International Relations Bulletin

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TUI-PS&A Congratulates
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This bulletin is published by the NEHAWU International Relations Department to capture and share the proceedings of the Hybrid International Seminar held on Tuesday, 26th August 2025. The seminar marked the historic anniversaries of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and the Trade Union International of Public Services & Allied (TUI-PS&A), while also launching the important new book by WFTU Honorary President, Cde George Mavrikos.

In these pages, we record the significance of this gathering, the key contributions made by our comrades from across the region and internationally, and the solidarity expressed by our alliance partners. The bulletin is intended both as a record of this momentous occasion and as a tool to disseminate the messages of the seminar among NEHAWU members, sister unions, and the wider trade union movement.

The struggles and tasks outlined at the seminar remain central to our work. By sharing these reflections widely, we aim to strengthen the bonds of solidarity and ensure that the messages of the WFTU and TUI-PS&A continue to inform, guide, and inspire our movement.

On the 26th of August 2025, we convened an important Hybrid International Seminar to mark two historic milestones in the global working-class movement — the 80th anniversary of the

Editorial

Cde Zola Saphetha | General Secretary

World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and the 76th anniversary of the Trade Union International of Public Services & Allied (TUI-PS&A). At the centre of this celebration was the launch of the book by WFTU Honorary President and President of the International Workers' Institute, Comrade George Mavrikos, Critical Notes on the World Trade Union Movement: Issues of Tactics and Strategy, which provides timely reflections for our collective struggles.

The seminar was not only a commemoration but also an affirmation of the enduring relationship between the WFTU, the TUI-PS&A, and the South African liberation movement. From the days of the fight against apartheid and imperialism to today's struggles against neoliberalism, austerity, and privatisation, our movements have stood together in unity and solidarity.

We were honoured to host comrades from public sector unions across the region — Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Mozambique, Botswana, and Swaziland — together with the WFTU represented by Cde George Mavrikos. Virtually, we were joined and addressed by the President of TUI-PS&A, Cde Artur Sequeira. Locally, the presence and contributions from our alliance partners — the SACP, COSATU, and the ANC — underscored the strategic importance of this gathering.

This bulletin is published both to record this historical event and to ensure that the important messages shared at the seminar reach all union members and our wider trade union partners. As NEHAWU, we continue to labour to be proud ambassadors of the WFTU and TUI-PS&A, carrying their messages and advancing their tasks wherever we are organised.

This seminar was a resounding success, strengthening the visibility and profile of the WFTU and TUI-PS&A in our region, and deepening the engagement of sister unions with the work of these organisations. As we celebrated these historic anniversaries, we reaffirmed our commitment to the tasks and responsibilities that both the WFTU and TUI-PS&A have placed before us: to fight for public services, defend workers' rights, and confront capitalism and imperialism in all its forms.

We emerged from this event renewed in our conviction that the unity of the working class, across borders and sectors, remains our most powerful weapon. The lessons of history, as highlighted in Comrade Mavrikos' book, guide us as we continue the struggle for a just and humane world.

President's Address

Cde Mike Shingane | NEHAWU President

Amandla!

¡Viva Working Class Solidarity Viva!

Phantsi ngeImperialism Phantsi!

Forward to Socialism Forward!

Down with Capitalism Down!

Cde 1st Deputy President Cde Nyameka Macanda, together with the national office bearers present here, members of the National Executive Committee, and all delegates to this International Seminar as well as our collective bargaining conference starting tomorrow, our international guests, all protocol observed. Comrades allow me to greet the General Secretary of WFTU and his secretary, to greet the President of TUCTA, the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania, Cde Tumaini Nyamhokya, who hosted us a few days ago in Dar es Salaam, at the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) 46th General Council. Welcome to South Africa.

I am going to transfer my responsibility later tonight, so that he can show us how to host guests and delegates. He's very good at hosting. Former leaders of NEHAWU, the COSATU leadership led by the Deputy General Secretary Cde Gerarld Twala, we must also acknowledge the President of WFTU, Cde Michael Makhwayiba, who is not present here, who was with us earlier, because he is struggling with ill health, so we excused him tonight, and he's going to join us later on this week.

I need to also welcome the SADC trade union movements that have joined us, Cde Adrian from the ANC. We have invited POPCRU and the National Union of Mineworkers, as part of the affiliates of COSATU, not for the historical relationship that they have with WFTU individually as affiliates, now that COSATU is an affiliate of WFTU, but for the purpose that together with us as NEHAWU they are leading TUI's of WFTU. NUM is leading the TUI responsible for Energy and Mining while POPCRU are with us in the TUI-PS&A, together with our General Secretary, Cde Zola Saphetha.

