

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR  
PEACE AND FREEDOM,

BRITISH SECTION, 29. Great James St., London, W.C.1

CHANCERY 4817.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

FOR PEACE & FREEDOM

BRITISH SECTION

WILPF 2/26



FORTY-FIRST

# ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1956

TO APRIL 1957

ADDRESS - 29 GREAT JAMES STREET - LONDON - W.C.1



The aim of the WILPF is to bring together women of different political and philosophical tendencies united in their determination to study, make known and abolish the political, social, economic and psychological causes of war, and to work for a constructive peace.

The primary objects of the WILPF remain : total and universal disarmament, the abolition of violent means of coercion for the settlement of conflicts, the substitution in every case of some form of peaceful settlement, and the development of a world organisation for the political, social and economic co-operation of peoples.

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

*International Headquarters :*

12, Rue du Vieux College, Geneva, Switzerland.

*International President :*

Miss Emily Greene Balch.

The WILPF was founded at The Hague in 1915 by women from 13 countries. There are Sections in Australia, Austria, Burma, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, U.S.A.

The WILPF has Consultative Status B with ECOSOC; Consultative Status with UNESCO; Specialised Consultative Status with FAO; and Consultative Relations with ILO.

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### BRITISH SECTION

*Headquarters Office :*

29, Great James Street, London, W.C.1. CHAncery 4817.

*President :*

Dame Professor Kathleen Lonsdale, F.R.S.

*Vice-Presidents :*

Miss B. M. Baker	Mrs. K. E. Innes
Miss Vera Brittain	Lady Mayer
Lady Boyd Orr	Miss Edith Pye
Rev. Constance Coltman, M.A., B.D.	Mrs. McGregor Ross
Miss M. Dickinson	Mrs. A. Z. Stapledon
The Hon. Mrs. Franklin, C.B.E.	Miss L. de Swiet
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Dr. Rita Hinden	Mrs. McGregor Wood

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Mrs. E. F. Ineson

*Hon. Membership Secretary :*

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*Hon. Treasurer :*

Mrs. M. A. Radley

*News Sheet Editor :*

Mrs. P. Cusden, J.P.

*Liaison Officer :*

Mrs. McGregor Wood

*Chairman of Executive Committee :*

Miss Sybil Morrison

*Vice-Chairmen of Executive Committee :*

Mrs. M. Nuttall, Mrs. E. Peat, Mrs. R. D. Wood.



## CONGRESS

July, 1956, saw the Thirteenth Triennial International Congress of the WILPF meeting for the first time in Britain at the Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham, with the British Section acting as hostesses to almost 250 delegates and visitors from as far afield as America, China, India and Japan, as well as from the countries of Europe. The broad theme of the Congress was the role of the WILPF in meeting the challenge of the atomic revolution with its scientific, social, economic and political problems.

The plenary sessions were held in the George Cadbury Hall under the guidance of the International Chairman, Miss Marie Lous-Mohr. Discussion was channelled into three Commissions which studied (i) Impact of Atomic Science on the Modern World; (ii) Power Politics and the United Nations; (iii) Disarmament and its Consequences. Amongst the many interesting papers given by members were Dame Kathleen Lonsdale's background paper on Nuclear Energy; Dr. Gertrude Woker's report of the 1955 Geneva Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy; Mrs. Gladys Walser's survey of post-war efforts towards Disarmament; and Mrs. Else Zeuthen's able summary of the implications of the Hydrogen Bomb and International Policy.

Miss Gertrude Baer gave a comprehensive report of her three years' work since the last Congress as U.N. Consultant in Geneva, Mme. Jouve's paper on "The Atomic Age and Education in the Humanities" showed great insight into contemporary moral and cultural problems and her report as our Consultant for UNESCO in Paris indicated ways in which Sections could support this valuable work. Professor Tano Jodai of Tokyo brought us the deep aspirations to peace of the Far East. We were honoured to have as a visitor to Congress Madame Li Teh-chuan, Chinese Minister for Health, who brought greetings from her people.

A public meeting with speakers from seven countries was held in connection with Congress, and a three-day coach-trip was organised for overseas delegates immediately afterwards. The gratitude of the whole Section is due to the many members who contributed so much to the smooth running and happy atmosphere of the Congress; and to Aileen Cramer of the United States who acted as Congress Secretary in London. Mrs. Mary Nuttall was Chairman of the International and British Congress Committees, ably assisted in Birmingham by Miss H. Walmsley (General Organiser), Miss E. Jesper (Secretary), Miss I. Hundy (Treasurer), Mrs. Doncaster and Mrs. Lennard.

## COMMITTEES

**EXECUTIVE.**—Chairman: Mrs. Myrtle Radley (May and July); Miss Sybil Morrison (elected October).

Five meetings have been held during the year, with increasingly good attendances. At the **May** meeting Miss Lettice Jowitt spoke on conditions of life in South Africa as she had experienced them. In **July** members were invited by Lady Mayer to her home to see a film of her visit to India and Ceylon. Greetings were sent to the International President, Emily Greene Balch, on her 90th birthday on 8th **January**, 1957.

Officers have met between Executives to deal with finance, publications, membership and correspondence, and have made recommendations to the Executive.

**PARLIAMENTARY.**—Chairman: Mrs. Phoebe Cusden (April to October); Mrs. Evelyn Peat (elected October).

This is a London Headquarters Committee to which members are invited as visitors. Some branches have similar committees of their own. The Committee now takes place at the House of Commons once a month, whilst Parliament is sitting, by invitation of Mrs. Joyce Butler, M.P., who attends as a member. Otherwise weekly meetings at 29, Great James Street have continued throughout the year.

