

DEAR COLLEAGUE,

A group of writers from a number of European countries, U.S. and Canada took the initiative of extending to you an invitation to attend the meeting-and-dialogue on peace, to be held in Sofia.

Attached herewith is the full text of the Appeal by the group of prominent writers. It will undoubtedly bring to your awareness the noble and humane purposes of this initiative. We shall be honoured by your presence at the meeting and will greatly appreciate your participation in the discussion. Your overall work whose profound meaning is the anxious and honest concern over the future of mankind and the noble call on mankind to safeguard the Earth from a thermo-nuclear holocaust, has given us this conviction. There is one great idea bringing all writers together irrespective of their ideological, religious, political and other differences - the idea of the survival of mankind and its civilization.

Notifying you that the meeting will begin on June 7 and will last three days, we very much hope to see you in Sofia. Travelling, accommodation and other expenses during your stay in Bulgaria will be undertaken, as pointed out in the Appeal, by the Union of Bulgarian Writers. After the meeting we shall offer you an interesting three-day programme which will provide you with the opportunity of

getting a first-hand idea of Bulgaria, young and old, of its past and present. We shall do our best to make your stay in Bulgaria enjoyable.

Availing myself of the occasion to express once again my genuine admiration of the work you are doing in the field of literature and culture I send you my sincerest greetings.

I am looking forward to your positive reply which you are kindly requested to send before April 30, 1977, at the following address:

Union of Bulgarian Writers,
5, Angel Kunchev Str.,
1000 Sofia

BULGARIA

Yours sincerely,

Academician PANTELEI ZAREV
President of the Union
of Bulgarian Writers

P. Zarev

EVGENII EVTUSHENKO
USSR

Evgenii Evtushenko

GEORGII MARKOV
USSR

G. Markov

GEORGI KARASLAVOV
Bulgaria

Georgi Karaslavov

GIANNI RODARI
Italy

Gianni Rodari

GOFREDO PARISE
Italy

Gofredo Parise

GORE VIDAL
USA

Gore Vidal

GYULA ILYES
Hungary

Gyula Ilyes

HANS KRENDLESBERGER
Austria

Hans Krendlesberger

HANS SCHERFIG
Denmark

Hans Scherfig

HANS HALBEY
FR of Germany

Hans A. Halbey

HERMAN KANT
GDR

Herman Kant

HERVÉ BEZIN
France

Hervé Bazin

HORST BINGEL
FR of Germany

Horst Bingel

HUGO HUPPERT
Austria

Prof. Dr. Hugo Huppert

IMRE DOBOZY
Hungary

Imre Doboz

IVAR LO-JOHANSSON
Sweden

Ivar Johansson

IVOR MONTAGU
Great Britain

Ivor Montagu

Dear Colleague,

We should like to bring to your attention a matter of major importance.

In our day and age it is particularly necessary for a writer's conscience to be felt. What we are speaking of is peace: that peace which is being endangered by the unprecedented growth of armaments, by wars and conflicts breaking out here and there on our planet; that peace which preserves culture, our existence, man's creative work, the future of our children.

In this world of ours there are very many different kinds of obstacles: social, political, ideological, linguistic, cultural. But at the same time the world is one indivisible entity: it is the home of mankind. Peace in this home is the guarantee of the happiness of those who live in it.

It has often been said that literature is the powerful means of communication among people. This is an indisputable fact. But this idea may be expressed even more forcefully: literature overcomes the prejudices which divide people; a writer is an ambassador of peace. This concept of the mission of literature and the role of a writer has invaded the minds of many of our fellow-writers. For this reason, we propose that a meeting be held on the following theme: "WRITERS AND PEACE - THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI AND THE DUTY OF WORKERS IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE". At this Meeting the idea of writer's participating in the defence of peace and humanism, and in the preservation and development of cultural values will be discussed in a frank and comprehensive way.

We propose that the Meeting take place in Bulgaria - a beautiful and hospitable country that has suffered the horrors of war and accepted peace as her own destiny and future.

We are inviting to this Meeting distinguished figures in modern literature, your colleagues from those countries that have signed the Final Act at Helsinki, including Canada and the USA, as well as writers from other countries who cherish peace.

We consider that meetings of this kind have already established a good tradition and that now we have something to lean on. We must continue this tradition with further discussions on problems that move all of us and are of exceptional importance to the destiny and future of our nations and mankind.

All expenses at the forthcoming Meeting, including two-way fare, will be met by the Union of Bulgarian Writers.

In addressing you, we are convinced that such an important and responsible writers' conference as this will be met with your full understanding. For, we believe that a writer's noble duty should be one of striving for and serving peace, his fellow-countrymen, and the whole of mankind.

