

# THE SOVIET PEACE MOVEMENT

EXPRESSING THE WILL  
OF THE PEOPLE

The peace movement in the Soviet Union has one feature which distinguishes it from the anti-war movements in capitalist and developing countries: it functions in a country which is the first in the world to declare the struggle for a just and democratic peace the basis of its foreign policy and the key principle of all its international activity.

In August 1949 the First All-Union Peace Conference was held in Moscow. It launched a broad peace movement embracing all sections of Soviet society.

To coordinate the actions of Soviet peace fighters the Conference set up an elective executive body—the Soviet Peace Committee (SPC), which is a non-governmental organisation of the Soviet public whose work is rooted in the mass anti-war activities of millions of Soviet people and their resolve to make every effort to strengthen universal peace.

All-Union Peace Conferences, which elect members of the Soviet Peace Committee and lay down guidelines for its work, are convened once every five years. At present, the Soviet Peace Committee has about 450 members among whom are people of different nationalities, and from all walks of life, men and women of different ages, Communists and non-Party people, and representatives of all the main religious faiths and of various public organisations.

In the periods between the All-Union Peace Conferences, Plenary Sessions of the Soviet Peace Committee are held annually to deal with important problems regarding the work of the Committee.

The working bodies of the Committee are its Presidium and the Bureau of the Presidium; the latter includes the President of the Committee and the Vice-Presidents and Executive Secretary of the Committee. They supervise the practical activities of the Committee.

There are 120 republican, territorial and regional peace committees in the country whose members are also elected every five years at respective conferences. Most of the work of organising anti-war activities of the Soviet people is carried out by local peace committees.

In their day-to-day work the Soviet Peace Committee and the local peace committees rely on the support of a large number of volunteers.

The following standing public commissions have been set up under the Soviet Peace Committee:

- commission for disarmament;
- commission for development;
- commission for liaison with workers in the cultural field;
- commission for liaison with religious groups fighting for peace;
- commission for information.

The Soviet Peace Committee is a member of the World Peace Council. It maintains ties with anti-war organisations and movements in over one hundred countries on all continents and actively cooperates in the existing international structures of non-governmental organisations.

The Soviet Peace Committee enjoys the status of a national non-governmental organisation associated with the UN Department of Public Information (New York), and is a member of the Special Non-Governmental Organisations Committee on Disarmament in Geneva and a member of the Bureau of this Committee.

All the activity of the Soviet Peace Committee and that of its local committees are financed exclusively from the Soviet Peace Fund which is made up of voluntary contributions of whole work collectives and groups of creative workers and also of individual citizens of our country.

The Soviet Peace Committee issues its monthly bulletin *XX Century and Peace* in five European languages.

A MOVEMENT OF MILLIONS

A distinctive feature of the Soviet peace movement lies in its truly nationwide character. This finds expression, above all, in the mass nature of the anti-war activities of the Soviet people, both in the first years of the existence of the Soviet peace movement and today.

In 1950 over 115 million Soviet people signed the Stockholm Appeal to prohibit nuclear weapons.

The New Stockholm Appeal to stop the arms race issued in 1976 was signed by over 180 million people, which is practically the entire adult population of the country, including leaders of the CPSU and the Soviet state.

Over 60 million Soviet peace fighters took part in the mass anti-war events held in connection with the 1982 Second Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament and in support of its decisions. In 1984 over a million Soviet physicians signed the Appeal of the Third Congress of "International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War".

The activities of the Soviet Peace Fund have grown considerably as an effective form of participation in the peace movement. Over 90 million people have voluntarily contributed to the Fund since it was founded more than 20 years ago.

Writers Konstantin Simonov and Boris Polevoi, composers Dmitri Shostakovich and Dmitri Kabalevsky, poets Nikolai Tikhonov and Robert Rozhdenskiy, singers Maria Bieshu and Lyudmila Zykina—these are only a few among prominent workers in Soviet culture and art who donated to the Peace Fund their prize money and royalties from many of their books, concerts and public appearances. Among the active contributors to the Peace Fund we also find the famous theatrical and concert groups of the country—the Folk Dance Ensemble directed by Igor Moiseyev, the Pyatnitsky Choir, the Ballet Company of the Bolshoi Theatre and others.

Concert-meetings are one of the popular forms of anti-war activities of the country's creative artists—writers, poets, and musicians, the proceeds of which are donated to the Peace Fund.

The work collectives of industrial enterprises and construction projects, and workers in agriculture also make large contributions to the Soviet Peace Fund. It is on their initiative that the "work shifts for peace" as a form of participation in the activities of the Soviet Peace Fund were launched and have become popular on a nationwide scale. The money earned during these "work shifts for peace" is donated to the Peace Fund. In May 1984, during the Month of Action Against the Nuclear Threat, which was held all over the country, the metal workers of the city of Temirtau and the miners of Donbass, the transport workers of the town of Tula, the collective farmers of the Ukraine and Udmurtia, and many other work collectives participated in "work shifts for peace".

