



ALBERTA PEACE NEWS

YES TO PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, NO TO IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM

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Inside

Edmonton Peace Council Holds Successful First Meeting.....1

Labour Must Lead the Fight for Peace.....2

Fraternal Greetings of Solidarity from Canadian Peace Congress and the Edmonton Peace Council3

Time to Bring Them Home - Joint Statement on Peace Between BC Federation of Labour and Washington State Labour Council3

Canadian Peace Congress Attend Regional Meeting of the WPC in Caracas, VZ4

Canadian Peace Alliance Statement on Pan-Canadian Day of Action, Oct 27, 20075

International News6

Cordial greetings from Palestine to the WPC.....6

Viewpoint - The October 16th Opening of Parliament and the War in Afghanistan!.....7

Declaration of the European Conference in Defence of Peace.8

Peace and Labour Events..... 10

Edmonton Peace Council (EPC) Meeting Schedule for 2007-2008:

EPC Meetings will be held every 3rd Thursday of the month at the Stanley Milner Library, 6th Floor Room 7, from 7:00pm-9:00pm.

Next Meeting: October 18, 2007

1. October: Canada's Role in Afghanistan and the Opening of Parliament
2. November: Labour and Peace
3. December: Holiday Break
4. January: - May: TBA

Attendees: Please see the library security at the front door to access to the meeting room on the 6th floor.

Edmonton Peace Council Holds Successful First Meeting

The Edmonton Peace Council held its first meeting on September 20th at the Stanley Milner Library. The EPC drew 18 supporters of peace and discussed Canada's aggressive participation in the US-NATO war in Afghanistan.

We would like to thank all those in attendance and welcome everyone back. For those who could not attend we hope to see you in the future. All are welcome.

Don Currie executive member of the Canadian Peace Congress led the discussion. Currie said, "Harper should be brought down now on the question of the Afghanistan war". The Edmonton Peace Council would like to express its appreciation to Don Currie for speaking and leading the discussion.

The meeting voted unanimously to send greetings to the to the delegates and participants attending the conference of the World Peace Council (WPC) and Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC) and the Confederal Group of GUE/NGL of the European Parliament: September 28-29, 2007, Lisbon Portugal.

It was announced that the EPC Draft Constitution will be available for review at the October 18 meeting and that proposed amendments can be made for voting on at the November 15, 2007 meeting.

The AFL and Parkland concluded their highly successful and significant "Treading Water" conference on September 29th where Sam Ginden former CAW economist was the key note speaker. Ginden said that, "Canada should not tie its economy to a sinking US empire". Gil McGowan Alberta Federation of Labour President said that "labour is on the move". The Edmonton Peace Council was in attendance and comments on labour's role in peace in this issue.

Next EPC Meeting October 18, 2007, 7:00 pm Stanley Milner Library

The opening of Parliament convenes on October 16th after being prorogued by Prime Minister Harper and his neo-con advisors. PM Harper has counted on the divisions amongst the opposition parties to bypass the over whelming opposition to the war and continue in power.

The opening of Parliament will bring with it a speech from the throne which will be an opportunity to bring down the government and defeat the Harper Government on the question of the US-NATO led war in Afghanistan.

It is time for Jack Layton, Gilles Duceppe and Stephane Dion's to stop listening to their clever advisors and start listening to the Canadian people. The Harper Government doesn't deserve another reprieve because he and his advisors have betrayed the deeply held beliefs of the Canadian people that Canada should be a peace maker not a NATO "powder monkey".

Harper must be defeated to end the war.

The Edmonton Peace Council will discuss the opening of Parliament and make plans for participation in the Canadian Peace Alliance Pan Canadian Day of Action Against War on October 27. We invite all friends of peace and labour to come and discuss this vital question of national importance.



ALBERTA PEACE NEWS

YES TO PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, NO TO IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM

Labour Must Lead the Fight for Peace

Labour is confronted with many challenges, none of which are separate from the important questions of the nation. What is in the best interests of labour is in the best interests of the nation. This fundamental question of whose interests the development of the nation is served is an important point of discussion for labour. It forms the basis for building broad unity within organized labour and opens up opportunities to organize the unorganized. It directly challenges corporate power and leads the national discussion around a *labour* agenda of economic development in Canada.

Labour must lead the nation. What is meant by that? Labor is the most productive and progressive force in the country. It forms the basis of all social wealth; it produces and generates all material conditions for the expansion industry, social services, education, health, science and technology, transportation and agriculture, etc. Labour creates *all* the wealth of the nation.

Labour, and more specifically, organized labour, is the only force currently with the resources and organizational capacity capable of leading broad national campaigns that can unite all working people around the central questions of the day. Organized labour has deep and solid ties and networks with social justice groups, peace and solidarity groups, human rights groups, political groups and international organizations.

