

APPEAL TO THE EUROPEAN PATRIOTS AND DEMOCRATS

Published: Document 17 | State of the Movement: A selection of texts from the Marxist-Leninist Movement (2011) <https://emaoism.files.wordpress.com/2015/05/state-of-the-movement.pdf>

Transcription, Editing and Markup: Paul Saba and Sam Richards

Copyright: This work is in the Public Domain under the Creative Commons Common Deed. You can freely copy, distribute and display this work; as well as make derivative and commercial works. Please credit the Encyclopedia of Anti-Revisionism On-Line as your source, include the url to this work, and note any of the transcribers, editors & proof-readers above.

ADOPTED BY THE 1st PREPARATORY MEETING
LISBON, JULY 26 AND 27, 1977

APPEAL TO THE EUROPEAN PATRIOTS AND DEMOCRATS

The First Preparatory meeting of the Lisbon Conference on the Russian Threat has taken place at a time when chiefs of state, democratic political parties, representatives of the many cultural circles and social forces of the European nations are beginning to realize the real scale of the Russian threat, and are increasing their efforts to deal with it.

This First Preparatory Meeting has taken advantage of the political atmosphere in Portugal -a country that has been able to unite and successfully face the first serious attempt on the part of the pro-Russian forces to seize political power and install an anti-democratic regime in the service of Moscow. The Portuguese experience during the years of 1974 and 1975 has provided a warning to the whole of Europe and has been an inspiration to the preliminary work of the Conference.

Three decades have passed since the glorious days of the anti-hitlerian alliance and the movements of resistance to nazi aggression. At that time, all that was honest, democratic and patriotic in the anti-fascist countries united to safeguard the sovereignty and freedom of the European nations. Then, no ideological contradictions, class interests or national peculiarities hindered the movement for unity which swept over Europe, over all the democratic nations, and rallied them to the defence of freedom.

The First Preparatory Meeting of the Lisbon Conference on the Russian threat considers that today the patriots and democrats in the European countries are faced with an identical challenge. The First Preparatory Meeting considers that every effort should be made to discuss the problem of the Russian menace in order to promote the broadest unity among the forces interested in facing this threat.

The existence and the actual extent of the Russian threat is a question which quite correctly causes concern among those responsible for political and military affairs in Europe. This concern grows stronger from the fact that the leaders in the Kremlin are intensifying their preparations for war whilst at the same time they reiterate their promises of peace, security and co-operation. Moreover, Moscow's (peace) and "disarmament" propaganda is magnified by the disruptive action of the KG Band of political parties which, although employing a variety of tactics and even talking of democracy and freedom, are nevertheless serving Russia's expansionist policy. This disruptive action is conducted in all spheres –political economic. Military, cultural and in the mass media and does not exclude the use of terror by the KGB.

The First Preparatory meeting denounces the arbitrariness and bullying of which the Soviet people, the Soviet nationalities, and the peoples under Russian neo-colonial domination, are the victims. In Russia and its colonies basic civil rights no longer exist: this danger is being extended into Western Europe as the Kremlin's tentacles reach out. The reality of the situation totally belies their claims to be the staunchest upholders of the worker's civil rights: wherever their power extends, the workers, indeed the whole people, are subject to the fiercest oppression.

The expansion of the Kremlin is not confined to Europe, as the recent experiences of Angola, Zaire etc. have fully demonstrated. The purpose of the global strategy of Russian expansionism is world hegemony, hence their actions of aggression, intervention and attempts to control in many parts of the world. However, the focal point of this strategy is the encirclement and conquest of Europe.

The spirit of unity, independence and resistance in the face of the Russian menace is beginning to spread among the peoples, among the patriotic and the democratic forces in the European nations.

Recent discussions to enlarge the membership of the EEC to include the poorer nations and to deepen, on the political field, the process of European integration are good auguries for the future. The overtures which are likely to lead to the

inclusion of countries which are likely to lead to the inclusion of countries like Portugal, Spain and Greece are a positive step which counters the disruptive action of the Kremlin, conducted under the guise of East-West «co-operation».

