

of Europe, held in the German Democratic Republic... was an important event which, because the Communist and Workers parties govern a good part of Europe and constitute forces of much weight in the other, will project its influence over our continent during a certain period. But besides that: its conclusions assume importance even outside of Europe since many people openly consider that questions that are not confined within the borders of Europe such as the political and economic weight of the socialist countries, coupled with the growing influence of the working class and of its parties in the countries

still subjected to capitalist injustice, necessarily determine evolution on our planet and on all of it. . . .

The developing countries that are trying to depart from the misery into which they were thrown by colonialism and by imperialism are naturally rebelling against those who are responsible for their present situation. In that difficult struggle, the non-aligned countries know that they have the support of the progressive forces of the whole world, at the head of which are the socialist world and all the workers parties of all countries. That was made very clear at the Berlin Conference. . . .

Socialist Sector Press On Colombo

Izvestia, Aug. 24

"After Colombo

In the course of the past week, world public opinion and the press have been turned to the discussions going on at the 5th conference of heads of state of the Non-Aligned countries and the documents it adopted...

Let us note that the conference took place in circumstances of new victories of the forces of peace and national liberation, conditions of relaxation of international tensions and the triumph of the principles of peaceful coexistence which are, as it was stressed during the discussions, the basic principle of the Non-Aligned movement.

The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries attribute great importance to the Non-Aligned movement, as is indicated by the high evaluation given it in the greeting of General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union L. I. Brezhnev to the participants of the conference, which was received in Colombo with great attention.

On their part, the conference participants indicated that the Non-Aligned and the socialist countries are allies in the struggle of Third World peoples for genuine political and economic independence.

The political declaration adopted at the conference states that the Non-Aligned countries consider the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid and Zionism to be the most important task.

The conference participants especially mentioned the decisions of the All-European conference in Helsinki and expressed the hope that the relaxation of international tensions will be spread to other parts of the world... The political declaration indicates the necessity of convoking a world conference on disarmament — an idea put forward by the Soviet Union. The conference participants discussed in detail the problem of turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace and demanded the liquidation of imperialist military bases existing in that region of the world.

The political declaration of the conference showed clearly that the Non-Aligned movement, as before, expresses the yearning of the peoples of the young states born on the shards of colonial empires, of the patriots struggling against the racist policies of Israel, South Africa and Rhodesia. The declaration condemns the USA, France, England and the Federal Republic of Germany as powers collaborating with and extending economic support to those regimes.

It is understandable that the ideas of the Non-Aligned movement are not at all to the taste of the imperialist circles and their allies in Peking. Subversive work on the part of these forces began long before the start of the conference. And then at the conference itself, there were individual presentations

which... tried to develop the clearly fallacious thesis on 'super-power hegemony,' and to place an equal sign between socialism and imperialism. They tried to pass to the socialist countries some of the blame for the economic difficulties of the developing countries, which the capitalist powers and monopolies robbed for centuries and continue to rob, using the mechanism of the capitalist market.

These false voices, however, were sniffed out at the conference and did not get support. In particular, the economic declaration adopted there demands a review of international economic relations proceeding from the principles of fairness. It calls also for closer cooperation of the developing countries in order, through joint efforts, to resist discrimination, economic pressure and robbery by monopoly capital...

U.S. Press On Colombo

Aug. 27 (NSIPS) — The major, particularly liberal, press in the United States have blacked out or, at best, misreported the week-long deliberation and final declarations for a New International Economic Order of the Non-Aligned Summit meeting in Sri Lanka last week. Such press, like the New York Times and the Washington Post, are, as Times' economic reporter Edwin Dale admitted, getting their news straight from the State Department.

The "objective" wire services, Reuters, Associated Press and United Press International, have resorted to gross distortions of the news in order to interpret the outcome of the Sri Lanka summit to the American public as a melange of "anti-imperialist" warnings on the synthetic North Korean crisis, and calls for the return of the Panama Canal to the Panamanians. News media, like the Denver Post, and New York's WINS and WNWS radio, have used the wire services as the basis for their editorial outcries and cover up news reporting.

Rankling under the conspicuous lack of reporting from the "major press," several independent conservative and Black audience newspapers and radio stations are now relying on this news service for their coverage of major world events.

New York Times

On Aug. 23, an NSIPS correspondent contacted the Times' top Washington, D.C.-based economics reporter, Edwin Dale, on the outcome of the Non-Aligned Summit. Dale, whose reports are the basis for national press reports on international economic developments, responded: "I'm very glad you brought this to my attention. I didn't know about the communique (for a new universal monetary system — Ed.). I'll be sure to get it."

