

REPORT OF GROUP 2

WAYS OF STRENGTHENING UNITED ACTIONS OF PEACE FORCES
IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA. DIRECTION OF CO-OPERATION,
CAMPAIGNS AND ACTIONS

The participants discussed the four points of the agenda.

In a general dialogue, there were speakers representing European countries, East and West, and from North America. All expressed the serious danger being faced by humanity at the present time with the furthering of the arms build-up, the deployment of first strike nuclear missiles in Western Europe; the important question of exploring responsibility; who is for peace and who is preparing the way for a nuclear confrontation.

As many actions as possible should be linked specifically with the U.N. World Disarmament Campaign, and Disarmament Week, and the 40th anniversary of the UN.

The Peace and anti-war movements should realise and make use of the fact that key UN decisions, initiatives and resolutions on disarmament are supported by the great majority of nations while being opposed by the U.S. - often alone or with a small handful of its allies.

Most notable was the vote on the resolution on banning space weapons which was opposed by the U.S. with the U.K. abstaining.

The vast majority of governments of the UN stand with the world-wide peace movements in their common universal demands for a freeze, rapid reduction and elimination of all nuclear weapons, banning nuclear tests, banning space weapons, preventing nuclear war, renouncing first use, establishing nuclear free zones.

Several speakers pointed out that conflicts arising from Reagan's policies of intervention and aggression could easily explode into a global confrontation.

The arms build-up is accelerating not only in Europe but around the world with the deployment of first strike weapons such as in the Pacific, Middle East and Indian Ocean.

It was emphasized that there is a common purpose in the struggle in Asia, Africa and Latin America with those of Europe and North America, and called for greater unity and co-operation, particularly with the Non-Aligned Movement.

There was general consensus that it is necessary to point out who is responsible for the arms build-up and that concepts of equal responsibility only serve to divide and weaken the movement to prevent nuclear war.

A statement from the Soviet delegation was made available to all delegates which asked for serious conclusions to be drawn from it. All were called upon to build co-operation without exception among all movements and organisations for peace and disarmament.

In the many examples given for intensifying the campaigns, they portrayed the continued growth of the peace movement in a number of ways, noting that the peoples in all countries represented, East and West, all have a fear of the nuclear arms race with newer and more horrific plans for space weapons, which are an imminent danger as scientists have warned and which could lead to nuclear confrontation. Progress and development of a unified struggle is a responsibility of the peace movement in each country according to the conditions which prevail.

Peace activists are now formed into many specialist groups - lawyers, doctors and other professions, who examine the question of how to further develop the campaign for withdrawal of deployed weapons and stopping further deployment, exposing violations of treaties, UN Charter and the criminal acts against peace and humanity by the Reagan administration, whose official doctrine is for first strike and waging limited nuclear war.

An important sector of public opinion was pointed out by delegates, being the involvement of the trade union and labour movements which must be encouraged to be more closely associated in the peace campaigns.

Trade Unions and municipalities are active also on the important question of conversion. The link between the struggle for jobs, a better life and the struggle for peace is strongly expressed, especially where trade unionists are involved in their own economic struggle.

In a number of countries 5 or 15 minute stoppages against missiles have taken place. More such actions are urged.

Delegates from both East and West gave examples of campaigns being carried out for the banning of nuclear weapons and how more people had become involved in those countries where there has been deployment of Cruise and Pershing missiles - Great Britain, Italy and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The women's peace camps at Greenham Common and some others stimulated world-wide interest. Disseminating information on their great campaign was strongly emphasized. In Britain also, 140 municipalities have declared themselves nuclear free zones and many are appointing peace officers which gives further opportunities for cooperation with peace activists.

Another example was given from Spain that 40 % of the population are living in municipalities which have declared themselves nuclear weapon-free zones. Examples were given of similar situations in many other countries.

An example was given of Australian Longshoremen going on strike and refusing to load ships until an American nuclear submarine left Australian waters.

In the United States 400 women staged a sit-in at the Livermore Laboratory near San Francisco which develops nuclear weapons. Many were arrested and jailed. Similar actions are being continued at the Livermore Laboratory. This is one of many such actions in the United States.

