

PAX INTERNATIONAL

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THE SITUATION IN SPAIN

Collective Neutrality

What is this new idea that has been launched upon the troubled sea of European politics? Is it a life-buoy, thrown with hope and courage by means of which it may be possible to save from shipwreck some of the hopes that have guided those who have been working for peace, or will the result of it be to drag down into deeper waters those who are fighting to-day for democracy and freedom?

Certainly the dreadful spectacle of private armaments interests and political animosities pouring into Spain all the worst weapons of modern destruction so as to enable the Spanish people the more easily to destroy each other ought to horrify a world which remembers Bolivia and Paraguay. The courageous attempt of the French Government to stop this outrage deserves praise indeed.

As we go to press, twelve countries, including Germany, have agreed to stop the flow of armaments, some on condition that all other manufacturing countries do the same, and two have already acted, France and Great Britain. The whole world is waiting to see whether Italy is to remain the stumbling block to concerted measures to save European peace.

E. M. P.

PEOPLE'S MANDATE

The Committees for the People's Mandate will be reporting to the September Executive and will be given space in the next number of Pax. The value of the campaign as propaganda is underlined in the interesting report of the Chairman of the Inter-American Committee. Under the care of the Committee which meets in Europe is the work in twenty-five countries, and over ten million signatures, collective and individual, are already registered. Great Britain, Holland and Hungary have already presented the results of the campaign to their governments, and the signatures of the Statesmen who received the deputations are in the Golden Book waiting for presentation to the Assembly of the League of Nations.

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Maison Internationale, Geneva, Sept. 9-14th, 1936

The following is an abridged Agenda — the order may be changed by vote of those present.

Wednesday, September 9th.—Meeting of Colonial and Mandate Committees.

Thursday, September 10th.—Opening address by C. Ragaz, Sections' Reports on political situation, Sanctions, People's Mandate, Financial Loans.

Friday, September 11th.—Reports from Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurer, Pax, Provisional admission of new Sections, Proposals for (1) a better League of Nations; (2) a Federation of Nations; (3) a New Peace.

Saturday, September 12th.—Next Congress, Minorities, Convention on Repression of Terrorism, Relationship with International Organisations.

Sunday, September 13th.—Proposals for winter's work. Future of Office, Resolutions, Finance.

Monday, September 14th.—Vote on Resolutions, Unfinished Business.

WORLD PEACE CONGRESS, BRUSSELS September 3-6th, 1936

In connection with this great world gathering a moving appeal to women was signed by the representatives of seven great women's international organisations, Clara Ragaz signing on behalf of the W.I.L.P.F. This appeal urged all women without distinction to co-operate for the success of the Congress. It was widely published and the following are extracts from it.

"We are living in times overshadowed by the menace of war, which every day becomes more threatening. The peoples everywhere grow increasingly apprehensive, and in every country the mothers are tortured by dread that their children may be called upon to endure the horrors of another war, made infinitely more terrible than any in the past by the perverted use of scientific knowledge and technical research.

When Lord Cecil and other well-known leaders, anxious to avert disaster, made their world-wide appeal for an international peace campaign many millions of women were ready to respond, for they knew that the mere desire for peace, mere lip-service to an ideal, is not enough; that there must be incessant striving for its attainment."

A meeting for women has been called in Brussels for September 2nd with a view to obtaining as much unity as possible before the Congress opens.

International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship—Opening of Temporary Office in Geneva

The above will as usual provide a hospitable centre for visitors from many countries to meet one another. It will be opened on September 10th in the annexe of the Hôtel Richmond, next door to the Peace and Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To Mr. Van Zeeland, President of the
Assembly of the League of Nations. Geneva, July 3rd, 1936.

Your Excellency:—

We regret very much that the request for an audience which we presented to you has not received a favourable reply.