No less important are also the initiatives of individual citizens of the country—adults and children, retired persons and veterans of the last war—who donate as much money as they can to the Peace Fund.

The Soviet Peace Fund is the material basis of the Soviet peace movement. It finances the activities of 15 non-governmental organisations in the country. On the initiative of these organisations, the resources of the Fund are also used for rendering material assistance to victims of imperialist aggression and to the population of countries suffering from natural calamities. The Fund also finances research into problems of peace and disarmament, the production of anti-war films, the printing of anti-war brochures and posters, and the making of anti-war badges.





In its work of mobilising the Soviet people for an active struggle against the war danger, the Soviet Peace Committee closely cooperates with other non-governmental organisations—the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation, the Soviet War Veterans' Committee, the Soviet Women's Committee, the Committee of Youth Organisations of the USSR, the Soviet UN Association, the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, and the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. In recent years a large volume of work has been carried out in our country by a number of non-governmental anti-war organisations which bring together different sections of the population on the basis of their professional interests: the Committee of Soviet Scientists for Peace, Against Nuclear Danger; the Soviet Committee "Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War" and the "Soviet Sportsmen for Peace" Committee. Writers, journalists, lawyers and workers in the field of art take an active part in nationwide anti-war events. Non-governmental organisations in the Soviet Union have voiced their support for and have become active participants in the work of carrying out the UN decision to launch the World Disarmament Campaign. Mass demonstrations and meetings of Soviet peace champions in support of the aims and tasks of the Campaign have been held since the spring of 1983. Every month information regarding the participation of the Soviet public in this Campaign is sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In June 1984 in Leningrad the UN Department for Disarmament held a

"I'm sowing peace" is the title of a drawing by Raivo Einas, a schoolboy from Estonia



Anti-war rally at the Semashko Clinic No.1 in Baku



A Peace Lesson in school No. 20 in Voroshilovgrad



Yevgeni Yevtushenko, a well-known poet and member of the Soviet Peace Committee at a concert the proceeds of which will go to the Peace Fund



Regional Conference for non-governmental organisations within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign. The Soviet Peace Committee took a direct part in preparing and holding this conference. The forms in which the Soviet public participate in the World Disarmament Campaign are manifold—from mass campaigns and demonstrations to individual initiatives of participants in the Soviet peace movement. Large anti-war demonstrations which took place in the 1983-1984 period in Moscow (800,000 participants), Leningrad (400,000 participants), Kiev (250,000 participants), Donetsk (200,000 participants), Minsk (100,000 participants) and other cities and towns of the Soviet Union met with a broad response both within the country and abroad. At the same time "peace auto rallies" and "peace train tours" through various cities and towns of the country were organised, as well as mass races of sportsmen under the slogans of the struggle for peace, against nuclear war. On the initiative of rank-and-file participants in the Soviet peace movement in many towns and villages of the country campaigns are launched to collect signatures for anti-war appeals addressed to the United Nations and various international conferences on disarmament problems. The Soviet Peace Committee has received many such documents bearing the signatures of scores of thousands of people of different ages and professions, from veterans of the last war in Volgograd, from Young Pioneers and schoolchildren of the town of Anapa, from the inhabitants of the Ukrainian village of Druzhelyubovka, from students in Yerevan and so on.



# NO TO NUCLEAR WAR!

● A TOTAL OF 76 MILLION SOVIET PEOPLE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TOOK PART IN MORE THAN 163,000 ANTI-WAR EVENTS HELD BY SOVIET NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN MAY 1984 ALONE IN SUPPORT OF THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN

● IN OCTOBER 1984, 53 MILLION SOVIET PEOPLE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TOOK PART IN PEACE EVENTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UN WEEK OF ACTIONS FOR DISARMAMENT



## ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE SOVIET PEACE MOVEMENT

According to the Constitution of the USSR, non-governmental, public organisations in the Soviet Union, acting within the framework of the Soviet peace movement, have the right to submit to legislative and executive bodies of government for their consideration various proposals and initiatives contributing to the shaping of the foreign policy course of the Soviet state.

In 1951, the then President of the Soviet Peace Committee Nikolai Tikhonov submitted on behalf of the Soviet Peace Committee a bill on the defence of peace for consideration by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. In accordance with it war propaganda was to be declared a criminal offence in the USSR. The bill was unanimously approved. Its basic provisions have been included in the new 1977 Constitution of the USSR.

In 1957, following the proposal by a group of Supreme Soviet deputies, who were members of the Soviet Peace Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet addressed an appeal to the US Congress and the British Parliament calling for a ban on nuclear weapon tests.

In the course of the nationwide discussion of the draft 1977 Constitution of the USSR, Soviet peace champions put forward many proposals in support of the policy of international detente and halting the arms race. The main provisions of the Helsinki Final Act are also reflected in the Soviet Constitution.

