



**WORLD PEACE COUNCIL
CONSEJO MUNDIAL DE LA PAZ
CONSEIL MONDIAL DE LA PAIX**

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“Abolition of Multilateral Military Bases and Military Alliances”

Distinguished members of the Organizing Committee and the Presidium
Dear friends and fellow fighters for Peace and Social Justice
Dear peace loving people of India

The WPC is honored and pleased with the invitation to attend this important conference at a crucial moment for peace and security of humanity. We thank and congratulate once more the organizing committee for the brilliant initiative and the invitation to the WPC.

The WPC was established shortly after the end of the second World War and right after the independence of India from the colonial rule. From 1949 the World Peace Council fought firmly and based on its principles on the side of the poor and of the oppressed, supporting the just causes of the liberation struggles and opposing vehemently all the unjust imperialist wars around the globe. We had brilliant Nobel laureates and famous scientists and artists amongst our leaders, modest hard working peace fighters and leaders who won the recognition of the international community and of its institutions. Such figure was for example for decades long our beloved President of Honor Romesh Chandra, son of India and its peace movement. We are proud that Romesh Chandra has served the WPC as its leader and we are proud also for the younger generation of peace fighters in India who continue the struggle for the same values as Romesh Chandra under the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO) which is one of our most prominent members of the Secretariat and our regional coordinator for Asia&Pacific.

Today humanity is facing serious threats to peace and security, mainly triggered by the policies of the imperialist powers led by the USA in all corners of the world. Imperialism is becoming increasingly aggressive, threatening peace and sovereignty, and moving to reassign markets and redraw borders to plunder natural resources. The US, NATO, EU and other imperialist forces are seeking new instruments and pretexts for aggression. Among these are the so called “responsibility to protect”, plans for “democratization” of the Middle East and other

regions, heightened use of subversive action, and recruitment of mercenaries to carry out crimes against humanity. This strategy includes blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter, distortion of the UN to make it an instrument for aggression, and massive manipulation of the media.

In Asia Pacific Region, so called “The return of USA” in the region in reality is the increase of USA engagement in the region. The USA has declared that it would deploy 60 percent of its Naval force in the Asia Pacific Region (“Pivot to Asia”). The USA is pressurizing countries in the Asia Pacific Region to have strategic alliance with them and already signed such treaties with some countries. This is aimed at expanding its military influence as well as exploiting the mineral resources like oil and gas in the sea around the area. The USA is already engaged in joint military and naval exercises as well as increasing military aid to some countries in the region.

Together with the view that the center of the world development is shifting to the region, the increase of USA – engagement in Asia Pacific, is threatening the stability, security and peace of the region. The cause of peace in Asia Pacific region has become the priority issue in the struggle for peace in the world.

In central Asia, the US is trying exit its disastrous military presence in Afghanistan, while maintaining its extensive network of military bases. It continues to grossly violate the sovereignty of Pakistan, carrying out criminal bombings using drone aircraft.

On the Korean Peninsula, the DPRK continues to be threatened by US military bases and nuclear warheads. Repeated joint military exercises by the US, Japan and South Korea serve to escalate tension. The WPC supports the Korean people's struggle against imperialist plans, for independence and sovereignty, for demilitarization and nuclear disarmament, and for the peaceful reunification of Korea.

Dear friends

In the recent years the situation in the Middle East has escalated further in regards to the threats to peace. Apart from the ongoing occupation and slowly genocide of the Palestinian people who are deprived since more than 65 years of their own country and state, there is the ongoing occupation of Iraq for more than 10 years and the imperialist plans for a “New Middle East” in order to serve the interests of the Multinational corporations for the exploitation of oil and gas reserves and the roads of transport. The so much promised “Arab Spring”, although having had genuine and popular elements in the beginning in Tunisia and Egypt did not lead to any changes in favour of the people, reactionary forces hijacked and exercise power today. The case of Libya two years ago was an example how external imperialist forces, namely NATO, bombed and invaded for the sake of the natural resources a sovereign country which is now falling apart in pieces ruled by warlords and tribes. Since the year 1999 with the 78 days bombing of Yugoslavia by NATO, humanity has heard so many lies and manipulation of truth, so many false pretexts, always for the same purpose: the geostrategical control of spheres of influence by imperialists and the violent change of regimes replacing them with willing regimes to cooperate with them.