We, the Chairmen of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, on the occasion of this Extraordinary Assembly wish to express to you our deep regret that in the Italo-Ethiopian conflict sanctions have not been applied energetically and loyally. Thus they could therefore not play such a decisive part in the solution of this conflict as we had expected them to do in order to maintain the fundamental principles of the League of Nations.

We join with those who, in spite of the raising of sanctions, continue to consider the judgment, pronounced by 52 nations condemning the aggressor, still in force.

We wish with all our heart that the idea of international solidarity between peoples and international defence of peace, which has been put forward by the League since its very existence, be finally put into practice.

We remain,

Yours faithfully,

G. Baer, C. Ragaz, C. Ramondt,
Joint Chairmen.

To His Royal Highness,
Prince Paul, Regent of Yugoslavia,
Belgrad.

Geneva, 31st July, 1936.

Your Royal Highness:—

We beg to ask you in the name of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom to give an order for the release of the 45 Nazarenes who, for the sake of their religious conviction, have already endured long years of imprisonment. We cannot believe that men, who, in obedience to their faith, refuse to train themselves in the use of weapons and of force, are a danger to the State.

May we point out that in Holland and in the Scandinavian countries conscientious objectors to military service are given the alternative possibility of civilian service, while in France, Belgium and Poland, where penal laws against conscientious objectors still exist, many prisoners have been released lately before the expiration of their punishment.

Hoping that our request will be granted, we remain, Your Highness,

Yours faithfully,

Clara Ragaz, Gertrud Baer,
Joint Chairmen.

A similar letter has been sent to H.M. the King of Roumania asking the release of Adventists who are also imprisoned for refusal of military service.

Telegram sent to Mr. Eden, President League of Nations Council,
London:

6th August, 1936.

Sincerely hope that League of Nations Council will be immediately convoked in the interest of the population of Dantzig, the upholding of the League's Principles and the peace of Europe.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE AND FREEDOM, GENEVA.

PEACE DAY IN NORWAY

The Danish, Swedish, Finnish, and Norwegian Sections of the W.I.L.P.F. this year co-operated to celebrate a Peace Day.

The programme for the day in Norway was shortly this. We had half-an-hour for peace propaganda through broadcasting. The speakers were the Chairman of the Nobel Committee in Oslo, and other prominent people. Articles were sent to the newspapers. The day was to be remembered in all the churches and in all the schools. We had a poster which was to be put up in as many places as possible. In the streets in Oslo and in 80 different places throughout the country, small white flags with the word "peace" printed on them, were to be sold.

The demonstration which one or two years ago would have been met with sympathy, now suddenly was looked upon with suspicion. Certain conservative newspapers and the whole "nazi-press" weeks before, when they heard about our plan, started a real campaign against us. Our international programme of 1934 (Zürich) was cited and said to prove our communistic tendencies. Pax International was said to have contained enthusiastic articles about Soviet-Russia and so on. The action against us was led with great energy, and when the 18th of May came, a great many of the public were certainly convinced that W.I.L.P.F. was not a peace-organisation, but some secret communistic cell which wanted to disarm the country to lay it open for communistic revolution.

The fight was really dramatic at the last moment. The girl guides were going to sell our flags. Our leading conservative newspaper gave us a death blow when in the last evening number before the 18th some person signing himself "girl-guide's father" wrote, that every girl guide who sold our flags was a betrayer. The result was, not a single girl guide in Oslo ventured to sell our flags. The only ones who risked the name of "betrayer" put upon them were the chairmen, some of their friends and some young people whom they hastily gathered. But at some other places in Norway the girl guides showed their courage in selling our flags, and at one place even the boy scouts did so.

The sellers in Oslo had a lively day. The "nazists" followed them closely and put scandalous pamphlets into the hands of the persons who stopped to buy our flags.

In spite of all this—or shall we say on account of it, we had a feeling that we were more often met with sympathy by the man in the street, than with antipathy. And in Oslo we might have had a big sale and a good result if we had only had sellers enough.

