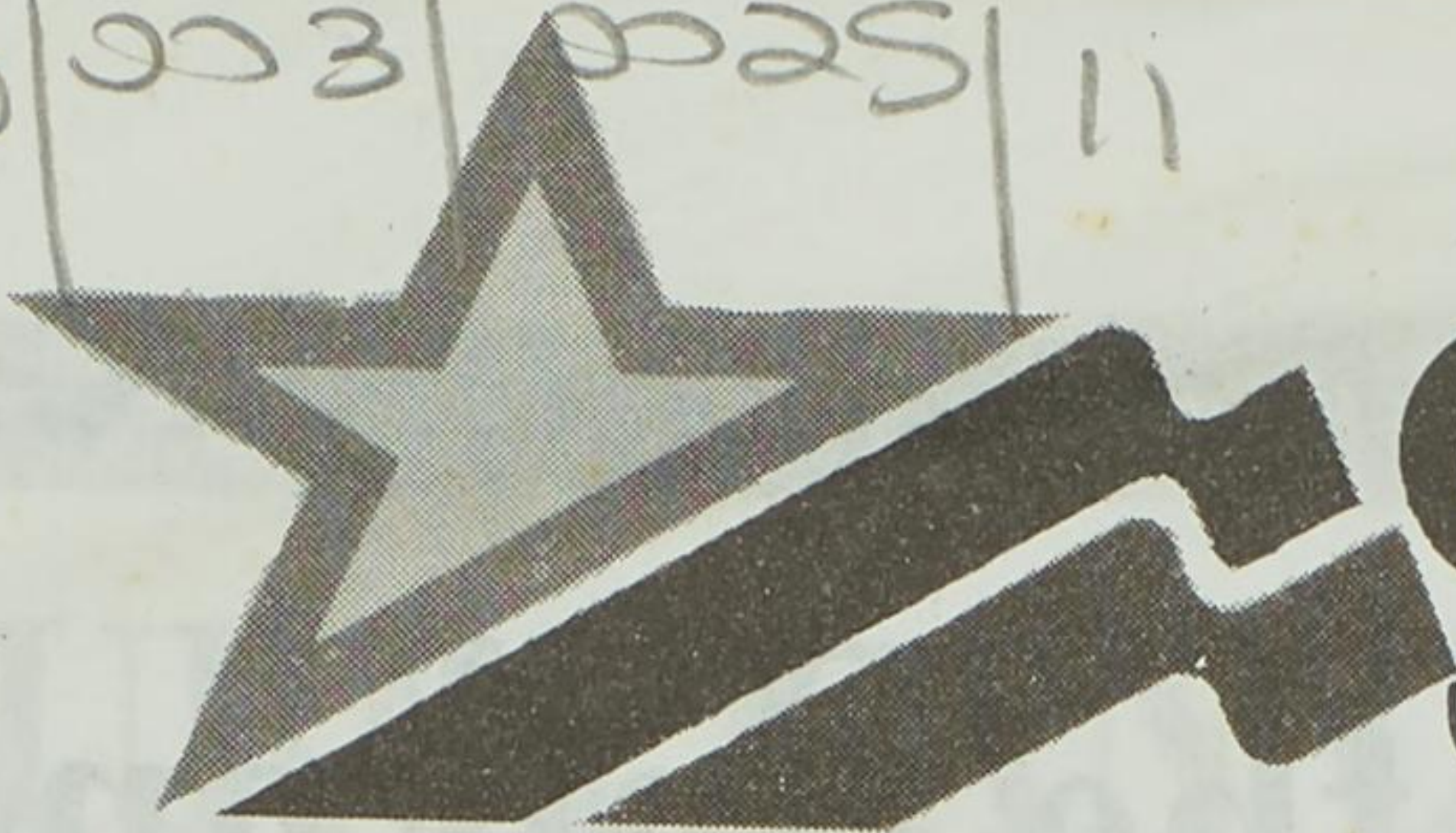


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COALITION OF THE LEFT AND PROGRESS

Address: Themistokleous 7
& Gamveta, 106 77
ATHENS
Tel.: 3619 232-4
Tlx.: 220 343
Fax: 3648 263, 3639 252

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

MAY 1993, No. 5

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

PEACE NOW!

