

UNITED NATIONS OF YOUTH

UNOY Net Kazakstan

Inter-Regional Youth Peace-building Conference on the role of Youth in Non-violent Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation

Almaty (Kazakstan), August 20-30, 1994

&

Peace-March by Train to Bishkek & Tashkent

"Young People must become conscious of their responsibilities in the world they will be called upon to manage and should be inspired with confidence in a future of happiness for mankind"

The Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly 2037 (XX), 7 December, 1965.

Background

The changing political climate between East and West, which led to the breakdown of the Berlin Wall and the end of the cold war, did not make an end of violence and war. Ex-Yugoslavia, Northern Ireland, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Abkhazia, Tadjikistan, ... and in many other parts of the world, wars are going on, causing the death of thousands of people, -often youth and children-, and gigantic streams of refugees. As a response, the United Nations Of Youth International Organisation and the UNOY Foundation organised the first International Conference of Young Peace-builders from "Axes of Conflict" on the role of youth in Non-Violent Conflict Resolution & Reconciliation, 20-27 of August, 1993 in the Peace Palace, The Hague.

Following the results and recommendations of this Youth Peace-builders conference, the UNOY Kazakstan, together with other Central Asian countries and Peace organisations will hold an Inter-Regional Youth Peace-building Conference on the Role of Youth in Non-Violent Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation in Almaty, from 20-30 August this year.

Short Background on the Central Asian situation

Today's developments in ex-USSR and ex-Yugoslavia are a threat to world peace. The Peace movements, must unite their strength in solidarity and act together to help set an end to war and violence and promote the creation of a "Culture of Peace".

The sovereignty which the Central Asian countries obtained after the breaking down of the former Soviet Union, gave us for the first time the opportunity to build up new and democratic societies in this region.

Central Asian countries (Kazakstan, Tadjikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan) have multi-religious and multi-ethnic populations. Its potential conflicts are similar in nature to those of the Caucasus and the Balkan countries. This makes us think of peace and the future of Central Asia.

The war in Tadjikistan and the danger of it spreading; the upcoming nationalism and fundamentalism in Central Asia, and today's communistic, nationalistic and fascist developments in Russia, are a source of great concern to this region, not to say, are close to conflict on territorial, inter-national and inter-religious grounds.

Any escalation of conflict in Central Asia is a severe threat to the people living here as also to world peace due to presence of over 1200 nuclear missiles in Kazakstan alone.

The objectives of the conference

As Youth we must work to change the course of events. We must create a vision for a peaceful future. We must commit ourselves to the essential role of youth in building a Culture of Peace through information, communication, understanding and solving conflicts through non-violent and creative means.

Our specific objectives for this conference are:

1) Communication, Information, and Education

- to utilize the experiences of youth for an increased role in peace-building and to network in order to unite our strength against nationalism, racism, and fascism; more specifically to work for a positive vision for the future in Central Asia.
- to offer workshops on creative methods of non-violent conflict resolution

2) Action

- exchanging and working out concrete projects)

3) Recommendations

- to consider an appeal to European and CIS-countries leaders to work with youth and non-governmental organizations to develop effective methods, mandatory instruments of International Law, and a new international machinery to prevent war, nationalism and fascism to pro-actively create structures of peacebuilding.
- to prepare a programme of youth action for 1995; 50 years after the 2nd World War, and the year of the 50th Anniversary of the UN, the 10th Anniversary of the International Youth Year and the UNESCO Year of Tolerance.

Suggestion to be discussed at the conference

* To propose to the Governments of Central Asia Countries to set up a Global Youth Village in Central Asia as a permanent Youth Center for Peace-building, Ecology, Training...

Conference Format

Being the first conference of its kind in Central Asia, the conference participants will be introduced into the history, traditions and culture of Central Asia and have an opportunity to meet with the local peoples.

The conference will consist of two parts:

The first part (6 days) will take place in Almaty (Kazakstan)

The second part (4 days) will be carried on a Peace Train:

on the route: Almaty (Kazakstan),
 Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan),
 Tashkent (Uzbekistan),
 Almaty.

Conference support

The conference is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism of Kazakstan, Peace organizations of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, East and Western Europe and the United Nations of Youth International Secretariat and UNOY Foundation in the Netherlands.

Conference Participants

Candidates will be selected on the bases of their involvement in the peace movements/actions and are asked to submit an essay on any of the objectives of the conference and/or their experience in peace action.

Target groups Youth (18-28 years of age) from:

- "axes of conflict" of Central & Middle Asia
- former & near-conflict situations ex-USSR & Eastern Europe
- peace-organizations and youth active in similar fields
 from Europe & ex-USSR & Asia

Conference guest speakers and facilitators

We will invite experts to give information and training on the themes of the conference.

Invited Guest speakers are:

S.Ashliaev, Minister of Culture of Kazakstan

C.Aitmatov, Nobel Prize Winner (Kyrgyzstan)

T.Miriakoubov, Vice-primer Minister of Uzbekistan

Advisory Members for the conference

Mr S.Ashliaev, Minister of Culture of Kazakstan
Mr.N.Firioubine, Chairman of UNOY Foundation (NL)
Mrs.M.Kooijman, Secretary of UNOY Foundation (NL)
Mr.G.Greune Chairman of Initiative for Peace (Germany)
Representatives of UN Information Center, UNICEF, UNESCO

Number of participants

	Youth		Experts	
Europe	27	+	3	
ex-USSR (inc.Central Asia)	25	+	3	
Staff members	8	+	2	
Total	62	+	8	= 70

Equal male and female participation will be aimed for.

Registration, Participation & Accommodation Fee

US \$ 150 for participants from Europe

US \$ 50 for participants from ex-USSR

It includes the costs of registration, accommodation, meals, local travel & Peace-March by Train:

Almaty - Bishkek - Tashkent - Almaty

Participation grants

Limited grants are available for participants from Eastern Europe, ex-USSR to help cover their travel, participation and accommodation cost. Requests for participation grants must be sent to the Organizing Committee in Kazakstan.

Working Language

English and Russian

Conference Organizing Committee :

UNOY NETs of Central Asia (Kazakstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tadjikistan) & Civic Peace (Kazakstan)

Application forms with all particulars and essay should be sent to the following addresses:

Civic Peace/ UNOY NET Kazakstan

M.Torez Str.47-29, Almaty, Kazakstan

Tel: ++7-3272-530619

Fax: ++7-3272-631207 (attn.238)

Telex: 251232 PTB SU (attn.238)

and till March 1 1994

UNOY International Secretariat

Venedien 25, NL-1441 AK Purmerend, The Netherlands

Tel: ++31-2990-36093

Fax: ++31-2990-27126