

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE!

ΠΙΖΟΣΦΑΙΣΤΗΣ

October 2002

ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREECE

NO to War on Iraq - Solidarity with Palestine

Excerpts from the speech of Aleka Papparigha, GS of the CC of the CPG delivered at the 28th Festival KNE-Odigitis.



Addressing the thousands of visitors, Aleka Papparigha spoke of the genocide of the Palestinians by Israel and of the war on Iraq being prepared by the USA. She called on young men and women to strengthen their solidarity with the people of Palestine; to join the demonstrations of the mass movement against the new war, just as they did against the war on Yugoslavia.

«Today whoever wishes neither to support nor to show indifference to an attack on Iraq should declare resoundingly that the Greek government must not make any of the US-NATO installations, nor any armed forces or facilities, available in this dirty war

A fresh round of war on the people of Iraq is being prepared for intensively, with alternating pretexts and abundant hypocrisy. Heading the campaign being prepared against Iraq floats the black banner of the US crusade with its motto against the common threat of «terrorism» and for the «deterrent strike».

Never before in the last ten years has there been such a reaction and to such a degree from various sides and for different reasons to preparations for war. Many, such as European and Arab governments, fear it, while monopoly groups are thinking mainly of their investments and competition. Those who sincerely do not want it are the peoples, not just because they understand that it is the Iraqi people that will pay the price, but because they realise that there will be a continuation, that it will be followed by other similar imperialist operations.

This war is being prepared methodically and everything indicates that many of those who exorcise it now will legitimise it».

The stance of the EU

«That which is driving the USA into this outrageous offensive and driving its allies into helping it is something much deeper and far more substantial: it is the very warlike, militaristic nature of the capitalist system at the stage of imperialism. Using weapons they open the way for capital, they settle their rivalries when other means do not suffice.

Most governments, including the Greek government, are falling in with the criminal plans for the so-called fight against terrorism because they are more afraid of the peoples than they are of the USA. The will to crush peoples and movements prevails...

What did the EU and the other governments of strong and independent countries do when the US withdrew from the ABM Treaty? And when it threw all the anti-missile and anti-nuclear agreements that had been reached with the USSR in the trash basket? What did the European governments, including the Greek government, do when the USA announced its campaign against terrorism after the terrorist attacks of September 11th?

They also seized the opportunity to announce a crusade to crush terrorism, in reality a war on radical, left and communist ideas, using terrorism as a pretext and vehicle... They have passed unprecedented laws in order to put a brake on popular movements and deflect them...

Here the words of the great poet Odysseus Elytis would apply: «when you hear the word 'order', it smells of human flesh».

Every party should take a clear position

The Greek people must stand up to its full stature as it did during the dirty war unleashed on Yugoslavia. We must continue and connect this struggle with our solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Now in a more mass, dynamic and unifying way we must send out the message everywhere:

-STOP THE WAR
-STOP STATE TERRORISM
-NO TO NEW PRISON BARS FOR THE PEOPLES
-NO TO THE USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS TO PUT DOWN POPULAR MOVEMENTS
-NO TO THE BARBED WIRE OF LAWS ON TERRORISM

...And we have additional reasons. The war would be waged in our region. Greece would be used as a springboard and beachhead. The consequences, both immediate and middle-term, would burden developments in the Aegean and Cyprus, and this in a period when the Aegean is divided in half by provocative US and Turkish manoeuvres and violations. In the PASOK government the US has, unfortunately, found a most willing ally, while it also uses many of its own mouthpieces here in Greece.

We address ourselves to the government, which bears the first responsibility, but also to the other parties in parliament:

Abandon the pretexts that the war can be legitimised by the UN, when we know what the balance of power is and when it is well known that the only role which the UN is permitted to play is, in the majority of cases, to cover up barbarity through the Security Council...

