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## THE POLITICAL CRISIS AND THE PROGRESS OF UNITED ACTION IN FRANCE

The present situation in France is particularly serious and confused. The will of the great mass of the French people has been expressed in the "Rassemblement Populaire" which came into being with enormous enthusiasm on the 14th July 1935. Its first act was the impressive demonstration which on that historic day made all those, from the most humble proletarian to the most celebrated intellectual, from the most tepid republican to the most passionate communist, who are determined not to allow fascism to be installed in our country, come into the streets and form a peaceful and impressive procession. From that day the movement for unity of action has continued to develop. In spite of the rule of unanimity which the "Rassemblement Populaire", generally known as the People's Front, has at some risk adopted for itself, the 90 organisations, Parties, Trade Unions and groups which it includes, have just agreed on a common minimum programme. This programme includes a number of reforms, in the sphere of politics, economics and social life. The support which the French Radical Socialist Party (the French Party which has the greatest number of members) has given it from the beginning has been a great element in its success. But at the same time, if this support was given unreservedly by a great majority of its members and some of its leaders, others, who only agreed because they were pressed by the popular current, have held back and have even shown themselves ready to come to side with the opposition forces. The President of the Radical Socialist Party, Edouard Herriot, showed on several occasions that he was far from being a loyal

supporter of the new formula. Having accepted the post of Minister of State in the last Ministry and having given his support to the President of the Council, M. Laval, who was disavowed by those who were sincerely on the left, Herriot has been fiercely criticised even by the members of his own Party. The unity of the latter, threatened in the course of the last crisis, was maintained and the rules were adopted. None the less, in spite of them it was due to the support of a certain number of votes of the Parliamentary Radicals that the Laval Ministry, fatally weakened by the growing disapproval of true republicans, was able to continue to carry out for so long its policy which was as harmful at home as abroad. In all the crises of the Council, every time that the life of the Ministry was in danger, it was saved by the votes of the dissident Parliamentary Radicals.

To-day E. D. Daladier replaces Edouard Herriot at the head of the Radical Party, and we have the right to hope that this change will considerably strengthen the action of the People's Front, which has now been rescued from underhand opposition. Edouard Herriot, after having abandoned his position as leader of the Radical Party resigned from the Ministry. The other Radical Ministers have had to come in line with this resignation. Thus in spite of the majority which he had still been able to secure in recent divisions, M. Laval went to Geneva to represent a Ministry which only existed in name. A new crisis supervened. The factious organisations, in spite of a pretended conciliation last December in the French Chamber by the representative of the Croix de Feu, are calling up their fanatical troops and are holding

meetings and issuing appeals. In spite of the laws passed on the subject they have not been disarmed and there is still danger of rioting and blood-shed. The only hope lies in the firm and pacific will of the masses of the people, who whatever their social position or political differences may be, are firmly attached to the republican press and institutions and are determined to remain united in the People's front. It is only their united will that can bring about a Government capable of defending these institutions at home and of conducting foreign affairs in conformity with the aspirations of the great mass of French people. Women have a big part to play in this united action and French women have grasped this. The first step was a great women's meeting against War and Fascism in August 1934. Since that time this movement has developed enormously, especially in France, where to-day it has more than 100,000 individual members and many organisations, Trade Unions, and so on numbering about 500,000. In spite of this, many middle-class women's organisations did not join this movement and only kept in touch with it to a certain extent, such as speaking at its meetings. The French Committee of Women Against War and Fascism believing that the action of women's organisations would be much strengthened if they were coordinated, or at least harmonised, invited these organisations to exchange views on the Defence of Peace and the Rights of Women. Almost all replied favourably to the appeal and last December two centres were formed, "Committee for the Defence of the Rights of Women", "Women's Centre for the Defence of Peace"\*. They both found bases for

common action: The Defence of women's rights to work, the admission of women to municipal committees, the firm and loyal application of financial and economic sanctions including the Oil Embargo, etc. Various steps have been taken jointly on this subject in the name of the 14 organisations supporting the Women's Centre for the Defence of Peace, (C. F. I. D. P.), at Geneva, where a delegation proceeded on the 17th December, and in France. To-day the United Front of French Women's Organisations has its place in the great People's Front for the defence of peace and liberty, and a representative of one of the organisations which form part of it spoke at the great meeting which took place on January 19th in Paris.

In the provinces the women belonging to local Committees of the National Women's Committee take an active part in the groups of the "People's Front". Everywhere they stand up for their rights and their ideals for peace, liberty, social justice and progress. Under their pressure the People's Front devoted an article in its programme to women's right to work. To-day a new appeal for the unity of pacific forces in the world has been issued for the "Universal Rassemblement for Peace" and French women are taking an active part in this. French women are issuing an urgent appeal to their sisters in other countries. They urge them to put aside all social and political distinctions which separate them and to find those which unite, so that in the spirit of fraternity they may consolidate their efforts in defence of peace and liberty so threatened throughout the world.

