



# The Eighth Session of the Council of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation

13-16 FEBRUARY 1967 :: NICOSIA (CYPRUS)

A BRIEF REPORT

## General Declaration

**T**HE Eighth Session of the Council of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation meeting in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, from February 13—17, 1967, salute the memory of the martyrs, who have laid down their lives for the creation of a new Africa and a new Asia, free of imperialist bondage, intervention, blackmail and pressures.

We are meeting in a land whose peoples fight for complete national liberation, against imperialist bases and intervention and who have won for them the admiration and the gratitude of the whole world. It is in this inspiring country, ringing with determination of a people which refuses to bow down before imperialist pressures whatever may be the cost, that this session has met.

U.S. imperialism is the No. 1 enemy of Afro-Asian peoples. To mobilize the tremendous anti-imperialist forces and direct them in the struggle against U.S. imperialism is the essential task of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement.

We declare our uncompromising opposition to imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, racialism and we reaffirm our faith in the consolidation of independence and national sovereignty, in the outlawry of imperialist wars and the winning of liberty and peace for all the peoples.

It is these principles that constitute the bedrock of Solidarity Movement of the peoples of Asia and Africa. It is these principles which have strengthened our Movement in order that we may deliver more devastating blows at the enemy of all mankind, the forces of imperialism and reaction now led by the U.S. imperialists.

This is a time when the international situation has become particularly grave. The threats by the imperialists to unleash a world war have reached new heights. The most barbaric methods are being used in futile efforts to suppress the rising tide of liberty which sweeps through our two continents. The mighty onslaught of the powerful national liberation revolutions is seeping away the last seats of colonial slavery. Forced to retreat under this relentless onslaught, the imperialists have launched a counter offensive against the fighters for freedom and independence.

The desperate aggressiveness of imperialism grows precisely because imperialism is confronted with mounting difficulties and contradictions. As it retreats, its frenzy grows, its violence increases. But despite all its efforts, the balance of forces in the world arena more and more turns against imperialism and in favour of the struggle for freedom and independence and world peace.

**Afro-Asian peoples are not alone:**

With them stands in their struggle for national independence and sovereignty, the great camp of socialist countries.

Together with us are the fighting peoples of Latin America, our comrades and brothers in the battles we are waging. The struggle of the peoples of Latin America against the onslaught of U.S. imperialism and reaction has written new sagas into the history of the freedom movements of the world.

With us are the world-wide democratic movements of the peoples of all countries, the workers, intellectuals, the men and women in every country, who oppose oppression in all its forms.

With us are the working people and the democratic forces even of the countries in which imperialists are entrenched. With us are the progressive forces of Great Britain, France, Portugal, Spain, and West Germany. Nay, growing number of people in the United States too. They are battling against the policies of their Governments which enslave and subjugate, directly or indirectly, the peoples of Asia and Africa.

We seek to strengthen the solidarity of the Afro-Asian peoples with these mighty allies of our movement. For, it is this solidarity which will ultimately and inevitably destroy imperialism root and branch, so that we can build the new world of our cherished goals.

The imperialist counter offensive has taken various forms in our two continents. They have sought to undermine, subvert and paralyse the progressive governments and liberation movements through open and wanton aggression. They have inspired reactionary coups. They have inspired murders and used bestial forms of blackmail and pressure.

We draw the attention of peoples to the methods systematically pursued by imperialism seeking to destroy physically revolutionary leaders and decapitate popular organisations. The tragic Ben Barka affair, after the assassination of Felix Moumie, Lumumba, Pio Pinto, has brought to light the extension of political gangsterism exercised by the C.I.A. in Latin America to other continents struggling against imperialism.

They are attempting to forge an Islamic Pact—a sinister attempt to distort and debase religious faith and loyalties for political purposes designed to incorporate feudal reactionary regimes into military alliance to counteract progressive regimes in the Middle East.

The Eighth Session of the Council of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation has devoted particular attention to the urgent need to intensify and consolidate the people's support of the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people against the criminal aggression of the U.S. imperialism.

The U.S. aggression in Vietnam is a monstrous international crime, a brazen violation of the elementary rules of international law. The peo-

ple all the world over have branded this aggression as barbaric and brutal. The condemnation of U.S. aggression in Vietnam is universal and the U.S. imperialists are becoming more and more isolated.

We strongly condemn the odious crimes perpetrated by U.S. imperialism against the Vietnamese people and against humanity. We firmly denounce the "peace talks" plotted by the U.S. Government. We support the 4-point statement of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the 5-point declaration of the South Vietnam National Liberation Front, the sole authentic representative of the people of South Vietnam.

We demand that the U.S.A. put an end to its aggressive war against the Vietnamese people, cease unconditionally and definitely its bombing and all other war actions against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, withdraw all its troops and those of its satellites and war materials from South Vietnam, leaving the Vietnamese people free to manage their own internal affairs without foreign intervention.

The U.S. imperialists have revived Japanese militarism and seek to utilise it as a "shock-brigade" in their aggression in Asia. They have grouped the Japanese military forces with the South Korean puppets and proceeded through this grouping to step up the North East Asia military alliance. Japanese militarism subject to U.S. imperialism has not only drawn its operational plan envisaging the invasion of Korea and other countries in Asia, but has already proceeded to extend its tentacles to Southern Korea. Japanese militarists are actively participating in the yankee aggression on Vietnam. Afro-Asian peoples should combat Japanese militarism.