Surely we are not beaten—We will return next time with more experience and with more courage still.

We have got the arguments to come back with, and we will use them. The arguments of peace may be altered in detail from time to time as the peace movement has to follow the changing developments of world politics. But the head lines have been the same and will be the same till our ideal is reached. It is better to work together than to work against each other—it is more reasonable to build up than to destroy. *Sigrid Larsen,*
Chairman of the Oslo-group of the W.I.L.P.F.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE

Last February I visited Mexico, and later all the Central American Republics and Panama, in the interest of the People's Mandate and of permanent peace work in connection with the Women's International League. On arriving in Mexico City I was met by a delegation from the Mexican branch of the W.I.L.

and during my stay of about 17 days I met many of the members. They were all most cordial and many seemed deeply interested in peace work. Many meetings were arranged, and I spoke before most of the women's organisations and at one public meeting in the lecture hall of the Palace of Fine Arts.

The President of the Mexican Branch, the Vice-President, and others accompanied me on visits to government officials, labour organisations and other groups on behalf of the Mandate, and we were given a cordial response everywhere. A good many signatures were collected during my visit and plans were made for continuing the campaign throughout the republic. By a misunderstanding some of the mandates were sent to Geneva so that I cannot give complete figures, but over 600 signatures have been received in Washington, and a recent letter from the President states they are carrying on the work.

The work of the Mexican branch has been largely along the line of peace education in the schools. Through special programmes and in other ways they have encouraged friendly international attitudes in the school children and teachers. They have sought the co-operation of other women's groups in such programmes, and during my visit a meeting was held, attended by representatives of some 18 groups, to discuss the possibility of further joint peace action. I left some suggestions as to study circles, legislative work, etc., and a federation of scientific societies to which I was introduced by the W.I.L. appointed a committee to carry on a scientific study of the causes of war as a basis for constructive action.

A new branch in Merida, Yucatan, has been formed, and it has in turn organised one in Progreso, the seaport for Yucatan. It is likely that before long there will be one in the port of Tampico also.

From Mexico City I went on by airplane to each of the five Central American capitals and Panama, where I met with equally friendly receptions. Analysing the causes of war in these republics, international conflicts seem unlikely, as most boundary questions have been settled and there is no danger of European involvement. Their problems are largely local, and the principal internal needs seem to be general education to support political reform, peace education to counteract the revolutionary tendency, and social reform to help the workers whose misery makes them a prey to Communist propaganda.

The form of organisation in each country was left, after some discussion, to the judgment of our representative and others. In El Salvador and Costa Rica groups were formed which expect to be national sections of the W.I.L.; in Honduras two independent groups were organised; in Nicaragua and Panama committees were appointed representing various associations and elements which would be helpful. In Guatemala it was not possible to do any organisation work, owing to the attitude of the Government, but many mandates were given out. Suggestions were left with each new group or committee as to a programme of work and especially as to the mandate campaign. Peace education in the schools and the home will be the main work in Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama; Costa Rica and El Salvador in addition expect to undertake some social work, and the former appointed a legislative chairman as well.

Summing up results, we have new groups in five new countries and representatives in six, as a fine Venezuelan woman about to return home was met in Mexico and appointed Venezuelan representative; peace workers have been given new courage and enthusiasm through their association with a world-wide peace group; and some impetus has been given to social work. The chairman of the Inter-American Committee will be in frequent

communication with all these groups, keeping them informed of each other's activities and passing on good ideas, peace literature in Spanish, etc. They will be encouraged to keep in touch with each other and make personal visits whenever possible. The president of the Salvadorian group, who has recently been in the United States, expects soon to visit some of the other Central American groups. *Heloise Brainerd.*

NEWS FROM SECTIONS

The Tunis Section—A Hope Fulfilled

"The Executive Committee of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom meeting in Prague, April 29th to May 3rd, 1936, having watched with concern the suppression in one of the Colonies of democratic France, of the conditions essential to a liberal régime—sees great hope in the measures recently adopted in favour of political victims and of the students.