We are looking forward to hearing from you at the following address:

UNION OF BULGARIAN WRITERS,
5, A. Kunchev St.,
1000 Sofia
BULGARIA
Signed by:

Ives Theriaux

IVES THERIAUX
Canada

James Aldridge

JAMES ALDRIDGE
Great Britain

Jan Kozak

JAN KOZAK
CSSR

Jannis Ritsos

JANNIS RITSOS
Greece

Jaroslav Iwaszkiewicz

JAROSLAW IWASZKIEWICZ
Poland

John Gheever

JOHN GHEEVER
USA

John Colombo

JOHN COLOMBO
Canada

John Updike

JOHN UPDIKE
USA

Jose Castellet

JOSE CASTELLET
Spain

Kamen Kalchev

KAMEN KALCHEV
Bulgaria

Konstantin Simonov

KONSTANTIN SIMONOV
USSR

Lars Helden

LARS HULDEN
Finland

Lyubomir Levchev

LYUBOMIR LEVCHEV
Bulgaria

Ludwig Renn

LUDVIG RENN
DDR

Maria Teresa Leon

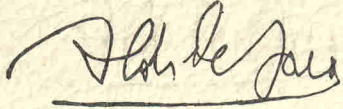
MARIA TERESA LEON
Spain

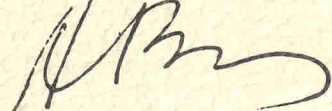
Michael Scharang


MICHAEL SCHARANG
Austria

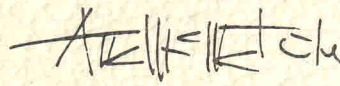
Mikhail Sholokhov

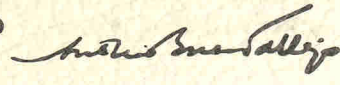
MIKHAIL SHOLOKHOV
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ALDO DE JACO
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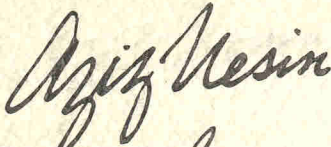
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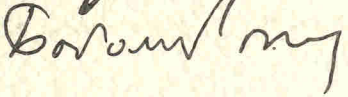
ANDREI PLAVKA
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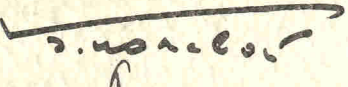
ANNA MARIA MATUTE
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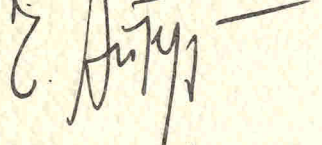
ANTONIO BUERO VALLEJO
Spain


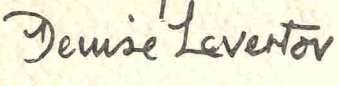
ARTUR LUNDKVIST
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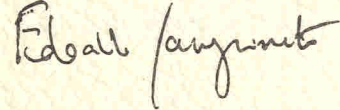
AZIS NESIN
Turkey


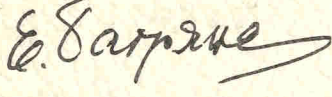
BOGOMIL RAINOV
Bulgaria


BORIS POLEVOI
USSR



CHENGIZ AITMATOV
USSR


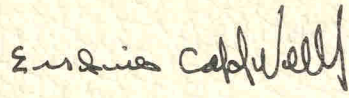
DENISE LEVERTOV
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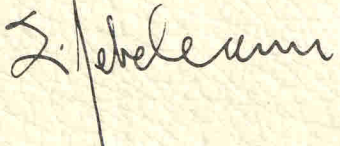
EDOARDO SANGUINETI
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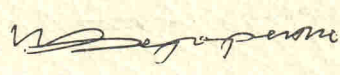
EMILIAN STANEV
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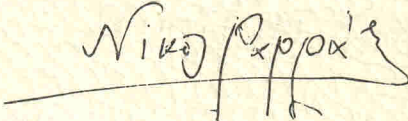

ERNESTU MELU CASTRU
Portugal



ERSKINE CALDWELL
USA


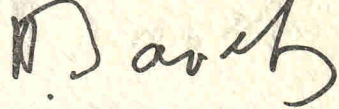
EUGEN JEBELIANU
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Mariam Waddington
MARIAM WADDINGTON
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NIKOLAI FEDORENKO
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NIKOS PAPPAS
Greece



PAVO RINTALA
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PANTELEI ZAREV
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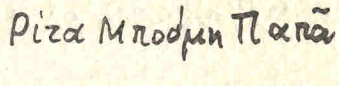

PETER WEISS
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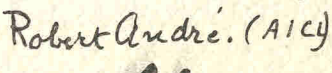

PIERRE SEGHERS
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PIERRE GAMARRA
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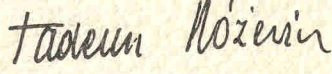

PIETRO BUTTITTA
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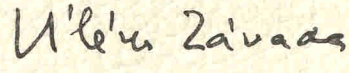

RAFAEL ALBERTI
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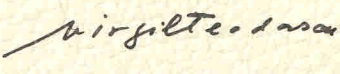

RITA BUMI PAPPA
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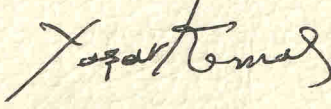

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ROBERT MERLE
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TADEUSZ RÓZEWICZ
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