In Africa, with the force of arms and cruel reprisals, the Portuguese colonialists supported by the imperialist powers grouped within NATO, are waging a colonial war of genocide in an attempt to strangle the armed struggle of the people of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea (Bissao).

Mobilised and led by the national organisations in our Movement, these peoples however deal crushing blows to the retrograde Portuguese colonialist forces, and have already liberated vast regions of their country and their people envisaging national reconstruction. The decadent reactionary Portuguese regime is sustained by the massive help it receives from fascists and racists as well as the NATO Powers.

We declare our solidarity with the peoples of the Portuguese colonies and we pledge ourselves to give material assistance in ever growing volume to them.

The same as in the Congo Kinshasa where a situation developed six years ago from the fact of a permanent coalition of imperialists headed by the U.S. imperialists, increases the insecurity of the African peoples thus constantly endangering peace.

We, valiant peoples of Africa and Asia loudly proclaim our deter-

mination to uphold in all fields our Congolese brothers in struggle who despite terror and the numerous difficulties they are facing, continue the struggle for which our martyr Patrice Lumumba has sacrificed his blood and life. Our Congolese brothers should rely on us. We stand by their side everywhere and at all times.

In Rhodesia, Fascist clique of Ian Smith has, with the connivance of the Wilson Government declared its so-called "independence". The fraudulent talk of sanctions by Britain was never intended to overthrow the illegal regime since Fascist South Africa and Portugal were left free to sabotage the economic sanctions. The Smith regime is enabled to survive only because of its leading trading partners, Britain, USA, and West Germany and due also to the tripartite alliance of Rhodesia, South Africa and Portugal. The final blows for freedom will be delivered by the people of Zimbabwe themselves and they can count on the unstinted solidarity and assistance of the peoples of Asia and Africa.

The apartheid regime of South Africa is fast developing imperialistic ambitions by the use of subtle economic penetration and military threats, menacing the neighbouring newly independent African States, and indeed the whole of Africa. This is part of the imperialist global strategy to make the regime arsenal and bulwark of imperialism in this part of the world with a view to dominate and exploit the peoples of South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and South-West Africa and to menace the independence, peace and security throughout Africa and in the world.

We condemn the scandalous judgement of the Hague Court which condoned the brazen annexation of South-West Africa by the South African Fascist regime and we regard this as a mockery of justice.

Racialism is an outrage against humanity and is a menace which must be fought and destroyed. Concentration camps where brave enemies of apartheid regime languish today must be broken open before the heroic prisoners are murdered by their captors.

Israel is engaged in brazen unceasing acts of provocation and aggression against the Asian states and particularly seeks to subvert the progressive Government in Syria. Israel is a danger in the heart of Arab lands.

The people of Palestine ruthlessly driven from their homeland and striving for the restoration of their homeland have the support and solidarity of all peoples and we affirm our unstinted support to the brave Palestinians.

A new type of imperialism has come into force and is penetrating our continents. Economic aid, whenever given by imperialist powers, is hedged around with political strings. Imperialists seek to strangle the economies of developing independent Afro-Asian countries. They arbitrarily raise the prices of the materials essential for the new industries of developing countries; they import competitive products at trade rates favourably to themselves; they manipulate international markets; they

create a drain on foreign exchange reserves and national capitals in the form of debts, high interest rates and excessive profits.

We oppose the military blocs, bases and pacts, as we are fully convinced that they undermine particularly the independence of the newly liberated countries, accentuate regional tensions and endanger world peace.

An active accomplice of the U.S.A. in the plundering of Afro-Asian countries and in planting pro-imperialist regimes is the neo-colonialism of West Germany.

The adventurous designs of the West German revanchists extend far beyond Europe. It is no longer a secret that West Germany sends money, weapons, munitions and mercenaries to many countries of Asia and Africa to suppress national liberation struggles.

We shall resist and defeat the aggressive designs of U.S. imperialists and the West German revanchists.

We, the people of Asia and Africa, stoutly opposes the manufacture, use, testing and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and we urge the formulation of a treaty that would ban the use of nuclear weapons by all the present atomic powers.

We, the representatives of the peoples of Asia and Africa, solemnly proclaim our determination to continue the struggle against imperialism, racialism, colonialism, and neo-colonialism, relentlessly and without respite, till the ulcer of imperialism has been completely destroyed for all time.

To this end, we shall do everything in our power to strengthen our unity and solidarity, which can be realised by uniting our action, irrespective of ideology, religious belief, nationality and race for common objectives on which an agreement can be reached. To this end, our peoples should resort to all the means at their disposal, including the armed struggle. This Council admits that to confront the increasing aggressiveness of imperialism and to liberate the people from imperialist domination, armed struggle is an effective means.

The Council considers that a union of all progressive forces in the world should form a united and solid front to oppose reactionary imperialism.

The unity and cohesion of all detachments of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement is the most vital necessity for the victory of our cause. We declare our firm resolve to combat, with all our strength, all attempts by the imperialist powers to split or weaken our movement.

