

PAX INTERNATIONAL

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A NEWCOMER'S IMPRESSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Impressions are such varied indefinable thoughts. Their nature is determined by the temperament and background of the author and by the complexity and tangibility of the subject. The International Executive Committee Meeting of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom of September, 1936, offers me a wide scope. We met in the fall days of the year with the world seething and spluttering around us like a great volcano which may at any moment send its burning lava to destroy those who live on or near its surface. We had representatives from nearly every nation whose future is dependent upon the outcome of this crisis. And while we were all united upon our common purpose, the maintenance or establishment of a constructive and permanent peace, there existed wide divergence of opinion regarding the steps necessary to attain that great end. But in the peace and harmony of the Maison Internationale the shining light was a spirit of tolerance. The last word and the greatest in our name, Freedom, seemed to rule. No one seemed to question silently or aloud the right of each individual member of the Committee to have and to express an opinion, no matter how widely or drastically it differed from that of the majority. Whether it was the quiet brave atmosphere of the Maison, the character and nobility of the women in the Committee or the singleness of purpose which had united us that was responsible for this tolerance, I cannot say, but I like to think that it was a combination of the three.

And yet in spite of myself I was disappointed. Every organisation, every individual in a complex world needs leadership. Even as the parts of one's body are inoperative and ineffectual without the co-ordination and initiative of the brain and nervous system, so is a great organisation such as ours rendered less influential and useful without a leader empowered to co-ordinate, inspire and instigate the action of its sections at certain times. The term "leadership" should not be confused with "fuehrer" but should represent that principle of delegated authority which is inherent in true democracy; the type of leadership which is expected from the Prime Minister of England or the President of the United States. The International Executive Committee seemed indisposed to assume this leadership and unwilling to delegate that power to an

individual during the eleven and a half months of the year when it is not in session.

I was disappointed too, because so few countries appeared to recognise the need for training their younger members in the school of experience so that in the coming decades the work of the W.I.L. may go on and flourish rather than endure only as long as its founders are able to carry the burden of work and responsibility.

These two disappointments are ones which can and should be faced but which are not inherent in the structure or purpose of the W.I.L. And with their solution will come action. As viewed by a newcomer, it seemed as though this body was afraid to act. The W.I.L. has always been a pioneer in the field of peace and freedom, but no pioneer attracts followers and succeeds unless he acts with the courage of his convictions. If the gains outweigh the losses in so far as he can see, he proceeds. It is a gamble, but there must always be that element of uncertainty in an attempt to conquer new fields. The founders of the W.I.L.P.F. had that courage and spirit. It must be maintained if the organisation is to continue to lead the way for Peace and Freedom. Individually each delegate and each nation maintains that tradition, but unless we do so as an international body we cannot expect to remain one of the leading international peace organisations.

The tremendous knowledge, the understanding and open-mindedness with which the multitude of diverse and difficult problems were attacked is a subject about which I have not the room to write. Nor does space permit me to discuss the impressions made by various of the delegates. In conclusion I can only say that the value of these International Executive Committee meetings is more than proved by the success with which widely divergent views were resolved around a conference table.

E. EATON, U.S.A.

FRAUENLIGA FÜR FRIEDEN UND FREIHEIT IN DER TSCHECHOSLOVAKKEI

Unsere Arbeit ist seit Herbst des vorigen Jahres im Zeichen fortschreitenden Wachstums. Die auswärtigen politischen Verhältnisse, besonders der Angriff Italiens gegen Abessinien haben einer intensiveren Arbeit den Boden bereitet. Ein Appell an die Frauen nach dem Vorbild der schwedischen Liga erbrachte tausende von Unterschriften. Dies ist ein wertvolles Material, das wir

nach und nach verarbeiten, das heisst, wir versuchen, diese Frauen zu organisieren. Damit haben wir sehr guten Erfolg, wie eine ganze Reihe neugegründeter Ortsgruppen der Frauenliga für F.F.beweist