To challenge the corporate vision of Canada labour must advance an alternate vision of the nation. Labour's vision for the nation is not the same as Harper's vision of Canada as an "energy superpower" and the militarization of the Canadian economy and youth. Organized labour has a responsibility to challenge corporate Canada's vision of endless war by advancing a broad alternative democratic agenda of peaceful development of the nation and international cooperation through diplomacy and not military intervention and aggression.

Organized labour must lay out a program of economic development that cooperates with the nations of world through peaceful means, trades and settling conflicts through negotiations and not military aggression. It must form the basis of providing *qualified* support of labour to political parties based on their support of *labour's* program. Organized labour must put a stop to the "tail wagging the dog".

Militarism wastes money and resources. Militarism funnels our labour down to the wealthy. Military expenditures distort the economy and places the sole burden for its perpetuation on the backs of Canadian workers through transfers and cut backs in social spending to military arms manufactures, using the sons and daughters of Canadian workers as fodder for

combat. Militarization of the economy creates uneven development of industry and intensification of labour. It serves the interests of financial speculators, social parasites and war profiteers and not the needs of people.

Like a cancer the military economy devours available labour, scientific and material resources, while cities go to ruin and education, health and other services are gradually starved of capital. Prime Minister Harper, if left in power, will raise the already enormous sum of \$CDN16B per year on Canadian military expenditures to over \$CDN34B over the next 10 years. This will represent over \$CDN200B removed from workers' labour and transferred to military contractors and war speculators. Just think what this vast sum of money could accomplish for workers. It represents an end to the housing crisis, education crisis, and health crisis.

In Alberta that struggle is centralized around the question of energy development and the exploitation of the tar sands. The US military is the single largest consumer of hydrocarbon in the world. It consumes on a daily basis approximately 400,000 boe. This enormous sum of wasteful energy consumption is distorting the Alberta and Canadian economy and is the source of the intensification of labour in this province. The transfer of raw product to the "custom" fuel refineries of Oklahoma and Texas through Encana/Conoco-Philips pipeline networks serves the interests of war profiteers and not Canadian workers.

No Alberta oil should be used in the deaths of Iraqi and Afghan workers, women and children. Labour's vision of an "energy superpower" is first and foremost the supply of cheap energy to Eastern Canada to develop and expand manufacturing and jobs for Ontario workers. In other words, divert what is wasted by the US military to eastern Canada where the demand for energy is high and where it will be used for peaceful purposes and might save some jobs in auto and manufacturing.

Labour has a responsibility to protect children and youth from war propaganda. We have no quarrel with workers in Afghanistan, Iraq, Cuba, Venezuela or anywhere. We are opposed to the demonization of working people that the war lobby deems as the "enemy." We are for solidarity and peace with all working people and that is the message we must send to our children and youth who are planning to enter the workforce.

Labour is at a point in Canadian history where it has a responsibility to explain to workers, both organized and unorganized, that what is in the best interests for workers is a peaceful Canada. It is the starting point for unity and a more powerful organized labour movement. War is not in the best interests of workers. The Labour must lead the nation.

Sean Currie, Edmonton Peace Council, September 27, 2007



ALBERTA PEACE NEWS

YES TO PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, NO TO IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM

Fraternal Greetings of Solidarity from Canadian Peace Congress and the Edmonton Peace Council

The following is a resolution of greetings which was passed unanimously at the September 20, 2007 inaugural meeting of the Edmonton Peace Council.

September 24, 2007

Canadian Peace Congress Extends Greetings to the delegates and participants attending the conference of the World Peace Council (WPC) and Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC) and the Confederal Group of GUE/NGL of the European Parliament: September 28-29, 2007, Lisbon Portugal

Dear Friends of Peace

Members and supporters of the Canadian Peace Congress attending a public meeting on Thursday September 21, 2007 sponsored by Congress affiliate, the Edmonton Peace Council, voted unanimously to send a greeting to all members and supporters of the WPC gathered in Lisbon Portugal on September 28-29, 2007 at the European Conference in Defence of Peace.

Your conference will uphold the cause of peace and express the demands of all the peoples of Europe who oppose militarization and war.

Your conference will be in stark contrast to the deliberations of the defence ministers of the EU who are collaborating with the strategic doctrines of US imperialism and NATO.

We express our complete agreement with the themes of your conference and request that you forward to us the documents and resolutions adopted so we may circulate them to the Canadian peace movement, members of Parliament and organized labour.

We fully support the plan of work of the WPC Session of the European Coordination and plans for the WPC Executive Committee meeting to be held in Hanoi/Vietnam November 18-20 2007.