The Eighth Session of the Council of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation reaffirms its steadfast faith in the vitality and effectiveness of the principles of the great Solidarity Movement. We extend our hand of friendship to the peoples of the whole world who battle for the principles of freedom, equality and peace.

The days of imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism are coming

to an end. Forward to the freedom, independence, peace, and social progress of which our martyrs dreamed for which they suffered and died.

Therefore the Council appeals to all Afro-Asian Solidarity Organisations to :

- (1) expose the methods of imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism all over the world through seminars, conferences, papers and the widest possible distribution of facts to people everywhere.
- (2) bring pressure to bear on their governments for the implementation of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Resolutions and the tri-continental Resolution.
- (3) organise the supply of material aid for all peoples fighting for their national liberation.
- (4) appeal to the new free states of Africa, Asia and Latin America to unite in struggle against colonialism, to find ways of bringing to an end the brutal oppressions that still exist in their own continents, because division is serving the interest of imperialism.
- (5) The council believes that the Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement should take a new active shape comprising all kinds of practical aid to all liberation movements.
- (6) The Political Liberation of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America should be supported by a social and economic liberation to ascertain complete victory over imperialistic conspiracies.

## SOME IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS

### Resolution on Tashkent

The Eighth Afro-Asian Solidarity Council Session:

Congratulates the Governments and the peoples of India and Pakistan on the signing of the Tashkent Declaration, which pledge both countries to renounce the use of force as a means of settlement of any problems between them.

Places on record its appreciation of the part played by the Soviet Government in bringing about this accord.

The Tashkent Spirit recognises the need for Afro-Asian solutions of Afro-Asian problems, without imperialist interference, which always acts to accentuate differences in the interests of the imperialist powers themselves.

Considers that No-War Pacts between independent Afro-Asian countries could be a valuable contribution to the settlement of any disputes between them, and would protect them from imperialist pressures and intrigues, which feed on differences among Afro-Asian countries. The spirit of Tashkent is the spirit of solidarity against imperialism.

It is this same spirit which equally endeavours to intensify the struggle against colonial regimes, zionism and racialism.

### Resolution on the Islamic Pact

The Eighth Afro-Asian Solidarity Council Session:

**DENOUNCES** the project of the so-called Islamic Pact which aims at the consolidation of reactionary regimes and elimination of liberation and progressive movements, with the aims of safeguarding the interests of imperialism and zionism; dominating the resources and establishments of the region; enabling the imperialist forces to strike at independence movements, and the policy of non-alignment and further halt the development of the progressive forces in the area.

The so-called Islamic Pact exploits religion and distorts its conceptions to consolidate the feudal strata, reactionary regimes and deform the political consciousness of the masses.

The project of the so-called Islamic Pact aims to be one of the organs of the imperialist Intelligence Service, to hatch and direct conspiracies against the progressive forces and liquidate free militants of the area.

The Council pays tribute to the struggle of the Arab and Moslem masses, their revolutionary and progressive forces, which have exposed the imperialist and reactionary conspiracy, forestalled its execution and is standing vigilant and will continue to be vigilant.



**Resolution on World Conference in Support of the Peoples of the Portuguese Colonies, Zimbabwe, South Africa and South-West Africa**

The Eighth Afro-Asian Solidarity Council Session extends its full support to the decision of the World Council of Peace to convene in 1967 in Conakry, a World Conference in support of the peoples of the Portuguese Colonies, Zimbabwe, South Africa and South-West Africa, fighting for their liberation.

The Council directs the Permanent Secretariat to cooperate fully and in all ways to make this Conference a success.

**Resolution on the Support to the Struggle of Latin American Peoples**

The Eighth Afro-Asian Solidarity Council Session:

HAILS the cooperation that actually has been realised so far, between the movements of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America, waging struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.

GREETs the valiant struggle of the Latin American peoples against the onslaught of U.S. imperialism.

The struggle of the peoples of three continents is inseparable and the Afro-Asian-Latin American peoples must oppose the world imperialist front by a solid united front with the aim of frustrating the world imperialist strategy and realising the objectives of national liberation and complete genuine independence.

**Resolution on the 50th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution**

The Eighth Afro-Asian Council Session, on behalf of the peoples of our continents wholeheartedly :

CONGRATULATES the peoples of the Soviet Union on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution which falls due this year. The Great October Socialist Revolution ushered in a new epoch in world history, it breached the continuous chain of international imperialism and gave fresh impetus to world-wide struggle against exploitation, for national independence and social progress. The October Revolution brought about remarkable achievements in the U.S.S.R. in the field of economy, culture and social life, scoring gigantic successes in science and technology.

These tremendous gains had great impact not only on the lives of the Soviet people but on mankind as a whole.

## Speech by Dr. Anup Singh, M.P.

### Leader of the Indian Delegation

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Delegates,

Permit me, on behalf of the Indian delegation, to extend our cordial and fraternal greetings to the people of Cyprus, to their illustrious President Archbishop Makarios and to the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of Cyprus.

Mr. President, we were deeply touched by your revolutionary, eloquent and moving address and your references to the problems facing your country.