Since 1983, on the initiative of several Soviet anti-war organisations, which was supported by the Ministry of Public Education, each academic year in the country's schools begins with a Peace Lesson. On September 1, 1984, Peace Lessons were conducted in 130,000 schools attended by 45 million schoolchildren.

In November 1983, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR approved an addition to the text of the Hippocratic oath. In accordance with a proposal of the Soviet Committee "Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War", it now includes a pledge of physicians tirelessly to fight for peace, for the prevention of nuclear war.



## THE SOVIET PEACE MOVEMENT COMES OUT IN SUPPORT OF:

- *The undertaking of the commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons by all nuclear states;*
- *A complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests;*
- *The prohibition of chemical, bacteriological and other weapons of mass destruction;*
- *A freeze by all nuclear states, especially the USSR and the USA, of nuclear weapons and their subsequent reduction until their complete destruction;*
- *The discontinuing of the production and deployment of new systems of nuclear missile weapons;*
- *The discontinuing of the development of space and anti-satellite weapon systems and the prevention of an extension of the arms race to outer space;*
- *The creation of nuclear-free zones in various parts of the world and, eventually, the elimination of nuclear weapons throughout the world;*
- *A reduction of military budgets and the use of the resources thus released for peaceful purposes;*
- *Solidarity with the peoples fighting for freedom, national independence and social progress, for the establishment of the New International Economic Order.*

THE SOVIET PEACE MOVEMENT SUPPORTS THE SLOGANS AND PURPOSES OF THE WORLD PEACE MOVEMENT. THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ANTI-WAR ORGANISATIONS OF THE USSR ARE READY TO ACT JOINTLY OR IN PARALLEL WITH PEACE FORCES IN OTHER COUNTRIES WORKING FOR THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF ALL MANKIND—THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR.

### SOVIET PEACE COMMITTEE

President: Yuri Zhukov  
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### SOVIET PEACE FUND

Chairman of the Board: Anatoli Karpov  
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For the Soviet Peace Committee and the Soviet Peace Fund

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## FOR DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION

The World Congress of Peace Forces held in October 1973 in Moscow marked the beginning of a new stage in the cooperation of public and political forces throughout the world in the fight against the danger of war. This peace dialogue which began in Moscow was continued in Sofia, Helsinki, Vienna and Stockholm within the framework of the cooperation structure established at the 1973 Moscow Congress of Peace Forces and was given the name of International Liaison Forum of Peace Forces. Representatives of the Soviet public who are members of the Soviet Liaison Committee of Peace Forces take an active part in the work of the forum.

In devoting considerable attention to the establishment of closer links with anti-war movements of various countries, the Soviet peace movement takes the position that differences in approach to individual problems of today that exist at times between non-governmental organisations of the USSR and other countries, cannot and should not be an obstacle in the way of holding joint or parallel actions for the common cause—that of preventing nuclear war. The validity of this approach was confirmed at the World Assembly "For Peace and Life, Against Nuclear War" (June 1983, Prague), in which more than 3,000 delegates from 132 countries of all continents took part. They represented 1,843 national organisations and movements, 108 non-governmental and 11 inter-governmental organisations and 61 religious organisations. About 80 representatives of the Soviet non-governmental organisations took an active part in the discussions and meetings held in the 26 working groups during the Assembly.

The participants in the Assembly drafted and unanimously approved the Appeal of the Prague Assembly, which was a reflection of their common desire to fight for peace, against the danger of nuclear war, despite differences in approach to individual questions.

The international Peace March Stockholm-Moscow-Minsk organised by several women's organisations of Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland jointly with the Soviet Peace Committee and the Soviet Women's Committee (the March covered the Soviet section of the route in July-August 1982) was a new landmark in the development of cooperation between the Soviet peace movement and anti-war movements in various countries. The Peace March Moscow-Kiev-Vienna (via Budapest and Bratislava) that

followed, drew participants from anti-war movements of 30 countries. Over 700,000 Soviet people took part in meetings, demonstrations and rallies together with the participants in the March in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Minsk, Uzhgorod, Kalinin and Smolensk and voiced their support for the March slogans.

The International Moscow-Washington Bike for Peace-83, held from July 6 to August 8, 1983, became an important joint anti-war action of peace supporters of both West and East. Representatives of anti-war organisations of the USSR, USA, Finland, Sweden and Norway took part in the event. Travelling over the territory of the USSR, Finland, Sweden, Norway and the USA the Bike for Peace-83 participants covered a total of 2,340 kilometres and collected over 70 signatures of representatives of various government bodies and public figures in these countries for the Appeal to the United Nations Organisation and the Peoples of the World. The Appeal contains a strong protest against the nuclear arms race and calls on governments and peoples to take measures to curb the arms race. The Appeal with signatures affixed to it was handed in New York to the Secretary-General of the United Nations who highly appraised the Bike for Peace-83 which was held within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign.

## Our Slogans

● NO TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE, WEST AND EAST!

● NO TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD!

● FOR DISARMAMENT AND PEACE!