About eighty copies of the minutes are circulated each week to members and branches, on payment of 5s. annually to cover postage. The Committee makes good

use of Gertrude Baer's reports of United Nations work at Geneva and Gladys Walser's reports from the General Assembly in New York; *Hansard* is constantly consulted on all parliamentary issues. When action is taken it is on behalf of the whole Section and is reported to Geneva and to other Sections when relevant.

Amongst members who have travelled overseas during the year are Lady Mayer, to India and Ceylon; Miss Edith Adlam, as representative of the British Section at a seminar on the Status of Women held in Moscow; Mrs. Hussey to the UN Assembly in New York and Mrs. Fernau as a visitor to the USA.

In May Mrs. Nonomiya from Japan was welcomed at the Committee and spoke on the struggle of peace movements in Japan against proposals to introduce rearmament into the Constitution. In October Mrs. Winifred Holmes spoke on her experiences in Egypt where she spent two years with a documentary film unit.

## THE YEAR'S WORK

One special feature of this year's work has been the co-ordination of policy and action between Branches and Headquarters, and between the British Section, the International Headquarters and other Sections. The value of having a Headquarters group meeting weekly was demonstrated in August and September when the Suez question became a national emergency threatening world war, and we were able to add our weight at the right moment to public opinion in protest against HM Government's use of military force. Although lobbying is difficult and deputation rarely successful, there has been a persistent spreading of our views and aims through speech and the Press and by correspondence with Government departments.

During the Suez crisis letters were also exchanged with the United States, Canada and Israeli Sections. The Japanese Section appealed to us twice to support their protest against the Christmas Island nuclear tests; and the Australian Section has voiced its strong concern about the fate of the aborigines in the area of the Woomera Rocket Range.

Regular letters from the International Chairman have provided valuable guidance on international issues. Reports from Gertrude Baer, our UN Consultant in Geneva, have given much useful background information not otherwise obtainable; in her January letter she was able to report that the WILPF had been admitted to consultative relations with the International Labour Organisation. Letters from Gladys Walser in New York kept us fully informed on matters before the General Assembly.

**MIDDLE EAST.**—Tensions in the Middle East were reflected at our own Congress when delegates from Israel and Syria put their differing views on the Israeli-Arab dispute; and following Congress Gladys Walser spoke in London on the Suez Canal crisis, relating it to the many other revolutionary movements in the world. The policy of the WILPF has been to advocate internationalisation of all important waterways, but in the Suez crisis it was stressed in correspondence with the Government that this policy should not be applied to any one area in isolation nor should it be forced on an unwilling people in whose country the waterway lies. Efforts at mediation by the United Nations were strongly supported, and a letter was sent to the Prime Minister in August deploring his threat of military action. On the eve of the London conference on Suez a further letter was written to the Prime Minister, with copies to all delegates. (See *Peace and Freedom*, Nov.-Dec., 1956, for full correspondence on the issue.)

When the disastrous attack on Egypt actually took place in October a telegram was sent to the Prime Minister strongly protesting against the British veto in the Security Council and the use of force in the Suez area. This was followed by a letter to Mr. Gaitskell, leader of the Opposition, supporting his efforts to secure a ceasefire and withdrawal of British troops; and to Mr. Nutting on his resignation from the Government. Members throughout the country joined in protest meetings with other organisations and were active in maintaining pressure to stop the fighting and resume negotiations under the United Nations. A statement issued from Headquarters was sent to all members and branches and was quoted in the *Manchester Guardian*.



The ceasefire and withdrawal of troops from Egypt led us to consider the function and possible development of the UN Emergency Force. It was recommended that the question should be studied closely and brought before the Annual Council.

**CYPRUS.**—Throughout the year the tragic conditions on this island have been uppermost in our minds, and we have constantly protested against the policy of HM Government in meeting violence with violence. Early in the year we welcomed the formation of the Cyprus Conciliation Committee and made contact with Mrs. Lena Jeger, M.P., who continues to advise us on possible action. Protest letters were sent to the Colonial Secretary in May and the Prime Minister in September, deploring the worsening conditions and urging renewed negotiation with Archbishop Makarios at a suitable time and place.

In November, when still more severe emergency measures were introduced in Cyprus, our concern about the effect on the young people of the island was expressed in a letter published in the *Manchester Guardian* and a further letter to the Colonial Secretary. This brought a detailed reply from Mr. Lennox Boyd reiterating the Government view that the regulations were necessary and salutary. However, we were glad to note that in December certain of the measures were rescinded, including that providing for the whipping of young offenders.

**REFUGEES.**—We have constantly urged the Government to contribute more generously to the High Commissioner's Five Year Plan for a permanent solution of the refugee problem in Europe, and pressed the Foreign Secretary again on the subject in July. Owing to a large gift from Sweden at the end of 1956 the Fund was able to claim from HM Government an extra £20,000 matching contribution which was held back the previous year.

Pressure was also exerted to persuade the Government to give its assent to the calling of a Conference on Statelessness. It was gratifying that in July HMG did so, being the seventeenth country to sign out of the necessary twenty.

Concerted help was given to the UNA Campaign for Refugees in the autumn by branches and Headquarters, in raising funds and spreading knowledge of the problem. Dame May Curwen, UK representative on the High Commissioner's Executive, was able to announce that just over £125,000 had been raised by this voluntary effort.