We identify ourselves completely with the aspirations of the Cypriot people to preserve their independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity. We condemn the foreign attempts to sabotage the hard won independence of the Cypriot people. The division of Cyprus under any camouflage whatsoever would constitute a gross betrayal of the sacrifices of your martyrs. We denounce the concerted pressure which is being put on the Cypriot Government and the people to secure foreign military bases which would naturally and inevitably undermine the national independence of Cyprus.

We pledge our solidarity with you and assure you that the Indian people will stand together with the people of Cyprus at all times in their heroic struggle.

Fellow Delegates, we have come together at Nicosia to discuss some of the most vital and burning issues of the day and to discuss them in the friendly and fraternal spirit which has always guided and inspired our discussions. Our bonds of common historical past, common problems that confront us all in our respective countries bind us together in formidable links which will, we are confident, ultimately survive differences that may at times seem to divide us. The Indian delegation is here to lend its full support to the consolidation of our great movement and to its decisions.

The most burning issue that stares us in the international field is the tragedy of Vietnam. The progressive people the world over have spontaneously extended their moral support to the freedom fighters in Vietnam. Our solidarity movement, year after year, has extended all its support to the Vietnamese people. We, Asians and Africans, do inevitably identify ourselves completely with the urges and the aspirations of the Vietnamese people for national independence, unity and peace.

The aggressive elements in the United States and the Pentagon military clique have consistently and contemptuously defined the collective

will of the peoples of the world, including the mounting protest of many of their own people. Goaded by the intoxicating fury of their military might, the American imperialists continue to launch murderous air-raids on North Vietnam, thus increasing the escalation of the war which might involve and engulf all of us.

The Government of India and our people have repeatedly proclaimed their belief that there can be no military solution to the Vietnam problem; that any honourable solution will have to be evolved in terms of the Geneva Agreements of 1954 and that the possibility of any solution cannot arise without the prior unconditional cessation of the American bombing of North Vietnam. And we reiterate that belief here.

We fully support the proposals put forward by the South Vietnam National Liberation Front and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, i.e., immediate and unconditional stopping of bombing; strict implementation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements and complete withdrawal of the U.S. forces from South Vietnam and liquidation of all military bases there; the recognition of the basic national right of the people of Vietnam for independence, unity and territorial integrity, and recognition of the South Vietnam Liberation Front as the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people.

The recent developments in the Middle East have accentuated the tension in this region. The sinister imperial game of divide-and-rule proceeds apace. The independence and the unity of the Arab people is in jeopardy more than ever before. Arms are being poured into Israel and the reactionary Arab countries in total disregard of the feelings of the indigenous people. We condemn the new efforts to form the Islamic Pact which is an attempt to distort and debase religious faith and spiritual loyalties for political purposes and is designed to incorporate feudal reactionary regimes of the Middle East into a military alliance under U.S. hegemony to undermine the sovereignty and the independent growth and development of the Arab people.

The Israeli attacks on Syria and other Arab countries demonstrated once again that she has learnt nothing from the past and she persists in aggressive designs. This cowardly murder of innocent men, women and children roused the natural indignation of all the peace-loving peoples and Israel was condemned by the U.N. There, for the first time all the leading members of the Security Council jointly registered their protests against Israel's aggression and warned her in no uncertain terms that any further repetition of aggression will bring upon her dire consequences for which she and she alone will be responsible. We fully support the Palestine people in their struggle to free their homeland as we support the people of Aden, Arab South and others in their struggle for independence and unity. We support also the struggle of the peoples of Syria, Iraq and Yemen against foreign domination.

We support the proposal that an international conference should be convened in the near future to highlight the dangerous situation in the Middle East and in support of the people struggling against imperialism and Zionism.

We lend our full support to the people heroically fighting for their liberation against enormous odds in Angola, Mozambique, so-called Guinea and other Portuguese Colonies elsewhere. The decadent and reprehensible Portuguese regime is now the last stronghold and citadel of old type of colonialism. It is crystal clear that the Portuguese domination in her colonies will collapse were it not for the military and material assistance by the NATO powers. We fully endorse the condemnation of the Portuguese colonies in Africa by the U.N. as a crime against humanity and its demand that the NATO allies should desist forthwith from giving any assistance to the Portuguese.

We must condemn the vacillating and fraudulent policy pursued by the British Government in Zimbabwe. The Smith regime, arrogant and illegal, must be brought down by the combination of effective economic boycott and the use of force, if necessary. The survival of this precarious regime would be utterly impossible but for the open and often surreptitious help of Britain, USA and West Germany. The tripartite alliance between Rhodesia, South Africa and Portugal, this unholy trio, constitutes one of the gravest dangers to peace in Africa. This sinister partnership must be broken up.

The notorious policy of apartheid consistently and stubbornly pursued by the South African government has been universally condemned. It has been condemned by the United Nations year after year. The Special Committee of the United Nations has strongly recommended and called upon all the governments to sever diplomatic relations with South Africa and terminate their trade relations. We are happy to inform our fellow delegates that our government was the first to act along these lines long before the U.N. recommended any action.

