

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

*G. Karaslavov*

GIANNI RODARI  
Italy

*Gianni Rodari*

GOFREDO PARISE  
Italy

*G. 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 Halbey*

HERMAN KANT  
GDR

*Herman Kant*

HERVÉ BEZIN  
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*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 Hulden*

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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Italy

*Aldo De Jaco*

Mariam Waddington

MARIAM WADDINGTON  
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*Andrei Voznesenskii*

*Nikolai Fedorenko*

NIKOLAI FEDORENKO  
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*Andrej Plavka*

*Nikos Pappas*

NIKOS PAPPAS  
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ANNA MARIA MATUTE  
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*Anna Maria Matute*

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*Antonio Buero Vallejo*

*Pantelei Zarev*

PANTELEI ZAREV  
Bulgaria

ARTUR LUNDKVIST  
Sweden

*Artur Lundkvist*

*Peter Weiss*

PETER WEISS  
Sweden

AZIS NESIN  
Turkey

*Azis Nesin*

*Pierre Seghers*

PIERRE SEGHERS  
France

BOGOMIL RAINOV  
Bulgaria

*Bogomil Rainov*

*Pierre Gamarra*

PIERRE GAMARRA  
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BORIS POLEVOI  
USSR

*Boris Polevoi*

*Pietro Buttitta*

PIETRO BUTTITTA  
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CHENGIZ AITMATOV  
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*Chengiz Aitmatov*

*Rafael Alberti*

RAFAEL ALBERTI  
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DENISE LEVERTOV  
USA

*Denise Levertov*

*Rita Bumi Pappa*

RITA BUMI PAPPA  
Greece

EDOARDO SANGUINETI  
Italy

*Edoardo Sanguineti*

*Robert André (AIC)*

ROBERT ANDRÉ  
France

ELISSAVETA BAGRYANA  
Bulgaria

*Elissaveta Bagryana*

*Robert Merle*

ROBERT MERLE  
France

EMILIAN STANEV  
Bulgaria

*Emilian Stanev*

*Tadeusz Rózewicz*

TADEUSZ RÓZEWICZ  
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ERNESTU MELU CASTRU  
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*Ernesto Melo Castro*

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ERSKINE CALDWELL  
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VIRJIL TEODORESCU  
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EUGEN JEBELIANU  
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*Eugen Jebelianu*

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YASAR KEMAL  
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