Yours in Peace and Solidarity
Sean Currie,
Financial Secretary of the Edmonton Peace Council

End the War! Defeat Harper!

Time to Bring Them Home – Joint Statement on Peace Between BC Federation of Labour and Washington State Labour Council

Editorial, September 24, 2007

Authors:
Jim Sinclair, President, British Columbia Federation of Labour
Rick Bender, President, Washington State Labor Council

Working people from both sides of the border will gather on Saturday September 29th at the Peace Arch border crossing to send a strong message to both our governments – it's time to bring our troops home. It should come as no surprise that organizations representing more than 800,000 workers have come to the same conclusion. It is not because we are afraid to fight that we are opposed. Working people are fighters. Our movement and our countries have been built by the struggle and sacrifices of ordinary citizens acting with extraordinary courage. As trade union leaders, we are challenged to speak out because it is the young daughters and sons of working people whose lives are being wasted in an impossible war which will have no end.

The cost of continuing the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is enormous. More than 3,000 Americans have been killed and 30,000 have been injured. While Canadians have not died at the same level (71 deaths), they have the highest death rates. A Canadian soldier in Kandahar is nearly six times as likely to die as an American in Iraq.

We have sacrificed our sisters and brothers in wars that have no victories, and rather than bring freedom to these countries, they have brought violence, death and insecurity. If the death tolls of the invading countries are high, the toll in Iraq is truly staggering. While official numbers top 65,000 Iraqi deaths, unofficial numbers put the carnage at more than 500,000 lives.

As the death toll climbs, so does the economic cost. Public money and resources (working people's taxes) support this war. The amounts are staggering. We watch as living standards continue to decline on both sides of the border. Poverty grows, and along with it so does the homeless crisis in all of our cities. Every week the United States spends \$8 billion more on war. To date, the war has consumed more than \$450 billion; in Canada the number has climbed to more than \$5 billion. Swedish experts report that in 2006 the world expenditures on arms reached over \$1.2 trillion dollars, enough to feed, clothe, house and provide basic education and medical care for the planet's poor. 2

Yet, as both our countries pour billions into war, we have fallen far short of our commitments to providing foreign



ALBERTA PEACE NEWS

YES TO PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, NO TO IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM

aid to developing countries. A 35 year-old United Nations target for aid was finally endorsed two years ago by the richest countries in the world (including ours). The United States and Canada have not even set a target date to meet the modest commitment of donating 0.7 percent of our annual economic activity. Ironically, the United States finds itself dead last on the list of donors and Canada is just slightly better.

It is no surprise to us that our leaders are friends and allies. George Bush and Steven Harper lead governments that continue, despite mounting evidence to the contrary, to demand ever-increasing funds to bring "peace" to the region. After six years of war and massive military and civilian casualties, we are no closer to peace and the people of both countries know it. A recent Canadian poll showed opposition to the war at 59 percent while support was only 36 percent (only 7 percent strongly). In the United States, the polls are similar. To make matters worse, both Afghanistan and Iraq have become the breeding grounds for publicly-funded private armies and contractors who are earning billions. These are some of the same corporations who are also busy at home exporting industries to cheap labour zones, undercutting good jobs and union rights.

We want to conclude by extending our sympathy to the families of the young men and women in both countries who have died. We pledge to work together to stop these wars and to turn our minds, money and energy to solving the real problems of our countries and the world --- poverty, inequality, environmental degradation and climate change. The success of our struggle for economic and social justice for all peoples is tied directly to our ability to ensure the majority of people opposed to war are heard, not only in the streets, but in the corridors of power in Washington, DC and Ottawa.

Canadian Peace Congress Attend Regional Meeting of the WPC in Caracas, VZ

By Cathy Fischer, Saskatchewan Peace News, Regina Peace Council.

The Canadian Peace Congress was represented at a regional meeting of World Peace Council (WPC) affiliates in Caracas, Venezuela, August 25-27. Sean Currie, a member of the Edmonton Peace Council and on the interim executive of the Canadian Peace Congress, was the Congress delegate. Hosted by the Venezuelan Comité de Solidaridad Internacional (COSI), the WPC regional meeting took place in the National Assembly hall of the Venezuelan Parliament. In addition to the representatives from Venezuela and Canada, there were delegates from Cuba, Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil, with

observers from Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile. Also in attendance was Iraklis Tsavdaridis from Greece, Secretary General of the World Peace Council, and WPC president Orlando Fundora from Cuba.

A major purpose of the regional meeting was preparation for a global World Peace Council conference to be held next April, and a highlight of the meeting was announcement by Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez that Venezuela would host the WPC conference in Caracas, with state support.