Einen weiteren Antrieb erhielt unsere Liga durch die Agitation für den Brüsseler R.U.P.—Kongress. Die politische Situation und die mächtige Propaganda für den Kongress rückten die Frage des Friedens und der Verteidigung in den Vordergrund des öffentlichen Interesses und sie steht heute noch bei uns im Mittelpunkt vieler Diskussionen. Das Rassemblement Universelle gewann bei uns die Unterstützung einiger politischer Parteien und einflussreicher Organisationen. Man sah, wie wichtig es für die Sache des Friedens ist, politische Parteien zu gewinnen, deren Organisationsapparat nicht nur die Presse, sondern auch Zuhörer zur Verfügung stellt. Die Versammlungen wurden durch die Mitarbeit unserer Gruppen und Mitglieder veranstaltet, sie waren enorm besucht. Frau Hanovskova, die unermüdete Geschäftsführerin unserer Frauenliga, arbeitete von Anfang an im Ausschuss des R.U.P., absolvierte gegen 30 Versammlungen und Vorträge in den verschiedensten Städten und Städtchen der Republik, und organisierte die Frauen zu Friedensgruppen der Liga. Hierbei gaben die Adressen der Unterschriftenaktion vom Herbst eine gute Unterlage.

Entsprechend den Bedürfnissen der neuen Gruppen werden die verschiedensten Probleme behandelt. Neben so aktuellen Fragen wie z.B. Hilfe für spanische Flüchtlinge in Frankreich brauchen unsere neuen Ortsgruppen Information und Führung. Denn man muss bedenken, dass diese Liga-Gruppen in unseren Grenzgebieten unter den grössten Hindernissen und sogar unter persönlichen Bedrohungen seitens der Henlein-Leute entstanden sind. Über die moralische Hilfe hinaus wird in diesen Grenzbezirken auch materielle Hilfe gebraucht. Eine Kleidungsaktion wurde daher durch unsere Liga begonnen und wir hoffen, den Ärmsten etwas Hilfe bringen zu können. Pakete mit Wolle und Stoffwaren sind schon eingetroffen. Das Bedürfnis eines regelrechten Büros und nach einer besoldeten Hilfskraft zeigt sich immer brennender. Das bedeutet für uns eine neue Aufgabe: Geld aufzubringen. Auch hierin machten wir schon verschiedene Versuche, aber mit weit schlechteren Erfolgen als bei der übrigen Arbeit. Wir verlieren aber deswegen weder Mut noch Hoffnung. Zu allen Ergebnissen des politischen Lebens nehmen wir Stellung, veranstalten Kundgebungen, schreiben Artikel. Information und Kontakt unter allen Gruppen und Mitgliedern vermittelt unser Monatsblatt "Nachrichten der Frauenliga für F.F. in der C.S.R.", welches in tschechischer und deutscher Sprache erscheint. Eines unserer Mitglieder übersetzte das "A.B.C. der Friedensarbeit" von A. Nilsson ins tschechische und wir suchen jetzt einen Verleger dafür.

Unsere Aktion für "Peoples Mandate" ist schon abgeschlossen. Wir übergaben die Abschrift der gesammelten Unterschriften unserem Minister der Auswärtigen Angelegenheiten, Dr. Krofta, der auch selbst unterschrieben hatte. An die Öffentlichkeit treten wir mit dem "Peoples Mandate" nicht mehr heran, denn wir müssen die Einwände anerkennen, die die totale Abrüstung als ein

zu entlegenes Ziel dezeichnen, als dass unter den heutigen politischen Umständen davon praktischer Gebrauch gemacht werden könne.

Ausser der bisher geschilderten Arbeit nehmen unsere Mitglieder regen Anteil an der Arbeit und an den Friedensunternehmungen anderer Organisationen.

Zwei Dinge braucht die tschechoslovakische Liga ständig: Mehr Hände zur Arbeit und mehr Geld. Dann liesse sich noch so manches für die Verständigung innerhalb und ausserhalb unseres Staates tun!