* **1 JAN. 1993:** A New Year's appeal for a ceasefire in Bosnia and peace in the Balkans was sent by the SYN President *M. Damanaki* to the leaders of all the Balkan states.

* **20-21 JAN. 1993:** A SYN delegation consisting of *M. Damanaki*, *Y. Dragasakis* and *T. Trikkas* visited Sofia and had meetings with Prime Minister *L. Berov* and leaders of the main political forces of Bulgaria.

* **25 JAN. 1993:** The Ambassadors of Arab States in Athens met with SYN President *M. Damanaki* and former Ambassador *C. Zepos* to discuss the issue of the 415 Palestinians deported by the Israeli Authorities from the occupied territories to N. Lebanon. *M. Damanaki* deplored this act and reiterated the support of the SYN for rights of the Palestinian people.

* **26 JAN. 1993:** A delegation of the Bulgarian Socialist Party consisting of *Zhan Videnov* and Dr. *Nora Ananieva*, President and Parliamentary group leader of the BSP respectively, visited the SYN office and had talks with *M. Damanaki*, *Y. Dragasakis*, *P. Trigazis* and *D. Stoumbos* concerning the Balkan crisis, Greek-Bulgarian relations and the further development of relations between the two Parties.

* **4 FEB. 1993:** *Fotis Kouvelis* and *C. Zepos* met with *F. Kandoumi*, Head of PLO's Political Dept. on the occasion of his visit to Athens.

* **15 FEB. 1993:** *M. Damanaki* met with Bulgarian Parliament Speaker *Mr. Jordanov* on the occasion of his official visit to Athens.

* **18 FEB. 1993:** The Australian Ambassador in Athens *Ch.*
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SINCE 12 April 1993, a new act is being played out in the tragedy of Yugoslavia. That was the day on which the leadership of NATO began to apply the decision by the Atlantic Alliance to impose an air blockade over Bosnia.

This action aroused strong concern among the Greek public. The President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. K. Karamanlis, in reply to journalists' questions, stated that "unfortunately stupid moves are being made on the international scene", while the opposition parties expressed sharp criticism of the government for consenting to the NATO decision which, apart from anything else, paved the way for the military involvement of Turkey in the Yugoslav crisis.

The Coalition of the Left and Progress was from the very first moment opposed to the NATO decision. In an announcement on 13.4.93, its Political Secretariat stated: "The SYN expresses its deep opposition to the air blockade of Bosnia... It asks that any Greek involvement in military operations be stopped immediately. Greece can and must undertake multilateral initiatives now to prevent the war from spreading, to de-escalate the tension and to promote peaceful solutions by political and diplomatic means".

In fact, on 1-2 May 1993, Athens played host to a peace conference of the leaders of all the parties involved in the war in Bosnia. The conference con-

cluded with an agreement which opened a window of hope that the war would end on the basis of the Vance-owen plan. Nonetheless, the danger of the conflict spreading and the threat of foreign military intervention, especially by the USA, remain grave.

Peace initiatives Since the outset of the Yugoslav crisis, the SYN has supported the need to solve problems through political means, based on international law, without war or foreign interventions.

In this direction, SYN President Maria Damanaki put forward the following peace proposal on the occasion of the 3rd meeting of the Forum of New Left Forces of Europe (Athens, 18-20 November 1992):

1. An immediate end to hostilities in Bosnia and reinforcement of the peace processes within the framework of the UN, which should be supported in all aspects by CSCE, the EC and other international agencies.

2. Every effort should be made to prevent a conflagration in Kosovo, by respecting borders and guaranteeing human and minority rights.

3. No Balkan country should become militarily involved in the Yugoslav crisis. With regard to Greece, we have repeatedly stressed the need for it to avoid becoming involved.