22nd January 1936. *Gabrielle Duchêne.*

\* The following organisations have joined the Centres:

Women's Lay and Democratic Action  
The French Committee for the Peoples' Mandate

Women's National Committee Against War and Fascism

Women's Committee of the General Confederation of United Labour

Women's Delegations:

of the General Federation of Labour  
of the Young Republic

of the League for the Rights of Men  
of the League Against Anti-Semitism

of the Communist Party  
of the Camille Pelletan Party

of the Radical Socialist Party  
of the Socialist Party;

J. E. U. N. E. S.

the Group for Philosophic Studies

The League for the Rights of Women

The French Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Medicine and Labour

The League of Women Against War and Poverty

Women's Union for the League of Nations.  
The French Union for Women's Suffrage and the League for the Right of work only support the Committee for the Defence of the Rights of Women.

The European Mutual Committee  
The League of Mothers and Teachers  
The Women's Union for Peace and the L. o. N. only support the Womens Centre for the Defence of Peace.

### NEUTRALITY OR SOLIDARITY

The States outside the League of Nations can perhaps still choose between neutrality and solidarity, although in view of present day interdependence of peoples, a cool abstention in case of a breach of international law may avenge itself on great Powers which are apparently secure. But for a member of the League of Nations there should be no question as to whether it should fulfil its obligations under the Covenant, and yet we have seen the undignified spectacle of bargaining going on between members of the League with regard to Sanctions against Italy. Switzerland tried to avoid those sanctions on which the other states were united. Instead of prohibiting imports from Italy it introduced a clearing system; instead of prohibiting the export of war material to Italy only it extended the prohibition to Abyssinia in order not to hurt Italy. It gave neutrality as a reason for this, which Switzerland had secured by the London Declaration of February 13th, 1920, before it joined the League of Nations. It did so incorrectly, because that agreement only dealt with military neutrality and Switzerland at the same time recognised "solemnly the duties of solidarity" which were imposed upon her by her membership of the League, "including the duty of co-operating in economic and financial measures ordered by the League against a state violating the Covenant". She can perhaps appeal with an appearance of right to her "special position", because as a small neighbour state she would be more exposed to reprisals from Italy than a stronger or more distant state. But in this affair the point is not consideration of such special circumstances, but only the maintenance of the principle of the solidarity of members of the League in face of aggression on a State member of the League.

This feeling of solidarity has been conspicuously shown in the behaviour of the masses of the people in Switzerland. Public opinion is indignant at Italian aggression, and dissatisfied with the attitude of the Swiss Federal Council in the question of Sanctions and this indignation and dissatisfaction found

spontaneous expression in the movement for the boycott of Italian goods. In order to organise this movement, not to create it, for it was already there, a Boycott Committee was formed which issued an appeal to the Swiss people. By inquiries into the origin of goods and by indicating the country of origin of goods offered for sale, it was to give shoppers the opportunity of avoiding goods of Italian origin and a Postcheque account was opened to collect donations for the costs of organising this work. The objects of the Boycott Committee were at once frustrated by the Post Office authorities who refused to allow a postal cheque account by order of the Federal Council and public prosecutor. The Boycott Committee was not disbanded, but was forbidden public activity. The Boycott Committee protested against the action of the Post Office and a question is being asked in Parliament about the prohibition of public activity. In public meetings and in the Press there have been vigorous protests against such suppression of public opinion. The Boycott Committee itself is convinced that it is serving the security and the prestige of Switzerland by continuing its work; for neutrality towards evil is a strengthening of evil and the only thing that can save us and the whole world is the solidarity of the peoples which is the fundamental principle of the Covenant. The loyal fulfilment of obligations that have been undertaken, the loyalty to the principle of the League must be our solution, if we do not wish to abandon the hope of putting the relations of peoples to each other on to a new foundation.

22nd January 1936.

*Clara Ragaz.*

### UNITED STATES AND NEUTRALITY

There are two definite schools of thought in the Peace Movement in the United States—the school of thought represented by such organizations as the League of Nations Association, the Carnegie Foundation, etc., puts its emphasis first on "collective security"; the other school of thought, represented by organizations such as the Womens International League, Fellowship of Reconciliation, the National Council for Prevention of War, and Friends, puts "keeping America out of war" as of first importance. This latter group is not *isolationist* in the accepted sense of the word. They stand for an internationally organized world, but an internationally organized world divorced from any military obligations.

The United States Section of the Women's International League has always followed this policy from the time the League of Nations was founded until the present date. Our statement of Policy has been as follows:

"We stand for United States membership in the League of Nations, exempt from military obligations."