DR. SCHUSTLEROVA.

THE REFUGEE SITUATION

Those who try to survey the problem as a whole are filled with dismay in realising that just when the French Government has given such a fine lead in the direction of consideration for refugees which may help in their absorption there should arise the possibility of a new flood of them from Spain.

At present the refugee situation in Spain itself consists mainly of the children from Madrid and other threatened centres who are being sent to Catalonia as probably the safest spot. During the first part of October they were being evacuated in school classes, with their teachers, and were arriving in Barcelona at the rate of anything between 600 and 3,000 a day. There they are met by a voluntary organisation which gives them shelter and rest for a day or two and then settles them in villages. A class to a village, the villages, after due enquiry into their suitability, taking the children as guests. They are sure of warm-hearted kindness from the Catalonian people, but the food problem is going to be a very difficult and serious one, since the milk-producing and canning areas of Spain are those occupied by the rebels. The Spanish Government cannot buy tinned and dried milk abroad because of the difficulty of obtaining credit.

The Society of Friends and the International Save the Children Fund are issuing an urgent appeal for help to provide foodstuffs and clothing for children in Spain wherever it is possible for their representatives personally to supervise distribution. Through our Swedish Section a consignment of condensed milk, cod liver oil and sugar from the Swedish people has already been dispatched to Barcelona.

At the Assembly of 1936 in Geneva the question of a permanent organisation within the League of Nations to deal with legal and international problems concerning refugees has been put off until the Assembly of 1938, when the Nansen Office as such is due to be laid down. Judge Hanssen was confirmed in his presidency of it until the 31st December, 1938, and his eloquent report, which shows how deeply he has entered into the human aspect of the problem, states quite clearly that he considers a permanent department within the League itself essential. His argument is strengthened by the situation in Spain, for whichever side eventually wins, there are bound to be a certain number of exiles for whom no international protection is under present circumstances available.

The Governing Body's request for 400,000 Swiss francs to settle refugees from the Saar in S. America was cut down by half. But in spite of opposition from the so-called

great powers, provision of some 200,000 Swiss francs for this purpose was made.

The Assembly also recommended the appointment of a High Commissioner for Refugees coming from Germany until December, 1938. It asks for a report from him also to the Assembly of that year, and the present High Commissioner, Sir Neil Malcolm, has, we understand, been re-appointed.

He proposes to approach governments to obtain their adherence to the Provisional Arrangement of July 4, 1936 under which governments agree to certain measures very important for refugees. Among them is a clause in which they agree not to send refugees back to the frontiers of the German Reich, unless they have refused to make the necessary arrangements to go to another country.

The need for such a humanitarian measure has just been demonstrated by the action of the Government of Brazil, which has deported, by boat to Hamburg, two women, both of German nationality, one the wife of Ewert, an ex-deputy of the German Reichstag, the other the German wife of the Brazilian General, Prestes, who was imprisoned by the Vargas Government. These two women had committed no crime which could legalise a demand for their extradition by the German Government, but they were met at Hamburg by the police and conducted to Berlin, where they have been imprisoned. Both had passed several months in prison in Brazil, and a child had quite recently been born to Madame Prestes. It appears that the French Government is willing to give the two women shelter in France, and as the affair is rousing great excitement in various countries, it is hoped that these two victims of the inhuman action of the Brazilian Government may be released and allowed to find an asylum in a country which by its recent generous treatment of refugees is once more proving itself in the vanguard of civilization.

The acceptance by all governments of the 1933 Convention, which is strongly urged by the Assembly, and its extension to all classes of refugees would prevent much suffering and would mean an advance in civilized behaviour which should everywhere be urged.

E. M. PYE.

AN APPEAL FROM THE JEWISH WOMEN OF PALESTINE

During the night of June 20 sinful hands attempted to set fire to the Baby Home in Jerusalem, founded and cherished by the Women's Zionist Organisation. In the dead of night, one hundred infants, innocent babes, were to be consigned to a doom ghastly beyond the power of words to describe. Imagination recoils from contemplating the consequences of a deed banned even in warfare.