Discussion at the regional meeting focused on the international situation and the anti-imperialist fight back and emergence of the world-wide revolutionary socialist movement currently being led by Hugo Chavez and the revolutionary socialist forces in Central and South America.

Orlando Fundora, WPC president, spoke of the politics surrounding energy and the growing connection between oil consumption and the increasing belligerence of U.S. imperialism. He also warned of the issue of the control of the water of the world by large transnational water corporations. Charging that NATO is a threat to world peace, Fundora said the sharpening European situation is due to the aggressive stance of US-NATO interference in the domestic affairs of European countries.

Fundora placed special emphasis on the role Venezuela is playing in the struggle for peace.. "The role of Venezuela is important because it signifies a break with the chains of imperialismAll the actions of Venezuela are of peace, health and education for the people of Central and South America." Because of the Venezuelan revolution, he added, imperialism is losing its position of world wide domination and the peace forces are gaining ground and are now becoming the leading force in the world.

In his statement to the regional meeting, Sean Currie of the Canadian Peace Congress stated: "The Bush Doctrine of pre-emptive war, unilateralism in international affairs is universally rejected and condemned by all rational people. Non-belligerent states are beginning to move without the approval of U.S. imperialism toward new forms of international relations and economic co-operation. These new relations are based on respect for the sovereignty of nations, for rejection of another arms race, for renewal of nuclear disarmament programs, for the dismantling of all foreign military bases, for a repudiation of all US-NAO-NORAD-EU type doctrines of the 'right to intervene.' The path forward to new forms of international relations can only be based on policies and programs that elevate the needs of the people and the future of the planet above the crass goals of the profit system."



ALBERTA PEACE NEWS

YES TO PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, NO TO IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM

Speaking of the U.S. and Canada, Currie said that the struggle of the peace forces in the U.S. expressing the rejection by a majority of U.S. citizens of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan is a vital component in the struggle for peace and progress in North America. "The people of Canada," he added, "in their majority likewise reject the Conservative Government's deeper involvement of Canadian forces in the US-NATO war in Afghanistan." The World Peace Council, Currie concluded, and its regional affiliates in North and South America, in Latin America and the Caribbean are part of a great unfolding fight back of the peace loving people of our respective countries against the bankrupt ideas of a dying imperialism. "We do not underestimate the capacity of imperialism for treachery and its powerful resources enabling it to manoeuvre and survive. Neither do we consider it invincible."

Canadian Peace Alliance Statement on Pan-Canadian Day of Action, Oct 27, 2007

Not One More Dead Bring the Troops Home Now Pan-Canadian Day of Action against war: October 27

The war in Afghanistan is getting worse day by day. The Government of Canada and its NATO allies tell us that security and reconstruction are improving and that the battle for the hearts and minds of the Afghan people is being won by the west. In reality the situation is much more dire. Reconstruction has been proven to be a smokescreen and the resistance to the occupation is growing. Violence increases every month that our soldiers remain in Kandahar.

It is time to stop the bloodshed - not in 2009 as our politicians suggest - but now. The Canadian Peace Alliance and Collectif Échec à la guerre call on the people of Canada and Quebec to demonstrate this October 27, 2007 and call for the troops to be brought home.

On that day people from Canada and the United States will be marching to end war. Our friends in the US have put out a call for events to end the Iraq war on same date; so we will be jointly marching to end the violence that our governments are intent on continuing.

The state of reconstruction in Kandahar is a shambles. The Senlis Council recently released a report that investigated the reconstruction claims by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The Senlis Council found little of the promised reconstruction in Kandahar. The Afghan people are starving just outside the gates of the Canadian base. Their local hospitals have no medicine or equipment despite promises of money from CIDA. These failures, coupled with the rise in

civilian casualties, have resulted in more people joining the resistance.

And what has been accomplished? Canadians have once again lost the Panjwai district of Kandahar after fighting four separate battles to hold it and being pushed off of that land again and again. After more than 18 months of fighting in the south which has killed hundreds of civilians and dozens of Canadian soldiers, the fight is still on for the same patch of land that was "secured" more than a year ago.

How many more will die on both sides to keep taking and retaking a spot of land?

The poppy trade is booming in Afghanistan with a record crop worth more than \$3 billion USD this year. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report showed a 35 per cent increase in opium production from a year ago. This will only get worse the longer NATO stays in Afghanistan. The UNODC argues that more control from the state of Afghanistan will reduce opium production. More than 60 percent of the elected members of the Afghan parliament are connected to warlords and drug barons. To increase the control of the drug warlords in the opium producing areas will not result in a decrease in opium production.

The irony is that opium production had been eradicated by 2001. This increase in production is a direct result of the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan.