Enormous involvement of Britain and the USA with the economy of South Africa and the rapidly growing investment and trade by West Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Belgium directly perpetuates the repugnant practice of apartheid. We hold these countries in fact responsible for this crime.

We in India have consistently opposed the military blocs, military bases and pacts. We are firmly convinced that this foreign intervention undermines the independence of the newly liberated countries, accentuates tension and endangers world peace. That is why our movement has commended the role of the non-aligned countries in their rejection of military pacts and their refusal of military bases in their sovereign territories. Recent developments have fully indicated the merit of this judgement.

The old-type political imperialism is dying or is about to be buried.

It is being replaced by a new type of economic imperialism. Taking undue advantage of the economic backwardness of the developing countries, the highly industrialised imperialist countries and their monopolists are strangling the socialistic and planned economies of developing countries. Economic aid, whenever given by these imperialist powers, is accompanied by political strings, open or covered. The imperialist countries arbitrarily raise the price of the materials, essential for the new industries of the developing countries; they import competitive products at trade rates favourable to themselves; they manipulate international markets; they create a drain on foreign exchange reserves and national capital in the form of debts, high interest rates and excessive profits.

Our developing countries must pool their resources and improve their economic relations, otherwise our political freedom without accompanying economic independence will prove to be a hollow mockery. The developing countries are fortunate that they can always count on the selfless assistance of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

The deadly peril of nuclear stockpiles continues to grip the hearts of people everywhere. The shadow of death, desolation, destruction looms large on the international horizon. The very survival of the human race is at stake.

The Indian Government, under the inspiring leadership of the late Jawaharlal Nehru, has repeatedly proclaimed its opposition to the manufacture, use, testing and stockpiling of nuclear weapons. Our Afro-Asian Solidarity Organisation also stands for the same policy. We are fully convinced that world peace and the nuclear weapons are incompatible. We urge, therefore, that our movement should once again record its uncompromising and total opposition to the nuclear weapons.

We urge the formulation of a treaty that would ban the use of nuclear weapons by all the present atomic powers, extend the Moscow test ban treaty to include underground tests, freeze all armaments at their present and complete disarmament. We demand that all nuclear powers must scrupulously abstain from transmitting nuclear weapons to any other nations openly or surreptitiously. The nuclear powers should guarantee that no nuclear attacks would be launched against non-nuclear countries.

The Afro-Asian peoples are firmly dedicated to peace. They are convinced that only the imperialists can gain from any differences and conflicts within our ranks. It is just over one year since the famous Tashkent Agreement was signed between the Governments of India and Pakistan through the good offices of the Government of the Soviet Union. The Indian Government and the people are determined to uphold and fully implement the spirit of Tashkent which demands the renunciation of the threat or use of force in the solution of disputes between independent nations. The Tashkent Agreement is an outstanding example of Afro-Asian solutions for Afro-Asian problems without the interference of

imperialist powers.

Fellow delegates, we the peoples of Afro-Asian countries, have witnessed periods of glory in the past. We represent ancient civilisations and cultures that have given the world some of the imperishable moral and ethical values. Our recent past was one of decadence and subjugation. We were dominated and humiliated. Once again, by the swing of history and the sufferings of our martyrs, we have come into our own and we are no longer mere helpless spectators, when our destinies were shaped by outsiders. We can mould our destinies now according to our genius and satisfy the inner urges of our down-trodden masses for a better and fuller life. Let us march together as comrades, looking forward hopefully and triumphantly for a new era of independence and peace. Let us make our humble contribution to the creation of a society free of colonialism, racialism, oppression in all their forms, a society worthy of the blood of our martyrs.

## The Eighth Council Session of the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organisation

**Nicosia (Cyprus) 13-16 February 1967**

The Eighth Session of the Council of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation was held in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, from February 13 to 16, 1967. Present in the session were 118 delegates from 60 countries. The Indian delegation was led by *Dr. Anup Singh, M.P.*, and included the following :

*Shri Romesh Chandra*, Vice-President, Indian Association for Afro-Asian Solidarity,

*Shri M. Kalimullah*, General Secretary, Indian Association for Afro-Asian Solidarity and the Indian Secretary at the Permanent Secretariat of the A.A.P.S.O. at Cairo,

*Shri C. N. Malviya*, General Secretary, Indian Association for Afro-Asian Solidarity, and

*Shri Baren Ray*, Secretary, Indian Association for Afro-Asian Solidarity.

The meeting was held in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship and of enthusiasm and dynamism. The approach to the problems was positive and constructive. Except for four delegations, the rest demonstrated their collective determination to take the organisation from the rut of a cold war atmosphere and stagnation to consolidate and build it for playing its historic role for politico-economic emancipation against the onslaught of imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. The sincere and joint efforts of these delegations set at nought the attempts of the delegations from the Botswana People's Party of Basutoland, the Lesotho Congress Party of Bachuanaland, the Swaziland Progressive Party (Swaziland) and the South-West Africa National Union (South-West Africa—now expelled), to mar the congenial atmosphere by resorting to provocations and by creating tensions, disunity and disruption. They issued public statements and held press conferences. Through all this they made unfounded allegations and accusations in the most vulgar fashion. This sort of behaviour on their part isolated them and they were seen as the agents provocateurs of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of the People's Republic of China, which was conspicuous by the absence of its delegation having boycotted the Council meeting holding it as illegal.

