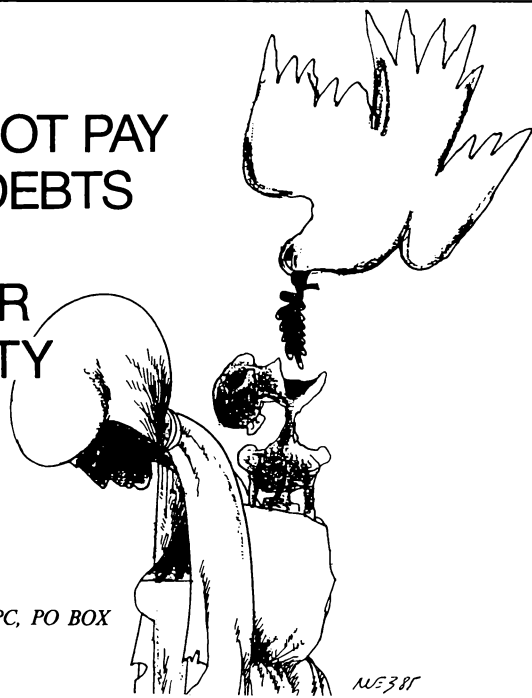


WE SHALL NOT PAY EXTERNAL DEBTS WITH THE HUNGER AND POVERTY OF OUR PEOPLE

*This poster is available at
the Information Centre of the WPC, PO BOX
114, 00181 Helsinki, Finland.*



This summit was also faced by the problems of the time, chiefly those caused by imperialism's aggressiveness - the US military build-up, Star Wars, the attacks on Libya and Nicaragua, to name only a few, and the economic tyranny of the imperialist multinationals and finance institutions. At the foreign ministers' meeting which preceded the summit, Zimbabwe's foreign minister Mangwende noted: «Non-aligned and other developing countries face an increasingly hostile environment as long-buried 19th century policies of gunboat diplomacy have been resurrected.»

Such a situation indeed highlights the question of what it means to be non-aligned in a world increasingly polarized between imperialism and its allies on the one hand, and the national liberation movements and socialist countries on the other. Libya's leader, Moammer Qaddafi raised the issue, saying there is no such thing as non-alignment, because the world is divided between imperialism and freedom fighters. In principle, the definition of non-alignment was settled long ago, for as pointed out by Fidel Castro in his speech at the opening session of the summit, the movement's founding document advocates «the immediate, unconditional, total and definitive elimination of colonialism, and the concerted effort to end all forms of neocolonialism and imperialist domination in all their forms and manifestations.»

In practice, however, the problem is a real one. Within the Non-Aligned Movement, there are countries that are preoccupied with fighting each other to the detriment of the main struggle

against imperialist domination; the Iraq-Iran war is only one example of conflicts which threaten to exhaust the potentials of the Non-Aligned Movement. There are also a number of states whose independence and non-alignment are but formalities, for the ruling class practices policies which facilitate imperialism's continued dominance. There are states which host US military facilities and actively cooperate in its aggressive plans, such as Saudi Arabia, Oman, Pakistan, Honduras, etc. Only the week before the summit, Sea Wind, the joint US-Egyptian air and sea maneuvers off Libya's coast, had emphasized this point concretely.

Also the week preceding the summit, Cameroon restored full diplomatic relations with the Zionist state. Syria, Libya and Iran brought up the issues of Egypt's close cooperation with the US, and the restoration of relations with the Zionist state, in a move to expell those states who violate the principles of non-alignment through their relations with imperialism and settler colonialism. It is especially noteworthy that the same African states who have relations with 'Israel'-Zaire, Liberia, the Ivory Coast and Cameroon - were among the conservative bloc at the summit, arguing for dialogue with the apartheid regime, while the overwhelming majority wanted to impose strict sanctions against it.

The fact that some 'non-aligned' states are running errands for US imperialism was also seen in the question of choosing the location for the 9th summit. A majority supported convening it in Managua, which would be fitting as Nicaragua is a main target of US interventionism, but voices of dis-

sent forced the delay of this decision. In general, however, imperialism's agents found it difficult to argue for their policies in view of how blatantly the US has become in attacking the independent countries and the peoples struggling for liberation. The summit's final declaration contained greater criticism of US policy than did the declaration of the previous summit, reflecting international popular outrage against the Reagan Administration's aggressiveness. The final declaration strongly condemned the US links with the Pretoria regime, which only serve to encourage its aggression against the African people and neighboring states. It condemned the US's acts of state terrorism against Libya and Nicaragua. The declaration also called for an immediate halt to the Iraq-Iran war.

Adhering to the principle of disarmament on which the Non-Aligned Movement was founded, the final declaration stressed the call for a moratorium on nuclear testing, as is being practiced unilaterally by the Soviet Union. It opposed the spread of the arms race to outer space, as the US is attempting with the Star Wars program. It was emphasized that the millions being poured into arms, if used otherwise, could solve the problems of famine and underdevelopment that plague the majority of the people of the world. The declaration called for a new economic world order, eliminating plunder and promoting equality between the developed and developing nations. Unfortunately, the declaration stopped short of incorporating the calls of progressive states for cancellation of the foreign debt burden imposed on the developing countries.

The most significant decision of the summit, welcomed by progressive forces all over the world, was the adoption of comprehensive sanctions against South Africa. Especially important is that these sanctions are to be implemented according to a concrete plan, and backed up by a special fund to support the frontline states, as well as special aid to ANC of South Africa and SWAPO of Namibia. Alongside African leaders, Fidel Castro profiled the anti-apartheid drive, stating that the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola is not a precondition for Namibia's independence, as the US tries to contend. Rather, Cuban troops will continue to assist the African people until apartheid itself is abolished. In addition to demanding Namibia's unconditional independence, the declaration affirmed that there will be no peace in the Middle East without Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab land, and fulfillment of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights to self-determination and an independent state. ●