The head of the Army in the UK, General Sir Richard Dannatt stated that the war in Afghanistan could go on for a generation. Thousands more civilians and soldiers will die and the resistance to the NATO occupation will grow. It is time to end this war.

On October 27 people in Canada and the US will be marching to call for peace in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thousands will march in a pan-Canadian day of action. Join us!

Out of Afghanistan - Out of Iraq Harper and Bush Bring the Troops back!

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS
BRING
THEM
HOME NOW!**



ALBERTA PEACE NEWS

YES TO PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, NO TO IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM

International News

Global Warming a Product of Capitalism

Venezuela. Mérida, September 27, 2007
www.venezuelanalysis.com

Mérida, September 27, 2007 (venezuelanalysis.com)- Venezuela's Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Valero stated on Monday at a UN event on climate change that the responsibility for global warming falls exclusively on the "irrational capitalist model of consumption" of the first world countries. The ambassador stressed the environmental achievements of the Bolivarian Revolution and warned that the continuation of capitalist consumption would lead to an "unprecedented tragedy."

The meeting took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on Monday with the presence of top officials from more than 150 countries. The event was meant as a precursor to the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali that will take place this December.

Venezuela's presentation warned the world leaders that climate change would ironically affect the poorest countries the most as they are the "most vulnerable to the environmental deterioration, and their people pay the consequences in terms of human lives."

"The majority of poor people aren't at all responsible for global warming. Those who are responsible intend to continue their consumption of natural resources in order to maximize their profits, favoring multinational corporations without measuring the environmental impact or sustainable development," said Valero.

Valero assured that "radical changes" would be necessary to avoid the consequences and called on the industrialized nations to fully assume the commitments established in the Kyoto treaty.

"To mitigate the effects it is necessary to introduce radical changes in the irrational growth model that is currently dominant in the world," he said, assuring that otherwise the "capitalist, imperialist" model of the first world would create a human tragedy for the millions of people who live in the rest of the world.

"A tragedy is coming for the whole human species if we don't change current patterns of production, distribution, and consumption that characterize savage capitalism and imperialism," he said.

The minister went on to briefly summarize some of the environmental policies that the Venezuelan government has put in place in order to fight global warming. He reminded the assembly that although Venezuela has no obligation to reduce its carbon emissions, it has

unilaterally launched initiatives such as the Energy Revolution which has replaced 52 million light bulbs in Venezuela with energy saving bulbs.

Valero spoke of the program known as Mission Tree, which plans to plant millions of trees over the next five years. He emphasized that in the first year of this program more than 30 million trees were planted, and that they plan to plant 100 million more by 2011.

The ambassador also pointed to the Gas Pipeline of the South project that will have a large impact on energy use across the continent. The project, which proposes a natural gas pipeline from Venezuela south through Brazil and reaching Argentina, would carry cheap, clean fuel to much of the region. According to Valero, once functioning, the project would significantly reduce carbon emissions in the region.

"The revolution reaffirms its commitment to the development goals of the millennium that advocate a world with a harmonious, human relationship between human beings and nature," he said. "That is the challenge of Bolivarian Socialism that we promote in benefit of our people and the people of the other countries of the world."

Cordial greetings from Palestine to the WPC

Ramallah, September, 20 2007

World Peace Council
WPC Secretariat and members,
WPC Secretary General
Cordial greetings from Palestine

The Department of Arab and International Relations/ DAIR in P.L.O urges your Council and peace movements all over the world to exert serious efforts to practice international pressure on the Israeli government to retreat its decision on considering the Gaza Strip an (enemy entity) by isolating it from the whole world and rest of the Palestinian territories which will definitely lead to a humanitarian massacre against innocent unarmed people.

DAIR calls upon you for leading campaigns to prevent Israel from implementing such decision which represents a gross violation of the International legitimacy, human rights agreements and the Fourth Geneva Convention in particular. DAIR warns that the Israeli practices and policies will miss any possible chances of peace to be achieved and in the next autumn conference at special. DAIR calls for stopping the collective punishment policy, for not to consider all the Gaza people a part of Hamas Militias and for providing immediate international protection of the Palestinian people.

DAIR salutes your Council and the peace movements for your honorable usual positions towards the Palestinian cause and people.

Department of Arab and International Relations, DAIR-PLO



ALBERTA PEACE NEWS

YES TO PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, NO TO IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM

Viewpoint - The October 16th Opening of Parliament and the War in Afghanistan!

This month we have started a viewpoint column. We welcome articles for consideration. Articles, letters, view points, reports can be sent to *Attention APN Editor* at:

canadianpeace@gmail.com

The Canadian Peace Alliance has called for demonstrations all across the country on October 27th to demand an end to the war in Afghanistan and the immediate withdrawal of all Canadian troops. It is an all-out event that has the full support of the Canadian Peace Congress.