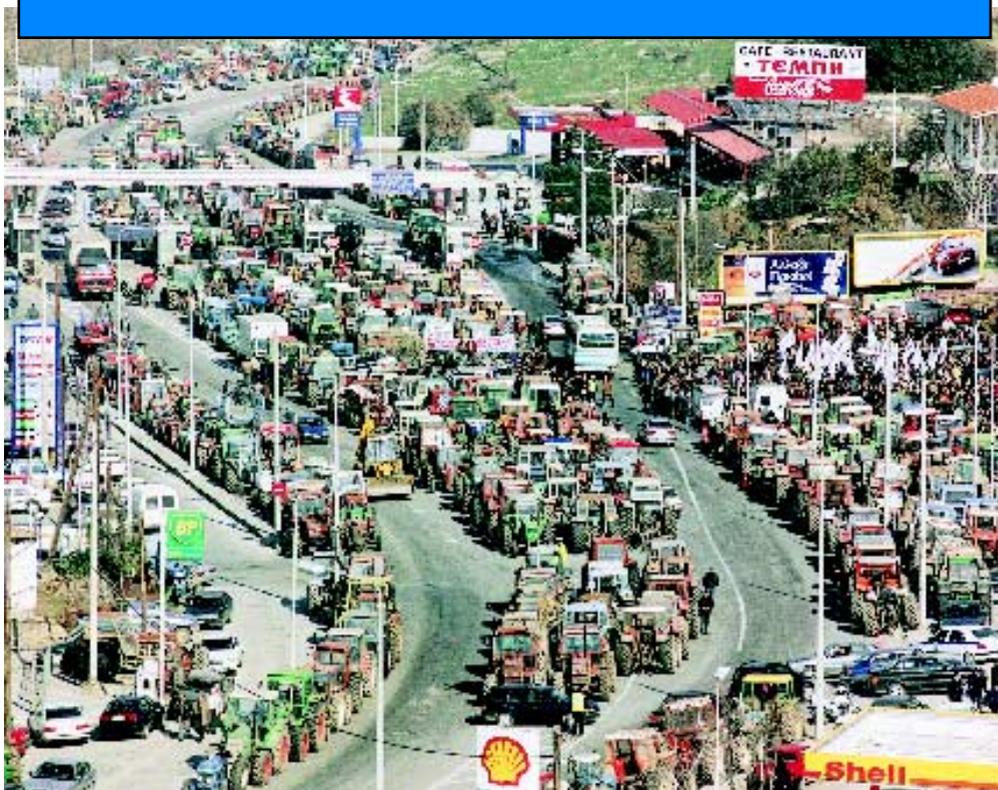
Today whoever wishes neither to support nor to show indifference to an attack on Iraq should declare resoundingly that the Greek government must not make any of the US-NATO installations available, nor any armed forces or facilities, in this dirty war.

Otherwise it will all just be a lot of diplomatic talk intended for domestic consumption, with complicity and connivance (in the war).»

2 ΡΙΖΟΣΠΑΣΤΗΣ

From the struggles against the neo-liberal policies of the socialdemocrats and the EU, against imperialism and NATO

February The peasants occupy the highway Athens-Thessaloniki for 15 days demonstrating against CAP.

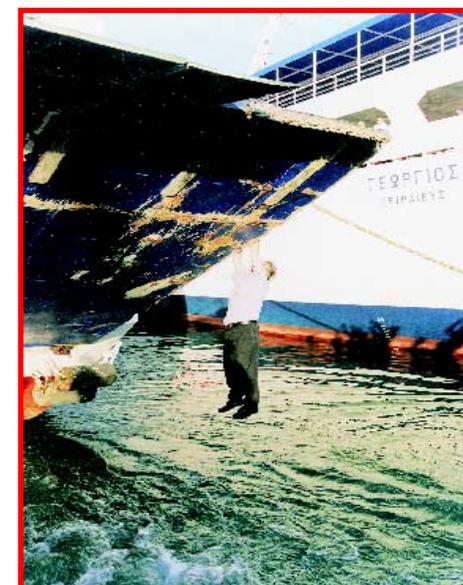


Mayday in Athens.

This years' mobilizations and demonstrations organized by PAME are especially massive and militant. Thousands of workers demonstrate all around Greece, in defense of their rights. They also express their solidarity with the struggling people of Palestine, Cuba and Venezuela and denounce the aggression of the imperialists (US, NATO, EU) against the people.



May 29. National Strike by PAME (All workers' militant front) in defence of the social insurance system. The sailors strikers defend their right to strike against the state and para-state oppression mechanisms.



June 18. National Strike in defense of the social insurance system. Under the pressure of the class-orientated trade-union movement and PAME, the GSEE (General Confederation of Greek Workers) goes on strike repudiating the governmental plans. The strike succeeds in spite of the efforts by governmental trade-unionists (and the president of GSEE himself) to break it.

