

we are talking about a gold mine as far as food is concerned.

Compared with other sea products, shrimp is the most important source of income. Last year, the U.S. bought 83 per cent of Mexico's 73 thousand tons of shrimp. That meant a \$400 million income for the country. The other 17% went to the consumer market. This seafood comes first in the Mexican fishing balance of trade and figures amongst Mexico's five principal exports in recent years.

The sardine is the most fished species in Mexico. The largest haul ever made took place last year, but because of its low price it is not economically relevant. Almost half of Mexico's 1986 sea production consisted of sardine, anchoveta, seaweed and sargasso. Nevertheless, they only added up to 2.3 per cent of the total value of sea products. Yet sardines are important because they are a balanced foodstuff within reach of most Mexicans.

Tuna-fish is also an important export product. When the U.S. set up a six-year embargo on Mexican goods, the country had to look for new markets in Europe. When the embargo was called off at the end of 1986 (see appendix), more tuna-fish was exported.

According to estimates, the present generation of Mexicans will see the end of this country's oil reserves. That's why Mexico is searching for new ways to increase and diversify the management of other resources which will keep the Mexican economy alive. The sea and its products are one out of various possibilities. If Mexico can achieve an ecological balance in its territorial waters and an economical balance by distributing its sea wealth in a socially just fashion, then the sea won't just be an alternative, it might mean the future itself.

Luz Guerrero Cruz

Congresswomen Hold Third Peace Conference

The forum demanded more reasoned leadership of world affairs

The danger which the arms race offers to peace and people's development was the central preoccupation of all those who assisted at the Third Annual Conference of Disarmament and Development, organized by the World's Congresswomen for Peace, on the 14th, 15th, and 16th June, in the headquarters of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Mexico City. 480 representatives of 29 countries took part.

Work began with the topical seminar, 'Women and peace', on Sunday 14th, and continued with the conference on the 15th and 16th, with outstanding proposals and statements.

During the inauguration of the seminar, the president of the High Commission of the Senate of the Republic of Mexico, Antonio Riva Palacio, talked of Mexico's pacific tradition and declared that the seminar was a valuable facet of parliamentary diplomacy, an international exercise that, parallel to and complementary to formal diplomatic relations between heads of State, would lead to a rapprochement between people, through their representatives.

This vision of Mexican foreign policy was reaffirmed on the second day of activities, when the President, Miguel de la Madrid, declared the Conference formally opened. The President declared that Mexico has always fought for general and total disarmament which will only be achieved when world public

opinion is made fully aware of the danger we live in.

Congresswomen for Peace had their first conference in Stockholm, Sweden, on April, 1985, and the second in New Delhi, India, April, 1986. In both events it was pointed out how minimal is woman's influence in decision-making on peace, military budgets and structures, and in negotiations on disarmament.

The Third Conference, presided over by the unanimously elected Mexican senator, Silvia Hernández, became a forum for the voice of preoccupation, and insistence on better reasoning in the leadership of world politics.

The outstanding themes that were treated in the Conference were: world military spending, the economic crisis and the arms race; and the need for disarmament for development.

The North American representative, Bella Abzug, stated her support for the termination of nuclear tests, dependent on the attitude taken by the Soviet Union. She also declared that the women of her country were opposed to the military aggression in Central America.

For her part, the Soviet Congresswoman, Rita Kukain, reminded us of the Chernobyl accident and gave it as an example of atomic danger. At the same time she declared herself against the arms race in space.

Tamako Nakanishi, from

revista mexicana de POLITICA EXTERIOR

Revista Mexicana de Política Exterior is a quarterly publication edited by the Mexican Foreign Service Institute (attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), that provides written evidence of the outstanding facts



that leave trace of Mexico's international behavior as well as the most relevant aspects of its foreign policy, through essays, notes and reports, book reviews, chronological news, speeches and documents.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yearly: Mexico, 3 000 pesos; U.S. Canadá, Central America, South America, US25. Rest of the world US34.

