

We are not Alone

At the invitation of Alexander Ionov, President of the Anti-Globalization Movement of Russia, I attended a conference in Moscow on September 18 through 21. The conference brought together representatives from once independent nations now working to restore their independence and representatives of other liberation movements.

With the leadership and facilitation of Mr. Ionov and the extraordinary logistical support of Anastasia Promskaya, assistant to Mr. Ionov, the delegates to the conference had an opportunity to take a fascinating tour of Moscow, present their views formally to the conference, compare notes, and make plans for future cooperation.

Prior to the beginning of the formal conference, Mr. Ionov invited me into a separate room. As we sat across from each other, he talked about the historical connection between the Russian people and the Hawaiian people. He said that a Czar once said that where the Russian flag has flown, it should always fly. He then presented me with a Russian flag to take back to the King.

The formal conference took place in a room with a ring of tables around which the presenters sat. There were translators present and ear pieces to convey the translations.

Among those in attendance were representatives of the restored government of Catalonia (which is just about to hold a referendum on independence), the Nacion Boriqua (reclaiming the independence of Puerto Rico), the Republica Arabe Saharani Democratica (Polisario in Western Sahara, North Africa reclaiming nation invaded by Morocco and Mauritania), Irish Republican Socialist Party and Sein Fein, the Uhuru Movement and African People's Socialist Party, Italian Communist Party, and others.

The representatives shared stories of their successes and their struggles.

The Catalonians mobilized a demonstration for independence that brought out two million people out of the seven million Catalonians. The election to be held on Sunday, September 27 is apparently a close contest. [Note: The Catalonian Independence Movement did win a majority of the seats in the Catalonian Parliament.]

The Irish representatives spoke of 800 years of occupation and their demands that the British withdraw and restore the lands and waters of Ireland to an independent nation. While there is a peace agreement in place, the representatives criticized the conditions as pacification, not real peace.

The Polisario representative noted that 84 countries recognize their nation and that no nation recognizes Moroccan sovereignty over the lands taken from the Polisario. Yet their rights to self determination and freedom are still not fully realized.

The representatives of the Italian Communist Party talked about the need for geopolitical spaces that made room for independent nations to operate within them freely. They also spoke about the need for a new political construction that would further the development of mutual recognition among peoples, interdependence, and cooperation.

The Chairman of the Uhuru Movement spoke about the lengthy and extensive exploitation of the African people by one colonizer or another. He expressed his opinion that the relationship would never change by peaceful means. Through his eyes, the African American community in the United States is a colony away from the mother land that faces heightened oppression at this historical moment.

There was a common theme of exploitation by multi-national corporations and the heavy hand of the United States and England internationally. Decolonization, national liberation, and oppression entered the discussion regularly.

The theme of anti-globalization can be understood in many ways, given the diverse contexts reported by the representatives. A simple explanation of that term is that we had a bi-polar political world (U.S. and U.S.S.R.), that became a mono-polar world when the Soviet Union collapsed, and that is now moving towards a multi-polar world as the United States influence wanes and movements for local self governance multiply.

My presentation focused on three themes: the meaning of Aloha and what Aloha offers to the world, the attempt to destroy the Hawaiian civilization, and the vision and plan that the King has put forth for the restored nation. I have attached the presentation to this message. You can view the presentation (complete with Russian translation) at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKKQYDlyU2A&feature=youtu.be&t=33m>

The conference received extensive press coverage with more than 60 media representatives present. I have heard that some have written very negative articles, reflecting the resistance the many independence movements face.

At the same time, I was very pleased that the topic of Hawaiian independence reached millions of people who know little or nothing about Hawaiian history or the work being done to restore the nation.

There was a lot of anger and a lot of pain in the conference room. I made note of the King's proposal to create the Peace Center in Hawai'i and had delegates coming over to me after the presentations to ask us to please bring the Peace Center to light as quickly as possible.

The Kingdom is a non-aligned nation that will offer peace-making services to the rest of the world through the Peace Center.

We were a bit of an anomaly in the conference as the only Kingdom. There was some good natured teasing from the socialists and communists. We obviously are prepared to make similar presentations to any conference that would like to hear the story of our nation.

We do look forward to continuing the discussion with participants from the conference. At least one of the emerging nations expressed an interest in signing a treaty with the Kingdom. Other similar bridge building will continue.

We are grateful to the Anti-Globalization Movement of Russia for sponsoring the conference and inviting us to attend. We very much appreciate that the delegation from the Nacion Boriqua suggested we be invited and that Kai Landow of the Decolonization Alliance facilitated our connecting with the Russian organization.