In his August 25 article, "Carter's Foreign Economic Plan," Dale reported: "Also looming in the background, though possibly not a very real threat, is the idea of 'debt moratorium' by some of many of the poorer countries. This idea was voiced again at the meeting last week in Sri Lanka... of the heads of state of the 'Non-Aligned' countries, although no specific threats were made."

Mr. Dale claimed the next day that all his material came "from the State Department" which did not as yet have "all the details."

Washington Post

The Post, as well as the major network television stations in New York — ABC, CBS, and NBC — have essentially blacked out any coverage of the Sri Lanka Summit's final communiques. When contacted by NSIPS, Aug. 23, the Post's economic analyst and columnist, Hobart Rowan, said, "I'm going to count to ten and then I'm going to hang up on you."

The Post's foreign desk replied: "There is a question as to how significant or effective this communique is. How much importance do you give to rhetoric? It's only a declaration on a piece of paper. If I were a banker, I would certainly prepare for the worst; otherwise, I wouldn't be a good banker. But newspapers don't have to react to protect bankers' funds..."

United Press International

Mr. Anderson, on UPI's foreign desk, told an NSIPS correspondent Aug. 18, "I know all about Sri Lanka. People just aren't interested in what's going on in Sri Lanka. We know what people want to read and that's what we put out." Mr. Anderson was informed that his and UPI's policy represents manipulation of the news and only shows his contempt for the Third World's determination to follow through on their discussions on debt moratorium and a New International Economic Order. "I know what I'm doing," Anderson interrupted. "When they actually do something about it, then we'll report on it."

The next day Mr. Anderson was asked to comment on the final declarations of the meeting which confirmed Third World solidarity: "Yes, I know about it, but it's just talk.... (The U.S.) can do many things if they try it... When and if they carry through, then it will be news."

UPI's major coverage has focussed on the Sri Lanka call for an oil boycott against France and Israel.

Associated Press

As carried by the New York Daily News Aug. 21, AP reported that "the Non-Aligned summit conference said in its final political report today that war may break out at any moment in Korea and that the United States should give up the Panama Canal."

New York Daily News

News editor William Sunderland replied to an NSIPS press briefing on the Non-aligned nation's declaration in support of debt moratorium for the poorest Third World countries with his belief that "You're living in a dream world if you think there's going to be a debt moratorium. If it happens, you'll get my apologies, but you still won't get any coverage of it out of me."

Baltimore Sun

In an Aug. 26 article, "U.S. Rejects Non-Aligned Stands," the Sun cynically reported, "The U.S. publicly lost patience with the so-called Non-Aligned nations, yesterday, rejecting briskly their anti-U.S. positions on Korea and Puerto-Rico."

"Robert L. Funseth, the State Department spokesman, issued the first formal reaction since the end of a conference of 85 nations in Colombo. 'No nation that supported the resolution on Korea can be considered Non-Aligned,' Funseth stated."

The hostility toward the U.S. and other capitalist countries at the conference was hardly a surprise in Washington. Actually, some of its members have close ties to the U.S., but the majority routinely adopt anti-U.S. positions on economic, political and military issues."

Washington Star

Following its editorial statement on the Summit that the Third World is aligning with the Soviet Union, the Star's foreign desk told an NSIPS correspondent, "We did some coverage on that. I don't remember if we said the new universal monetary system was a companion or replacement proposal for the International Monetary Fund. We had nothing on debt moratorium and we're not planning to do any more with it unless the wire services or the New York Times do."

Los Angeles Times

The extent of Los Angeles Times coverage of the Sri Lanka summit was an attack on the Third World nations' decision to form its own press service. It would only "alienate" the Western press, the Times said.

On Aug. 24, the Times Washington D.C. based financial reporter, Paul Steiger, told an NSIPS correspondent that the Non-Aligned group is "using rigged news releases and tightly controlled news... They're giving canned crap. They blocked access of the (Western) press to their meeting so that they could deliver a sanitized version of events. It's just like trying to find out about torture in Chile."

Philadelphia Bulletin

In its Aug. 24 editorial, the Bulletin admitted that "the 'Non-Aligned' countries do generally represent the underdeveloped southern hemisphere where poverty is often desperate and economic leverage limited. They have a factual point when they contend that fairness calls for a narrowing of the gap between the industrialized rich countries and the underdeveloped poor ones. It is valid even when words and actions repel..."

"... But yes... There are legitimate problems that concern us and that must help to solve in our own self-interest. We must keep trying."

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