However, no heed was paid to the provocations by these four delegations and the Session of the Council completed its deliberations calmly and with all the seriousness at its command.

The role played by the host country and its Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee was exemplary and of high efficiency. The Chairman Dr. Lyssarides demonstrated a great amount of firmness with patience and understanding. But for this the resounding success and positive results of the Council meeting would not have been what they ultimately turned out to be.

Dr. Lyssarides in his inaugural speech as the Chairman of the Council Session analysed and eloquently expounded the principles, policies and the tasks of the Afro-Asian movement in unmistakable terms. While he exposed the barbarous American aggression against Vietnam, he advocated full support and all-out help to the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people. He highlighted the need to render all assistance to the armed struggles of the peoples of Angola, Mozambique, the so-called Portuguese Guinea and the other Portuguese colonies against the Portuguese colonialists; of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) against the illegal and unjust white minority regime of Ian Smith; of South Africa against the racist regime of Vorster; of the Palestinian Arab people's struggle against imperialism and zionism; of the people's fight against foreign and local tyranny and of all other people's struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism in Asia and Africa.

Dr. Lyssarides briefly but substantially dealt with foreign economic encroachments on the resources of developing and newly-independent countries of the two continents. He exposed the exploitation of foreign monopolists and condemned foreign aid with political strings attached and advocated self-reliance.

Dr. Lyssarides upheld the policy of non-alignment and strongly opined that the family of non-aligned nations should be strengthened.

As a Cypriot, Dr. Lyssarides extended the unflinching support on behalf of the Cypriot people to all the struggling peoples of the world for liberty and world peace and dealt with the problem of Cyprus and conveyed their determination to fight to the finish till they achieve sovereignty and the right of self-determination for their island.

Dr. Lyssarides concluded his address with these words: "We must change the face of this world and make it worth living in,

"If our brothers in Africa still suffer under the colonial yoke,

"If our brothers in Africa will still be refused the right of being human,

"If our brothers in Asia and Africa will die in millions for lack of essentials that are destroyed by the wealthy to maintain a balance of prices,



"If our brothers will be refused human dignity and independence,

"If foreign aggression continues in Vietnam,

"If people are kept under the disguised subservience,

"We solemnly declare that we shall never cease fighting.

"At the Nicosia meeting, those freedom fighters present solemnly declare that :

"We are soldiers of peace and equality.

"We have taken the firm decision to fight against all the evils of colonialism and neo-colonialism.

"We shall fight and we shall proceed and we shall die.

"We shall die and we shall fight. We shall fight and we shall die, but we shall take no step back.

"We shall fight with our guns, we shall fight with our hands, we shall fight with our souls, we shall fight with our bodies, we shall fight alive and dead.

"We shall die but we shall stand.

"We shall stand and we shall fight but there is no step back.

"We shall fight and we shall proceed. We shall proceed and we shall burn the bridges behind because for our struggle there is no return. There is only one road and one end."

The Secretary General and the head of the Permanent Secretariat of the A.A.P.S.O., Mr. Youssef El-Sebai, highlighted the achievements of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Movement and underlined its role in rendering all possible assistance to the struggling peoples against colonialism, racial discrimination and the American aggression in Vietnam. He also outlined the future activities of the movement.

In their speeches all the heads of delegations, while supporting the struggling peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, emphasised the need of unity and solidarity of all the anti-imperialist forces and the necessity of planning common action against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. The heads of delegations from countries still struggling against colonialism and racial discrimination, while expressing their solidarity with other fellow struggling peoples, dwelt upon their internal situations and laid special stress on material aid alongwith moral and political support.

In order to discuss and decide about the various problems on the agenda and those raised by various delegations, the Council Session was divided into two main commissions :

- (1) Political Commission.—Chairman, Portuguese Guinea.
- (2) Organisational Commission—Chairman, Cyprus.

## Political Commission

The main task before the Political Commission was to review the main political developments in the two continents in the light of the experience gained since the Fourth Conference held at Winneba in 1965, to clarify and elaborate the principles and policies of the movement, to take a stand on Vietnam and on other burning issues of the day and to propose future activities.

The Political Commission, therefore, constituted three Drafting Committees, as follows :

<i>Drafting Committee</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>Chairman</i>
(1) On Vietnam	U.A.R., Cyprus, South Vietnam N.L.F. and North Vietnam.	U.A.R.
(2) On the General Declaration	India, South Africa, Morocco, Tanzania	India
(3) On other Resolu- tions	Palestine, Zambia, Angola Syria	Palestine

Although the task was not easy and simple, the spirit of unity and solidarity and constructive and anti-imperialist thinking made it possible to adopt the documents unanimously after necessary amendments.

