

always be sure that the Palestinian people will fight alongside them..."

After speeches and discussion, the final statement of the meeting was formulated. The Presidium, at the invitation of Ecuador's National Union of Journalists, visited different regions of Ecuador, and was received by the President of Ecuador. They then traveled to Havana to participate in a meeting on ways to protect journalists working in dangerous conditions, and to attend the FELAP Congress which was addressed by President Fidel Castro.

Final document (excerpts)

The Presidium highlighted the active participation of the General Secretariat of the IOJ as a whole, during celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the victory over Hitlerite fascism.

In this respect, the meeting of war veterans with journalists, which was held in Torgau, (GDR), was positively evaluated. Both the direct participants in the struggle against German fascism in the member countries of the anti-Hitler coalition and the then war correspondents who witnessed the events, emphasized the need to step up the struggle for peace and understanding amongst peoples.

The Presidium noted the aggressive course of US policy and that of other NATO member countries trying to achieve military supremacy and who are heading towards the militarization of space. It called for an end to the deployment of US thermonuclear missiles in Western Europe and expressed its support for the peace initiatives advanced by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and for the peace movement which is gaining momentum in Western Europe, the USA and other countries around the world.

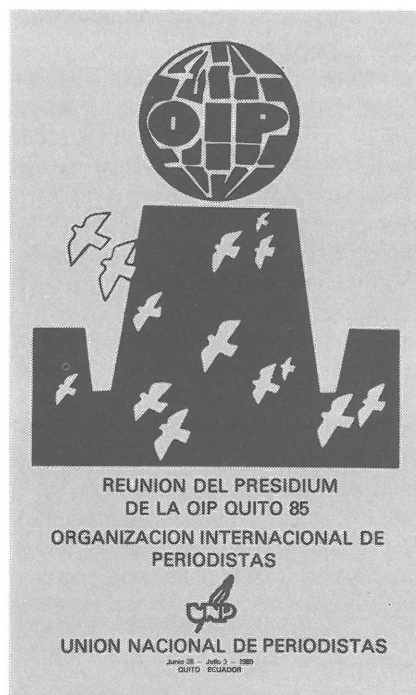
In this light, the Presidium considers that the planned US military base on Easter Island will increase the dangers of war.

The members of the Presidium stressed the importance of cooperation with UNESCO and denounced the US withdrawal and that of other countries from this organization.

The Presidium of the IOJ expressed its support for Angola and Mozambique and for other countries in Africa struggling to defend their sovereignty and independence in the face of the imperialist threat and condemned US support for the racist South African regime and for other counter-revolutionary forces on the continent. Participants in the meet-

ing condemned the policy of apartheid carried out by the government of the Republic of South Africa and demanded that they comply with UN resolutions on the independence of Namibia, without conditions on the withdrawal of Cuban internationalist troops from Angola.

The Presidium also condemned the invasion of Botswana by the South African regime, and the conspiracy of silence of the majority of Western countries surrounding this unjustified aggression. They expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people struggling for their historic right to build their own independent state. They condemned attacks against the Palestinian camps in Beirut, attacks which only serve the interests of Israel and US imperialism, and applauded



ed the firm position of the journalists and the Palestinians against the intensification of revenge attacks by the Israeli forces of occupation...

The Presidium voiced solidarity with the peoples of Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos who are building a new life and defending their independence, freedom and territorial integrity. The meeting came out in solidarity with the struggle of the Korean people in their struggle for the reunification of their fatherland and condemned provocative military manoeuvres carried out by the US and the South Korean regime, which contribute to sharpening tension on the Korean peninsula and the entire region.

The Quito meeting was held at a time when historical changes are being

produced in some countries of Latin America. Recently, military regimes in Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil have ceased to exist, as opposition democratic forces have won the elections. The struggle against the fascist tyranny is increasing in Chile and Paraguay. In Guatemala, the people are intensifying their opposition to the regime, and in the other Central American countries, the national liberation movements are becoming more powerful.

The Presidium expressed support for the heroic people of Nicaragua in their fight against Somozist counter-revolutionaries, financed and led by the US, and condemned the economic blockade announced by Washington against this country, coupled with political and military aggression and interference in the internal affairs of Nicaragua, the slander campaign and the psychological warfare against Nicaragua.

The Presidium urged all progressive and democratic journalists to support Nicaragua and to demand the immediate end to the undeclared war against this people, and all forms of foreign intervention in the internal affairs of this country...

The Presidium expressed its solidarity with the heroic people of Cuba and their revolution, condemning the threats and acts of aggression by the United States against this country, and the introduction of the badly named 'Radio Marti' which the Cubans dub 'Radio Reagan', a farcial propaganda aggression against the people of Cuba and an infringement of their sovereignty.

Participants in the meeting demanded the immediate withdrawal from Grenada of all troops of foreign occupation. They condemned US intervention in El Salvador and called for a resumption of dialogue to put an end to the bloodshed in this country.

Participants denounced the fascist methods of the Pinochet regime which is responsible for the thousands of Chileans murdered or missing and which imposes extremely rigid censorship over the media and has banned many press outlets; they also voiced solidarity with the journalists and people of Chile...

1986 was declared by the UN International Year of Peace, which will be broadly celebrated around the world. 1986 has special importance for the International Organization of Journalists, as it will reach its 40th anniversary in that year.»