Allow me therefore, comrades, to extend a warm revolutionary greeting to all those who are present here, and allow me to salute the leadership of the World Federation of Trade Unions, its Secretariat, its Presidential Council, and its regional structures across the globe. We acknowledge, comrades, your unbroken dedication to the working class struggles, your tireless commitment over 80 years, and your courage to hold the banner of class struggles high, even in the moments when others abandoned it for reformism and compromise.

We recognise and appreciate the presence of our comrades form Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, from Asia, the Middle East from across our African continent. And this we do because we know this event is hybrid and is being attended by our international friends across the world. You have travelled long distances but your presence here affirms that the working class has no borders and that solidarity is stronger than any regime, it is stronger than any wall, and stronger than any attempt to divide us as workers. As South African workers and the South African nation as a whole, we know the pain of divisions, isolation, and segregation, we also know the benefits of unity and solidarity, amongst the nations and amongst the working class in general.

We also greet the fraternal unions and organisations who stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us in the trenches of daily struggles, whether in Havana, in Athens, in Caracas, in Damascus, in Harare or in Johannesburg. Above all, comrades, we salute the workers themselves. The nurses in Palestine who treat the wounded under the bombardment of the Israeli Regime, the Cuban doctor who saves live in remote villages across Africa despite the blockade, the South African cleaners who keep our schools and hospitals functioning, the Venezuelan teacher who educates under sanctions, the Indian rail worker who resists

privatisation. These are the true dignitaries of the event today, their sacrifices and resilience are the living proof of what internationalism means in practice.

Today we gather not only to celebrate not only the 80th Anniversary of WFTU but to renew our collective commitment to the unfinished struggle of workers' world wide. For 80 years WFTU has been the uncompromising voice of the working class, the only international federation that never bowed before capital, never abandoned its anti-imperialist stance, and never betrayed the poor and exploited. Comrades in saluting these milestones, we are not merely offering words of praise, we are also declaring that the torch passed down to us from 1945 burns in our hands today and it is our duty to keep it alive, for the generations that will follow. For us in NEHAWU this is not just a milestone of history but a living testimony of international working class solidarity, it is a reminder that our struggles have never been confined to national borders, exploitation is global and so too must be our resistance.

Having been founded in 1945 in the aftermath of WWII WFTU taught us and brought together militant trade unions across continents under a common understanding that peace, freedom and social justice could not be secured without the unity of workers. From its inception it placed the working class at the centre of history, challenging imperialism, colonialism and capitalist exploitation. In Africa in particular, WFTU stood firm on the side of the liberation movements, it provided solidarity to workers under colonial domination, supported the struggle against apartheid in South Africa and helped to shape the first generation of militant African trade unions. The Struggle of SACTU and later COSATU drew strength from this internationalism. WFTU consistently reminded the world that African workers were not only fighting for better wages but for the dismantling of colonialism and racial capitalism. We learned from WFTU that when one worker is attacked anywhere, all workers are attacked everywhere. And this principle must guide us in our programmes moving forward. The victories that were won in Europe, in Latin America and in Asia, were only possible

because workers understood that capital is global and so must be their resistance.

We now, comrade, assert the relevance and importance in keeping WFTU alive in all our minds, in all of our work places because the neoliberal offensive is global, privatisation, austerity, casualization, and union bashing are coordinated strategies of global capital. Without a militant global federation like WFTU workers would face this onslaught in isolation. WFTU remains the only international body that challenges imperialism, neoliberal globalisation and capitalist hegemony. It is for this reason that NEHAWU and COSATU must remain firmly anchored within WFTU, our membership is not ceremonial. Our membership is strategic. It connects the struggle of South African workers with those of our comrades in Havana, in Athens, in Caracas, and in Ramallah.

We have got a task, comrades, that NEHAWU and COSATU occupy as strategic tasks, COSATU occupies a unique place within WFTU as a militant federation born out of SACTU and the liberation struggle. COSATU embodies the historic role of uniting workers, and connecting workplace struggles with the broader fight for social transformation.

For us as NEHAWU this means that our responsibility is two fold. First is to ensure that WFTU remains a vibrant, militant and class orientated federation. Second is to place internationalism at the centre of our work, linking local struggle against austerity and neoliberal restructuring with the broader global battle against imperialism and exploitation. And that is why in the theme of our congress, under which we are convening this celebration we said: we must heighten internationalism. Our role is not just to defend South African workers but to be a frontline voice for workers of the global south within the WFTU.

