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IMPORTANT NOTICE

(Bulletin #1)

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to announce the opening of an International Liaison Office (ILO) in support of the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament (SSD-II). The SSD-II will convene on June 7th and is scheduled to adjourn on July 9th.

The United Nations Special Session on Disarmament offers an historic moment to mobilize world public opinion to end the threat of nuclear war. We encourage maximum participation of international delegations and are gratified by the news that one thousand NGO representatives from Japan plan to attend the SSD-II. We are prepared to assist the Japanese and all international delegations in their support of SSD-II.

The ILO will be working jointly with the international working group of the general campaign to support the SSD-II. In that regard, several mass events parallel to the SSD-II have been scheduled which are of interest to the international community. A preliminary calendar of events compiled by the NGO Committee on Disarmament (New York) is appended for your information.

There will be international conferences of women, scientists, religionists and activists. Special symposia, seminars and briefing sessions involving international participants will be taking place throughout the SSD-II. For example, the International Peace Bureau (Geneva) and the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy (New York) are planning to hold an international symposium on the moral and legal challenges to the production, deployment and use of nuclear weapons. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is planning an international conference of women, and the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace is planning to hold an international conference of peace activists.

On Saturday, June 12th, there will be a massive march and rally for nuclear and general disarmament and the transfer of funds from the military to the social sector. We hope the mass demonstration will be a showing of public support for the proposals for comprehensive disarmament and development at the SSD-II. We hope there will be a substantial international presence at the march and rally.

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*In Support of the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament II and in coordination with the International Peace Bureau and the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace.

Afin d'encourager la mise en place d'une II Session Extraordinaire de Nation Unies sur des desarmement va joindre leurs efforts avec le Bureau Internationale de la Paix et la Confederation International pour le Desarmement et la Paix.

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The International Liaison Office (ILO) is beginning to arrange for hospitality, for the several thousand NGO representatives who are expected to participate in the parallel mass events. The ILO will try to secure free and/or low-cost housing, food and transport. Further, we will try to recruit translators and interpreters to help the work of various delegations. Also, we will assist in scheduling briefing sessions and mutual exchanges between international delegations according to both country and stratum (women, youth, labor, professional, religious, etc.)

The ILO will make every effort to infuse the parallel events with an international composition and spirit. Our central perspective is that an international majority movement for nuclear and conventional disarmament is prerequisite to an ending of the global arms race. Toward that goal, we intend to utilize the resources of international delegations for peace education efforts in the United States. The ILO will help to facilitate the use of international delegates for political outreach to peace and justice groups in cities and towns across the U.S.

We will also be appealing to peace and justice organizations in the U.S. to help raise funds to bring NGO representatives from the developing countries. Because the initiatives for the U.N. Special Session on Disarmament have come primarily from non-aligned, developing nations, we believe that it is essential to have NGO delegates from these countries here to participate in the parallel mass events.

In addition to the preliminary calendar, we have enclosed a housing form which we urge you to complete and return at your earliest convenience. Please feel free to adapt the form in a way that gives us accurate information about your housing needs.

Because of the many responsibilities of the International Liaison Office (ILO), funds are vital to the success of our efforts. The National Council of Churches of Christ, USA -- through its Commission on Regional and Local Ecumenism -- (NCC, USA--CORLE) has agreed to serve as a tax deductible, fiscal agent for the ILO. Please send us your contribution quickly and make your check payable to:

NCC, USA - CORLE

and send it directly to our address listed on this letterhead.

If you plan to contribute by cable, please wire your contribution to the International Liaison Office for deposit in the account of:

NCC, USA - CORLE, Operating Account No. 055-010601

Chemical Bank

543 West 110th Street

New York, NY 10025

Thank you very much for your generous support.

If the forces for world peace can act in unison in support of the U.N. Special Session on Disarmament, we may be successful in our demands that the U.N. General Assembly begin to set the dates for a comprehensive program of nuclear and conventional disarmament.

Peace,

Sidney Peck

Dr. Sidney Peck
Director