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**GREEK SUMMIT
ON BALKAN CRISIS**
Greece's political leaders met to discuss the Balkan Crisis on May 10, 1993 on the initiative of President C. Karamanlis, which decided: "No Balkan country should be militarily involved in military intervention of whatever form in former Yugoslavia not even in UN peace keeping forces. Also, that Greece is against any form of military intervention in former Yugoslavia and in any case she is determined to avoid her own military involvement in the Balkans whatsoever".



INTERNATIONAL
ACTIVITIES

Peace Now in the Balkans!

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Edwards visited the SYN office and met with M. Damanaki.

★ **18 FEB. 1993:** H. Protopapas and Gr. Kakouris visited Kurdish militants who went on a hunger strike in Pedio Areos, Athens, to protest against Turkish reprisals on their compatriots.

★ **19-20 FEB. 1993:** G. Barlas participated on behalf of the SYN in a major International Conference organised by the ANC in Johannesburg on the subject "From Apartheid to Democracy and Peace in S. Africa". On this occasion G. Barlas conveyed a message from M. Damanaki to Nelson Mandela.

★ **5 MAR. 1993:** A message of greetings was sent to the Initiative of Catalonia on the occasion of its 3rd Congress held in Barcelona.

★ **5 MAR. 1993:** M. Damanaki met Mr. Glafkos Cleridis, President of the Republic of Cyprus. The new President briefed the SYN President on the views held by his government about developments in the Cyprus problem.

★ **6 MAR. 1993:** C. Themistocleous, Vice-President of the Rennovative Democratic Socialist Movement of Cyprus (ADISOK) visited the SYN office and met S. Panaretou and P. Trigazis.

★ **12-13 MAR. 1993:** M. Renessis, member of the SYN Council for Economic Policy participated in a European Conference titled "International conditions for stability in Central and Eastern Europe", organised by the Hungarian Socialist Party in Budapest.

★ **16 MAR. 1993:** M. Damanaki met with V. Lyssarides, President of EDEK of Cyprus.

★ **17 MAR. 1993:** M. Damanaki met with G. Vasiliou, ex-President of the Republic of Cyprus.

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4. The UN resolution to place an embargo on the sale of weapons to former Yugoslavia should be reinforced by inspection machinery to ensure its observance and to impose sanctions on violators.

5. Procedures should be initiated for a Helsinki-type Balkan conference with a view, in the first stage, to a declaration on the inviolability of borders, respect throughout the Balkans for human and minority rights on the basis of UN and CSCE decisions and a Charter for environmental protection in the Balkans.

6. Inter-Balkan cooperation should be developed on both the governmental and non-governmental levels with multiform contacts between municipalities, professional and business organisations, cultural institutions, trade union and other social organisations.

Appeal to the Balkan leaders

On the occasion of Mayday 1993, the SYN President addressed to the leaders of all Balkan countries (including Turkey) a letter appealing for peace, which says, among other things:

"The scenes of horror which we see every day, with the thousands of casualties on all sides and the inhabitants of prisoner of war and the refugee camps who number more than 3 million do now allow us to become reconciled with the idea that this barbaric war, the first war on European soil since World War II, will continue.

Even more so do we consider irrational and are we categorically opposed to any attempt to extend this war. We are sure that any foreign military intervention of any type whatsoever will increase the dangers of the war becoming generalised in the region. In any event, it is our conviction that no Balkan country should become militarily involved in the Yugoslav crisis...

There is a tradition that sees the Balkans as the 'powder-keg of Europe'. But it is not the only one.

Anguita visit to Athens

The visit of Julio Anguita to Athens opened a "new phase in the development of relations between the two political formations, both bilaterally,

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There are also long traditions of common struggles for freedom, peace, democracy and progress. Traditions of common cultural creation and multiform cooperation. These traditions, our common interests and the imperatives of our common security in a world which is rapidly becoming internationalised could constitute the background for developing our region together within the framework of a peaceful and democratic Europe".

Balkan structure

Another idea which was put forward by the SYN a year ago, but was not taken up by the Greek government concerned the creation of a Balkan structure for interface with the European Community, with a view to utilising aid programmes to stabilise and develop the region through more general cooperation in the economic, cultural, scientific and environmental fields. In such a structure, Greece would play an important role as the only Balkan country which is a member of the European Community.

NGO action

In its efforts to achieve political dialogue and to promote its peace proposals, the SYN is sending delegations to a series of Balkan countries, taking part in anti-war mobilisations and in initiatives to assist the victims of the war in former Yugoslavia. Such a humanist initiative which started out with the SYN and embraced a broad range of forces in Greece was the SOLIDARITY CARAVAN for the children of former Yugoslavia, which brought aid to refugee camps late in January 1993. Taking part in the committee for the caravan were: Euro-MPs A. Alavanos (SYN), P. Avgerinos (PASOK), P. Lambrias (N.D.), Bishop Chrysostomos of Dodoni, Rectors N. Markatos of the National Technical University and Th. Gamaletsos of the University of Piraeus, former government Minister R. Kalamani, author I. Kambanellis, federations of elementary and high school teachers, etc.



Julio Anguita with Maria Damanaki

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EUROPEAN COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NEW LEFT FORCES

Early in 1993, the question of cooperation between the new Left forces was raised on a Europe-wide level in view of the European parliament elections in June 1994. With this in mind, a number of meetings will be held before the end of the year.

The first meeting took place in Madrid on 6 February 1993 on the initiative of the United Left of Spain. Taking part in the meeting, in addition to the organisers, were: Britain's Democratic Left, Ireland's Democratic Left (DL), Holland's Green Left, the Popular Socialist Party of Denmark (SPP), Greece's Coalition of the Left and Progress (SYN), the Democratic Socialism Party of Germany, Initiative for Catalonia (Catalonia, Spain), the Left Alliance (LWA) of Finland, Sweden's Left Party, and the Left Socialist Party of Norway. Taking part in the meeting as observers were Luciana

Castelina, Euro-M.P. of the Spanish Communist Party, Action Italy, and the President of the European Group "Alliance of the Left in the European Parliament" Rene Piquet (Euro-M.P. for the Communist Party of France).

The PDS of Italy which had been invited to the meeting did not attend because, as stated in a letter from its International Relations Secretary Piero Fassino, PDS has been participating in a similar effort by the party of European Socialists of which it was a co-founder since it became a member of the Socialist International.

The following points were agreed upon at the Madrid Meeting:

- A manifesto should be drawn up for of the new Left forces of Europe. A Working Group was set up to draft such a manifesto consisting of the following parties: DL (Ireland), IU (Spain), Green Left (Holland), SPP (Denmark), Synaspismos (Greece)

and LWA (Finland). The first meeting of the Working Group will take place in Dublin on 15 May 1993.

- The draft of the European manifesto will be discussed at the next Forum of the New Left Forces to be held in Copenhagen on 25-27 June 1993. The process will be completed at the Forum of New Left Forces after Copenhagen which the Initiative of Catalonia has offered to organise in Barcelona in December 1993.

- Also, the Madrid meeting decided that the New Left Forces would support jointly the European Day of Action against unemployment and racism declared by CES on 2 April 1993.

Finally, the proposal made by SYN was adopted, i.e. that a special conference of New Left Forces be held in Athens in the autumn of 1993 on the problems of the labour movement in Europe. •

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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* **18-20 MAR. 1993:** A delegation of the United Left of Spain headed by *J. Anguita* visited Athens on the invitation of the SYN.

* **19 MAR. 1993:** A delegation of the SYN Youth Committee met with *Y. Borisof*, ex-President of the Socialist Youth Union of Bulgaria, who is now an M.P. for the Bulgarian Socialist Party.

* **20-21 MAR. 1993:** *Stelios Nestor*, member of the Central Political Committee, represented SYN at the Congress of the Party of Social Democracy of Poland.

* **22 MAR. 1993:** A delegation of the Youth movement of EDON of Cyprus consisting of *H. Marrou*, Secretary of the C.C. of EDON and member of the C.C. of AKEL and *P. Kyprianides*, member of the C.C. of EDON met with representatives of the Youth Committee of SYN.

* **22-30 MAR. 1993:** *Th. Psalidopoulos*, member of SYN's International Department paid an information visit to Moscow and had meetings with Foreign Ministry officials and various political forces.

* **30 MAR. 1993:** *M. Damanakimet* with the Ambassador for India in Athens *Mr. A. Seth*.

* **30 MAR. 1993:** *M. Damanaki* and *Gr. Yiannaros*, M.P., met with the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council *Ch. A. Martines*.

* **8 APR. 1993:** *M. Damanaki* met with *M. Papapetrou*, President of ADISOK of Cyprus.

* **13 APR. 1993:** The SYN sent a telegram to the African National Congress condemning the assassination of *Chris Hanni* and expressing solidarity with the struggle of the people of South Africa to complete the peace process and build democracy in their country.

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Anguita visit to Athens

and also within the framework of the effort to promote cooperation between the forces of the new Left on a Europe-wide level". These are the words of the joint communique issued by the general Coordinator of the United Left of Spain and the leadership of the SYN, with whom he had come for meetings, on 18-20 March 1993.

Mr Anguita, accompanied on his trip by the IU International Relations Secretary, Mr Carlos Carnero, had talks with a SYN delegation headed by President Maria Damanaki. After the talks, the two leaders held a joint press conference.

Mr Anguita also spoke at a rally organised by SYN on the topic "Building Europe and the new Left", and had meetings with representatives of other Greek political forces.

Following are excerpts from the text of the joint communique issued after the Damanaki-Anguita meeting:

"The IU and the Coalition (SYN) have declared themselves in favour of European unification, which has become even more necessary in the

new post-bipolar era. However, they express their concern at the course of unification as promoted by the forces of conservatism. The profound economic crisis in a number of modern social "plagues", such as drugs, continuing ecological degradation, the rise of racism and the appearance of neonazism and reactionary nationalism, the tendency to build new "walls" between Western and Eastern Europe and the growing gap with the Third World make up the picture of a Europe which is a long way from the visions and expectations of the workers and people of Europe.

In our view, a United Europe means a new Europe of peace, democracy, solidarity and environmental protection. For such a course, the present day balance of forces must change in favour of the Left and progress; neo-conservatism must be defeated, and a New Left must arise as a powerful third pole all over Europe with social movements coming to the forefront.

To this end, the IU and SYN take active part in the effort to promote

cooperation and to draw up a joint manifesto of the forces of the New Left in view of the elections to the European Parliament in 1994. At the same time, they support and reinforce initiatives on a social level, such as that of the Confederation of European Trade Unions to designate 2 April 1993 as "European day of action against unemployment and racism".

The SYN and the IU are in favour of new organisation and development of the institutions of the European Union in the direction of covering democratic and social deficits, by upgrading the European Parliament so that it may acquire full legislative and enforcement jurisdiction, decentralisation and reinforcing of the role of the regions, the effective enforcement of the Social Charter, the promotion of development policies with an ecological dimension, combatting unemployment, and protecting human rights with particular care for young people and equality for women.

SYN and IU are in favour of the

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Anguita visit to Athens

Continued from page 3

development of European security and cooperation through the strengthening and upgrading of CSCE.

The IU and SYN appeal for an immediate end to the conflicts in former Yugoslavia. As a matter of principle, they support the solution of problems through peaceful processes, based on the inviolability of borders and respect for human and minority rights. They are against foreign military intervention, which we believe would extend and internationalise the war. They believe that a Helsinki-type Conference for the countries of the Balkans could contribute to consolidating the peace, security and cooperation in the region within the framework of the Europe-wide process.

The two delegations examined developments with respect to the recognition of the former "Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", bearing in mind the efforts made up to the recent past particularly by the European Community, and agreed that this problem must be settled by ensuring the implementation of the principles of good neighbourliness, the inviolability of borders, confidence-building measures and the avoidance of every type of provocation created by the promotion of groundless irredentist ambitions.

The cause of peace in the Balkans concerns all peoples of Europe and in this spirit, the two political formations of the Left will undertake and support peace initiatives on our continent.

The Mediterranean is an international crossroads where many of the contradictions and problems of the modern world appear. The IU and SYN are in favour of convening a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM), a necessary supplement to European security, which could constitute a model for North-South relations. The hotspots of tension which have become chronic in the region, and in particular the Cyprus and Palestine issues, must be eliminated by the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions and the rights of the peoples of the Sahara and the Kurds must be recognised.

The two delegations agreed to take initiatives to hold a meeting of the Left, progressive and democratic forces of the Mediterranean". ■

ACTION

against racism and unemployment

The Greek public has become increasingly sensitive to the problems of racism and xenophobia in Europe which are often manifested in acts of violence against immigrants and political refugees.

On 1 April 1993, Greek trade union organisations in the public and private sector both took part in the day of action against racism and unemployment proclaimed by the Confederation of European Trade Unions (CES). There was a three-hour work stoppage throughout Greece and rally in a central Athens

square. SYN issued an announcement in support of the mobilisation and submitted a package of proposals on the problems of foreign workers in Greece and on combatting unemployment, which has already affected more than 10% of the labour force and is on the rise.

In addition, the Citizens' Movement against Racism (which the SYN supported) organised a large meeting in Athens on 2 May 1993, in collaboration with the University of Athens under the slogan "We'll never forget, and we won't ever let it happen again".

International celebrities took part in this meeting including British actress Vanessa Redgrave and Dr. T. Etinger from the Holocaust Foundation in Moscow; there were also survivors from Hitler's concentration camps, representatives of minority communities living in Greece and many members of the public.

The next large event to be sponsored by the Citizens' Movement against Racism will be a two-day conference entitled "Europe faces the refugee problem" to be held on 2-3 June 1993. ●●●

The identity of the SYNASPISMOS

THE COALITION OF THE LEFT AND PROGRESS is a political party of the modern democratic and radical Left. A political movement of Left and progressive citizens of Greece, a force which is antagonistic to, and aims to overcome the relations of exploitation, oppression and alienation fostered by the capitalist society.

The Coalition has its roots in the history of the Greek people, the labour and democratic movement, national liberation struggles for progress, democracy and peace, it strives to make social and human relations more humane.

The Coalition is the creation and expression of the forces which have always fought for the renewal and modernisation of the Left; those forces which are inspired by the ideals and values of democratic socialism and consider the concept of democracy to be universal and non-negotiable.

It seeks to incorporate organically within the search for a new identity for the Left those citizens who, with a different history and origin, express the continuation of all efforts at criticism and renewal which have appeared throughout the history of the Left from all sides.

The Coalition would like to represent all those who seek a radical political party to supercede the present system, a party with a European orientation, modern and militantly opposed to the anachronism and conservatism, injustice and environmental backwardness characteristic of Greek society.

Brief information about the party

The Synaspismos was founded in 1989 as a coalition of parties, groups and public figures. In 1991 the majority faction of the Greek Communist Party withdrew, while the pro-renewal wing remained within Synaspismos. (Of the Coalition's 21 Members of Parliament, 7 withdrew with the KKE). Following a referendum in January 1992, in which 23,000 members voted, the Synaspismos held a refounding congress in June 1992 and became a unified party. The Congress was attended by 1,300 delegates, elected directly by some 300 local assemblies.

The Congress is held regularly every three years and elects the Central Political Committee. The CPC in turn votes for the party President and Political Secretariat. At the last Congress the 111-member CPC elected Maria Damanaki as President and a 13-member Political Secretariat, which includes the President.

The Synaspismos is Greece's third political force, with 14 Members of the national Parliament and two members of the European Parliament. The party has a strong presence in local government and in the trade union and other social movements.

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