Even today comrades as we face the global onslaught by imperialism led by the USA, under the Trump Administration, we count on WFTU to stand firmly with us in condemning the unjust tariffs, unjust sanctions, unjust aggression and unjust warmongering. We call on the working class of the world, to stand with us in defending our democratic sovereignty, our progressive transformation

advances such as NHI, the Bela Act, the Land Expropriation Act, and the ICJ case against the Apartheid State of Israel for genocidal crimes against the people of Palestine and against humanity as a whole. We cannot standby and watch the US terrorize ICJ and ICC court officials for doing what was long overdue, prosecution of war crimes. We cannot allow our country to be santioned for manufactured lies fo false white genocide and fictious persecution of Afrikaners. To this extent AfriForum, Solidarity, Freedom Front Plus including the South African Board of Jewish Deputies, the South African Zionist Federation must be declared enemies of our democratic state, and be called on to account for their sustained misinformation against our country.

It is alarming how the US administration has become so desperate to the point of wanting to personally charge our comrades for the ANC led government, who are actively advancing progressive transformation and the mandate of the people. By effecting sanctions against them it is pure criminality, and we must never allow it to happen under our watch. This is why we call the upcoming Central Committee of COSATU to take a very firm stand in outlining measures to defend and advance international solidarity with our country, the working class of South Africa, and our own movement, the ANC and the alliance, in regards to the attempts against progressive legislations and transformation. South Africa does not persecute white Afrikaners. There's no reason for any South African, white people in particular, to seek refuge in the United States of America.

We call for a coordinated approach between SACP, COSATU and the ANC on this matter to draw in as widest possible a network of activists in mobilising for international solidarity and defence of our revolutionary gains. The right

wing forces led by the Trump Administration are on the rampage hence the spread of fascism, sexism, chauvinism and injustice globally. The international trade union movement led by WFTU should be an anchor of this world wide movement and challenge all progressive forces to act and act decisively in defence of the working class in south africa and throughout the global south, africa in particular. Towards this end, we want to re-affirm that we stand firmly in our full support of the people of Palestine against the barbaric Zionist State of Israel, which is involved in war crimes and genocide. We also stand in full solidarity with the people of Cuba in their anti-Imperialist war against the illegal blockage of the US, we call for more uity of workers in africa against oppression in Swaziland, and call for more justice and inclusive development in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and throughout the SADC Region. At the same time as we call for peace and stability for economic development and industrialization in Sudan, DRC and all over the continent.

I conclude by saying that the 80th anniversary of WFTU is not just a commemoration, it is a clarion call to consolidate workers hegemony internationally, regionally, and also locally. It is an opportunity to commit and reaffirm that the unity of workers is the only guarantee against the violence of capital. And therefore unity is the strategy for all working people. NEHAWU through COSATU and the WFTU must continue to stand as the torch bearer of internationalism, for without int solidarity there is no victory for the working class. I conclude with the words of Samora Mchel, when he said that international slldiaryt is not an act of charity, it is an act of unity between allies fighting on different terrains towards the same objective. The foremost of these objectives is to aid the development of humanity to the highest level.

Amandla!

¡Viva WFTU Viva!

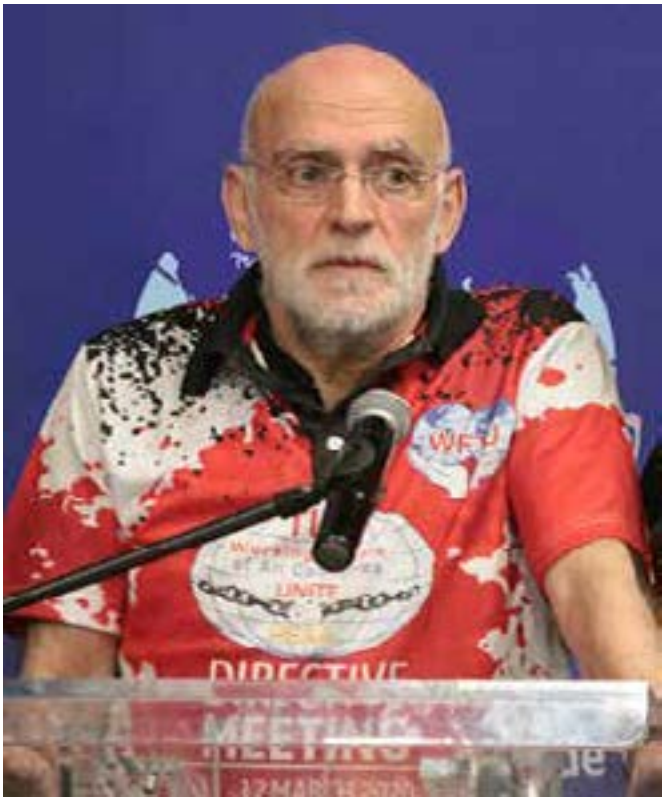
¡Viva TUI VIva!