July 7. Thousands of young people demonstrate outside the NATO headquarters in Tyrnavos, upon call by the Communist Youth of Greece, demanding NATO bases to get out from Greece.



Thessaloniki, September 7.

Thousands of people responded to the call of "Action-Salonica 2003", of PAME, EEDYE, the BAN-Center, PASY, class-oriented trade unions and peasant's associations and participated in the biggest mobilization that has taken place in Thessaloniki during the last years, denouncing the policy of the Government and of the EU.

Coming Next:
November 17,
Greece: Anti-imperialist, anti-NATO, anti-war mobilizations all around Greece
November 20, Prague: Big European Demonstration against NATO!



Action-Salonica 2003

is a campaign that joins parties, movements, trade unions, peasants', women's and students' associations and intellectuals, that organizes the actions during the Greek presidency of the EU as well as the counter-summit on June 2003.



16-17 November 2002: Preparatory meeting on the agenda of the actions and the counter-summit of June 2003. Participate!

Visit at the web:

www.kke.gr the site of the Communist Party of Greece, in Greek, English, Russian, French

www.kne.gr the site of the Communist Youth of Greece

www.geocities.com/b_antinato/ the site of the Balkan Anti NATO Coordination Center

www.solidnet.org Solidarity Network: daily news and information from the communist parties around the world

For information, actions, participation visit:
www.action-salonika2003.org
 e-mail: info@action-salonika2003.org
 tel/fax: (+3010) 277579, 286546
 Join us!

Press Release

INTERNATIONAL MEETING of Communist and Workers' Parties 21-23 June 2002, Athens

From 21st to 23rd June, 2002, Communist and Workers' parties met in Athens. The 62 parties that are listed below participated in the meeting entitled: "The new world situation after September 11, 2001". There were some parties, which, against their wishes, could not participate due to reasons related to the situation in their countries. They have sent greetings and written contributions, which are also included in the material from the meeting.

During the three day long sessions, there was a creative exchange of ideas about the international situation and significant experience from the peoples' struggle and mass movements in their countries was presented.

Evaluating international developments, the participants condemned the terrorist actions of September 11. They also unequivocally condemned the dangerous escalation of US and NATO aggressiveness and the measures of state terrorism that followed. They concluded that all peoples and their mass movements are threatened by the potential global domination of monopoly capital, with the USA as the leading force.

The parties noted that the September 11 events also constituted a pretext to launch an unprecedented offensive against the freedoms and rights of the peoples on the pretext of declaring war on terrorism. Imperialists label as terrorist every resistance movement which struggles against capitalist globalization and the decisions against the interest of the people taken by international organizations (such as IMF, World Bank, WTO, EU, etc.), anti-imperialist movements which struggle against imperialist interventions and wars and against NATO, as well as any social and national liberation movement and struggles against dictatorship and fascist regimes.

The participants pointed out and underscored that the struggle of peoples and movements for social liberation, national independence, peace and democracy has nothing to do with terrorist methods. From their lengthy experience, communists especially know very well the way that imperialists and reactionary forces set about slandering these movements.

The participants condemned terrorism. Only the most reactionary, inhuman, racist imperialist forces hostile to the people, benefit from terrorism.

At the same time they stated their full support for the peoples' struggle for their social rights and for national independence.

The participants condemned the war against Afghanistan, the threats to expand the war, Bush's statements about the "axis of evil", the threat to use nuclear weapons and the acceleration of the armament programs and the National Missile Defense (NMD). The militarization of international relations is acquiring even more dangerous features and the danger of new conflicts is growing under the weight of rivalries and interventions.

NATO, with its new doctrine and its new enlarge-



ment, is transforming itself into a world policeman under the hegemony of US imperialism.

The participants underscored that the whole of humanity is facing a dangerous plan by contemporary imperialism, which threatens peace, security and stability in many regions of the planet.

The intensity of imperialist aggression in the name of combating terrorism, which is growing in the context of the heightened economic crisis within the centers of the imperialist system, does not confine itself to international relations and the military sector, but embraces all spheres of social life. It accelerates capitalist restructuring both in the economy and in the workers' standard of living. It turns against workers' rights and gains. It influences the political system, acquiring even more reactionary political and ideological characteristics in culture and in workers' leisure time.