Fresh problems have recently arisen with the flood of refugees from Hungary and the expulsions from Egypt. The state of refugees in Hong Kong is causing serious concern, and the tragedy of the Arab refugees in the Middle East remains unsolved.

**NUCLEAR TESTS.**—Protests against the continuation of nuclear tests have been made both on the moral grounds of our opposition to a defence policy based on weapons of mass destruction, and on the as yet unknown risks to the health of present and future generations. We have also explored the legal aspect of the closing of large areas of the high seas to shipping, and urged HM Government in May to support proposals in the International Law Commission to limit the rights of states to make such experiments. In October a copy of the Congress Commission statement on nuclear tests was sent to the Prime Minister, drawing particular attention to the need for halting development of the new intercontinental ballistic missiles. An appeal received from our Japanese Section in February to stop the forthcoming British tests in the Christmas Islands was circulated to branches and the Press, and the February Executive recommended that a national campaign to stop all tests should be supported.

At the opening of the London meeting of the Disarmament Sub-Committee on 18th March, a letter was sent to the Prime Minister and to the Secretary of the Sub-Committee pleading that urgent consideration be given to the stopping of all tests.

**UNITED NATIONS.**—We have again participated fully in the working groups of SCESWUN (Standing Conference on Economic and Social Work of the United Nations) dealing with Human Rights, Refugees, Status of Women and Technical Assistance; the Child Welfare working group was discontinued at the end of 1956, in view of the formation of a UNICEF Committee for the United Kingdom on which we are represented.

A memorandum was circulated to the United Kingdom delegation at the United Nations at the opening of the Eleventh Assembly in November with special reference to the following items:—Disarmament; Atomic Energy; Economic Development; Middle East; Cyprus; Non-selfgoverning Territories; Human Rights; Antarctica; International Law; Seating of China. A copy was also sent to Mr. Hammarström, together with a letter of appreciation for his "untiring efforts for peace".

A letter was sent to the Foreign Secretary in October, expressing concern over certain statements made by Lord John Hope at the Economic and Social Council which questioned HM Government's ability "to continue to participate on the present footing in the programmes of the United Nations and the specialised agencies". On the contrary, we urged, contributions to these agencies should be increased.

During the debate on Disarmament in the Political Committee in January, a speech by Commander Noble was noted urging the banning of inter-continental ballistic missiles. This was welcomed, but in a subsequent letter we pointed out that in home policy "a reliance on the development of these weapons is now being advocated, and the discrepancy between the two priorities is causing us grave alarm".

**RACE RELATIONS.**—Taken in its broadest sense, the problem of race relations is one that we are striving to solve all over the world in order to establish understanding, tolerance and friendship among the nations. This year again, however, Africa has been the chief sphere of our study.

The United Kingdom representative's negative attitude to the hearing of oral petitions by the UN Committee on **South-West Africa** was regretted in a letter to the Foreign Secretary in June, in view of the opinion of the International Court of Justice that such petitions were permissible. It was noted with satisfaction in February, 1957, that the General Assembly endorsed this opinion and authorised the hearing of oral petitions.

The year has been a critical one for the **Central African Federation** with increasing pressure from the European population for the granting of Dominion status. In a letter to Lord Home in November we urged that this measure should not be taken and that due regard should be paid to the wishes of the Africans in the territories. Replying, Lord Home stated that "full account will be taken of the views of the Africans" in any questions affecting them.

The increasingly repressive racial policy of the **South African Government** has caused great concern. A memorandum from South African students opposing segregation in the universities was circulated to our branches in university towns. The **High Commission Territories** have also been under consideration, and it was noted with satisfaction in July that HM Government had refused to accede to South Africa's request to incorporate the territories in the Union. Economic, educational and political development has been closely watched, and in January a small sub-committee was set up by the Parliamentary Committee for the collection of relevant information.

Progress in Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and the Gold Coast has also been kept in view. A message of congratulation was sent for Ghana Independence Day on 6th March, 1957. Information has been circulated from time to time to members of the Race Relations Group and to branches studying colonial affairs. We are indebted to the Africa Bureau and to Miss Noble of the UN Information Centre for valuable information and advice.

**HUNGARY.**—The tragic events in Hungary in October and November caused great concern and a letter was addressed to the Soviet Ambassador in London strongly urging that Soviet troops should be withdrawn and that Hungary be permitted to determine its own form of government. Efforts have also been made to get in touch with Mrs. Anna Kethly, the exiled Social Democrat who is an old member of our League; she expressed the wish to meet members on her return from the United States.

**STATUS OF WOMEN.**—The League co-operated with the SCESWUN working group, Status of Women Committee, and UNA Women's Council in urging HM Government that women's non-governmental organisations should be consulted when appointing the UK delegate to the United Nations Status of Women Commission. Following a question by Mrs. Joyce Butler in Parliament, the Foreign Secretary agreed to consider any nominations forwarded by such organisations.



In January a letter was sent to Mr. Macmillan regretting that in forming his government the Prime Minister had appointed no woman to a senior ministerial post and urging that in future appointments a more balanced representation should be made. The promulgation of a statute by Sir Maurice Bowra in February to abolish the quota of women students at Oxford University was noted with satisfaction.