Prior to the October 27th CPA mobilization Parliament reconvenes on October 16th 2007. The opening of Parliament is an opportunity for all MP's who are for an end to the war in Afghanistan to unite and demand an end to Canada's participation in the US-NATO war.

Now is the time! Prime Minister Harper is losing the political initiative because he threw in his lot with President George Bush who is sinking like a stone and dragging all of his supporters with him. The Harper Government has stalled because it set itself against a majority of Canadians and their deeply held beliefs in Canada as force for peace in international affairs. The Harper government's support for the US-NATO war in Afghanistan runs counter to those beliefs. The Conservative Government is discredited because from the get-go it set the interests of the US Bush administration above the interests of Canadians.

There is concurrence in the positions of the all of the opposition parties that Canadian participation in the war must end. That fact reflects the failure of Prime Minister Harper to align Canadian public opinion behind the Bush US-NATO War in Afghanistan.

The dominant anti-Harper trend is clear. Public support for the war in Afghanistan is waning.

Taking all of the above into account, what should be the stance of the opposition parties when Parliament reconvenes on October 16th?

Harper has stalled in the polls and there is nothing in current politics that is likely to give him new momentum. The standings in the 308 House of Commons after the recent Quebec by-elections are 126 Conservatives, 96 Liberals, 49 Bloc, 30 NDP, three independents and four vacant seats. The Harper Government must have the support of at least one of the opposition parties to survive. He doesn't deserve it and he shouldn't get it. The Harper Government cannot be

reformed, it can only be defeated. There is no "shopping list" of progressive policies of peace the opposition can compel a Harper Government to enact. That has been the experience in the US Congress with a Democratic majority and a lame duck President mired at 20% in the polls. The war in Iraq continues because Bush retains power until the next US election.

In Canada it is different. Harper's minority government remains in power so long as the opposition permits it. There is nothing in our electoral system that says he must stay in power until his mandate expires in October 2009. To end the war the Harper Government must be defeated.

The Canadian Peace Congress takes the view that peace belongs to everyone who fights for it. Public disapproval of the war in Afghanistan has compelled all opposition parties to re-evaluate and abandon past policies and move away from war towards peace. That is to be welcomed. The Canadian Peace Congress considers it a victory for peace when MP's regardless of their political affiliation abandon bankrupt policies and re-align their thinking with the desire of the Canadian people for peace.

Immediate withdrawal or withdrawal in 2009 cannot be allowed to be the issue that divides the opposition and lets Harper off the hook and free to continue the war indefinitely. There are bigger issues at stake. Canadian involvement in the war in Afghanistan is closely tied to the US-NATO war in Iraq; in fact it is one war on two fronts. The internet is overflowing with predictions that the Bush administration is planning an air strike on Iran. The danger of a wider war, more destruction and death for the people of the Middle East and Central Asia has increased.

The 39th Parliament can be the opportunity to begin the process of breaking Canada free of the Harper-Bush-NATO Doctrine and the entire neo-con agenda of war. The political leaders that find the courage to say to their supporters and the Canadian people, that the Harper vision of the world reeks of imperialist ambition and we will have no part of it will seize the initiative. Leaders who challenge Harper's program of war will win the hearts and minds of all Canadians and in all likelihood the next federal election.

Don Currie is a member of the Interim Executive of the Canadian Peace Congress. He is Canadian member of the Executive of the World Peace Council. Currie is Chair of Canadians for Peace and Socialism and editor of Focus on Socialism. He is a member of the Nelson Peace Coalition in the West Kootenays of BC.



ALBERTA PEACE NEWS

YES TO PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, NO TO IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM

Declaration of the European Conference in Defence of Peace

Lisbon Portugal September 28-29 2007

Declaration of the Conference of European Peace Organisations jointly convened by the World Peace Council (WPC), Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL) and Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation

Participants representing 20 Peace Organisations and Movements from 14 European countries gathered in Lisbon, Portugal at the same time as the informal meeting in Evora, Portugal of the ministers of Defence of the EU. The meeting of peace organizations after fruitful exchange of views issued the following declaration:

1. The peoples of Europe are facing growing threats to global peace and security resulting from militarization of international relations and increasing imperialist aggressions around the world. The peace conference demands an immediate cessation of these war driven policies. Instead, the peace conference upholds the promotion of peaceful relations in the continent and with the whole world and calls for improvements in the social well being of the people's of Europe.

