

their knees, have failed, U.S. policy is faced with one of its biggest defeats. The more the U.S. expands the intervention, the more resolute the rebuff dealt it by the heroic Vietnamese people, who enjoy the support of the external socialist countries, of the freedom-loving forces of the world over.

The constructive proposals put forward by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam and supported by the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam have given the U.S. leaders an opportunity to end the conflict, to terminate the ignominious colonial adventure in which they have involved their country. The complete and unconditional withdrawal of the U.S. forces from South Vietnam within a definite time limit and the formation of a provisional coalition government on the basis of the proposals made by the governments of the Republic of South Vietnam and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam offer a realistic way to a speedy political settlement in Vietnam.

The participants in the present Meeting resolutely condemn the U.S. acts of aggression. They reaffirm their so-

lidarity with the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia fighting for their freedom and independence, for their inalienable right to choose their path of development in accordance with their national interests and aspirations, without any outside interference. The socialist countries, acting in the spirit of the principles of proletarian internationalism, upholding the cause of peace and progress, will continue to render every support to the peoples of Indo-China in repulsing the armed imperialist intervention.

They have supported and will continue to support the efforts made by the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, and the patriotic forces of Laos and Cambodia towards the achievement of a speedy political settlement in the Indo-China area.

The socialist countries firmly believe in the triumph of the just cause upheld by the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, and they appeal to the governments and political and public organizations of all countries which prize the interests of peace and the freedom of peoples to increase support to the embattled peoples of Indo-China.

## For Lasting Peace and Security in the Middle East

The People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Rumania, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, represented at the Meeting in Berlin of the Political Consultative Committee of the states signatory to the Warsaw Treaty, have examined the situation in the Middle East and adopted the following statement:

A situation menacing to the cause of peace continues to prevail in the Middle East. For more than three years Israeli troops have been occupying Arab territories. The imperialist policy pursued by the ruling circles of Israel and the external forces of international reaction supporting it is raising ever new obstacles on the way to a political settlement in the Middle East. The magnitude and scale of the dangers with which this is fraught, in view of the international importance of this area, must not be underestimated.

Two diametrically opposed policies on the Middle East question are to be observed. One is a consistent course directed at achieving by political means a settlement which would guarantee the independent, secure national existence of all peoples of the Middle East, including the people of Israel, safeguard their frontiers, and enable them to channel their forces, resources and energies to the satisfaction of their vital needs. But there can be no peace in the Middle East until the Israeli troops leave all occupied Arab territories. Without this it is inconceivable for the peoples of the Middle East to live as good neighbours. The adherents of this policy—the U.A.R. and other Arab states and the socialist and other peace-loving states supporting them—stand for the fulfilment of all stipulations of the Security Council resolution of November 22, 1967, which forms the basis for the restoration of peace in the Middle East. As immediate practical steps they insist on the establishment of contacts and on negotiations between the parties to the conflict with the mediation of the U.N. General Secretary's special representative, Ambassador Jar-

The other policy is that of retention by all possible means and annexation of the occupied territories of Arab states, preserving the tension in the Middle East, overthrowing the progressive Arab regimes, and undermining the Arab national liberation movement. Israel and its backers are stubbornly sabotaging all that could lead to a just settlement. They seek to dictate their imperialist terms to the peoples of this area, declaring in effect that if these demands are not met there will be no peace. This policy was recently again condemned at the 25th U.N. General Assembly.

Full responsibility for the Middle East area remaining one of the most dangerous seats of tension in the world rests with the forces of international imperialism, primarily American imperialism. Israel's militaristic ruling circles, who are flaunting their plans of conquest and programmes for a "Greater Israel," are actually jeopardizing the vital interests of the Israeli people.

The Meeting is confident that the attempts of the imperialist countries to disunite the Arab peoples and set them one against the other will continue to be countered by the efforts of the Arab states and peoples to consolidate their unity and solidarity. Its participants are convinced that, as in the past, the intrigues of international reaction against the progressive Arab regimes are doomed to fail. In this connection they voice their deep satisfaction at the statements made by the leaders of the United Arab Republic of their intention unswervingly to follow the course steered by the U.A.R. when President Gamal Abdel Nasser was alive, that they stand for a political settlement of the Middle East conflict, against international imperialism, for independence, freedom and progress, for friendship with socialist countries, for peace and international accord.

The participants in the Meeting reaffirm their readiness to continue resolutely to support the just struggle of the Arab peoples, including the Arab people of Palestine, against the imperialist policy of aggression in the Middle East, for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories, for freedom and social progress.