Long Live International Working

Class Solidarity Long Live!

Anniversay Message

Cde Artur Sequeira| TUI-PS&A President



Comrades and Friends

It's a pleasure to join NEHAWU as it commemorates the 80th anniversary of the WFTU since its founding on the 3rd of October 1945. As the TUI of Public Service, we form an integral part of the WFTU, and its work. NEHAWU is also part of the WFTU and TUI family. So, in a way, we are celebrating our own existence and struggles.

This year, our TUI is also marking the 76th anniversary since its establishment at the WFTU conference held in Berlin on 29 October 1949. So, we are proud to have contributed 76 years of work in the Public Service and Allied sector in the course of 80 years of existence of the WFTU. For that reason, we are filled with immense pride for our modest contribution to the WFTU "80 years of class struggle – with Internationalism and Solidarity". As an extension of the WFTU in the Public Service and Allied sphere, we celebrate all the successes of the WFTU, and take our share of responsibilities in all its tribulations and setbacks over the years.

We have no doubt that the WFTU will continue to grow, and positively influence the work of its affiliates and TUI's through democratic process to challenge capitalism and imperialism in every corner of the world. Its presence and viability will continue to be felt through the struggles and material difference it brings to bear on the international class struggle and the working conditions of workers.

Comrades, we also salute NEHAWU and other affiliates of the WFTU and its TUI's for keeping the flame of class oriented trade unionism alive in this part of the world. We are cognizant of the fact that the actual work and day to day activity that makes the presence of both WFTU and its TUI's to be felt internationally is carried out at a local country to country level by millions of workers who belong to unions such as NEHAWU and others.

NEHAWU has a rich history of struggle against Apartheid in South Africa, and imperialism on the international stage. It forms an integral part of the WFTU and TUI-PS&A family that continues to fight for an egalitarian society in today's world. Equally, many outstanding South African trade unionists have served in the ranks of the WFTU and its TUI's over the years. It thus fills us with great pride and joy to see that the current generation of trade unionist continue to advance working class struggles against capitalism and imperialism.

The fact that you host this 80th anniversary commemoration of the WFTU in the course of your National Collective bargaining conference tells us that you understand the need to link the WFTU anniversary celebrations with concrete programs and struggles that advance the demands of workers and the working class.

As the TUI-PS&A we wish to once more join you in your salute of the 80th anniversary of the formation and existence of WFTU as an instrument in the international working class struggle.

We wish you all the best.

Long live WFTU!

Forward TUI-PS&A!

Viva NEHAWU!

Keynote Speaker Introduction

Cde Zola Saphetha | General Secretary

He was born and raised on a small island, Skyros, which rises like a rock in the central-northern Aegean Sea with 3000 inhabitants. Most of the inhabitants were shepherds, the rest fishermen and farmers. He lived in Skyros from his birth in 1950 until he was 16 years old. Both of his parents were shepherds like all his ancestors. They lived in the mountains and pastures taking care of their animals.

In 1966 he immigrated to Athens. He completed his secondary education at the municipality of Agioi Anargyroi. In Athens,.his first job was as an agricultural worker in the "Ponirakis" greenhouses while he was still a student. While he was an evening student at the "Omiros" technical school in N. Ionia, he worked for a short time as a loader at the shipyards of the port city Skaramagas and at the "Anoxal" metal factory. He then worked in the textile industry in large factories, such as the German company "Hudson" from which he was dismissed for his trade union activity; then to "Klostiria Attikis" from where he was also fired for political textile factories in Athens. He worked as a commercial employee for four years in a central commercial store in Athens, then in Thessaloniki and Larissa; for 11 years he worked in a large company of tractors and agricultural machinery, while during the same period, as a worker student, he studied at the Faculty of Law of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

His political and trade union activity began during the time of the dictatorship in Greece (1967-1974). He started from the base, elected by grassroot Committees within workplaces to rise step by step to the highest positions of responsibility. This endowed him with the experience and knowledge that comes from direct, daily contact with ordinary workers and their problems. In 1976, he was elected to the leadership of the Athens Private Employees' Union and later became President of the Union. In 1982, he was elected Organizational Secretary of the Athens Departmental Union of Trade Unions which was and is the largest Departmental Union in Greece.