**ANTARCTICA.**—The co-operation of 40 nations in the work of the International Geo-physical Year brought the future of the Antarctic regions to the forefront of public interest, which was increased by the news that the Duke of Edinburgh was to visit Antarctica in January during his world tour. It was decided to send a letter to the Duke, with the President's signature, drawing attention to proposals for the international control of Antarctica "in order that its resources may be developed co-operatively for the benefit of all peoples". An acknowledgment was received from Lieut.-Gen. Sir Frederick Browning. When the Duke returned to London in February he made particular mention of the future development of the region, and suggested that the continent might be used "as a gigantic germ-free cold store where the periodic world surpluses of food could be preserved against lean years and famine".

**EDUCATION.**—Four main subjects have been considered during the year.

(1) The work of UNESCO. Madame Jouve's report given to the Triennial Congress emphasised the need of thinking in terms of comprehension and co-operation. Arising out of this, the report of the Inter-University Council for Higher Education in the Colonies is under consideration; so also, is the need of the neo-literate populations for adequate and suitable reading material.

(2) The developing schemes for Technical Education in view of the larger number of girls entering for these.

(3) Programmes in Adult Education including Parent Groups. How far do these indicate world-mindedness and racial co-operation?

(4) Promotion of Art for World Friendship scheme has gone on steadily. An increasing number of drawings have been exchanged and some children have already started to exchange letters also.

A general suggestion to branches has been the reading with discussion of Professor Theo Lentz's very challenging book, "Towards a Science of Peace". Members of the WILPF realise that this age, if it survives, will be known for its general awareness of the interdependence of humanity, and that each educative step towards greater understanding is a positive contribution towards the attainment of World Peace.

## REPORTS FROM THE BRANCHES

The British Section has 22 active branches where regular meetings are held. It is regretted that **South Devon** has had to suspend activities; we welcome the formation of a new branch at **Great Crosby** (Liverpool). Concerted action was taken over several national issues, notably during the Suez crisis, and many branches have helped with the UNA and Lord Mayor's appeals for Refugees. Other activities are reported briefly below.

**BIRMINGHAM.** As hostess branch for the Triennial International Congress, Birmingham had a busy and exciting year. Eight new members were gained, increasing the total membership to 67. The Committee met five times and seven members' meetings were held. Miss Walmsley continues as Chairman of the national Education Committee, as British liaison officer for "Art for World Friendship", and as branch representative on the district council of UNA. Miss Hundy and Miss Bayes, J.P., represent the branch on the Standing Conference of Women's Organisations and Miss Robinson on the Birmingham Council for the Care of Old People. The branch is affiliated to the Birmingham Peace Council.

**BRADFORD.** Meetings are held regularly, and letters have been sent to M.P.s and to the local press. A successful jumble sale was organised in December, and in February Miss Adlam visited the branch to speak on her trip to Russia.

**BROMLEY.** Membership 14 (one new member, three losses). In May a joint meeting was held with Orpington, when Mrs. Peat spoke about the United Nations and Mrs. Rashan of Finland described her work as a teacher in Kenya. Other speakers have been Mrs. Nielson, of the Danish WILPF; Miss Cherry White who showed slides of British Columbia; and Mrs. Phillips, a Nigerian teacher from Lagos. Bring and buy sales were held in July and November, and £11 10s. was sent to Headquarters. In addition, nearly £30 was raised for refugees.

**CHEADLE HULME.** Thanks to the efforts of its Chairman, Mrs. Yarrow, regular meetings have been resumed in the branch, although a new Secretary has not yet been found to replace Mrs. Riley. Mrs. Shackleton visited the Branch in October and spoke of the work at Headquarters, and a social evening was held in January resulting in a small increase in funds.

**CHILDWALL.** Membership 63. Regular monthly meetings have been held on subjects ranging from work connected with the United Nations to accounts of visits to America, Brazil, Lapland, India and Russia. A fortnightly study class, under the auspices of the WEA, is working on "An Analysis of Social Institutions". The Parliamentary Sub-Committee has taken appropriate action, in accordance with Headquarters leadership. The branch has been sending parcels of literature, posters, writing and drawing materials to a boys' school in Nigeria, and it is hoped to link up the school with the Art for World Friendship scheme. The branch was well represented at the International Congress and also took part in the North-west Regional Conference in Manchester. Finances have been greatly helped by the valiant efforts of the Social Sub-Committee.

**COVENTRY.** Membership 15. The branch Chairman, Mrs. Grace Twyman, left the city at the end of 1956, to the great regret of all members. The branch now looks forward to working under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Bamfield. Two public meetings were arranged during the year in co-operation with the Africa Circle, addressed respectively by Rev. Michael Scott on "Africa Today" and Prof. Peter Worsley of Hull University on the history of Kenya. The branch also held two public meetings under its own auspices: Miss Eileen Fletcher spoke on her experiences in Kenya, and later Miss Edith Adlam gave a stimulating account of her visit to Russia. All these meetings received valuable press publicity.

Members have been active in other organisations. Mrs. Breakspear was on the Committee which brought Father Huddleston to Coventry and Miss Evans is Hon. Secretary of the Africa Circle. The branch was represented at a Council on Kenya arranged by the Birmingham Africa Bureau and at the International Night of the Business and Professional Women's Club.

**CROYDON.** Meetings are held in the new Friends Meeting House, and very good reports of activities have been given in the local press. Monthly lectures were given during the winter on Sierra Leone, Belgian Congo, Rhodesia, South Africa, and the Protectorates, giving a varied picture of achievements and problems and showing the great need for reconciliation and for technical assistance. Members have also heard reports on the UN General Assembly (Mrs. Peat), the International Congress, and HQ work in London; Mrs. Duncan Harris spoke to a combined meeting with a Church women's guild on our responsibilities in an Atomic Age. At a summer party in the grounds of Croham Hurst School Indian dancers and musicians entertained and an address was given by the President of Nigerian women in Britain. The autumn sale was a good financial success.