2. Considering the rejection of the European Constitutional Treaty in many societies, and in particular by referenda in France and Holland, participants in the peace conference declare that the reformed European Treaty continues to be a clear expression of the ongoing dangerous course towards increasing the concentration of political decision making power directed against the sovereignty of the peoples, pervasive intrusion of security agencies into civic life within the Union, and the projection of strengthened military might onto the world stage. The reformed Treaty ignores the views of the people and serves the interests of the corporations in all spheres. We demand that the will of the peoples of Europe and their democratic rights to be respected, and that any reform treaty should be submitted to referenda in every country of the Union.

3. The growing supremacy of the economic interest of corporations and the states is intimately connected to the militarization of Europe and has resulted in diminished civic, social and labour rights and the criminalization of civic resistance. The undermining of the quality of democratic rights and democratic institutions has paved the way for the intrusion and promotion of extremist doctrines and actions by aggressive criminal groups such as emerging xenophobic and Nazi gangs, on the one hand, and campaigns against and political persecution of progressive and peace forces, on the other, both being alien to the sentiments and interests of the social and people's movements.

4. International relations are becoming more and more militarized. The European Union is more frequently taking aggressive stances in its international relations vis a vis the resolution of latent and emerging conflicts, or prolonged and ongoing wars. The complicity of the European Union with NATO, a self-appointed aggressive alliance of world jurisdiction, is not only a danger to peace in the world but as well a dangerous and self-destructive policy for the peoples of Europe.

The active military interventions by the EU in the Balkans, Central Asia and Middle East continue and are to be condemned. The presence of numerous European military bases and increased deployment of military forces in Africa (namely the EU mission in Chad and the Central African Republic) are cases for deep concern considering the past and in view of future developments in that continent.

5. The further militarization of the European Union, by the installation of military bases outside national borders, the creation of rapid deployment interventionist army battle corps and new naval groups designed to impose its political-economic will in Europe and elsewhere in the world, the development of new weapons and integrated military surveillance and command systems, the trade or supply of weapons to third parties to serve economic interests or gain economic or political leverage by use of force overseas, are all symptoms of an imperialist policy that represents an immoral and immense waste of resources and poses a perilous danger to international security and peace. To the contrary, the peoples of Europe demand a stop to the militarization of Europe.

6. Combined modern space and ground platforms allow for global intelligence, surveillance and command means that, in conjunction with available launch carriers and missiles empower the USA and some other military powers to lead the world into newer and unimaginable dangerous levels of warfare, in the core of the European continent, at its boundaries and beyond.

Developments on European territory or elsewhere, that result in military escalation, namely in the domain of land and space platforms that carry warfare to outer space, are to be deeply rejected as hegemonic and imperialist, challenging peace and security and provoking further military threats.

7. We have witnessed a renewed expansion of the global military expenditures over the past decade, at an annual growth rate of nearly 4%, reaching \$ 1,200 billion USD in 2006 (half of this accounted for by the USA). Only one part of that huge destructive expenditure would have been sufficient to implement the Development Goals agreed by the UN Millennium Summit in the year 2000



ALBERTA PEACE NEWS

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aimed at the eradication of poverty and securing basic education and health conditions in the world.

8. It is in the earnest interest of the peace loving peoples of Europe and the world in general that the European Union renounces any kind of neo-colonialist or paternalistic attitude vis-a-vis third parties. Instead, the Union ought to engage in open and mutual relations with neighbouring countries and all those with whom they share economic and political interrelations. In no case can any country invoke "national interest" and resort to aggression in order to gain access to essential resources or commodities.

9. Europe ought to promote an open dialogue among nations, fostering demilitarization and denuclearization, through international consultation within the framework of the UNO and of the OSCE. This should be undertaken while respecting past treaties and their enforcement, in particular those treaties that have contributed to diminishing the growth of military threats and that promoted détente along the past decades.

All parties ought to abide by their commitments and neither renounce nor impose them unilaterally, as some nuclear powers have done and are doing. European nuclear powers in particular, ought to be active parties in reducing and in renouncing the possession, deployment or use of such weapons of mass destruction.

Our urgent purpose and resolve is to establish nuclear weapons free zones and finally attain complete banishment of nuclear weapons all over the world.

10. The peoples of Europe have repeatedly expressed their desire for a better future and their opposition to military interventions, aggressions and occupations where their countries are involved. As well they have expressed their active solidarity with the peoples who are the victims of aggression or any form of oppression. We express our solidarity with all the peoples of the former Yugoslavia who confront the consequences of imperialist interference and aggression aimed at converting their countries into protectorates of the USA, EU or NATO and who are compelled to host foreign military bases. We denounce the US and EU plans to recognize an independent Kosovo as a clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Serbia and an open violation of international law.

