

A PUBLIC APPEAL OF PHILOSOPHERS OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

We, representatives of the academies of sciences in socialist countries — Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mongolia, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, the Soviet Union and Vietnam, participants of the international theoretical conference *Philosophy, Politics Culture*, which takes place on the occasion of the 112th jubilee of V. I. Lenin's birthday, we decided to apply with this letter to the professional philosophers, politologists, sociologists, cultural workers from different countries and areas of the world — from West Europe and the United States of America, Asia, Africa and South America. Our conference is dedicated to questions we have been discussing with you several times on different meetings and will discuss at the coming world congresses of the International Association of Political Sciences and the International Sociological Association in August this year, as well as of the International Federation of Philosophical Associations in August 1983.

The present means of information and communication, the scientific, technical and cultural cooperation as well as the development of tourism contributed a great deal to the approach of the nations to the mutual becoming acquainted with cultural and scientific results, to the deeper understanding of universal human values. We consider this process to be especially progressive, deserving general support.

The highest cultural and political value of mankind is peace, securing the inevitable conditions of human existence. Just in the peaceful periods of life nations created the greatest cultural works, through hundreds of years stone by stone, the foundation of contemporary civilization has been laid. Wise thinkers of all times and nations in the early past, the renaissance age, the modern period and of today, independent on national oppurtenance, defended peace always, judging war as a phenomenon being adversative to the essence of humanity and so they contributed invaluablely to the social and cultural development of mankind.

Society as a whole equally as groups of people were never totally homogenous. There were differences between them. These differences — either racial, ethnic or national, in philosophical or religious opinions, in political, moral or ideological convictions in the understanding of humanism, freedom and righteousness — always evoke conflicts and discussions. They exist also in the present. We assume however, that even the sharpest ideological contradictions need to be solved by means of discussion, not by using force.

If mankind permitted the solving of ideological and political contradictions risen in the past, by military force, not only would it be unable to create contemporary culture and civilization, but simply would not preserve itself alive.

The usage of military force for the solving of political and ideological conflicts is especially dangerous today, when there are mountains of weapons piled up in the world inclusive atomic weapons which are able to destroy life on Earth. It is very startling that the aggressive military circles, ignoring the voice of reason, increasing armament, producing new means of the mass destruction of people are driving the world into a nuclear catastrophe.

There is a threatening danger drawing near to contemporary culture and civilization. It must worry everybody as it concerns everybody. We cannot just sit around inactively and watch how the ominous Leviathan of the rocket-

-nuclear war, threatening mankind with destruction, gains an ever growing specific shape.

The contemporary philosopher, a representative of political sciences or an agent of culture cannot remain indifferent towards the fate of the tension of international relations. It is a crime to inculcate to mankind the thought of the permissiveness and so even the necessity of nuclear war. Anyone desiring the development of human culture, the friendship between nations, must acknowledge that an alternative of peace does not exist. It is impossible to be neutral in these questions. A clear and unambiguous political and moral attitude is required of every scientist, relying upon an active struggle for peace, the strengthening of trust between nations, the stopping of competition in armament. We challenge all our colleagues to active deeds, trying to create an intellectual atmosphere of the impermissiveness of a nuclear catastrophe, an atmosphere of the victory of reason and righteousness over mental shortsightedness, evil, greed, love of gain.

A lot depends upon all of us in order that our future generation would not be cast into the tragedy of a new world war, so that mankind would be protected before destruction. As far as concerning us, we will go on putting in all effort in order that all nations could live in peace and security, would develop friendship and cooperation, exchange scientific and cultural values, enrich each other spiritually, so that meetings, discussions and competitions would come into being on theoretical conferences, world congresses, olympic games, international book exhibitions and different associations, yet never on the battle field.

Out of the initiative of the Problem Committee of Multilateral Cooperation of the academies of sciences in socialist countries the Open Letter was accepted unanimously on April 21st, 1982 in Moscow at an international theoretical conference by the participation of more than 600 significant scientific workers in the area of social sciences from socialist countries.

On behalf of philosophers from:

BULGARIA: — dr. A. Kozharov (president of the national part of the Problem Committee) — dr. T. Stojchev, — dr. M. Jankov;

CZECHOSLOVAKIA — academician R. Richta, academician V. Cirbes, corresp. member V. Ruml (president of the national part of the Problem Committee), — corresp. member J. Zelený;

HUNGARY — academician J. Lukács, — dr. D. Mona (president of the national part of the Problem Committee) — dr. A. Gedő, — dr. P. Berényi, — dr. T. Tóth;

MONGOLIA — dr. D. Dažžamc (member of the national part of the Problem Committee);

GDR — academician M. Buhr (president of the national part of the Problem Committee), — academician G. Meisner, — dr. G. Schulze;

POLAND — dr. J. Kolczyński (president of the national part of the Problem Committee), — dr. N. Michta, — dr. V. Mysiek, — dr. J. Lawrowski;

SOVIET UNION — academician P. N. Fedosejev, — academician A. G. Jegorov, — academician D. M. Gvišiani, — academician M. B. Mitin, — academician T. I. Ojzerman, — dr. V. V. Mshvenijeradze (president of the national part of the Problem Committee);

VIETNAM — dr. Pham Ngu Cuong (president of the national part of the Problem Committee), — dr. Wu Cuong Dyk, — dr. Nguan Tche Phong.