**EDINBURGH.** Membership 33. Monthly meetings with speakers are held during the winter, as well as Committee meetings, with speakers on a variety of subjects. It is found that lunch meetings are most popular. Mrs. Peat visited the branch in January to speak on her experiences at the UN Assembly, and in February Miss Adlam described conditions in Uzbekistan. Some officers were invited to meet Miss Ester Graf, President of the International Alliance of Women, who knows and works with Mrs. Zeuthen. A resolution on non-violent resistance was submitted to the National Council of Women in February.

**GLASGOW.** The branch reports five new members, and two lapsed during the year. Regular monthly meetings have been held in the Iona Community House. Mrs.



Peat and Miss Adlam also visited this branch. The appeal from the Japanese Section against bomb tests on Christmas Island was sent to M.P.s, Church Ministers and the Press. Sybil Morrison, Chairman of the Executive, visited the branch in March.

**GREAT CROSBY.** This new branch was formally inaugurated in February, when Mrs. Stapledon addressed the meeting. A Committee was formed, and the branch has 15 members with steadily increasing interest. The members have been meeting as a group since June, 1956, with monthly gatherings in members' homes and speakers from neighbouring branches.

**HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB.** Membership 31. Six members attended the International Congress and later gave reports, and Congress papers have been studied in order to gain a better understanding of the League's international work. In view of the events in the Middle East, a talk on life in Egypt was given by Mrs. Winifred Holmes and the Israeli point of view was given by Miss Becker.

**HASSOCKS & DITCHLING.** Membership 28. Monthly meetings are held, and reported in the "Mid-Sussex Times". A study was made of the West Indies, with a speaker from the Imperial Institute, films and books. Five members attended the International Congress. A protest was sent to the local press against bomb tests on Christmas Island. Two gramophone recitals were held in aid of funds, and a bring-and-buy table at each meeting has been a lucrative source of revenue.

**LEICESTER.** Membership 32. Nine meetings have been held. A special bring-and-buy sale in conjunction with the National Council of Women raised £165 for Refugees. A joint meeting with Coventry and Nottingham branches was held in June, when Rev. Clifford Macquire spoke on his visit to Moscow. The university college was approached on the question of segregation in South African universities and a helpful reply received.

**LIVERPOOL.** Meetings have been held each month except August, and speakers have included Dr. Hildegard Mayr, Lady Mayer and Mrs. McGregor Wood. Members who attended the International Congress reported to the branch in September. The branch representative on the Executive Committee, Mrs. Holmes, has given excellent reports. During the coming year it is planned to form small study groups in the suburbs. Members have continued to meet the boats bringing African students to this country, and to entertain the students whenever possible. Letters have been sent to M.P.s and to the Press on various issues.

**MANCHESTER.** Membership 107 (six new members, eight deaths). The main effort has been the holding of a North-West Regional Conference in October, when Dr. Alex. Wilson spoke on the timely subject of "Israel and the Arab League" and "Arab Oil, Suez and the West". Attendance at branch meetings has been good; two speakers have come from Headquarters. Lady Mayer and Mrs. McGregor Wood. The work of the Parliamentary Committee has been closely followed. The branch continues to send a periodical to the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, which is gratefully acknowledged. Support is given locally to the United Peace Fellowship, the Famine Relief Committee, the Council of Christians and Jews, the Standing Conference of Women's Organisations, the National Council of Women and the Council for African Affairs. An account of activities is now included in the Manchester Education Committee's publication, "Leisure and Learning".

The Withington group in Manchester undertook a serious study of the Gold Coast, with a visit from Paramount Chief Nana Nketsia IV of the Secondi-Takoradi district of the Fanti tribe. The Arab-Israel situation has also been closely watched. The summer garden party was a great success and £40 was raised for Headquarters funds.

**NORTH WALES (Bangor).** Mrs. Anne King resigned as Secretary at the end of 1956 and is replaced by Mrs. C. Hughes. Committee meetings are held fortnightly, and other activities have included a report on the International Congress; a tea for overseas students at which Lady Emrys Evans, the new branch President, was hostess; and an open meeting addressed by Miss Adlam on her visit to Russia.

**NOTTINGHAM.** Regular meetings have been held with speakers on a variety of subjects, and members attended the joint meeting in Leicester in May. Letters were sent to M.P.s on segregation in South African universities, Kenya, and H-bomb tests.

The branch was successful in getting "Peace and Freedom" into the public library. Parcels of food and clothing have been sent regularly to old people in D.P. camps in Germany. The branch is represented locally on UNA, Standing Conference of Women's Organisations, Committee for Aid to Refugees and Council of Social Service.

**ORPINGTON.** Membership 29. The branch lost a faithful friend in Else Wottitz who died last September. The study of racial problems in Africa was continued with talks by Roy Gale on the High Commission Territories; Grace Coleman on the Colour-bar in Northern Rhodesia; and Dr. Gillmore Lee on a recent visit to South Africa. With Miss Sear's help the "Modern Language Review" is again being sent to the new University in Salisbury. Protests were sent to the local press and M.P. against the impending nuclear tests on Christmas Island. Talks by Lady Mayer on India, Mrs. Holmes on Egypt and Miss Adlam on Uzbekistan were much appreciated. The annual garden party, at which Mlle. Pontheil from France spoke, helped to raise funds and was pictured on the front page of the "Orpington and Kentish Times".