In my mind, there is no doubt that the United States has never joined the League because public opinion also stands so strongly behind this policy. Of course, some sections of the public are definitely isolationist, and simply do not want to be connected with the quarrels of the old world. But for whatever reason, whether the feeling is based on a rigid isolationist policy, or on a non-military policy,—such as ours—this is the feeling of the great majority of the American people.

The Munitions Investigation Committee, under the Chairmanship of Senator Nye, has, during the past year, shown the country how the United States was drawn into the last war. As this is being written, M. J. P. Morgan and his partners are giving evidence to the Munitions Committee regarding the part that great financial House played in involving the United States in the World War.

The so-called "neutrality bills" which are now before Congress, are not in reality neutrality measures as such. They are, primarily, embargo measures, and are an attempt to make the United States completely isolationist *on the matter of war*. The public in the United States, after the revelations of the Nye Committee, is more determined than ever that neither munition men, nor bankers shall make "blood-money" again in a war fought across an ocean, and not in defence of the American shores.

Therefore, when there is a crisis in the world, such as the present one, there is strong feeling against giving the President of the United States any power to cooperate with other countries in applying the type of economic sanctions against an aggressor, which would seem to lead directly to *military* sanctions. The neutrality measures provide for the laying of embargoes on *both* sides. This does not mean indifference to the fate of the victim. It does mean that there is a growing sense that war will not settle anything, and a complete mistrust of the European statesmen. The Report of the Committee of Five, and then, more recently, the Hoare-Laval "Peace plan", have made Americans more cynical than ever about

Europe, international organisation, and the League.

The danger of neutrality legislation obviously is its tendency to increase nationalism, and our job in the peace movement must be to continue to fight this menace. Another danger is the spread of the whole psychology of isolation; but as a matter of fact, we are already isolated, not only geographically but also commercially. Only 7% of our total commerce is foreign commerce, and although that 7%, in its many ramifications, affects our whole commercial structure, it is nevertheless the cold truth that our trade figures and our geographical position do isolate us from Europe to a certain degree.

The provisions of the present so-called neutrality measures forbid the shipment of armaments and munitions to any belligerent, forbid the extension of loans and credits, forbid the shipment of raw materials essential for war purposes beyond the normal trading average of the five preceding years, and forbid American nationals to travel on belligerent ships, except at their own risk.

None of this is new to the United States Section of the Women's International League. For 8 years we have been working for an embargo law on munitions, and for 6 years for an embargo law on loans and credits. The only differences now are that raw materials have been included and that the embargoes are placed in one measure which is much more comprehensive. The so-called neutrality bills contain provisions which for years we have been wishing to secure.

*Dorothy Detzer.*

### POLITICAL NEWS FROM GENEVA HEADQUARTERS

The 90th Session of the Council of the League of Nations is just over. On the first day, January 20th 1936, the Chairmen addressed a letter to the President, Mr. Bruce, of Australia, stressing the violation of the Covenant of the League of Nations through the repeated attempts of certain Great Powers, States Members of the League, to settle the Italo-Ethiopian Conflict by secret diplomatic negotiations.

The letter runs:

"We feel we are interpreting the wishes of a great number of our members in different countries, in venturing to address you and to draw your attention to the grave uneasiness which they feel with regard to the secret diplomatic negotiations taking place in reference to

the Italo-Abyssinian war and the problems which have arisen from it.

We earnestly beg you to use your personal influence to promote the strict observance by States Members of the principles of democracy on which the League of Nations is founded.

Certain Great Powers are making their weight felt more and more within the League of Nations to the detriment of the smaller States, whose economic and political situation is less favourable.

This preponderance has been very evident in the various attempts at settlement of the Italo-Ethiopian conflict, all of which up to now have provided solutions to the advantage of the Great Powers, who have not scrupled to violate the Covenant of the League of Nations. Nevertheless, the peoples are convinced that only such propositions as will guarantee the territorial integrity of Ethiopia and its political independence can lead to a solution of the conflict which will re-establish peace in Africa, and thus may guarantee it for the whole world.

In order to bring about quickly the cessation of hostilities, and to make possible the just solution of the conflict which we all desire, we believe that not only should the financial and economic sanctions already decided on, be rigorously and honestly applied, but also that they should be completed by the introduction of a new measure — an embargo on oil.

We therefore beg to renew the urgent appeal which we addressed to the Council of the League of Nations in December: "to recommend the States Members to place an immediate embargo on oil to Italy, and to keep it in force until the Italian army has evacuated Ethiopia."

The letter was also sent to the Members of the League Council with a special appeal to support the W. I. L. P. F.'s request for the strict observance of the principles of democracy on which the League of Nations is founded. On the same day the letter was sent to the International Press, 200 dailies and reviews in many countries. Press cuttings prove that it has been published in many papers.