Please contact: Fideicomiso para la edición, publicación, distribución y venta de obras en Materia de Relaciones Internacionales de México. Ricardo Flores Magón No. 1. Ex-Convento de Tlatelolco 06995 México, D.F. Phone: 782-40-23 and 782-33-41.

The Peace Conference's Conclusions

Table No 1: Disarmament and Development

The analysis of the discussions concluded that the external debt, the arms race and the lack of a tolerable minimum standard of living, are factors that favour and strengthen the continuance of "the dirty business of arms and the interest in maintaining a hegemony based on the domination over people, hunger, unemployment, the lack of health and habitations." This in turn causes conflicts and social upheaval that facilitate interventionism and the arms race.

It was added that we must always act on behalf of human rights in all parts, supporting the countries where internal violence, repression and the precariousness of life limits the individual.

The analysis states that women united can give battle to the struggle for life, for happiness, justice and a better world for future generations.

Table No 2: Women and War and Peace

Several declarations resulted from this round table, among which was the outstanding support to the Peace Initiative of the Group of Six, building and strengthening women's organizations to form networks of alliances to this end.

They repeat their preoccupation with finding solutions to the problem of external debt in Latinamerican countries and they reject the policies of economic and financial pressurizing.

The congresswomen reject any pressure that cancels the free self-determination of the people.

They also pronounced themselves in favour

of more attention to the refugee problem and of full respect for human rights, among other points of equal importance.

Table No 3: Science and Technology for Peace

It is remarkable that half of the research budget in developed countries is channelled into the war effort, which implies that they are employing the best technology available for the extermination of humanity.

They emphasize that the Third World countries refuse to be dumps for military industrial waste and they demand the restoration and conservation of the environment.

They also demand strict regulations to restrict the advance of militarization in space, as well as the complete elimination of bacteriological chemical arms.

Table No 4: Towards a Peace Culture

The participants reflected on why the different art forms, constituting the highest manifestations of the spirit, contribute towards the cancellation of the conflicts which lead to the destruction of harmony between people and nations. A call is made for creative works that bring messages of peace to a world where the ecological laws are violated and where brotherhood and ethics are illusions. Art gives us the power to solve the mysteries surrounding the human condition.

decreased benefits for health, pension, social security, education, and habitations.

Also, the Nicaraguan representative, Angela Rosa Acevedo, made an inventory of the results of the absence of peace in her country: 40,027 Nicaraguans are victims of the war of aggression and material damages sum 2,821 million dollars.

On the other hand, the New Zealand Congresswoman, Ann Hercus, reasserted her government's intention to continue prohibiting entry to its territory of ships or planes carrying nuclear arms.

At the close of the Conference, on the 16th, there was a Final Declaration, by general agreement, in which it was stated that the arms race and the build up of the nuclear arsenals constituted the greatest danger that humanity has ever faced.

"We condemn the very existence of the nuclear arsenals since we consider them a constant peril to the human race", states the Declaration. It adds that to continue the method of dissuasion by means of terror "cannot help us to overcome the present world crisis, where increasingly greater military expenditure contrasts openly with the basic unsatisfied needs of humankind."

The Conference also gave its support to the negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union designed to eliminate the medium-range weapons in Europe since if this were achieved it would be the first step towards the total elimination of nuclear arms.

The congresswomen, in their final document, demand that women be included at the negotiation tables and in any conference on the arms race.

"We refuse to share the responsibility for the destruction of this planet", states the declaration.

Finally, it was agreed that the Fourth Annual Conference of this organization would take place in Australia, next year.

Enrique Vargas Anaya

Japan, the only country that has suffered the ravages of an

atomic attack, lamented the attitude of her Prime Minister,

who has increased military spending and drastically



Photo from Unomasuno Archive

President Miguel de la Madrid, accompanied by Senator Silvia Hernández and Mexican Congressional and Senatorial leaders, during the inauguration of the Third Conference.