**OXFORD.** The chief event of the year was the lunch party for Congress delegates in St. John's College, which was a very happy occasion for all; among the guests were Dame Kathleen Lonsdale, the Mayor of Oxford and Dr. Janet Vaughan. The branch has been glad to welcome as a local member Mrs. Myrtle Radley, who has helped to stimulate interest in the work of the Parliamentary Committee. In February a protest against H-bomb tests was sent to the Minister of Defence.

**WARRINGTON.** Membership 19. Monthly meetings were held, and speakers included Minnie Pallister, Mrs. Garnett and Mrs. Shackleton. Four members attended the International Congress in Birmingham, and the North-West Regional Conference in Manchester in October. Letters were sent to M.P.s urging negotiations with Archbishop Makarios to improve the situation in Cyprus. A greeting was sent to Emily Greene Balch for her 90th birthday.

**WEST KIRBY.** Membership increased to 39. Eight meetings have been held, speakers being Dr. Hildegard Mayr from Vienna, Mrs. Peat, Mrs. McGregor Wood, Mrs. Nancy Lapwood, Mrs. Shackleton and Mrs. Leong. Lady Mayer also visited the branch and showed colour films of her tour of India and Ceylon. In February a general discussion was held on the subject "After Suez", with contributions from seven husbands and with Mrs. Radley as chief guest. Local interest in the work is growing.

**WORTHING.** Membership has decreased owing to deaths and ill-health, but monthly meetings have been maintained with average attendance of 17. Speakers have included Mrs. Peat, Miss Gundry, Mrs. Radley and Miss Caleb. The Parliamentary minutes and International letters are studied and reports on the Executive have been given by the branch representative.

## LONDON MEETINGS

Monthly lunch-time meetings have continued to be held throughout the year at the Friends International Centre, and the average attendance of 30-40 has been well maintained. The success of these meetings is in no small part due to the excellent work of the Social Committee in providing and serving refreshments. Speakers have dealt with the following subjects:—

- Eric Baker, "Peace in the Twentieth Century".
- Mrs. Casinader, "Ceylon and its Women in a Changing World."
- Dame May Curwen, "The Waiting People: Permanent Solutions for Displaced Persons".
- Dr. Hugh Schonfield, "Questions and Answers on the Suez Problem".
- Edith Adlam, "Status of Women Seminar in Moscow".
- Mrs. Lena Jeger, M.P., "Cyprus in Crisis".
- Mrs. G. G. Coleman, "The Colour Bar in Rhodesia".
- Stuart Morris, "An International Police Force?"
- Mrs. Walter Elliot, "The Eleventh UN Assembly".



In addition, a special meeting was arranged in July for overseas delegates to Congress, at which the chief speaker was Mrs. Gladys Walser, our consultant at the United Nations in New York. A half-day conference was held in October on the theme of "The British Commonwealth and Colonies," at which we were indebted to Dr. Rita Hinden who provided a comprehensive background survey.

## AFFILIATIONS

The following organisations are affiliated to Headquarters:—

London Congregational Union Women's League.  
Peckham Women's Co-operative Guild.  
Winchmore Hill Women's Adult School.

The League is affiliated nationally to:—

British Commonwealth League; Crusade for World Government; National Peace Council; No-Conscription Council; SCESWUN; Status of Women Committee; UNA Women's Advisory Council; Women's Council for India, Pakistan and Ceylon.

## BRANCH SECRETARIES

*Birmingham* : Miss E. Jesper, 455, City Road, Birmingham, 17.  
*Bradford* : Mrs. B. Gray, 106, Rooley Lane, Bradford, Yorks.  
*Bromley* : Mrs. M. Flwood, 50, Palace View, Bromley, Kent.  
*Cheadle Hulme* : (acting) Mrs. Yarrow, 13, Lynton Park Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire.  
*Childwall* : Miss H. Dudley, 60, Garthdale Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, 18.  
*Coventry* : Miss A. Underhill, 28, Holyhead Road, Coventry.  
*Croydon* : Mrs. E. Ecroyd, 2, Benhurst Gardens, Selsdon, S. Croydon, Surrey.  
*Edinburgh* : Mrs. V. Mitchell, 57, Ladysmith Road, Edinburgh, 9.  
*Glasgow* : Mrs. A. Shanks, 32, Crompton Avenue, Glasgow, S.4.  
*Great Crosby* : Mrs. J. Blevin, 21, Eshe Road North, Blundellsands, Liverpool, 23.  
*Hampstead Garden Suburb* : Mrs. K. Frost, 1, Cyprus Road, London, N.3.  
*Hassocks & Ditchling* : Mrs. F. Pettit, 50, Mackie Avenue, Hassocks, Sussex.  
*Leicester* : Miss F. Ross, 141, Lutterworth Road, Leicester.  
*Liverpool* : Mrs. E. Sunners, "Fieldside", Barnston Road, Heswall, Wirral, Cheshire.  
*Manchester* : Mrs. E. Turkie, 25, Danesmoor Road, Manchester, 20; Mrs. D. Lund, 8, Beech Walk, Alkrington, Middleton, nr. Manchester (co-Secretary).  
*North Wales* : Mrs. C. Hughes, 14, Belmont Street, Bangor.  
*Nottingham* : Mrs. G. Day, 20, Rolleston Drive, Lenton, Notts.  
*Orpington* : Mrs. N. Weiss, 19, The Avenue, Orpington, Kent.  
*Oxford* : Mrs. E. M. Aitken, Larchwood, Boars Hill, Oxford.  
*Warrington* : Mrs. G. Brookes, 28, Park Road, Sankey, Warrington.  
*West Kirby* : Mrs. M. Mason, 2, Victoria Road, West Kirby, Cheshire.  
*Worthing* : Miss A. M. Bailes, 41, Balcombe Avenue, Worthing, Sussex.