Much wider circulation by the Press, however, was given to a letter which, in consultation with the Yugoslavian Section, was addressed to Prince Paul, Regent of Yugoslavia, by the Chairmen on December 28th 1935, asking for a General Amnesty. The letter reads: "The news that an Amnesty had been declared for political prisoners in Yugoslavia roused great hopes in every country among those who are devoted to the cause of Freedom. The disappointment was profound when it was discovered that this Amnesty was to apply only to certain categories of prisoners.

Though unwilling to interfere in the internal affairs of another country, we are anxious to express to you our deep concern in the matter, in begging you most earnestly not to limit the application of the measures decided upon to one part among the prisoners, but to

accord a general Amnesty to all political prisoners in Yugoslavia.

We are convinced that such a decision on the part of the Government of Yugoslavia would be received by the whole world as an act inspired by justice and humanity."

This action was supported by the Yugoslav Section which addressed the following letter to their Prime Minister:

"The Yugoslav W. I. L. P. F. heard with the greatest satisfaction of the Amnesty for political prisoners in our country. This political step taken by His Majesty's Government will be received with approval by lovers of Liberty, not only in our country but all over the world.

The Yugoslav Section begs the Government to enlarge the scope of the Amnesty to include all offenders, believing that this will best serve to pacify political unrest, and will be in the interests of general progress in our country.

Our people — upholders of freedom — will be enabled to develop politically and to improve their economic and cultural position, if they are assured of the political liberty for which they have fought throughout the centuries and sacrificed so much.

We are far from wishing to interfere in the jurisdiction of the Government, but, inspired by sentiments of justice and humanity, and impelled by a love of freedom and peace in our country, we feel it to be our duty to call the attention of His Majesty's Government to the beneficial results that would ensue from a general Amnesty for political prisoners."

Hardly ever before had political opinion been so unanimous in interpreting and condemning a plan submitted by Governments, as has been the case with the Laval-Hoare proposals in December 1935. Headquarters received many letters of protest and requests to "act". The British Section and the French Section sent in Memoranda to this office. An international delegation to submit the letter printed below, was received by the President of the Extraordinary Session of the Council on December 18th. Four organisations took part in the Delegation. The W. I. L. P. F., the World Committee of Women against War and Fascism, the Ligue des Mères et Educatrices and the Women's Union for the League of Nations. Here is the letter:

"Since the proposals of the French and British Governments for the settlement of the Italo-Ethiopian conflict have been made public, we have received from countries all over the world expressions of indignation against these proposals.

It is very seldom that we see the nations of the world rising in such spontaneous revolt against a suggested formula for peace, and find them so unanimous in their interpretation of this formula.

It seems to them a prize given to Italy which has been solemnly declared by the

Council of the League of Nations to be the aggressor, and to have given her a victory which she had not won by force of arms.

The proposals appear to them to be a betrayal of the countries which, in good faith and loyalty, have applied Sanctions, a betrayal committed by the Great Powers, and a betrayal of Ethiopia which has been the victim of this unqualified attack.

The nations are convinced that only proposals guaranteeing the absolute territorial integrity of Ethiopia and its political independence can provide a solution of the conflict which will re-establish peace in Africa, and ensure peace for the whole world.

We beg your Excellency to give consideration to the public opinion of all the countries of the world, and to bring it before the members of the Council of the League of Nations in asking them: "To impose an oil embargo against Italy without delay and to continue it until the Italian troops have evacuated Ethiopia."

#### THE 90th COUNCIL MEETING

The Ninetieth Session of the League of Nations Council ended amid many soft words, although during several meetings there had been lively disagreement. The most important work with which it had to deal were the Refugees and the Free City of Danzig. The question of the oil embargo to be placed upon Italy was discussed in Committees. A member of the British delegation assured me, however, that Mr. Eden is determined to push it through regardless of whether or not the United States will cooperate; although they hope for United States' support very much, they realize that in this matter it will follow the example of other countries rather than initiate action.

The death of King George delayed work for one day and an entire meeting was devoted to his memory. Each Representative at the Council Table paid a spoken tribute to him for their respective countries. Eden responded with great dignity and a warmth of feeling unusual for an Englishman. The tributes paid by Italy, Russia, Turkey and Roumania were diplomatic in the extreme, especially the last delivered by the suave Titulescu.

The very pressing question of Refugees, especially those from Germany, in view of Mr. MacDonald's resignation and report, was dealt with only provisionally, until the next meeting of the Assembly. A High Commissioner who will take charge temporarily is to be appointed by the first of February. It is a serious situation, as, of course, the root of the evil lies in the internal conditions now existing in Germany and approaching

the problem of the Refugees who have already fled or are about to flee, is only a curative measure and not a permanent solution. Before the discussion of Refugees closed Titulescu arose to his feet and said that since the Nazis had spread the propaganda in Roumania that their Foreign Minister was conspiring with the League of Nations to send 50,000 refugees into their country, he wished to take this opportunity to deny such rumours and to say also, that he felt that in view of Roumania's economic conditions the country did not have room for one more foreigner!