11. Peace movements all over Europe are expressing their support and solidarity with the peoples of Poland and the Czech Republic, who are rejecting the deployment of US "Missile Defence Shield" bases in their countries. The growth of NATO is proving to be a pretext for expanding its military infrastructures into Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania and Bulgaria, accelerating a trend of militarization of the whole European territory and the lives of their people, promoting an aggressive posture

vis-a-vis neighbouring countries and threatening others elsewhere in the world.

This course of events contradicts the desire for peace of the peoples of Europe who reject aggressive alliances and demand that immediate steps be taken to effect the dismantling of NATO.

12. The capitalist economic system is depleting natural resources at a fast rate. There is a growing military competition among capitalist states for access and possession of the remaining resources. War is not only immoral, it also fails to accomplish the perverse purposes of sustaining economically the great political powers and economic interests that engage in war to appropriate and exploit the riches of other countries.

The history of the late colonial wars, the Vietnam-war and the more recent wars on Afghanistan, Iraq and Lebanon, the ongoing genocide in Palestine, prove that military might cannot force the peoples to submit and surrender their inalienable and legitimate right to resist the aggressors.

In this context we vehemently reject any move, by whatever pretext, that promotes an attack on Iran and declare it to be one more flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter. We likewise demand a halt to the involvement of European countries and the EU in Afghanistan, siding with the USA and NATO (in ISAF), and firmly reject the idea of an EU-lead EUROPOL mission there.

13. It is our peaceful resolve to renounce the ongoing arms race and to fight for the de-militarization and disarmament of Europe, to promote equitable political relationships among nations, free of military threats and imperialist domination.

That vision encompasses a continent free of foreign military bases and disengaged from any military alliance.

“International relations are becoming more and more militarized”

Declaration of European Conference in Defence of Peace,
Lisbon September 28-29, 2007



ALBERTA PEACE NEWS

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Peace and Labour Events

Alberta Federation of Labour

Visit: <http://www.afl.org> for upcoming events.

Parkland Institute

Visit: <http://www.ualberta.ca/parkland>

Parkland's 11th Annual Fall Conference: **From Crisis to Hope: Building Just and Sustainable Communities**, November 16-18, 2007, University of Alberta Campus, in Edmonton. Details will be posted on their website when available.

ECAWAR 2007-2008

Meetings and preparations for the Pan Canadian Day of Action Against War are held at Hostelling International (10647 81 Avenue). The 2007-2008 schedules will be announced contact the ECAWAR information line at 780-998-2713 or go to www.ecawar.org

Campaign to Stop Secret Trials in Canada

Teach-In: **Security Certificates and Secret Trials**, part of a National Day of Action organized by the Campaign to Stop Secret Trials in Canada.

When: October 20, 2007, 11:00 am McIntyre Park Gazebo.

For More information call ECAWAR information line at 780-998-2713 or go to www.ecawar.org

Canadian Peace Alliance

Preparations for October 27 Pan Canadian Day of Action Against War, contact:

Canadian Peace Alliance
427 Bloor Street West, Box 13
Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1X7
phone: 416-588-5555
email: cpa@web.ca
web: www.acp-cpa.ca

World Peace Council

The WPC would like to draw your attention to an important initiative it is undertaking together with the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC) and the Confederation of GUE/NGL of the European Parliament, on 28-29 September 2007 in Lisbon/Portugal. On the occasion of the Portuguese presidency in the European Union and the meeting of the Defence Ministers of the EU in the city of Evora, the above mentioned WPC, CPPC and the GUE/NGL group will organize a "European Conference in Defense of Peace", which will deal with the subjects:

- War strategy and Militarization in Europe

- Defending Peace against militarization and war
- International Order, Solidarity with peoples under aggression, occupation and blockade, the role of the peace movements

More than 15 organizations from Europe have confirmed their participation and 5 members of the European Parliament. The meeting will be attended also by many local committees and members of the leadership of the CPPC, as well as representatives of municipalities and Trade Unions around Lisbon. In the framework of the "Lisbon Conference" there will be also a WPC session of the European Coordination, which will give a follow up to the last European meeting of Brussels last June, and contribute to the preparations of the coming Executive Committee of the WPC, to be held on November 18-20 in Hanoi/Vietnam.

The Conference will be hosted by the CPPC, which is the Regional Coordinator of Europe for the WPC.

For more details of the gathering you can contact the WPC or the CPPC (conselhopez@netcabo.pt)

A report of the conference will follow after the event.

The Edmonton Peace Council (EPC) is a member of the Canadian Peace Congress which is affiliated to the World Peace Council.

The Alberta Peace News (APN) is published by the Edmonton Peace Council. The APN is published monthly and relies on volunteer labour and the financial support of our members and supporters. We hope you will help us in our fight for peace by becoming a member of the EPC and/or providing financial assistance.

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