The W.I.L.P.F. looks forward with confidence to the cancellation of the decrees against freedom of the Press, and hopes that in the near future an Amnesty will be declared for all those who have suffered illegally under an autocratic régime."

Since the Executive Committee Meeting in Prague the enormous change in the political situation of Tunis has become every day more evident. The restrictions on the liberty of press and of association are abolished. The French elections have suddenly revived the dying trades unions and a member of the League, Mme. Bigiaoni has played a primary part in the organisation of the workers—men and women—thus acquiring wide sympathies not only for herself but also for the W.I.L.P.F. Section.

Since the revival of city life the Section was glad to note that public opinion was still very favourable towards them. Their Chairman was, indeed, asked to preside at the celebration of the Rassemblement Populaire, the Arab participants especially insisting on this. The day was a full success and has further strengthened and enlarged the position of the Section.

After Mme. Fichet's return from Prague a delegation went to the President to give him their views on the Arab question in Tunis and to ask him to judge the Tunis population objectively and not from the narrow and selfish point of view of the colonizer. They also submitted to him the demand for universal disarmament of the People's Mandate Campaign and though he has not yet found time to reply to this demand the Section hope to get his signature for the "Livre d'Or."

New Zealand

The Secretary of the New Zealand Section writes that the W.I.L.P.F. is making great strides in New Zealand. At first they found it very difficult to overcome the apathy and the sense of distance from Europe among the women, but thanks to the literature sent out from the British Section and the Geneva Office, and to the enthusiasm of existing members, membership is steadily growing. Its headquarters are in Auckland, where members meet once a fortnight to read and discuss the literature sent out. It is non-political and women of all shades of opinion are welcomed to the meetings. In consequence, several other women's organisations have asked to affiliate.

At the meeting on July 14th correspondence was read from overseas, including the Minutes of the Prague International Executive Committee of the W.I.L.P.F., Madame Drevet's report of the overseas work for the People's Mandate to Governments, and Canon Sheppard's Peace Pledge to refuse to assist or sanction war in any way. It was decided to distribute the Pledge. An address on "The Women of China" was given by Mrs. Dixon,

who has lived in China for many years, her father having been a missionary there. They both worked hard for peace. At the end of the address questions were asked and the meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Dixon.

E. Gibson.

Holland

Presentation of the People's Mandate to the Government.

On July 15th almost a hundred thousand signatures from Holland were presented to the Foreign Minister at the Hague.

At 3 p.m. a number of women from all parts of Holland met at the Peace-House, where the president of the Dutch W.I.L.P.F. Section, Mrs. C. Ramondt-Hirschmann, explained the object of the campaign, for which the organisers had met with a great deal of enthusiasm among all parts of the population, though in some cases the international situation proved to have given rise to scepticism and even despair.

In a number of automobiles, carrying large posters, all went to the Foreign Department. The packets—all white, tied up with blue ribbon—were carried in and a deputation was received by the Foreign Minister who expressed his great sympathy with the campaign and urged the necessity of continued peace-work.

On our part the urgent hope was expressed that the small nations should stand by the League of Nations and not give up their attempts to make it into a real instrument for Peace. His answer was: "We certainly shall, as long as the League does not go too far wrong!"

We then pleaded for the upholding of the principle of a League of Nations in order not to fall back to international anarchy.

We had a very good press and met with great interest on all sides.

Czechoslovakia

The Section has founded another new group in Braunau in Northern Bohemia which has already 200 members, mostly poor textile workers. The group is under the leadership of a Czech and a German teacher who are both very eager. The members are mostly socialist and communist women and nearly exclusively of German nationality.