The third meeting of the Council was mainly concerned with the "Free City of Danzig". Nazi influence and power has spread there from Germany, to the extent of suppressing freedom of the Press; and with such strength in the Senate that in direct defiance of the League, they have passed laws that are flagrantly unconstitutional. At the last election such unfair procedure existed that a petition was sent in by the various political parties of Danzig requesting the Council to intervene. Especially noteworthy, therefore, was Greiser's speech (President of the Danzig Senate and an ardent Nazi) which was a smooth but impudent notice to the Council to mind its own business. His tone changed two days later, however, after Eden's terse reply to the effect that it was the League's business to see that the Danzig Constitution was upheld. Also, as Rapporteur, Mr. Eden emphasized the necessity for the Danzig Senate to repeal the unconstitutional laws which it had passed, and that it must also remove the muzzle from the Danzig Press. He expressed praise and gratitude for the report of Mr. Lester, the League's High Commissioner of Danzig, which had given detailed examples of Nazi influence and control of Danzig politics. It seems that the Nazis are too stupid to realize that if they go too far in this they will push the people of Danzig into the very willing arms of Warsaw. Also, such a forceful position taken by Great Britain at this time is very significant and may show that their policy will be to oppose now (we hope before it is too late) the aggression of Hitler as strenuously as they can; for Mussolini has taught them the grievous mistake of allowing any Dictator a free hand in defenceless countries.

The lighter moments of the Council meetings were provided by the dispute arising between Uruguay and Russia due to the breaking off of Diplomatic Relations by the former. Litvinov was given an excellent chance to denounce the

## PEOPLES' MANDATE TO GOVERNMENTS

British Text

We are determined to end war. War settles no problems. War brings economic misery, needless suffering and death to us and to our children.

All attention is turned to-day on the war that is in being.

We must prepare for the day when peace will be restored.

We must, in preparation, make effective the opinion of those who would plan a world without war.

We demand that our Governments in common action to fulfil their international pledges:

## MANDATS DES PEUPLES A LEURS GOUVERNEMENTS

adoptés par le Comité Exécutif International Septembre 1935

Nous sommes résolus à mettre fin à la guerre. La guerre ne résout aucun problème. La guerre nous apporte, à nous et à nos enfants, la détresse économique, des souffrances inutiles et la mort.

Tous les Gouvernements du monde ont signé le Pacte de la Société des Nations ou le Pacte Briand-Kellogg, voire même les deux, et ont, ainsi, renoncé à la guerre pour le règlement des conflits internationaux.

Devant la menace d'un monde livré au chaos, Nous réclamons, de nos Gouvernements, une action commune en vue de l'accomplissement de leurs engagements internationaux:

*Qu'ils cessent immédiatement d'accroître leurs armements et leurs armées*

*Stop immediately all increase of armaments and armed forces*

*Use existing machinery for peaceful settlement of present conflicts and, at the first opportunity,*

*Secure a world treaty for immediate reduction of arms as a step towards complete world disarmament*

*Secure international agreements founded on recognition of world interdependence to end the economic anarchy which breeds war.*

As we sign this Mandate, people in countries throughout the world are signing it with us, united in the determination to secure world peace.

*Qu'ils fassent usage du mécanisme existant pour le règlement pacifique des conflits actuels*

*Qu'ils assurent la conclusion d'un traité mondial pour la réduction immédiate des armes comme premier pas vers le désarmement total et universel*

*Qu'ils assurent la conclusion des accords internationaux fondés sur la reconnaissance de l'interdépendance mondiale pour mettre fin à l'anarchie économique du monde qui engendre la guerre.*

Tandis que nous signons ce mandat, dans tous les pays du monde d'autres le signent unis avec nous dans la résolution d'assurer la Paix du monde.

## NEWS ABOUT THE MANDATE CAMPAIGN

You no doubt have read the news in the last issue of *Pax* about Holland, Hungary, Sweden, Czecho-Slovakia, France and the United States. Since then lists have continued to circulate in Holland and so far about 15,000 signatures have been collected. It is proposed to conduct a campaign in about 600 Dutch newspapers in order to obtain a fresh batch of signatures.

In Hungary our friends are triumphing in spite of great difficulties. They have succeeded not only in securing the co-operation of seven big associations but also in getting prominent people of various kinds to give their support. The Archbishop, Count Zichy, has written them a letter assuring them of his sympathy and giving them his blessing.

In Sweden the campaign started early on with meetings in over 200 towns and villages. Radio speeches were made, one by the wife of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and religious services have been held. Thanks to this method over 100,000 people are taking part, through their organisations, in this big campaign which is spreading all over Sweden.

In Czecho-Slovakia the section has followed the example of the Swedish women and has worked during October for a big women's campaign against war. Afterwards they set to work on their special task of organising the Mandate. Already 30 large organisations have signed the Mandate. Two big meetings held at Reichenberg and Gablonz endorsed the Mandate. A big organisation having over 200,000 members has signed it and over 10,000 individual signatures have already been collected.