## On Vietnam

Reviewing the situation in Vietnam, exposing and condemning the American aggression, her heinous war crimes and her pretence of peace, and supporting the four-point position of the Government of D.R.V. and the five-point declaration of the South Vietnam N.L.F. and hailing the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people, the resolution on Vietnam adopted the following decisions :

1. The Afro-Asian Solidarity Committees will organise a "Week of Solidarity with the Vietnamese people" from March 13 to 19, 1967 during which should be held on the biggest possible scale meetings and demonstrations by the trade unions, people's parties, youth, students and women's movements etc. ;
2. The Solidarity Committees will collect during the month and throughout the current year, funds and goods to help the fighting Vietnamese people ;
3. Solidarity Committees will prepare lists of volunteers ready to fight by the side of the Vietnamese people if and when this is requested by the National Liberation Front.

4. Requests the National Committees to undertake in cooperation with the mass organisations, every action to hinder in their respective countries the transport of U.S. troops and equipment.
5. Urges all national organisations for Afro-Asian Solidarity to form in their respective countries special committees for denouncing the crimes committed by the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys in Vietnam.
6. Urges all anti-imperialist forces to strengthen their unity and coordinate their efforts both on the regional and on the international levels in their struggle against U.S. aggression and in the rendering of practical assistance to the Vietnamese patriots.

The session adopted the General Declaration, the most important document of the Session which states the point of view of our movement on all major international issues.

In addition to the General Declaration particular resolutions were adopted on the following subjects :

- Arab Peninsula (so-called Saudi)
- Bahrein
- Ben Barka
- Burundi
- Congo (Kinshasa)
- Cyprus
- Equatorial Guinea "Rio Muni and Fernando Poo"
- Reunion, Guadeloupe, French Guiana and the Martinique
- Korea
- Laos
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Oman
- Palestine
- Portuguese Colonies
- Rwanda
- French Somali
- Occupied South Yemen
- Yemen
- Zimbabwe
- The 50th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution
- The Islamic Pact
- Support to the struggle of Latin American peoples
- The Oil Issue in Syria
- Tashkent
- World Conference in Support of the Peoples of the Portuguese Colonies, Zimbabwe, South Africa and South-West Africa.

## Organisational Commission

The main issues before the Organisational Commission were:

(1) to decide the pending issues of new membership and of disputed membership; (2) to consider the decision of the Fourth Conference of the A.A.P.S.O. held in Winneba (Ghana) in 1965 regarding the next conference and (3) to consider steps to consolidate the organisation, politically, organisationally and financially.

All the delegations took keen interest in the deliberations of this Commission.

For the last several years meetings of the Solidarity movement and particularly of its Organisation Commission have often been deadlocked as a result of the obstructive and disruptive positions taken by the Chinese delegation and some of their friends. For some time now many national committees had written to the Permanent Secretariat that in view of the developments in China and the acute deterioration of her relations with a number of Afro-Asian countries Peking cannot possibly be a suitable venue for the Fifth Conference of our movement scheduled for 1967. These Committees which represented the great majority of Afro-Asian countries had suggested that the earlier decision about the venue should be changed in this light and the conference be held in some other mutually acceptable place. The question of venue was thus an important item before the Organisation Commission. Realising, however, that the overwhelming majority of delegations will not agree to their point of view, the Chinese Committee decided to absent itself from the Council Session.

On the question of venue as well as on another question which has been vexing the Organisation for some time—namely whether more than one national organisation can be affiliated to the Solidarity Organisation from one country—the Organisation was able to take correct and unanimous decisions, thanks to the very able and tactful conducting of the Conference as a whole and the Organisation Commission in particular by the Cypriot Chairman. There was a great deal of frank and patient discussion among the delegations and a collective effort was made to lift the Conference above the pro-Peking and anti-Peking controversy for the broader unity and consolidation of the organisation. It was in this spirit that on the question of venue the following decision was taken unanimously:

“Taking into consideration that under present circumstances the implementation of the Winneba decision on the Fifth Conference is impossible, the Council decides to authorise the Permanent Secretariat to take all the necessary measures to convene the Fifth Conference during 1967 in Algiers.”

On the question of affiliated national organisations also, the Session took a principled stand that not more than one organisation should be granted affiliation to the organisation.

The following national organisations were admitted to the Organization:

- (1) The National Liberation Movement, Comoro
- (2) The Sao Tome and Principe Liberation Committee
- (3) The National Revolutionary Movement of Gabon
- (4) The Popular Idea of Equatorial Guinea  
(The National Liberation Movement of Equatorial Guinea is expelled)
- (5) The South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO)  
[The S-W African National Union (SAWNU) is expelled]
- (6) The Singapore National Committee of Afro-Asian People's Solidarity
- (7) The Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of Ceylon whose General Secretary is Mr. M. A. Aziz

The following applications were rejected :

- (1) The Liberation Movement of Sanwi
- (2) The Mozambique Revolutionary Committee (COREMO)
- (3) The Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU)
- (4) The Pan Africanist Congress of South Africa

By the time the concluding session approached, the whole atmosphere was one full of hope and enthusiasm and reflected the unflinching faith of the delegates in the principles and policies of the Organisation. The delegates were in high spirits and showed their indomitable determination to march forward unitedly in the great struggle for the emancipation of the entire humanity from the yoke of imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.

Added to this spirit were the contents of the main declaration, adopted with resounding applause and the inspiring speech of Dr. Lyssarides.

Thus the vital Eighth Session of the Council of the A.A.P.S.O. played its historic role with great success.