Canada—Toronto Branch

The Toronto Branch are sending round a news letter to the different groups of the W.I.L. in Canada, in the hope of being able to exchange news and ideas with each other. A competition for War and Peace Posters has been very successful. Over 150 posters were exhibited and these were of a very high order. The Exhibition has been shewn in several towns. A competition for Peace Plays for Children has also been successful. The Branch has edited a new leaflet about the W.I.L.P.F. It is co-operating in a National Conference to discuss the World Peace Congress, and the International Relations between Canada and the United States with the hope of bringing about closer co-operation. It arranged a meeting in August for Dr. Maud Royden and is endorsing Dr. Rose Henderson as official delegate to the Brussels Peace Congress.

Austria

Peace Education for Girls. The Austrian Section has set up a programme for a new education of girls which has been

adopted by a Committee formed by teachers from various schools. The programme especially includes tuition of economic problems in order to enable the girls to understand the bases of living of their own and of other peoples and the influence of international finance and commerce on the furthering or disturbance of peace. Special stress is also laid upon the explanation of the monetary system and on a more profound study of the role of women in the life of their own country and abroad. The Committee has sent a petition, signed by numerous organisations and personalities, to the Ministries of Education, Commerce and Transport, Social Administration, which has been received favourably at least by one of them and obtained some publicity in the Press.

Great Britain

An impressive deputation of 20 people, introduced by Mrs. Duncan Harris, was received at the Foreign Office by the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Lord Cranborne, in order to present to him the signed copies of the People's Mandate. Very frank and impressive speeches on behalf of the Mandate's demands were made by the Rev. Henry Carter and Mrs. Harris.

Lord Cranborne signed the Golden Book as having received the Mandate, and gave a sympathetic if non-committal answer. The presentation was mentioned on the wireless and had an excellent Press.

The British Section was also successful through questions in Parliament, an influentially signed letter and other measures, for getting the character of a shocking item of bombing natives in the Hendon Air Display changed, though its efforts were unable to effect the abolition of the bombing item altogether.

RESOLUTIONS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, May, 1936. (Omitted from July "Pax")

Trials in Wuppertal

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom deeply regretting the Wuppertal Trials and the sentences passed on people innocent of any crime, urge that the condemned shall be set free at the earliest date.

Refusal of Financial Loans to Germany

In view of the grounds given by the present German régime for serious apprehension as to its intentions and especially for fear of a new coup following on its re-armament, re-establishment of conscription and remilitarisation of the Rhineland in open defiance of its Treaty obligations;

And in view of the fact that only financial stringency prevents even more intensive and rapid building of bombing planes and other instruments of war than that which is already in progress;

The Executive Committee of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom would consider any loans or financial assistance strengthening the present German régime as an international catastrophe and as seriously increasing the danger of war.

The Executive Committee therefore urges all the National Sections of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom to use their utmost influence to prevent such financial assistance being given—for instance by democratic pressure on leaders in the political and financial world, by publicity, and above all by the creation of a public opinion which will make such loans impossible.

Award of Nobel Peace Prize to Carl von Ossietzky

To the Nobel Peace Prize Committee, Oslo.

The W.I.L.P.F. meeting in Prague from April 29th to May 3rd this year repeats the opinion often expressed before, that there is hardly another pacifist who has for the sake of his conviction endured such a long and cruel martyrdom as Carl von Ossietzky. For more than three years he has courageously defied the terrible sufferings of a concentration-camp in Hitler-Germany, and refused over and over again to put an end to the inhuman torture and regain his freedom by denying his pacifist ideals.

We women, met together in Prague and all these people who are fighting for the same ideals as Carl von Ossietzky, for Peace, Freedom and Justice, express the confident hope that the Nobel Peace Prize Committee will award the Peace Prize for 1936 to Carl von Ossietzky.

We would finally remind the Committee that Jane Addams, the late President of the W.I.L.P.F. and the recipient in 1930 of the Nobel Peace Prize, proposed in 1935 that that honour should be conferred on Carl von Ossietzky—a proposal which is receiving world-wide support.