In France a Committee of 30 people has been set up and 15 organisations have signed the Mandate, including the F. O. P. (Ex-Servicemen) consisting of 128,000 members and the National Committee of Women against War with nearly 100,000 members touching more than 500,000 young women.

In Denmark the Campaign will begin in a few days. Mme Daugaard will give us news about the Mandate for the next issue of *Pax*.

In Finland 16 organisations are collaborating and about 8000 lists, with space for 40 names on each, are in circulation.

In Great Britain the Mandate campaign began after Christmas, the General Election having absorbed the whole activity of the peace movement until then. Already a large number of organ-

isations have signed, including the Women's Cooperative Guild, National British Women's Total Abstinence Union, the Teachers Anti-War Movement, and the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers. The Honorary Council has been formed and local branches of the W. I. L. have started on their work. A public meeting will be held on 12th March in London.

In the United States the campaign is very active and the Mandate is circulating, in all parts of the country. This work requires considerable time and is more complicated by the work in South America, where the long distances prevent quick action. The American and Far East Mandate Committee has hardly begun on the work in China, Japan and the Pacific. But our American friends meet everywhere with great interest and can raise funds both for their own work and for the Europe Africa Committee. Up to the present the necessary funds for our work have come firstly from the United States and then from Great Britain, Holland, Tunis and from the League of Mothers and Teachers. The French Section of the W. I. L. P. F. has promised to send us a contribution and we hope to get some financial assistance from other sections.

We have written to over 70 International organisations of which about 20 have replied. Some of them, such as the International Suffrage Alliance, the World Committee of Women, the International Women's Co-operative Guild, and the League of Mothers and Teachers are co-operating with us. Other organisations such as the C. I. A. M. A. C., the "Entraide universitaire", the League of Nations Societies, have had to wait for the meeting of their International Committees.

Pastor Roser has endorsed the Mandate on behalf of the membership of the French group of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and will bring up the question at the meeting of the International Committee.

The work in countries without sections is rather difficult and in spite of the great number of letters written to possible sympathizing organisations in the Baltic provinces, Egypt, Turkey, Persia, Australia, Africa, India and U.S.S.R. we have so far received no answers.

The Mandate Committee met at the Hague on the 22nd January, and took some decisions with regard to our work. Mrs. K. E. Innes, Mrs. B.

Duncan-Harris, Mme Ramondt-Hirschmann, Mme Hanouskova and C. Drevet were present. Dr. Sahlbom, Mme Daugaard and Mme Eidenschenk could not come. After having gone through the work in the different countries, the Committee made the following decisions:

1. To collect at the end of March the latest results obtained in the various countries, marking the first stage in the Campaign. The final results will be entered in a "Livre d'or" giving the list of the Honorary Councils in each country, the organisations that have endorsed the Mandate and the number of individual signatures obtained, together with the total number of individuals present at meetings and conferences that have endorsed the mandate.

We shall take the opportunity at the Executive Committee at Prague to call on Ambassadors residing in Czecho-Slovakia to lay before them the results of the first stage of our Campaign. It may be possible to broadcast over the wireless in co-operation with our Czecho-Slovakian friends. After Prague, if possible, some of the delegates will go to Hungary, Poland, and the Baltic provinces, etc.

2. On the 30th April we shall again collect the results from all the countries and the campaign will finish in Europe. The "Livre d'or" of the Mandate Campaign will be presented to the Governments between the 15th May and 15th June. We shall discuss details in Prague of the visit of international delegations to Governments.

The Office of the Mandate Commission in Paris will close on 15th June.

3. We shall ask the Executive in Prague to organise at Geneva in September a demonstration, at the time of the presentation of the Mandate to the Assembly of the League of Nations. By that time the United States will have accomplished a year's work and obtained the results it was striving for. The Mandate work will thus coincide as far as possible in all parts of the world.

Time is limited, and we ask all our friends to intensify their efforts as much as possible.

We wish to repeat on behalf of the French Section of the Mandate that any groups able to send a delegate to the Arras Demonstration on March 15th should apply to the office of the "Ligue des Mères et des Educatrices", 1. Rue Lacretelle-prolongée. Paris 15e.

Camille Drevet.

growing custom of other countries and nations of fixing on Russia the blame for all of their internal troubles. Although Uruguay insisted that the internal disension in Brazil (a friendly neighbour) was due to Russia and that the same menace threatened her own state, her representative could produce no proofs for his statement so that one was almost forced to believe that Litvinov was right in saying that the only valid excuse that he could discover for Uruguay's breaking off relations was that Russia had refused to buy several tons of their cheese! It is difficult to understand just why Uruguay would go to such lengths as breaking off Diplomatic Relations with Russia unless some Power hostile to Russia had made it worth her while. Despite the Council's public meetings with its reports and discussions, we are inevitably faced with the age old problem of intrigue and unseen influence.