In the period 1984-1985, he was Vice President of the Committee of Union Notebooks. In the period 1992-2010, he was a member of the administration of the General Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE) as well as its General Secretary in the years 1993-1998. He was President for ten years of the Institute for the Study of Greek Trade Union History (ARISTOS). He led All-Workers' Militant Front of Greece (PAME) from its foundation in 1999 until 2007. He was Vice President of the WFTU (2000-2005) and then its Secretary General (2005-2022). The delegates of the 18th World Trade Union Congress, held in May 2022, in Rome, as a sign of honor for his contribution, declared him Honorary President of the WFTU. In the period 2005-2012 he was elected Member of the Greek Parliament with the Communist Party of Greece (KKE).

For his political and union activity, he was persecuted by the employers and by the bourgeois state. He was arrested several times by the police, judged by bourgeois courts. In total, he was fired 6 times. In 2018, when he was the permanent representative of the WFTU to the UN, the US State Department and its embassy in Athens banned him from entering the United States, calling him a danger to the country.

Throughout his path, he never lost constant contact with his roots and his island.

Keynote Address

Cde George Mavrikos | WFTU Hon. President

¡VIVA NEHAWU VIVA!

¡VIVA COSATU VIVA!

¡VIVA WFTU VIVA!

¡VIVA TUI VIVA!

Thank you, dear comrades. Thank you, Cde Zola. But, from the the beginning, allow me to underline or to give the correct picture, that for the WFTU to grow from 42 million members to 110 million members, is not the result only from the efforts of the General Secretary, not results from the efforts only of the struggles of one person but it is collective efforts, the result of all of us, together, with you, with Fikile with Mike of WFTU, with Mike President of NEHAWU, all of you, our colleagues from NUM, from POPCRU, from many many unions, from the ground of your country and around the world. It is and was collective struggles, common struggles, all of our fighters with class oriented spirit. This is the truth and this is the fact, Cde Zola.

Dear brothers and sisters, first of all, allow me to express our thanks for this invitation to be together with all of you, to be with the leadership of NEHAWU, with the leaders of your movement, with the leaders of COSATU, with the leaders and members of the Politburo of the South African Communist Party, together with all of you. It is an honour for me that I am here today with all of you. And allow me to congratulate the leaders of NEHAWU, Mike and Zola, and all of you, because brothers and sisters, dear comrades, I want to inform you that NEHAWU is not only a very important union for your country, at the same time it is a very important union in Africa, and all over the world. It is very crucial, and plays a very important role in the international trade union arena. And you know that Cde Zola

is the leader of the TUI-PS&A. And through this sectoral union your NEHAWU sits with very, very important positions and of course very important roles.

Also it is our task brothers and sisters, from the beginning, to express all of our feelings, all of our solidarity feelings, sincere feelings with the heroic people of Palestine who suffer under the criminals of the Israeli government, and we need to support their struggle to live in their country in Ramallah, in the West Bank, in Gaza and in all Palestinian territories.

Brothers and sisters, the invitation fFrom the NEHAWU is to speak about the 80th Anniversary of the World Federation of Trade Unions which was founded on 3rd of October 1945. We are going to organise the official Anniversary celebration on the 3rd of October 2025 in Paris, in the same place which in 1945 the WFTU was founded. Brothers and comrades, history is generally useful. Sometimes we think that history is the past. It is not only the past. No. History is not only the past. Why? Because, dear comrades, history is a lesson, a tool and an instrument, for our struggles, for today and for tomorrow.

For our future because from our positive steps from 1945 also from our negatives, from our force, from our weakness. Today we have to learn to be more strong, with better experience, useful knowledge, to go on to strengthen our struggle. Because of this history we need to use as a window for the future. We need to use our lessons from the history of the trade union movement, and especially from the history of the World Federation of Trade Unions. We are proud of the history of the WFTU. Because it was always, and will continue to be, absolutely we will continue to be in the same rank with the ordinary people, with the popular strata, with the working class all over the world. for the emancipation of the working class, for the end of exploitation of man by man, in the direction of a world with a different social system; socialism. Because of this, brothers and sisters, we need to learn from the history of the WFTU.