How can we believe, how can any intelligent person on this planet agree, that the USA who used all types of chemical weapons (Napalm, Agent Orange, Depleted Uranium, etc) in their dirty wars in Korea, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, later in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya by killing millions of people are suddenly the ones who can judge and blame others with unconfirmed and arbitrary accusations? Who can believe that the Gulf monarchies and Turkey are the ones to export democracy to Syria today? How can we ever believe that Israel a rogue nuclear state, the main ally of the USA in the region which is occupying Palestine (along with some Lebanese and Syrian territories) and violating dozens of UN resolutions can set the standards of good governance and human rights?

As WPC we declared our solidarity to the just demands of the Syrian people for changes of social, economic and democratic nature, as expressed originally with the protests of the Syrian people in 2011. But is this really an uprising of the Syrian people what we witness the last 30 months? Where are the peaceful mass protesters asking for the resign of the regime as we had seen in so many other countries? Syria is becoming the theatre of operation of mercenary and other "holy warriors" from dozens of countries, with the direct support of Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia by all means and the political support of the USA, the EU(with Sanctions) and the war machinery of NATO, Hundreds of so-called military advisers of NATO states who have served(killed) earlier in Iraq are in Syria now.

The USA and its allies were pushing very much for an open attack on Syria. The alleged use of chemical weapons of the 21st August was only a given pretext, they were looking for. Even the judge Mrs. Carla Del Ponte, who was heading in March the enquiry delegation of the UN, stated in May 2013 that most probably the chemical weapons were used by the armed opposition rebels. It is has to be noted that Mrs. Del Ponte was the chief prosecutor at the ICC in Hague earlier. The provocation set up by the ones who are interfering in the internal affairs of Syria was not "good enough". The public opinion by vast majority rejected the plans and the false pretexts. Even allied governments for their own reasons, did not agree on the attack against Syria. Despite the temporary manoeuvres of the imperialist camp, they have not given up their plans, having Iran as a future target. Therefore the global peace movement and all peace loving people have to remain vigilant in this regards.

Dear friends

If somebody gives a closer look to the concrete elements of which the "New Middle East" plan consists of, he could see the detailed plans and goals, even the redrawing of borders and the creation of new states, often protectorates as we have seen it many times in the past. The key elements are the following:

1. Iraq is being de facto partitioned into three separate states, with its oil reserves (which are located in the north and the south) divided between two U.S.-controlled states of "Free Kurdistan" and the "Arab Shia State," with the oil-less middle part left in the hands of the Sunnis who have been fighting against U.S. Intervention.
2. The same is going to happen to Iran. Iran's southern province of Khuzistan (where the Iranian oil fields are located) will be carved out and given to the U.S.-controlled "Arab Shia State." Also, Iran's northern provinces, which have potential unexplored oil reserves due to a historical agreement with Soviet Russia since Lenin's time, will be carved out and added to the U.S.-controlled states of Azerbaijan and "Free Kurdistan."

3. Given the U.S. concerns about the instability of Saudi regime, that country, too, will be divided into several pieces. The oil fields (located on the shores of the Persian Gulf) will be carved out and, again, given to the U.S.-controlled “Arab Shia State.”
4. Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, which are already U.S. proxy states, are left untouched.
5. Northern parts of Syria will be carved out and given to the U.S.-backed “Free Kurdistan.”
6. On the eastern side, a big chunk of Pakistan, which is already in U.S. cross-hair, and against which the drone attacks have already started, will be carved out and given to the NATO-controlled Afghanistan and the newly-created “Free Baluchistan” (partly carved-out from Iran as well), thus paving the way for the construction of oil and gas pipeline that will connect Central Asian republics to the Indian Ocean.
7. Ironically, Turkey (a member of NATO and a close ally of the United States) would also lose some of its territory to the U.S.-controlled “Free Kurdistan.” Yet, if the plan for the establishment of a new NATO military base in eastern Turkey is implemented, the transfer eastern territories of Turkey to “Free Kurdistan” would make this new state a potential NATO member on the northern borders of Iran.

Redrawing the Middle East map



So, when we talk of oil as the U.S. motivation for invading Iraq and threatening to attack Iran, we must understand that the U.S. is not after oil just for its own domestic use. Rather, and more importantly, it is after controlling the global supply of oil on the whole, especially to its potential rivals like China, Russia, and the European Union, as well as to the emerging economies like India and Brazil. The real plan is to put the U.S. military and NATO in charge of the global supply of oil for everyone.