Mary C. H. Davies.

### NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS

#### Austria

On the 20th January we held the last of our Autumn lectures on Currency, which were important in exposing the most deep lying causes of the universal depression and the question of peace and war. On the 15th January we had a discussion on an educational plan to which the representatives of 24 girls' schools and of all big women's organisations, such as "Agöf" and prominent personalities were invited. This gave us an opportunity of speaking about the work accomplished by our Branch and we found unreserved support for our proposals, namely the inclusion of the following subjects in school curriculums especially for girls: economic and population statistics, currency and budget problems, the importance of external debts, the power of munitions concerns, the causes of war, the League of Nations and arbitration, the relations between the white and coloured races and so on. We hope other sections will co-operate in this work.

#### Czecho-Slovakia

On the 12th of January the W.I.L.P.F. group at Gablonz on the German border was founded; 2000 people were present. The wife of the Mayor of Gablonz opened the meetings. Frau Ottenburg and Frau Hanouskova were the chief speakers of the evening. Our audience was just as enthusiastic as the one in Reichenberg in November. 300 Members joined immediately. Preparations are under way to form groups in Teplitz, Karlsbad,

Aussig as well as in Maehr. Ostrau, Olmuetz, Josefov and Jaromer. Our Members hope to welcome members of the International Executive as speakers in big public meetings in some of these towns after the sessions of the Executive Meetings in Prague in April.

#### Finland.

This Section asks us to let readers of *Pax* know that not 500 but 8000 lists with the space for 40 names each are circulating for signatures for the People's Mandate in Finland, the text being printed in Finnish and Swedish.

#### Hungary

A carefully planned "Enquête" on "War or Peace", at which our best men and women speakers, politicians, editors, physicians, professors, lawyers and leaders of organisations were prepared to speak, was prohibited by the police on the eve of the first meeting. No answer was given to our appeal to the Minister of Home Affairs.

In the opening address at our Annual General Meeting on December 18th, the Chairman developed the principles of the W. I. L. P. F. on the question of Sanctions and on the just distribution of raw materials as one of the preventive measures against war. Three resolutions were passed concerning: 1. Adequate teaching in Secondary Schools about the League of Nations. 2. Request for the institution of Women Police to avoid such atrocities as repeatedly occur and which are committed against women by policemen raiding the streets. 3. Reform of the League of Nations Covenant to provide for the admittance of representatives of non-official elements in society. This resolution was sent to the W. I. L. P. F. for discussion at the forthcoming International Executive.

The Executive Committee of the Section passed a resolution pressing the Government to co-operate with other members of the League of Nations in an immediate embargo on oil to Italy.

#### Norway

During the autumn months we held 3 members' meetings. At the first meeting the Norwegian chairman of the International Council of Women, Mrs. Betzy Kjelsberg, gave a lecture on Lady Aberdeen, then Mrs. Minni Sverdrop-Lunden talked about Karl von Ossietzky, the proposed candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize. On the 5th November we had various reports from home and abroad. On 3rd December we had a lecture by Henrik Sorensen on "Achnaton,

the first Pacifist". Mr. Sorensen is one of our most famous painters and also a very ardent pacifist. It was thanks to him that our Peace Exhibition was such a success. Since the 1st April the Peace Exhibition has been held in Oslo and 13 other towns all over the country. The minds of the people have been stirred up everywhere. Discussions and articles appeared in many newspapers and on many occasions the W. I. L. and especially its chairmen have come in for criticism. In our opinion the exhibition has done good work. Recently the Norwegian Nazis were made to feel ashamed of themselves and that is something to be thankful for, although it is sad, that we have such elements in our peaceful country.

I have also to report that the secretary of the section Mrs. Ursula Jorfald has given 4 lectures on the Armaments Industry, 3 were held in South Norway and one just outside Oslo.

I myself gave 8 lectures on peace, 4 in Oslo, 2 just outside and 2 in Sweden.

With regard to the People's Mandate, I presume that the work will take the same course here as it has done in Denmark. Owing to lack of money we cannot collect individual signatures, but have to ask the big organisations to help us to make it known. L. Mohr.

### THE OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1936 IN GERMANY

"The solidarity of all nations and all races" —that is the original purpose of the Olympic Games. But in a country where one race is glorified at the expense of the others, where all non-Aryans are considered as inferior beings, where the German Jews and the Germans who have not submitted to the dogma of National Socialism are oppressed, tortured and driven to death, there can be no hope of the solidarity of nations and races.

3 million sport-lovers in Germany have been deprived of the chance of taking part in active sport.

