Right of Peace is the Right to National Independence, Free and Peaceful

Development of Peoples”; “Detente, Democracy, Freedom and Social Progress”; and “Peace is our Common Right.” The charter’s language closely paralleled that emanating from the 1973 and 1977 WPC Congress.

At a concluding press conference, WPC President-Chandra asserted that the results of the World Parliament of Peoples for Peace had “exceeded the expectations of even the greatest optimists.” He singled out Brezhnev’s message to the meeting for special praise: “This message was of great significance for the success of the forum.... The peace policy of the Soviet Union is a thing to which all peoples are striving” (Sofia news agency, BTA, September 28, 1980).

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