## LONDON OFFICE

Miss Margaret Tims, now editor of "Peace and Freedom", still takes charge of the office and has been assisted by the willing voluntary workers, Miss Gill and Miss Ruth Harrison. Miss Edith Adlam was responsible for keeping the accounts until the end of 1956, and has earned the gratitude of the League for her voluntary work. She has now been followed by a regular part-time worker, Mrs. Rimmer, who attends two days a week to deal with finance and record-keeping.

Thanks are due to all helpers who from time to time answer calls for assistance, and most of all to Miss Tims whose work is vital to the League.

## ANNUAL COUNCIL, 1957

This Council, held at University Hall, Bangor, on April 5th-8th, was a record both in numbers and in all-round success. The natural beauty of the Welsh mountains, lakes and valleys, and the generous hospitality of the Bangor Branch and the University staff, provided an ideal setting for friendly intercourse and work of the highest quality. The stimulus gained will ensure a year of further progress in the achievement of our aims.

A high-light of the Council was the visit of our International Chairman, Dr. Else Zeuthen from Denmark, who spoke at a public meeting in the Powis Hall on Friday evening. The Chair was taken by the British Section President, Dame Professor Kathleen Lonsdale, and the second speaker was Sybil Morrison, Chairman of the Executive. The Mayor of Bangor gave a civic welcome to the Council and attended the meeting with the Mayoress.

The very full agenda for the sessions was completed by means of skilful chairmanship, and included news of work at International HQ, at the United Nations and in other Sections; a lecture on international law, by Dame Professor Kathleen Lonsdale, and reports on race relations and the colonies, to which the branches made valuable contributions.

The musical programme on Sunday evening, with a Welsh harpist and singer in national costume, was greatly appreciated and found instant response in the hearts of those who listened. Gay and spontaneous folk dancing was led by one of our members who gave her time and skill as a contribution to the enjoyment of the week-end.

## RESOLUTIONS

### DISARMAMENT

This Annual Council of the WILPF, believing that military preparedness tends to lull the nations into a sense of false security, and noting the intensification of rivalry in the development of inter-continental ballistic missiles, urges HM Government:—

- (1) To secure agreement on prohibition of all developments of these missiles and of all other nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction;
- (2) To advocate in the United Nations the systematic reduction of armaments in all member States;
- (3) To consider seriously and sympathetically any proposals along these lines from any source;
- (4) To overcome fear by extending functional co-operation and so to achieve the peace that all people of the world desire.

### UNITED NATIONS AND WORLD LAW

This Annual Council of the WILPF, being concerned at the way that member states of the United Nations refuse to accept the ruling of the General Assembly and Security Council if the decision of the said bodies does not accord with their national interests, and believing that this is detrimental to the establishment of world law, asks HM Government

to co-operate in all United Nations measures which are for the furtherance by non-violent means of international peace, even if they should appear to be in opposition to our own national interests.

### UNITED NATIONS POLICE FORCE

This Annual Council of the WILPF welcomes the fact that the United Nations is emerging from the present crisis in the Middle East with enhanced prestige and with greater moral authority.

It views the permanent establishment of an International Police Force under the United Nations as a desirable step at the present juncture and urges that its effectiveness should be ensured, as in the present Emergency Force, by the moral force of world opinion and not by the possession of any kind of offensive military weapon.



### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

This Annual Council of the WILPF, believing that there is an urgent need for the under-developed countries to begin to develop their own resources,

urges HM Government to supplement its inadequate 1956 contribution of £800,000 to the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme and to encourage other countries to follow its example, so that the programme may benefit from a further £500,000 which America is still willing to give this year as a matching contribution.

### MARINE FOOD CONSERVATION

This Annual Council of the WILPF, believing that, as there is an urgent need to safeguard and control the essential marine food reserves in oceans and territorial waters for all peoples, an International Sea Food Authority should be established within the framework of the United Nations; and further believing that, in codifying the law both of the high seas and territorial waters the International Law Commission should have due regard for this urgency, therefore

requests HM Government to brief the United Kingdom delegation in the United Nations to support and vote consistently for this policy.

### TRYWERYN PLAN

In view of the fact that it was not possible to allow time for sufficient information and adequate discussion of the resolution proposed by Bangor Branch, protesting against the Liverpool City Council's plan to construct a reservoir by inundating the Tryweryn Valley, Merionethshire, the Annual Council decided against taking a vote, but

re-affirms its support of the principle of the rights of minorities.

### NUCLEAR WEAPON TESTS

As a matter of urgency the Annual Council agreed to send a telegram to the Prime Minister in place of the proposed Resolutions. The following message was sent:—

“Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Annual Council meeting Bangor, 5th-8th April, implores you to abandon nuclear tests.”

### STATUS OF WOMEN

This Annual Council of the WILPF asks all branches to acquaint themselves with the inequalities still existing between the sexes in the United Kingdom, and to pledge themselves to work for the removal of these inequalities.

It further resolves to press at the United Nations for the political and economic rights of women in all countries.

