

# World Youth Festival in Moscow

For the week of July 27th-August 3rd, youth from over 150 countries converged in Moscow for the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students. The events of the festival, and the prevailing spirit of internationalism, gave real human and political meaning to the slogan: «For anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship.»

The festival opened with a rousing ceremony in Moscow's stadium. There were athletic events and dramatizations of anti-war and anti-fascist themes. All participants in the festival joined together in a tremendous march, to be welcomed by the Soviet audience who applauded and released swarms of balloons in the five festival colors - red, blue, yellow, pink and green - representing the five continents. Special enthusiasm was accorded the Nicaraguan delegation, with the audience and other marchers breaking into a united cry of «Nicaragua yes, Yankee no.» Here as throughout the festival, the aspirations of youth for a world of peace and solidarity between peoples, were readily apparent. As one

of the Palestinian participants remarked afterwards, «One really felt a part of a new generation that wants peace, that opposes imperialism's war drive.»

Thereafter began a broad spectrum of political and cultural events. There were sports, arts, music and dancing. There were performances by folklore groups from all over the world. There were thorough and intense discussions and exchange of ideas organized through discussion centers. Among the main political themes dealt with were disarmament, the struggle for peace and against nuclear war, and the national liberation movements with discussions focusing on specific struggles in the world. In the anti-war discussions, the vast majority of speakers voiced the opposition of youth to imperialism's war-mongering and nuclear race led by the US and most recently escalated with the Star Wars project. Delegates could sign up to speak at the discussion center of their choice with the result that the concerns of youth and popular struggles all over the world were dealt with at length,

providing a firm base for strengthening international solidarity.

Participating in the festival were two Palestinian delegations, one affiliated to the Tunis headquarters, and the other affiliated to the Palestine National Salvation Front. PNSF delegates were active in the discussion centers, especially on the anti-war theme, emphasizing how imperialism has encouraged 'Israel' to launch four major wars against the Palestinian and Arab people, to enforce its hegemony.

For the great success of this international youth festival, for its spirit of internationalism and solidarity, a special vote of thanks goes to the Soviet leadership and people. Their great organizing capacity was an essential factor in gathering so many people and different activities into one powerful, cohesive manifestation. An important experience for the participants was not only the opportunity to meet each other, but to meet the Soviet people who were overwhelming in their display of internationalism and hospitality.

