

Report of the conclusions of the Trade Union Forum at the World Congress devoted to the International Year of Peace.

315 representatives of 232 trade unions in 72 countries met in Copenhagen during the World Congress devoted to the International Year of Peace. The success of this congress, which is the largest event in the International Year of Peace, shows the diversity and strength of the peace movement in the world. However, participants of the Trade Union Forum express their profound concern and anxiety at the continued growth of tension in the world. They convey their deep disappointment over the out-

They convey their deep disappointment over the outcome of the recent meeting between President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. This meeting did not lead to an agreement, as workers of all countries would have wished. This they regret. However, they feel that the possibilities of agreement on important disarmament points have never been so advanced. This advance is a positive result of the action of the workers and peoples for peace and disarmament. We must continue along these lines.

The US administration's determination to pursue SDI (Star Wars project) was the stumbling block to this agreement. Workers condemn such plans which would lead the human race into an unprecedented escalation of the arms race. This escalation would have even more negative consequences on the economic development and social progress of all peoples. Under the pressure of the giant multinationals, all the strategic sectors of research and industrial production would be militarised.

The world community stands at a crossroads. The immense scientific and technological progress of our time can either lead to our future development - or destroy humanity. Arms arsenals are growing, and still newer forms of weapons of mass destruction are being constructed. The more advanced types of weapons increase the danger of a devastating nuclear war. The arms spiral must be stopped. The peace movement must strain every nerve to prevent a nuclear catastrophe.

The trade union movement plays a decisive role in the struggle against the threat of nuclear war, and for the elimination of nuclear weapons as an urgent and vital task for all humanity. It adds an important dimension to the peace movement by connecting the struggle for peace and disarmament with the struggle for social and economic justice. The militarisation of economies has totally blocked the solution of the most pressing global problems. While the war machinery ruthlessly swallows US \$2 million per minute, millions of people face starvation and poverty. In a world, where more than 400 million people are denied the right to work, nearly US \$1000 billion are allocated for weapons each year. Militarism keeps millions of people in poverty and constitutes a major obstacle in the struggle to create a new international economic order. The developing countries are gripped by an economic iron hand, with the ever-increasing burden of debt, which at present amounts to US \$1000 billion and prevents the solution of their vital problems. The cancellation of this debt is the only realistic way to proceed, given the extremely serious current situation in these countries.

The participants call on the UN to ensure that a conference on the interrelation between disarmament and development be held in the near future. They call for support for the proposal to

hold a world trade union conference on economic security.

An important aspect of the struggle for peace is the struggle for the elimination of the scourge of apartheid, which is a threat to world peace and serves to stimulate the military-industrial complexes. The participants of the Trade Union Forum support the UN Declaration condemning apartheid as a crime against humanity.

They emphasised that, because of advances made by the trade union movement, trade union rights have been under constant and serious attack in many developed and developing countries. These attacks have taken the form of direct anti-union legislation and coordinated policies of de-unionisation by many transnational corporations and private companies. This assault must be resisted, and the role of the trade union movement in campaigning for peace must not be diverted. The discussions of this World Congress have proven the point that the trade union movement's struggle for workers' vital interests - wherever it takes place - is closely linked with the struggle for peace and for an end to the arms race.

The trade unions must do their utmost to shatter the myth propounded by the militarists that disarmament would have devastating consequences for the workers. We know that the opposite is true. The conversion of the military industry to civil production will create new jobs and free billions of dollars to solve world-wide problems such as hunger, disease, unemployment and illiteracy.

Today, trade unions everywhere are aware of their responsibility in the struggle to preserve life on earth. They are becoming a real fighting force in the struggle for peace and detente. The large international trade union organisations, the ICFTU, WCL, WFTU and ETUC, recognise the importance of this struggle and they have produced constructive initiatives to stop the arms race.

This is reassuring, but it is still not enough. The next step must be taken: the step towards united actions. Such is the will and aspiration of the millions of workers all over the world. This is the mandate they have given the trade unions as organisations struggling for their interests. Trade unions of the whole world, regardless of their political orientation or international affiliation, have been called to unite their forces in the international campaign "Workers and Trade Unions for Peace and Jobs". The highlights of this campaign every year should be the International Day of Trade Union Action for Peace, 1st September, and the UN Day on October 24th. Trade unions should also support the campaign and initiatives for the appeal from Hiroshima and Nagasaki in respect of Hiroshima Day on August 6th and Nagasaki Day on August 9th; and UN Disarmament Week at the end of October, Easter marches and other peace activities. In this context, we should also welcome the proposal by the representative of the Mongolian trade unions to hold an All-Asian Forum for Peace and Cooperation with a broad participation by Asian trade unions.

With more than 400 million members, the trade union movement constitutes an immense power which can contribute in a decisive way to the elimination of all nuclear, chemical and other weapons of mass destruction before the year 2000. A major step towards this will be the implementation of a total nuclear

test ban treaty, an international agreement prohibiting the militarisation of space, the creation of nuclear weapon-free zones and the peaceful solution of regional conflicts, which today add to international tension.

Peace will not be obtained through military power. Security will not be created through confrontation, but will only be achieved by common objectives.

The results of the Stockholm Conference were a victory for this train of thought.

The negatives aspects of the meeting in Reykjavik, on the other hand, showed that the activities in the peace movement are more necessary than ever before, if a real breakthrough is to be secured.

Therefore, we call on all peace-loving forces to join behind the demand to prevent Star Wars and to introduce an international ban on nuclear tests.

Trade unions are the voice of organised workers. It has never been more urgent that this voice be heard in the cause of peace. These times are a challenge to all trade unionists to join in a united campaign against preparations for a nuclear war.

* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * *

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARŞİVİ
TÜSTAN