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Helsinki, March 12, 1979

ASIA WEEK 5-12 April, 1979

Dear friends,

Asia Week this year assumes greater importance in view of several serious developments taking place in Asia. The Chinese aggression against Vietnam has posed before the people of Asia a new type of threat to independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Asian countries.

After their initial defeat in Iran, the US imperialists are now encouraging the reactionary regimes to threaten the sovereignty of countries like the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and Afghanistan and to renew their military threat of occupying the oil fields in the Gulf.

The move of the Pentagon to station permanently the US Fleet, the "Fifth Fleet", in the Indian Ocean confirms the apprehension of the peace forces that the Diego Garcia nuclear base will now be county used against all the countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

The new comprehensive plan of US imperialism and their accomplices in Asia needs to be thoroughly exposed in all its aspects. The real significance of Washington-Peking-Tokyo-NATO axis must be explained to the peoples.

Activities will be undertaken by the National Committees during the Week, to organise the biggest ever solidarity movement with Vietnam in line with the proposals contained in the programme of action adopted by the International Emergency Conference in Support of Vietnam, held in Helsinki in March 1979.

It is expected that a delegation from the Vietnam Peace Committee will be visiting India and may be some other countries of Asia during the Week.

Meetings, seminars, symposia, etc. on all the issues concerning peace and security in Asia will be organised during the Week.

We would like to request all the National Committees to send reports of their activities to us.

With best wishes,

For the Secretariat,

(Behnam Petrus)

Encl: Copy of four documents adopted by the International Emergency Conference in Support of Vietnam

(Karel Lukas)

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