In Denmark very important developments have taken place in the Parliament and it has been decided by the Social-Democratic Party Congress to introduce legislation in the Parliament compelling the Government to work actively for making Denmark a nuclear weapon-free zone.

In West Berlin there have been actions in all 12 boroughs and in factories. Signature collections demanding the establishment of a European nuclear free zone as a priority have been undertaken.

A Peace ship for humanitarian aid to Nicaragua was organized by the Norwegian government along with the peace organisations.

Human chains are being organized in many countries. An example was given of a human chain 210 kilometers long organized in the FRG, which was actively supported by the French Peace Movement.

There have also been human chains around the Acropolis as a symbol of protecting the accomplishments of civilisation.

In many countries there are organized peace activities among athletes and other sportsmen and sportswomen.

A report was given of the Nordic women's contacts with Central America and aid given to Nicaragua. Further initiatives are planned for an international peace March in Central America for human rights next year.

From the USA it was reported that they are making contingency plans for mass actions in case of the US invasion of Nicaragua. They urged similar contingency plans in other countries.

Many of the points in the discussion showed the importance of campaigning more urgently around the Stockholm Conference and influencing government representatives for our demands for concrete solutions. More delegations should be organized to Stockholm. Some have already met with governmental delegations.

There are a number of actions planned to mark the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism. The problem of revanchism is a general European problem, therefore actions are proposed culminating on May 8, 1985 - the date of the defeat of fascism in West Berlin. Different countries should send delegations and messages and a coalition be established similar to the anti-Hitler coalition.

Being planned in West Berlin is a large demonstration to take place immediately if Reagan is re-elected. Messages and delegations should be sent. Other countries should arrange similar actions.

There should be world-wide demonstrations conducted in front of US embassies and corporate headquarters all on the same day. At the same time there should be demonstrations on the border of the USA and similar demonstrations in the USA.

These demonstrations should be repeated at regular intervals.

There should be a celebration with flowers by the veterans of the Second World War in April or May 1985 on the Elbe River - a meeting of Soviet and American veterans.

A commission of lawyers should be established to defend the constitutions of countries such as Italy and Greece against the violation of their sovereignty by the existence of US bases and missiles.

There should be a communications network established so that there can be coordination of common actions with quick response, particularly on such questions as movement of Cruise missiles in Britain.

There are many joint initiatives in Balkan countries such as for a Balkan nuclear weapon-free zone and nuclear weapon-free zones in the Nordic countries, Central Europe, the Iberian peninsula, etc.

In this regard there will be a conference in Bulgaria in November on the question of nuclear weapon-free zones.

There should be efforts to involve environmentalist groups in the peace movement.

Solidarity should be organized for the campaign being carried out in Cyprus for the removal of the Turkish occupation forces and British bases.

Protests to Turkish authorities should be made on the imprisonment of members and leaders of the Turkish Peace Committee and other organisations, and material help sent to those imprisoned.

Contacts should be established with both East and West movements with exchanges of delegations and materials.

Easter Marches in Switzerland, through the borders of France, FRG and Switzerland calling for joint participation East and West.

Proposals for a meeting of representatives of Western Europe possibly organized in Basle.

World-wide support should be mobilized for the campaign for banning nuclear weapon tests by August 6, 1985.

Increased twinning of cities between East and West should take place.

More information should be made available to all sections of the public giving the true facts about the dangerous situation in order to combat media distortion.

The International Year of Peace 1986 should begin with events at Delphi, home of the Amphictiones which were for ancient Greece what the UN is to the world today.

An international children's art competition should be organized on the topics of war, hunger, the nuclear threat and peace.

UNESCO should publish a collection of anti-war poetry by the top poets of all the UN member-states.

Major actions are being planned and others should be organized to mark the anniversary of the NATO decision to deploy medium range missiles in Europe in December 1984.

The World Peace Council should be a coordinating body for common actions and for strengthening unity of the peace, disarmament and anti-war movements.

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