### EDUCATION OVERSEAS

This Annual Council of the WILPF notes with satisfaction the progressive development of universities and university colleges within British territories overseas, and the slightly increased grants under Colonial Development schemes for capital development made in five years (about £8 million); but deplores the slow increase in provision for primary, secondary and technical education and for teachers' training.

In view of the rapid growth of neo-literate communities and the urgent need for library material, which must be the chief vehicle for progressive understanding of the techniques and cultures of widely differing societies, this Council asks for generous increases in these grants and

urges HM Government to support the great work of UNESCO, not only by increased contributions but also by extending and strengthening a democratic policy of sound education in the Crown territories.

### INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

This Annual Council of the WILPF believes that membership of the WILPF should carry with it for every individual who joins the privileges and responsibilities of belonging to an international organisation. The present division of membership into two categories—membership of a National Section and International Membership—is not only confusing to prospective members but undemocratic in practice, and complicated as well as inefficient as a method of financing the International Headquarters.

The British Section therefore asks the International Executive to give serious consideration to this question in the light of the following suggestions:—

- (1) That each Section be required to give an adequate percentage of its total year's income to support the work and administration of the International Headquarters;
- (2) That extra donations, large or small, could be earmarked for the International Headquarters if the donor so desired;
- (3) That membership of a Section should involve the acceptance of the privileges and responsibilities of International Membership for every member alike.



BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1956.

1955		CURRENT LIABILITIES		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	1955		FIXED ASSETS		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
88	Accounts and Accrued Expenses						29	10	8	—	Office Furniture and Equipment...								Not Valued.			
	CAPITAL FUND—										CURRENT ASSETS											
	Balance 1st January, 1956 ...	850	2	11						390	Balance at Bank, Current Account	272	0	2								
	Add Surplus arising on adjustment of International Account ...	51	2	11							Balance at Bank—											
							901	5	10		Deposit Account	344	5	6								
	Less Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ...	94	18	9							Less Amount due to International Fund	340	2	8								
850							806	7	1						4	2	10					
938							835	17	9	3	Cash in hand ...	10	9									
	SPECIAL FUNDS—										Co-operative Permanent Building Society—Deposit ...	559	4	0								
	Ford Memorial Fund—									545									835	17	9	
	Balance as per last account ...	59	3	2						938									835	17	9	
	Add Interest received ...	5	3	0							SPECIAL FUNDS—											
59	Jane Addams Memorial Fund, British Section—						64	6	2		Ford Memorial Fund—											
	Balance as per last account ...	94	10	3							Co-operative Permanent Building Society											
	Add Interest received ...	2	7	0						59	Deposit ...	64	6	2								
94							96	17	3	94	Jane Addams Memorial Fund, British Section—											
											Cash at Post Office Savings Bank ...	96	17	3								
	Agatha Harrison International Fund—																					
	Balance as per last account	32	1	10							32	Co-operative Permanent Building Society—										
	Add Amount received during year ...	95	18	3							—Deposit ...	123	0	1								
							128	0	1													
	Less Payment ...	5	0	0																		
32							123	0	1													
1,123							£1,120	1	3	1,123										£1,120	1	3

I have audited the accounts of the Women's International League for the year ended 31st December, 1956, and certify that, in my opinion, the foregoing accounts are properly drawn up so as to exhibit the position of affairs in accordance with the information given me and as shown by the books.

13, Womersley Road,  
Crouch End, London, N.8.  
7th March, 1957.

L. DAYAN, Incorporated Accountant,  
Hon. Auditor



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956

1955	EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.		1955	INCOME	£	s.	d.
120	Rent and Water Rate ... ..	121	12	0		249	Subscriptions ... ..	268	2	0
11	Lighting and Heating ... ..	12	11	6		643	Donations (including £100 from Barrow Cad- bury Trust) ... ..	679	9	0
52	General Expenses ... ..	56	0	7		220	Branch Affiliation Fees ... ..	182	10	6
2	Insurance ... ..	1	19	0		21	Sales of Literature ... ..	50	16	0
448	Salaries and National Insurance ... ..	434	17	10		93	Sales of News Sheet ... ..	65	1	3
112	Travelling Expenses ... ..	136	12	8		2	Meetings ... ..	28	3	4
11	Affiliation Fees ... ..	6	16	0		18	Building Society Interest ... ..	19	18	0
84	Postages ... ..	76	16	2		—	Bank Interest ... ..	1	2	8
92	Printing and Stationery ... ..	111	17	5		10	Annual Council—Surplus ... ..	3	18	1
58	Annual Reports ... ..	49	5	2		4	Sundry Receipts ... ..	4	1	0
29	Literature ... ..	47	10	0		32	Balance—Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ... ..	94	18	9
140	News Sheet—Cost of Printing ... ..	125	13	0						
20	Meetings and Hire of Rooms ... ..	36	18	3						
22	Telephones ... ..	21	14	6						
4	Bank Charges ... ..	4	0	3						
4	Repairs ... ..	4	5	0						
25	International Quota ... ..	56	0	0						
12	Expenditure on Office Equipment ... ..	—								
1	Corporation Duty ... ..	1	0	0						
45	Donation to International Funds ... ..	—								
	International Congress:—									
	Delegates' Expenses ... ..	86	6	0						
	Donation ... ..	51	15	0						
		138	1	0						
	Less Donations Received ... ..	55	9	9						
		82	11	3						
	— Donation—N.P.C. Exhibition Stand ... ..	10	0	0						
1,292		£1,398	0	7		1,292		£1,398	0	7



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