

THE ITALIAN PEACE MOVEMENT - PAPER OF PRINCIPLES.

Approved at the National Assembly of Ariccia (Rome), 25th of March, 1984

Preface.

These principles unite all those who are taking interest in our Movement for Peace and Disarmament. Our strength and wealth arise from the variety of history, culture and political experience which these people represent.



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## 1. THE DANGERS OF WAR - THE RIGHT TO PEACE

- a. We are living in a world marked by war. Millions of people are getting involved in bloody conflicts every day, and for the first time the whole humanity are living the nightmare of a nuclear disaster which could sweep away all countries and every form of civilization. Despite this we continue to believe and hope that it is possible to avoid war, that a new period of peace, liberty and friendship between nations of the earth can begin.
- b. More and more tremendous arsenal and more and more destructive weapons have changed the meaning of the word 'war': war can never again be used as a political instrument, but it will only be destruction, extermination, a suicide of mankind. For this reason we refuse the recourse to power as a means to control the relations between nations, and we believe that we have to look for new ways and new instruments in order to strengthen the dialogue and the co-operation.
- c. For the first time we have weapons capable of destroying the whole humanity. Only the possessing of these arms is for us immoral and illegal. We do not want to be the target of weapons meant for mass destruction (nuclear, chemical or bacteriological weapons) nor do we want that arms created to exterminate other nations shall be prepared and guarded in our country. Our refusal is downright and definite: these weapons can never guarantee peace and security in our country. And first of all it is therefore necessary immediately to put aside the strategies based on the balance of terror by means of the technological escalation of the arms race, the 'first strike' philosophy, and the idea that a limited nuclear conflict can be carried out.
- d. A policy of nuclear and conventional disarmament is urgent and indispensable. We are therefore asking Italy to undertake to interrupt the arms race in order to stop the waste of resources invested in weapons, and dismantle all nuclear arms both in the West and in the East and in all parts of the world; to realize NFZ in the South of Europe and in the Mediterranean Basin; and to try under all circumstances (by involving all countries whose future is at stake) the way of agreements or negotiations which actually can come up to a global disarmament. Within the framework of this varied initiative, and to begin with the clear refusal of the missiles in Comiso, we are asking our country to proceed, also with independent measures, towards a complete clearing of nuclear weapons in Italy in order to open up the logic of the balance of terror and stimulate the two Blocs to similar measures.
- e. The insanity of the arms, the illusion of the balance of terror and the logic of the superpowers have made more dramatic the division of the world in opposite military alliances: we refuse this logic, and in particular the 'Yalta logic', because we believe that no nation should be considered an enemy, and because we believe that every nation should enjoy the same rights, and because the right to peace and security of every man and woman repose on confidence and co-operation between nations. We will continue to work on these issues until the prospect of non-alignment are stated, in order to ease off the East-West contrast and in this way give a contribution to the dissolution of both the NATO and the Warsaw Pact and to the process of autonomy and democratization

of all the countries in the world.

## 2. PEACE IS ALSO DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY

- a. The arms race is producing oppression and injustice. The military logic reduce man to only an instrument of death. The military strategy and the progressive militarization of societies call in question the sovereignty of the peoples and diminish the freedom of all men every day and this again increases the war danger. For this reason we know that only a strengthening of democracy can guarantee peace to mankind. Only a society in which every man and woman can express themselves in full liberty, fight and have importance, can banish the specter of war and guarantee security and welfare to all mankind. Our commitment concerns therefore all nations which still have to fight for independence and liberation. It also concerns those who yet are independent, but today are threatened by foreign intervention and by economic sabotage in order to hinder that these nations chose in liberty the type of social and political organisation they prefer. Ideological and cultural differences or methods of struggle do not prevent us from declaring our solidarity with the oppressed nations in any case, and with those which do not yet enjoy liberty, independence and democracy.
- b. In a world troubled by war and tension, we believe that it is possible to try out peace alternatives and to work with the object to clear some zones of nuclear weapons and let these zones be example of peace for all and meeting-points between different cultures. A particular responsibility which repose on us is that we can give a contribution with the object to transform the Mediterranean from that of being an area in which serious military, political and economic tensions turn into violent conflicts, to be an exceptional community of fraternity between different nations.
- c. Science, culture and social and economic development should be more utilized and have greater importance so that mankind can make progress for the happiness of all mankind: but we know how many times resources, intelligence and man's imagination have been utilized to serve the war, the logic of extermination and outrage. This is a waste and a crime against humanity. To fight to transform this system is a commitment which cannot be given up.

## 3. A WORLD OF FREEDOM - A SOCIETY OF JUSTICE

- a. War does not arise from nothing, but from deep injustices which have divided the world in few privileged and a mass of desperates. Because of this there will be no peace before the right to life, to liberty, welfare and happiness will be acknowledged to every man and woman. No peace can be granted without the right of every nation to decide its own form of government, its own way to democracy and how to utilize the resources, and this without being forced to import patters of life and social organization or suffer the exploitation of its economy. This means changing the unfair rules as far as the allocation of resources is concerned. It also means being aware of the fact that every man has the same right to enjoy the world's natural resources.

- b. No peace is possible as long as millions of persons are forced to die from starvation. In front of this dramatic urgency a policy of reallocation of the resources from the Northern part to the Southern part of the world is necessary and to reduce the enormous military expenditure considerably, and prepare for a concrete relief action.
- c. All acts which are a danger to life, liberty and security and violate the dignity of man must be condemned as crimes against humanity beyond any "consideration of state interest".
- d. The natural resources are not endless. The logic of an unrestrained industrialization and the insane accumulation reduces and threatens these. It is our duty to work with the object to conserve for the future generation the right to live on an habitable planet and stop the destruction of the nonrenewable resources.

4. AN AUTONOMOUS, ORGANIZED, NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT - A MOVEMENT OF PROTAGONISTS

- a. The peace movement is the meeting-point between people with different cultures, history, motivation and ideologies who feel the urgent need to unite the efforts to stop the arms race, disarmament and get rid of the spectre of war.
- b. The peace committees are organized autonomously and do not fall into line with any organization, any ideology, any political and military bloc, but for peace, disarmament, self-determination of nations and a new quality of progress.
- c. We can win the bet by walking together. For this reason we feel that we are part of the project which has mobilized millions of men and women in every part of Europe and of the world. We are aware that our commitment will be useless without a profound and constant liaison with the pacifist movements of Western-Europe, with whom we have already had important meetings and common initiatives. We also want at the same time to strengthen the bonds with those in Eastern-Europe who are fighting disarmament and deployment of nuclear weapons in their country by opposing the bloc logic. As concerns these movements we call for the same freedom to organize and freedom of speech as we require in the West.
- d. Non-violence is both a value and a method. Our object is a non-violent society and only struggles which leave out every recourse to violence can help us to reach it.
- e. We believe in democracy as universal value, as the only way to express decisions by taking into consideration the right and the opinions of every man and woman. We state the inalienable right to withstand an unfair system which leads to war, the right to civil disobedience and conscientious objection against logics and structures which produce militarization, oppression and war.