A new, more reactionary institutional framework is being formed by international imperialism, which tramples on fundamental popular freedoms and rights and deploys new repressive mechanisms.

Many speakers stressed the promising fact that despite imperialism's growing aggression after September 11, popular demonstrations and resistance have increased in a number of cases.

Mobilizations against the imperialist war on the people of Afghanistan have multiplied, as has the opposition to fresh interventions against the people of Iraq and other countries, which US imperialism includes in the "axis of evil".

The participants reiterated their support for the struggle of the Palestinian people, rejected the labeling of this struggle as terrorist and consider the Israeli occupation to be the source of violence in the region. Demonstrations of solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people to acquire its independence and its own sovereign, viable state with East Jerusalem its capital have become

stronger and have expanded all over the world. The participants condemned the ongoing occupation of Syrian and Lebanese territories and demanded the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops and the return of all refugees, in accordance with UN resolutions 242, 338, 194.

Many speakers stressed the need for efforts supporting this struggle to be stepped up yet further in their countries and also the need to organize solidarity missions to the territory occupied by Israel and to the self-administered Palestinian areas. The participants categorically condemned the flagrant violence committed by the Israeli government on occupied Palestinian territory and the mass arrests and imprisonment of Palestinians including leading cadres of the Palestinian liberation movement. The need for a broad campaign demanding their release was stressed, and support was expressed for the initiative to form a "human shield" in Palestine on June 28.

The participants expressed their concern for the continuous violations of the principles and resolutions of the UN and of the international law.

Quite a few speakers referred to steps taken that show an awakening and spirit for struggle and resistance in the labor and trade union movement with the reinforcement of the presence of class forces within it developing new struggles putting forth their demands. Likewise stressed was the need to develop action in the workplace and to further strengthen class forces in the labor and trade union movement.

It was, moreover, noted that the multiform movement against capitalist globalization has grown in strength, as has the process of determining orientations and demands within this movement.

It was underscored that an active policy of solidarity and support amongst CPs and WPs and also amongst peoples' movements in general is needed. Quite a few speakers voiced the need

for a number of initiatives taken by various CPs and WPs or movements to be supported. Amongst these, the following were mentioned:

- The campaign for international mobilization demanding the release of the 5 Cuban patriots that are imprisoned in the US because they fought against the terrorist groups of Miami, as well as the campaigns for the lifting of the US blockade against Cuba.

- The initiative being taken by the CP of Bohemia-Moravia in Prague in November 2002 against the enlargement of NATO

- The initiative against the plan of neoliberal reconstruction of the economy of Latin America that is expressed by ALCA, the Plan Puebla – Panama and its armed branch, the "Plan Colombia", which aims to deal with the resistance of every opposing social force, to isolate and eliminate the guerilla movement of Colombia and subvert the legal and democratic Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

- The initiatives against the plans of the USA and EU to subjugate the economies of the Arab countries (Magreb – Masrek)

- The undertaking of active initiatives to coordinate the action of our parties against capitalist globalization, taking into consideration the new and growing movements against the policies of imperialist governments and multinational enterprises.

The participants expressed the need for such meetings of Communist and Workers' Parties to continue and increase in number, while the need for broader meetings on the international level and meetings by area and region on issues of interest was stressed.

Also noted was the idea of seeking to hold meetings of our parties in connection with large international events in order to achieve a more collective elaboration of proposals and the most common possible view and position.

It was, moreover, stressed that the need for the distinct presence, the consultation and cooperation of Communist and Workers' Parties constitute basic factors for the development of a policy of alliances and cooperation, a policy with a positive impact which is not in contradiction with the coordination and joint action of broader democratic, anti-imperialist, anti-monopoly and patriotic forces as well as of the multiform movement against capitalist globalization.

It was noted that it is useful for the discussion to be broadened and for views to be exchanged, with the development of theoretical elaborations regarding the transformation of this society, and the prospect for socialism under present conditions.

Participants also expressed the need to further reinforce the internationalist solidarity of our parties with communists and all progressive people and parties facing persecution and imprisonment and whose activity is prohibited. Furthermore, the need for solidarity in action against anti-democratic discrimination and reactionary regulations targeting democratic rights and liberties was expressed.