As you know the working class from its first steps, from the foundation of its first trade unions it tried to coordinate its struggles, because the coordination of struggles means that we don't struggle alone, but we have our colleagues, we have brothers, we have our social class. And after the foundation of the first unions in the ground, in local or in sectoral level, we try create federations, after the federation we created the confederations, and after confederation, the Working Class tried to have the next step to coordinate with their neighbours outside of country, to try to continue with continent, and in the next steps in international levels. The important step, dear brother and sisters, for the working class and for our movement was when Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels created the 1st International.

Until that time, we all of know, that the working class sometimes felt that their enemies were machines, that sometimes they created unions together with capitals. From the first international, it was the big step that changed the history of the world working class movement. When Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels said that there are in society two main social classes: the working class and the bourgeois class. And these classes are always in conflict. From that time the

next big step was in 1920, when the ComIntern was created, the Red International Trade union Movement, after that step many man many unions appeared in many countries, in many continents it was crucial, the role of red International For the international trade union movement, it was very very important. In the founding Congress of Red ComIntern, there were 20 unions from 50 countries with 20 million members. Their role was very very important.

And The next important step for us was immediately after the end of the second world war May 1945. We need to think about the spirit of that time, the spirit was that of the red army. It was very very famous from the struggle against the fascism, against nazism and the spirit was very strong in the working class and in the ordinary people. At that time the trade union movement all over the world discussed and decided to organise an international Congress to sit together and to create something common for their struggles. And the Congress decided to be in Paris from the beginning of October. It was a nine day Congress. 3rd of October it was the decision of the unions at that Congress to create the WFTU. In that Congress Brothers and sisters, all Federations, all unions, all over the world participated in the Congress of the WFTU, except one Federation. Only the IFL American Labour Federation. They refused to participate. All other unions, from all over the world, were in Paris. They decided on Paris. And they decided in Paris to create this international organisation. the founding congress, the first congress, Brothers and sisters, it was not very easy. There were many many discussions in the congress, over many things, discussing many topics.

I will underline two topics, two topics that raised conflict:

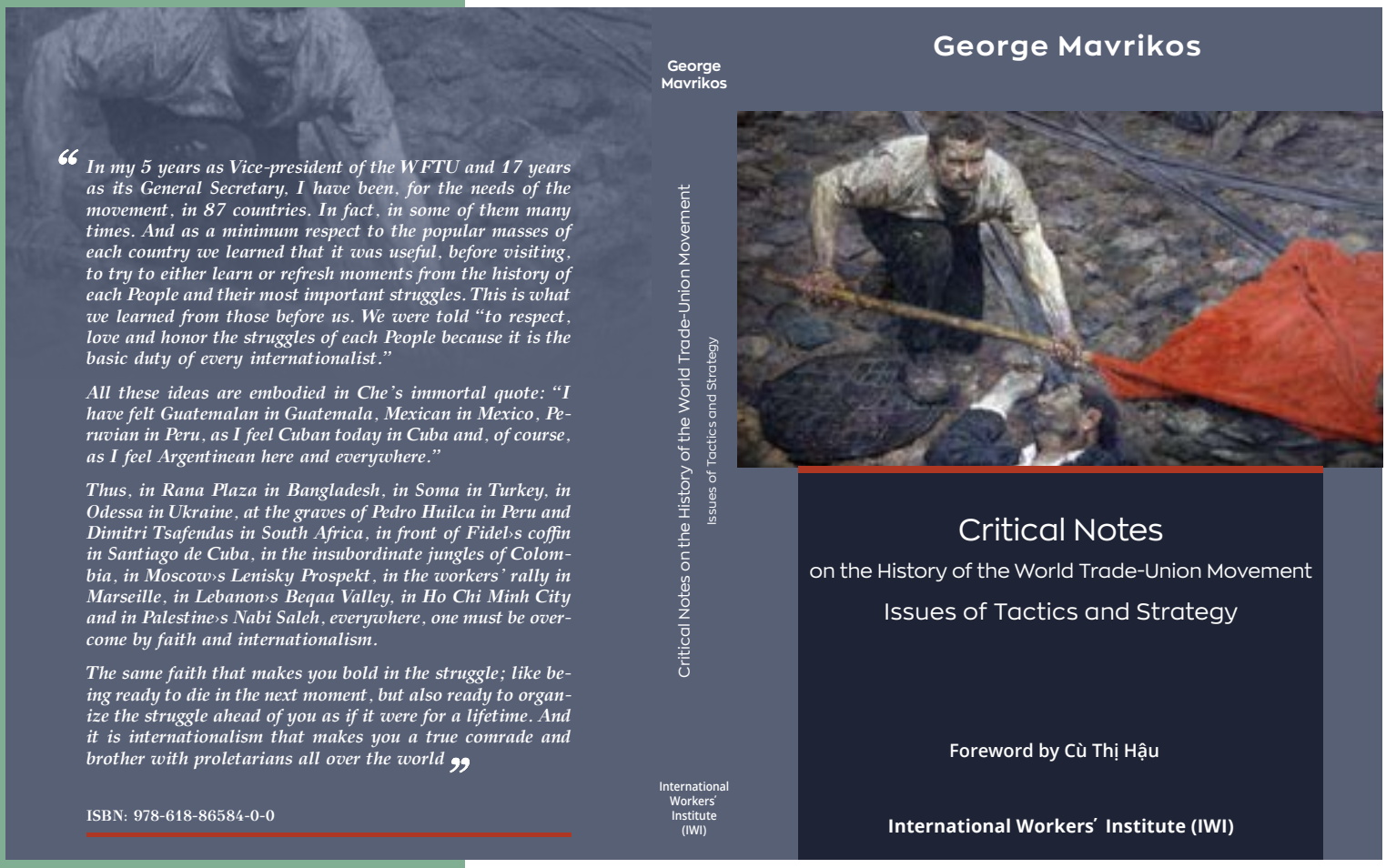
It was a very big discussion if the new organisation, WFTU, will be against colonialism or not. The Second conflict was if the new organisation put it in their programme political tasks and political targets or not. This created two very strong blocks inside of the congress. One from trade unions from the UK, and from other colonialist countries, Holland, Denmark, France, Spain, Demark, who said that the new federation needed to be independent from political topics, and that political topics should remain out of the federation. They also said that it is not the responsibility of the new organisation to rule on colonialism, in favour or against. It is very useful, in our book, we have some speeches from that congress.

