

ON THE HOLDING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

1. Suggestions were voiced by several peace movements in the Mediterranean area to hold an international event on peace and security in this region. Furthermore the situation in the Mediterranean has been aggravated as a result of the sharpening of conflicts and the escalation of the arms build-up, nuclear and conventional.

2. Since the unity of action among peace movements and forces is becoming a major issue, broad co-operation is to be undertaken in the preparation for and the work of the Conference. In addition to the co-operation and unity of action at national (in each country) and international levels, the geo-socio-political aspects of the Mediterranean region provide a rare occasion to ensure unity of action among anti-war movements of the North and peace and liberation forces of the South. Organisational and political problems hampering co-operation and unity of action must be solved in the course of the preparation in a way that assures peace forces and movements in each country and internationally that the Conference is their Conference dealing with major problems of special concern to their peoples.

3. Preparations for the Conference can be undertaken at various levels;

- at national level, and this is the most important area of the preparatory activities and requires broad consultations;

- in connection with various events and campaigns on Mediterranean problems undertaken by all parties concerned;

- at regional level (Balkans, the Middle East, Iberia, etc.);

- in the host country.

However, it is necessary to fix the dates and venue of the Conference, the initiation of the event (who and when) and the possibility of holding an international preparatory meeting or a working group of the main forces organising the event to finalise the preparations. (Greek friends suggest holding the Conference in Athens, May 1985).

4. In regard to the participation at the Conference the main question is how to ensure the involvement of many forces which are now dealing very actively with the Mediterranean problems. Some of these forces may participate as guests but contacts must be made persistently with all of them to guarantee their partici-

pation at the Conference. National forces and movements together with those of the host country can play an effective role in this respect.

5. The dialogue will be the form of the Conference work. All necessary background information and papers on various themes must be available to all participants at least two months before the Conference. Special efforts have to be made to encourage national movements to prepare background information papers related to the themes and to send them out to participants (on conflicts, arms build-up, nuclear weapons, regional questions, etc.). All these necessary papers will not be under discussion but will form a background to promote discussions on actions.

Apart from specific questions which requires clarification the main discussions at the Conference will be basically action-orientated, (the promotion of activities; the experiences of national movements; the solution of problems hampering unity of action and co-operation; the constituencies concerned with various themes; the areas of joint interests among the constituencies in each country, between the countries of North and South and internationally networking; the adverse plans and slogans related to each theme which disrupt the unity of action; the dissemination of information for the campaigns, etc.).

6. To this end the subjects to be discussed at the Conference should be accurately fixed. The following are some suggestions:

I - Conflicts, the arms build-up and the presence of nuclear weapons are the main issues related to the entire region affecting world peace. Actions related to these subjects can be discussed under the title: "The escalation of the conflicts in the Mediterranean region, the arms build-up and the danger of nuclear war". The aim of the discussion is to further the activities for the reduction of the arms build-up, the removal of nuclear weapons and the just settlement of conflicts; all are interconnected. This theme constitutes the main area of common interests for joint actions by peace forces North and South.

(One day)

II - Actions related to sub-regional questions:

- a. Missiles deployed in Comiso, nuclear weapons and the Mediterranean.
- b. The Central Command, US-Israeli co-operation, conflicts in the Eastern Mediterranean and the transformation of the Middle East into a peace zone.
- c. Balkan nuclear free zone.
- d. Iberian nuclear free zone.

(Half a day)

III - Actions related to the interrelationship between the Mediterranean and other regions:

- a. The Mediterranean region and Europe.
- b. Peace and security in the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean.
- c. Africa and the struggle for peace and liberation in the Mediterranean region.

(Half a day)

IV - Actions related to co-operation:

- a. The economic independence and interdependence of the Mediterranean countries.
- b. Information and culture for peace and co-operation in the Mediterranean region.
- c. In the defence of the human and democratic rights of Mediterranean peace forces.

(Half a day)

7. National funds should be raised to cover the expenses of national delegations. Experience has clearly shown that this can be ensured once the national movements and forces realise that the Conference is their Conference and that they have their say in every preparatory stage.

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH VE İKTİSADİ ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI