

14

WFTU
General Council
10-13 April 1979

ANDREAS ZIARTIDIS,
General Secretary
P.F.O. Cyprus

Dear comrades,

I would like to join the previous speakers who thanked the Central Council of the Bulgarian Trade Unions for their warm reception and their hospitality.

This is not the first time that our Bulgarian comrades proved their close and strong links with the international Trade Union movement by offering their hospitality and their effective practical help in preparing successful WFTU meetings. We

all remember the 8th World Trade Union Congress in Varna as well as other W.F.T.U meetings in Bulgaria. We sincerely ~~help~~ thank the Central Council of the Bulgarian Trade Unions for their substantial and genuine demonstration of solidarity and for their real support for the W.F.T.U.

Dear Comrades,

I have very carefully studied the report on the 2nd point of the Agenda submitted by our General Secretary com. Rastorino. We agree with the general evaluation made, and we support the conclusions

reached regarding the significance of the 9th World T.U Congress and also regarding the developments in the World situation and in the international Trade Union Movement after the Congress.

For the Cyprian Trade Union movement the 9th World T.U Congress is of great importance. Of great importance are for the working-classes of Cyprus the policies adopted by the Congress and the leadership which it has given on important political and Trade Union questions. The 9th World T.U Congress

has strengthened considerably
our work for unity. At a very
recent meeting of the PEO
leading bodies it was confirmed
that new and considerable
progress was made in Cyprus
in the field of unity and uni-
ted action. All the Trade Union
organisations of Cyprus, irrespec-
tive of international affili-
ations, of ideological or political
differences closely cooperated
in activities for the achieve-
ment of goals of common
interest. Progress has also
been achieved in the field of
contacts and cooperation

among Greek-Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Trade Union organisations, a process which had been interrupted in 1974 because of the fascist coup d'état and the Turkish invasion. The impact of the 9th World S.U. Congress and its policies on these new developments in our movement is admitted by everybody in the democratic and progressive forces in our country.

The report submitted by com. Pastorino, referring to the bilateral and multilateral relations of W.T.U. affiliated Centres, state that particular interest is to be noted

in relations and exchanges with the Trade Unions of the Socialist Countries. I would like to say in this respect that after the 9th World Trade Union Congress two delegations from Cyprus of Trade Unions affiliated to the ICFTU for the first time accepted an invitation to visit the Soviet Union. One of the delegations was headed by the general secretary of the ICFTU affiliated Workers Confederation. This new development we believe it was influenced by the spirit of unity created by the 9th Congress

It is on the basis of our experience that we fully support the conclusion of the report of com. Pastorsino that the 9th Congress opens new perspectives for cooperation amongst Trade Unions of different orientation and for united action for common objectives.

The report of the General Secretary underlines another important contribution of the 9th World Trade Union Congress: Its overall integral conception of solidarity. We

endorse this point of the report Cyprus has felt the impact

of the 9th Congress on the movement for solidarity to its struggle for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-alignment. The special session of the W.F.T.U Bureau held in Nicosia last October voiced the solidarity of the millions of the workers affiliated to the W.F.T.U. That was of great importance for the Cyprus working class, It was an event which was highly appreciated by all Cypriots, Greeks and Turks. One month later, in November 1978, the International Trade Union Conference of solidarity with Cyprus took place in Nicosia.

Unions of HFT-U, ICFT-U and
W.C.L. affiliation as well as
unions of no international affi-
liation participated. The
success of that Conference was,
no doubt influenced by the
new spirit of solidarity for
the creation of which the 9th
Congress has contributed.

Dear comrades,

We would like to ~~re~~
~~state~~ state that we are
in complete accord with the
suggestions ~~and~~ underlined
in the report for a consi-
sistent struggle to give an
irrevocable character to the

process of detente and to impose disarmament and peace in the world. We have decided to give our unreserved support to the proposal included in the document of the guidelines for the work of 1979-1980, for an international Trade Union Conference on the socio-economic aspects of disarmament.

There are ~~are~~ strong reasons for the workers, the people and even the government of Cyprus to support the international movement for detente and disarmament. It would be much easier

to find a just and democratic solution of the Cyprus problem satisfying the interests of both Cypriot communities, in an atmosphere of a standing peace and detente.

The document introducing the guidelines of the U.T.C. work for 1979 and 1980 is considered by us as a good document. We believe that it provides the Secretariat and the Bureau as well as the National Centres of the necessary guidelines for their activities. I would like to register our special support

for those parts of the document referring to the elimination of colonialism, fascism and racism and to the promotion of solidarity for people fighting for their independence and their democratic and human rights violated by fascist, racist and military dictatorships.

The EFO declares its solidarity to our Palestinian comrades and to the Arab people in general in their just struggle against ~~the~~ Israeli expansionists and American imperialists. We are with them in their

struggle against the consequences
of the Camp David agreement.

We express our solidarity
for our comrades in Chile
and Uruguay, in Nicaragua
and in other Latin American
countries suffering under fascist
regimes. Our solidarity is
also expressed for the African
people oppressed by white mino-
rity regimes.

We condemn Chinese
aggression against the heroic
people of Viet Nam and their
expansionist policy in Indochina.

Finally I would like
to express our accord with
the proposal made regarding

14 - ~~Please add at the~~ ~~end of the speech~~ ~~Leontides~~

Before concluding my contribution I would like to say a few words on the excellent report submitted by comrade Zardaria on the work in connection with the I.L.O.

The analysis of the recent political developments within the I.L.O. put everyone of us in the picture of this important international forum. I am sure that we will all agree that the I.L.O. is going through a stage in which its

future policies and prospects are taking shape. We should all work so that this process is more influenced by the forces of social progress, by the forces of peace and freedom. We should all work to prevent the forces of imperialism and of the transnational corporations make the ILO an instrument of their political and economic aims.

I would like to express my complete accord with the point raised in the report that political questions dealing with denunciation of oppression and attacks on liberties and rights have a place in the U.C.O. I agree that the W.F.T.U should continue to tackle these questions. But I also agree that this orientation should not lead us to underestimation of the importance of social and economic questions

-17-

which have to be brought to
and discussed by the ILO.

In concluding I would
like to state that I support
all the proposals made
by Dr. Lantieri in the
final chapter of his report.

Thank you.