At the same time, the hegemonistic ambitions and the belligerent preparations of the Russian leaders become increasingly evident in the eyes of international public opinion. Parallel with this, a tendency to resist oppression is becoming stronger within the East European countries.

The First Preparatory Meeting of the Lisbon Conference on the Russian Threat notes with pleasure that the trend towards unity, independence and resistance to the Russian menace has begun to take shape both in Western and Eastern Europe. However, much remains to be done in order to give it form and make it irreversible.

Despite what has already been achieved, many are the problems concerned with the Russian threat to which a variety of possible responses are posed. Many are the obstacles still barring the way to the unity among the patriotic and democratic forces in Europe. Many are the patriots who do not understand yet that the struggle against the hegemonic ambitions of the Kremlin is a struggle for progress, is the struggle for a brighter future for mankind. The Lisbon Conference is not an anti-communist conference but a conference against Russian expansionism, directed towards peace and security in Europe and the World.

Europe's response to the Russian threat is altogether insufficient. The Lisbon Conference will be a forum discussion not only of ideas and analysis of the Russian threat, but also of concrete proposals for the democratic action to oppose it.

The Lisbon Conference integrates the trend followed by those who stand for the unity of Western Europe, for the creation of a united and strong Europe. Unity, cemented in the defence of national independence and democracy, is the solid foundation on which the strength of Western Europe depends.

The nations of Europe, preserving their independence concerning hegemonism, should establish links with all those nations, peoples and countries of the world which oppose the Kremlin's expansionism, especially those of the Third World. Those links must be founded on mutual benefit and non-interference in each other's affairs. Some positive steps have already been taken in this direction.

It is on this base that the first Preparatory meeting of the Lisbon Conference on the Russian threat gives first priority on concrete actions to strengthen European

unity and support the national liberation struggles of the peoples of Eastern Europe.

It is also urgent to give support to all the countries and peoples which are victims of USSR's aggression, bullying, humiliation and interference.

The successive attacks on the national sovereignty of the African countries such as Angola, Zaire, Sudan, etc., cannot be accepted in silence.

Any struggle, anywhere in the world, which safeguards the independence of nations and weakens Russian expansionism favours the patriotic and democratic cause in Europe. It encourages the European people and reinforces their determination in maintaining their resistance against the Russian threat.

We appeal to all patriots and democrats of the European nations to unite, and link their struggle to the countless struggles of the peoples of the world to safeguard their freedom and national independence.

We appeal to all patriots and democrats of the nations of Europe to support the Lisbon Conference on the Russian Threat, for Peace and Security in Europe'

THE PARTICIPANTS

Alvaro Vasconcelos, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the *Communist Party of Portugal (Marxist-Leninist)*, member of the Secretariat of the Portugal-China Democratic Friendship Association.

Francisco Ferreira, writer and journalist, member of the Press Bureau of *the Socialist Party, Portugal*.

Heduido Gomes (Vilar), General-Secretary of the *Communist Party of Portugal (Marxist-Leninist)*

Jacques Benout, publisher of *Trans-Euro- Presse, Belgium*.

Captain Joao Pedro Tomaz Rosa, Air Force reserve officer, former Minister of Labour of the 6th provisional Government, Portugal .

Jorge Guimaraes, writer and journalist, member of the Press Bureau of *the Socialist Party, Portugal*.

Natalia Correia, poet and writer, Portugal.

Eng. Nuno Abecassis, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Group of the *Democratic Social Centre Party, Portugal*

Oswaldo Pesce, General Secretary of the *Unified Communist Party of Italy*.

Dr. Pedro Roseta, member of the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Group of the *Democratic Social Centre Party*, Portugal

Dr. Roland Berger, advisor to the group of the seventy five British enterprises maintaining economic relations with the People's Republic of China, United Kingdom.

Rudolf Henrichs, journalist of the monthly magazine *Internationale Solidaritat*, Federal Republic of Germany.

Dr. Ulrich Matthee, Kiel University Federal Republic of Germany

Yvette Jarrico, writer and publicist, expert on Central European and African Affairs, France.