Famous speeches, from famous Leaders of the working class. From India, from Cuba, from Africa, from all countries, from Latin America, from Mexico. Who made very important speeches who argued that if the new organisation was not involved in political topics, then we do not need to participate, we will not be a union. And at the end of this very strong conflict, the majority decided the new confederation needed to have in the constitution that it will be against colonialism, against exploitation, that it is class oriented, non-neutral, but that it is under the capacities, directions and profits of the working class.

There were Chinese workers, and Vietnamese workers in the first Congress that made some important speeches too. It means that the first congress also decided to found this federation with internationalism, against capillism, against exploitation, for another system, a socialist system, and also to support the daily necessities of the working class, trade union freedoms, and political freedoms.

First of all and immediately, they begin to struggle against colonialism, and express their solidarity. Of course the enemies of the working class didn’t stop their efforts, they immediately started, through the use of secret forces and many many capitalist governments, to cause problems inside of the structures and bodies of the WFTU. They slandered the WFTU, accusing it of not being under the influence of communist forces all over the world, and therefore not a union but an element of the communist forces all over the world. Under these slanders the UK Holland and France and Spain unions, they decide to close, to stop the life of WFTU. At that time the majority refused to close WFU and organise the second congress in Milano in Italy.

The Second Congress of WFU was in Milano in Italy and then some months later on December 1949 also the reactionary forces, the puppets of the bourgeois class, who were inside the trade union movement, in countries who



were countries in support of the system of colonialism. They created another international trade union organisation after they left the WFTU. They created another international union with the title with of ICFTU International Confederation of Free trade Unions. From that time, brothers and sisters, from 1949 until today there are two international trade union movements. our family the WFTU and the other one the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. From that time until today we are in two different lines to different, and in different directions. ICFTU which in 2026 changed its name to ITUC. They were from their founding together with, and partners with imperialism, Partners with bourgeois class. There are thousands of examples. From the war in Korea, 1950-52. The war in Vietnam, in Cuba 1959, Cuban Revolution, in the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile, in the dictatorship in Portugal, in the dictatorship in Greece. ICFTU has always been together with imperialist and capitalist forces. Even in modern times, in our times, Iraq, in Libya, Afghanistan, in Syria. For “democracy” they supported NATO. In the war against Yugoslavia, now in the NATO war against Russia, now again they support “democracy”. With NATO. It is because of this that we say they are yellow unions. They are enemies of the profits of the working class and because of this we need to inform the workers and all unions about their role.

