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Contents

World Public Opinion Condemns U.S.-NATO Aggression Against Libya

U.S. Militarization of Asia

ALBA School of Defense and Sovereignty Opens

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World Public Opinion Condemns U.S.-NATO Aggression Against Libya

Since the start of the U.S.-NATO airstrikes on Libya, people and governments throughout the world have come out to oppose this blatant aggression against a sovereign country. The following examples offer a small glimpse of this world-wide movement.

- In Greece, anti-NATO demonstrations have already been organized in Athens and other parts of the country demanding, "The imperialists out of Libya!"

- In Serbia, large anti-NATO demonstrations have been organized in Belgrade.

- Demonstrations have also taken place in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, England, India, Ireland, Italy, Nicaragua, Philippines, Russia, Spain, Turkey, the U.S. and other places.

- After a May 26 extraordinary African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, the AU said in a statement, "The continuation of the NATO-led military operation defeats the very purpose for which it was authorized in the first place, i.e. the pro-

tection of the civilian population, and further complicates any transition to a democratic dispensation in Libya,"

- The Indian Foreign Ministry called for a halt to the NATO airstrikes: "India views with grave concern the continuing violence, strife and deteriorating humanitarian situation in Libya. It regrets the air strikes that are taking place. The measures adopted should mitigate and not exacerbate an already difficult situation for the people of Libya."

- The government of Cuba condemned the U.S.-led NATO war. A statement released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bruno Rodríguez said, "Cuba categorically rejects any attempt whatsoever to take advantage of the tragic situation created in order to occupy Libya and control its oil."

- The ALBA announced the unanimous opposition of the 8 members of the ALBA to U.S.

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U.S. Militarization of Asia

In a June 4 speech in Singapore, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates boasted about the Obama administration's plans to continue and expand its "robust military engagement" in Asia.

In his speech at the "10th IISS Asia Security Summit," Gates said that the Obama administration plans to continue its program of further building up and "modernizing" the U.S. military arsenal in the region. He stated that "modernization efforts that our defense leaders have deemed absolutely critical to the future, relating to air superiority and mobility, long-range strike, nuclear deterrence, maritime access, space and cyber, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance" will be the main focus of the Obama administration in the near future.

Gates also emphasized that the U.S. plans to expand its military presence in the region: "Although much of the press in both the U.S. and the region has been focused in recent years

on our efforts to modernize our basing arrangements with traditional allies in Northeast Asia – and our commitment to those efforts is absolute – we have taken a number of steps towards establishing a defense posture across the Asia-Pacific that is more geographically distributed, operationally resilient and politically sustainable – a posture that maintains our presence in Northeast Asia while enhancing our presence in Southeast Asia and into the Indian Ocean."

In addition to strengthening its military alliance with South Korea and instigating the re-arming of Japan, the Obama administration will continue to expand its capability of launching "amphibious and land operations" in part by conducting joint military exercises and building up its military alliance with Australia. The Obama administration is also working to integrate the military of Singapore into the command struc-

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ALBA School of Defense and Sovereignty Opens

On May 31, the "ALBA School of Defense and Sovereignty" opened in Bolivia. The academy will provide comprehensive military training to civilian and military personnel as well as to the indigenous peoples of the ALBA-TCP member countries.

The Final Declaration from the 8th Summit of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America states that "the countries of the ALBA-TCP (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Treaty) have joined together in a political, economic and social alliance in defense of the sovereignty, self-determination, identity and unity of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean." The presidents of the then 9 member states of the ALBA-TCP (Cuba, Bolivia, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Honduras, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) formally decided in 2009 to open the school of defense and sovereignty in order to defend against foreign military aggression and interference.

According to Bolivian President Evo Morales at a speech during the opening ceremony of the academy, the school will prepare the peoples of the region to defend against "imperialist threats which seek to divide us." He said that the "Peoples of the ALBA-TCP are being besieged, sanctioned and punished by the imperial arrogance just because we are exerting the right of being decent and sovereign." He also affirmed

U.S.-NATO Aggression

(continued from page 1)

intervention in Libya. A statement denouncing the U.S.-NATO airstrikes said, "The Political Council of the Bolivarian Alliance for the People of Our America – People's Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP), shares the global concern for the situation of conflict in Libya with its resulting loss of life and expresses its interest in the achievement of a peaceful and sovereign solution...without foreign interference, guaranteeing the territorial integrity of the country."

- The Foreign Ministry of North Korea issued a statement calling for an immediate halt to the U.S.-led military attacks and said, "The DPRK strongly denounces this as a wanton violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of an independent state and a hideous crime against humanity in gross breach of the dignity of the Libyan people and their right to existence."

- The government of China also denounced NATO airstrikes against Libya. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it opposes the use of force in international relations and that the airstrikes violate the "sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity" of Libya.

that, "We may not allow that the history of colonization repeats and that our resources are the loot of the empire."

Today, as U.S. imperialism steps up its worldwide struggle to assert itself as the sole superpower, it is increasing its exploitation of Latin America and, in turn, increasing its militarization of the continent in order to suppress any opposition to its domination.

In recent years, amongst other things, the U.S. has worked to restore direct colonial rule in Haiti, worked to destabilize the constitutional government of Venezuela, increased its direct military intervention in Colombia (openly declaring that it is waging a war against popular insurgency), carried out its savage blockade and preparations for direct military intervention against Cuba, extended and deepened its economic takeover of the continent through such mechanisms as the Central American Free Trade Agreement, The North American Free Trade Agreement, etc., etc. In addition, the Pentagon has been increasing its military presence throughout the region.

The militarization of Latin America and U.S. aggression against the peoples has always been a by-product of U.S. colonialism. The U.S. capitalist class has always considered Latin America as its "backyard." These days, as the worldwide crisis of capitalism deepens, the U.S. monopolies are working to step up their exploitation of Latin America. Through the program of "globalization" and "neo-liberalism," the U.S. monopolies are demanding that all the resources and economic infrastructure of the continent be put at their disposal. It is in order to "protect" this empire and suppress the movements of the people for national liberation and social emancipation that U.S. imperialism keeps militarizing Latin America and waging war against the peoples.

Facing this aggressive power the countries and peoples of the region have no choice but to seek ways to defend themselves. The just struggles of the Latin American peoples for independence, freedom and social progress deserve the support of everyone.

Asia

(continued from page 1)

ture of the Pentagon under a "Strategic Framework Agreement." Gates said that these plans include the deployment of U.S. Littoral Combat Ships to Singapore.

Already, U.S. warships prowl the oceans of Asia and 100,000 U.S. troops are "forward deployed" in Japan, South Korea and elsewhere.

This ever-growing militarization of Asia stems from U.S. imperialism's strategy of preemptive war and absolute military superiority. This reliance on military force is at the core of U.S. capitalism's drive to expand its world empire and enforce its domination over the entire world.