The Olympic Games of 1936 only add to the glorification of Hitler-Germany in particular and dictatorship in general. Everyone, whether interested in sport or not, should be quite clear that by attending the Olympic Games one contributes to this glorification. The Olympic Games of 1936 are not a matter for lovers of sport alone, they concern all those who are fighting for the rights of man and for freedom. We must all take action before it is too late.

We should ask the International Committee for Olympic Games to do

all in their power to have the Olympic Games held in another country, or, if the time is too short for the necessary preparations, to postpone them till 1937.

Address your protests and your demands without delay to the *Comité International Olympique*, M. le Comte de Baillet-Letour, 23, avenue du Trane, Bruxelles.

*Comité d'action contre la tenue des Jeux Olympiques à Berlin*, 5, rue du Cardinal-Mercier, Paris 9e.

*Comité International pour le respect de l'esprit olympique*, 65, boulevard Arago, Paris 13e.

#### MANDATE INSET

Owing to lack of space, it has been impossible to print Mme Drevet's News about the Mandate Campaign in both French and English. We have already had a large demand for this Mandate inset from the British Section and have therefore printed it in English. If a sufficient demand for it in French is received, we shall then issue a French version.

#### AUX LECTEURS DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE

Vu le manque d'espace, il nous a été impossible de publier l'article de Camille Drevet, Nouvelles de la campagne des «mandats», aussi bien en français qu'en anglais. Nous l'avons fait imprimer en anglais, comme il y a une grande commande dans cette langue. Nous serons très contentes de publier la version française, quand nous aurons suffisamment de commandes.

#### TWO BIOGRAPHIES

We recommend the following two Biographies to our Readers:

*Jane Addams*: by James Weber Linn. Price \$ 3.50 or 15/- from D. Appleton Century Co. New York, London.

*I have been Young*: H. M. Swanwick. Price 18/- from Gollancz, Henrietta St. London.

It is hoped to review both these books in a later issue of *Pax*.

#### TO INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS AND READERS OF "PAX"

Those who responded so promptly to our appeal for payment of their dues for 1935 have done a great service to this office. But many more payments are needed to bring our files up to date. Will those who have not yet sent in their contribution of frs. s. 15.— for *International Membership for 1935 and 1936* and frs. s. 2.50 for *Pax International for 1935 and 1936*

kindly do so without further delay.

International Members are entitled to receive *Pax International*.

The year 1936 will be a decisive year in world politics. For us it should be a year of intensified work and struggle for our Aims. It is not enough to co-ordinate "Peace Forces", it is an imperative duty of each member to redouble her efforts, to get new members and to line up with us in our fight against oppression and violence in all fields and for the defence of Freedom and Peace.

## MEETING OF W.I.L.P.F. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PRAGUE APRIL 1936

By kind invitation of our Czechoslovakian Section, the next Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom will be held in Prague. *The Zensky Klub, Praha II, Smecky 26* will be at our disposal for Meetings as well as for accomodation for our Members.

*Dates*: Committee Meetings will begin on Monday April 27th at 9.30 a.m. The Mandate Committee will sit on Tuesday, April 28th from 2.30 to 6.30 p.m. *The Opening Session of the Executive Committee* will be

on Wednesday April 29th at 9.30 a.m. and Meetings are expected to continue through Sunday May 3rd.

Among the items on the *Preliminary Agenda* are: The International Political Situation—Colonial Problems—W. I. L. P. F.'s attitude towards plans for a Reform of the League of Nations—W. I. L. P. F.'s relations to International Associations, official and unofficial—Report on League of Nations Committee for International Repression of Terrorism—The Mandate Campaign—Paris World Exhibition 1937—Questions of Administration.

## RÉUNION DU COMITÉ EXÉCUTIF DE LA L.I.F.P.L. A PRAGUE, AVRIL 1936

Sur l'invitation aimable de notre Section tchécoslovaque, la prochaine Réunion du Comité exécutif de la Ligue Internationale de Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté aura lieu à Prague. *Le Zensky Klub, Praha II, Smecky 26* sera à notre disposition pour les réunions, ainsi que pour le logement de nos membres.

*Dates*: Les réunions des différentes Commissions commenceront le lundi 27 avril à 9 h. 30. La Commission des mandats siégera le mardi 28 avril, de 14 h. 30 à 18 h. 30. *La Session d'ouverture du Comité exécutif* aura

lieu le mercredi 29 avril, à 9 h. 30. Les réunions seront terminées le dimanche 3 mai y compris.

Parmi les sujets de l'*Ordre du jour préliminaire* se trouvent: La Situation politique internationale — Problèmes coloniaux — l'Attitude de la L. I. F. P. L. vis-à-vis des projets d'une Réforme de la S. d. N. — Relations de la L. I. F. P. L. vis-à-vis des Organismes Internationaux — Rapport sur le Comité de la S. d. N. pour la Répression internationale du Terrorisme — La Campagne des Mandats — l'Exposition Mondiale de Paris, 1937 — Questions administratives.