See for example the situation in the Middle East. They have a vice president in their leadership, From Israel, who is the leader of the Israeli governmental union, they have a vice president, this person from Israel, who supports the war against the people of Palestine, in the Israeli war against Gaza.

ICFTU is a mechanism of the capital system. This is the reality. Of course because of this, in this situation, brothers and sisters, we need to organise our efforts and our forces. We live in a crucial period. The bourgeois class in our times pay attention not only to our pocket, for our salaries, for our Social Security. Yes, okay, absolutely they pay attention and they want to put their hands in our salaries, in our rights in our trade union freedoms against our right to strike against all our life, but at the same time brothers and sisters they want to win the consciousness of the working class. the consciousness especially of the young generation, because they know that through their consciousnesses, especially in the period of AI they believe that they can breathe new oxygen for the system of exploitation.

We know that they also, in their

bourgeois targeting, want to rewrite history. To review history. Because they have money, universities and resources all over the world they have many many possibilities and facilities to change the truth. Think for example about 9th of May. for all of us and all progressive trade union all over the world 9th of May it is the day that the red army were in Berlin and they signed the death certificate of the forces of Hitler. Now They try to say that the 9th May is the day of European Union. Because they said that nine of May in 1956 one minister of France and together with another minister from from German they created one contractor for the to change the steel among France and among German and because of this ninth of May They said they want to celebrate as they of European Union.

We need to strengthen our knowledge and we need to pay attention to the young generation. Because of this, brother and sisters, we created from 2022 the Institute and the WFT, as Cde Zola informed you the International Workers' Institute. Through this international Institute we published this book with the title critical notes for the international trade union movement on issues of strategic tactics. Why? Because They tried to rewriting the history of the trade union movement. You know from your country, from other countries from the continent, all over the world. They want to change, to review the history the reality. And because of this we need brothers and sisters, to attack against this falsification because their target is to capture the consciousness of the young people and the young generation. Dear comrades, it is a crucial topic for us to know the history, the real reality, the real history, and the world of international trade union movement. Because of this of this we organise many many events all over our world.

Already this book has been translated in many languages in English, in Spanish, in France, in Turkish, in Arabic, in Tamil. Tamil language with more than 70 million speakers, they speak

as official language 70 million people in in India. And we also tried to have it translated in Russian and Italian.

The forward in the book is from a very very famous woman who was a leader of Vietnamese trade union movement, and also she was a hero in their struggle against the American forces and imperial forces. It is an honour for the book that this comrade, former generous secretary of this general confederation of Vietnamese workers, is the person who wrote the forward. From last month until today we organised our union presentations of the book in Spain, in India, in Geneva, in France. And already the coming month of October we are going to organise events like today, in Paraguay, in in Guyana, in Columbia and Peru. We will continue it this way, Why? Because through the book we published many documents from the WFTU archives for the first time, from Moscow, Paris, Amsterdam, Cuba, in many countries. We also used secret papers from the CIA service and other forces. We used Documents from between 30 and 35 years ago, because today it is free in the public. Because of this we have many many documents and we believe that all these documents will be useful for us in our struggles in our day and in our ideological strengthening.

Brothers and sisters, we think that as I underlined we are proud of the history of the WFTU, we were very stable and will be shoulder to shoulder with the working class all over the world, until the final victory. Until the emancipation of the working class, until the liberation of the social classes against capitalist barbarity, against multi nationals, and against the system of monopolies.

Brothers and sisters, the struggle continues. And we are proud as the World Federation of Trade Unions that during all of these years In our ranks we worked and struggled together with very, very famous leaders from your country who were in the leadership of WFTU like: Moses Mabida, like Eric Stalin Mtshali, Like JB Marks, like Wiliam Hlope, and many many other cadres who were in the leadership of the World Federation of Trade Unions. It means that we will continue. And I will finish by saying we are optimistic that the future of working class will be better, with the social system without exploitation, and we will continue altogether, and we celebrate all over the world the 80th Anniversary of the World Federation of Trade Unions, as of course you will celebrate the anniversary of COSATU, Not only as anniversary celebration, but especially as recognition of our tasks, as recognition of our common struggles, until the final victory!

Long Live the Working Class Long Live!

Long Live Internationalism Long Live!

Proletarians All Over the World Unite!