It is a well-known fact that our 21st Century world is faced with an ever-deepening shortage of fossil fuels, especially oil and natural gas. With the rapid industrialization and economic growth of countries like China, India and Brazil, with a combined population of over two billion, it is predicted that the global demand for oil will at least double by 2030. This is especially threatening to the United States, which, with its five percent of the population of the world, is consuming about 25

percent of the world oil, almost half of it imported from abroad. This is bound to intensify big-power rivalries over the available sources of oil and other sources of energy for decades to come.



Dear friends

In January 2012 the US Pentagon published a strategy paper on “*Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century*”, where it is openly speaking about its plans, priorities and goals. In the Press conference the then US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta gave on 5th January 2012 he mentioned certain ongoing threats and security challenges which force the USA to make necessary adjustments:

- The ongoing threat of violent extremism
- The spread of weapons of mass destruction and related raw materials
- The destabilizing behavior of nations such as Iran and North Korea
- The emerging of new powers in Asia
- The changes in the Middle East

All the above were linked with the debt and state deficit of the USA and characterized as matters of national security by themselves. It is clearly said that the US sees the necessity to rebalance towards the Asia-Pacific region by stating: “*US economic and security interests are inextricably linked to the developments in the arc extending from the Western Pacific and East Asia into the Indian Ocean region and South Asia, creating a mix of evolving challenges and opportunities. Accordingly, while the US military will continue to contribute to security globally, we will of necessity rebalance toward the Asia-Pacific region.*”

It is in the context of this grand imperialist strategy that the fate of countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Mali, Venezuela and many other countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America is linked. What we are witnessing in Syria now is nothing but another step toward implementation of this grand imperialist strategy for

domination of the 21st Century world. As one analyst (Shamus Cooke) has correctly observed: "Obama's recent strides in Syria end with a logical conclusion: U.S. direct military intervention. The stage is still being set, waiting until optimal conditions are met for a Libyan style U.S./NATO mass-bombing mission to finish off the Syrian government. In the eyes of Obama the resulting disaster will be worth the mess, since a noncompliant regime to the U.S. will have been toppled, thus clearing the path for the long term plan of crushing Iran."

Dear friends

The global peace movement and the foremost the WPC has to face and object these plans and the forces behind them. At the same time we have to admit also our weaknesses.

Probably the most important weakness is lack of understanding of the nature of Imperialism. There is a general tendency in the movement to look at these crimes and atrocities as consequences of either bad policy or incompetent leadership. That is why we tend to blame the likes of Bush and Cheney for the invasion of Iraq, or Obama for the NATO attack on Libya and expansion of drone attacks on Pakistan, Yemen and other countries. This is a totally misguided approach because it ties its hopes and effort to changing the policy or leadership (mostly through electoral process). This path has been tried over and over for decades without any results. The fact of the matter is that imperialism is neither a result of "wrong" policy nor of bad leadership. Imperialism is the very essence of the present system of global capitalism itself and until the movement comes to grips with this undeniable fact it will not be able to stop it. Understanding this is key to understanding the link between all issues that the movement is fighting for and developing an effective strategy for success. Preventing another catastrophic imperialist war depends upon the mass mobilization of the peace movement against the root causes of war and injustice throughout the world: the imperialist agenda for the 21st Century world.

On the positive side, we are witnessing mass uprisings by the oppressed peoples of the world against this imperialist agenda. This is exactly why the "global war on terror" has been declared. The strategy is to label any resistance to the imperialist agenda as a "terrorist movement" and crush it by military force while paralyzing the peace movement with the fear of being identified as supporter of "terrorists" and "tyrants." But as we have seen the real terrorists and tyrants are the imperialists themselves.

What we need is a peace and justice movement that acts in a coordinated way, not just in response to the imperialist crimes, not just as a reactive force that only protests after the fact, but a peace movement that is proactive, that take preventive measures rather than seeking remedies.

Let us substitute imperialism's policy of "pre-emptive military strikes" with the peace movement's policy of "pre-emptive peace strikes."

Let us respond not just to wars and invasions after they happen, but to even the smallest preparations that are being made for wars and interventions before they happen.

We need a preventive peace policy if we are to save humanity from total destruction.

Thank you for your attention!