**C. N. Malviya**

## LIST OF DELEGATIONS

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Country	Name of Organisation	No. of delegates	Leader of the Delegation
ALGERIA	Front de Liberation Nationale	2	Mr. Mohamed Meghraoui
ANGOLA	Mouvement Populaire de Liberation de L' Angola	2	Mr. Francisco Barros
BAHREIN	National Liberation Front in Bahrein	3	Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim El Zwadi
BOTSWANA	Botswana Peoples Party	4	Mr. P. Matante
BURUNDI	La Fede'ation des Travaileurs De Burundi	1	Mr. Bigirimana
CEYLON	Afro-Asian Solidarity Association	2	Dr. Abdul Aziz
CONGO (Brazzaville)	Mouvement Revolutionaire National du Congo	1	Mr. Elenga
CONGO (Leopoldville)	Conseil Suprme de la Revolution Congolaise	3	Mr. Gaston Sumailot
CYPRUS	Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee	1	Dr. Vassos Lyssarides
GAMBIA	Gambia Congress Party	1	Mr. Ibrahim Garba-Jahumba
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	Idea Popular of Equatorial Guinea	1	Mr. Daniel Guapo Mbandemezo'o
'PORTUGUESE' GUINEA	Bartido Africano da Independencia De Guine e Cabo Verde (PAIGC)	2	Mr. Saude Maria Victor
INDIA	Indian Association for Afro-Asian Solidarity	5	Dr. Anup Singh
IRAN	Iranian Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity	2	Mr. Abdel Hossein Etebar
IRAQ	Iraq Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee	1	Mr. Abdel Wahab El-Solloune
JAPAN	Japan Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee	3	Mr. Minoru Ito
JORDAN	Jordan Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee	1	Mr. Karim Said

KENYA	Kenya African National Union	1	Mr. John Ndisi
KOREA	Korean Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity	3	Mr. Zen Byeng Chul
LEBANON	Lebanon Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee	1	Mr. Farid Gebrane
LESOTHO	Lesotho Congress Party	1	Mr. M. W. L. Mapefane
MADAGASCAR	Comite de Solidarite de Madagascar	2	Mr. Rakotobe
MALI	Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of Mali	1	Mr. Toure Youssef
MALTA	Malta Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee	2	Mr. Joe Camilleri
MAURITIUS	Mauritius Peoples' Progressive Party	1	Mr. Sibsurun Teekaram
MONGOLIA	Mongolian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee	4	Mr. Ch. Lododamba
MOROCCO	Union Nationale Des Forces Populaires	3	Mr. Abdel Rahman El-Yousoufi
MOZAMBIQUE	Frente de Libertacao de Mozambique (FRELIMO)	1	Mr. Marcelino Dos Santos
NIGERIA	Nigerian Youth Congress	1	Mr. Goodluck
OMAN	Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of Oman	1	Mr. Mohamed Amin Abdallah
PALESTINE	Organization for the Liberation of Palestine	2	Mr. Khairi Hammad
RWANDA	Union National Rawandais	2	Mr. Francois Rukeba
SENEGAL	Parti African de L'Independence	2	Mr. Mamadou Keita
SINGAPORE	National Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee in Singapore	3	Mr. Abdul Rahim Ishak
SOMALI REPUBLIC	Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of Republic of Somali	1	Hon. Hassan Jaji Omar Omei
SOMALILAND 'French'	Parti de Mouvement Populaire	1	Mr. Mobarak Ahmed Mobarak

SOUTH AFRICA	African National Congress of South Africa	7	Mr. Robert Resha
SOUTH-WEST AFRICA	South-West Africa Peoples Organization	1	Mr. Amerse Shipanga
OCCUPIED SOUTH YEMEN	Front of Liberation of the Occupied South Yemen	1	Mr. Nasser Ahmed El Oragi
SUDAN	Peoples Democratic Party	1	Mr. Sheikh Ali Abdel Rahman
SYRIA	Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of Syria	4	Mr. Faiez Ismail
SWAZILAND	Swaziland Progressive Party	1	Mr. Herbert F. Nkosi
TANZANIA	TANU (Tanzania African National Union)	1	Mr. D. A. Hasan
U.A.R.	Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of U.A.R.	11	Mr. Khaled Mohie Eddin
U.S.S.R.	Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee	7	Mr. Piotr Pimenov
NORTH VIETNAM	Comite Vietnamien pour la Solidarite Des Peuples Afro-Asiatique	2	Mr. Hoang Bac
SOUTH VIETNAM	Comite Vietnamien pour la Solidarite Des Peuples Afro-Asiatique	3	Mr. Le Phong
YEMEN	Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of Yemen	1	Mr. Abdullah El Alawi
ZAMIBA	United National Independence Party (U.N.I.P.)	2	Mr. Simbule
ZIMBABWE	Zimbabwe African Peoples Union	4	Mr. George B. Nyandoro
ARAB PENINSULA	Socialist Front for the Liberation of the Arab Peninsula	1	Mr. Mohamed Nidal

## OBSERVERS

CUBA	Tri-Continental Executive Secretariat	4	Mr. Osmany Cienfuegos
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## SPECIAL INVITEE

League of Arab States	1	Dr. Clovis Maksoud
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