We are herewith addressing ourselves, not only to our Jewish sisters, but to all mothers, to all women. We are

League of Nations Publications. XII, B, International Bureaux.

1. Report on International Assistance to Refugees, 1936, XII, B, 12.
2. Special Report of Mr. Michael Hansson, 1936, XII, B, 7.
3. Refugees Coming from Germany, Sir N. Malcolm, 1936, XII, B, 6.

convinced that every woman who hears of this unspeakable horror will be appalled at the report of the iniquity contemplated, will shudder at the harvest of brutality and cruelty that must inevitably spring up in the wake of the terror now sweeping over the land, devastating the relations between its two peoples, and will feel impelled to utter a mighty protest that such inconceivable things are possible.

To you, Arab mothers and women of Palestine, we turn and ask you to consider, that what was intended to destroy innocent children must in the last resort corrode the souls and hearts of your own people. Believe us when we say, that our solemn hope is to bring in the babes and sucklings of our people for work in peaceful co-operation with the children of your people.

It is this hope that gives us the spiritual strength to appeal to you to influence your husbands and your sons to desist from a course of action which is bound to substitute for a spirit of amity a spirit calculated to bring forth such revolting acts as that of the night of June 20, which we believe to be as abhorrent to you as they are to us. In the name of our common motherhood and womanhood we address this appeal to you.

THE JANE ADDAMS PEACE COLLECTION

ITS START

In 1930 Jane Addams sent her accumulated collection of peace material, consisting of many thousands of personal letters, pamphlets, manuscripts, clippings and books in some dozen languages—material from all parts of the world—to the Friends' Historical Library of Swarthmore College.

From various other sources the library had previously received quantities of valuable papers dealing with international affairs and the peace movement. Notable among these acquisitions are:

I. Books and pamphlets on peace issued by and collected by individual members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in the United States and England.

II. Records of the Universal Peace Union, an organisation centred in Philadelphia, 1866-1920. Letters and photographs from individuals of international fame, papers, books, broadsides and pamphlets on peace, dating back to 1642, make this collection unique.

III. Papers from Professor William I. Hull of Swarthmore College—scholar, writer, life-long advocate of peace.

ITS FUTURE

All of this peace material is now being prepared for the free use of research workers and the interested public. It is housed in the recently constructed fireproof Biddle Memorial Library building, and is being carefully arranged and indexed. It will be known as

THE JANE ADDAMS PEACE COLLECTION.

Further material on peace and on world problems of historic importance is greatly desired, and correspondence concerning such material will be welcomed. Especially wanted are records of peace activities, files of organisations or committees, issues of peace periodicals, posters, pamphlets, manuscripts: material written or printed in any language and from every country.

HERE AND THERE. WHAT THE W.I.L.P.F. IS DOING

Editorial Note

We are eagerly awaiting from Emily Balch an article for the next issue of "Pax" on the American Elections and the hopes that have been aroused by Mr. Roosevelt's triumph. It is difficult for us to gauge exactly what it may mean towards the attainment of a step further in the direction of peace and freedom in the world, but it is at least significant that the tremendous press and wireless propaganda against him has apparently had no effect whatever on the public opinion it was supposed to sway.

Headquarters' News

The following telegram was sent on 2nd November to M. Rivas Vicuna, President of the League of Nations Council, Paris: "Urge immediate convocation of League of Nations Council to examine situation in Spain and preserve peace of Europe".

The following letter, signed by the three chairmen, was sent:

For the release of Anna Pauker!

To the President of the Military High-Court, Bucarest.

Sir:—Public opinion is profoundly moved by the condemnation of ANNA PAUKER, mother of three children, who was wounded while being arrested and subjected to the treatment of an ordinary criminal which is likely to completely destroy her health already shattered.

We ask you for the immediate release of Anna Pauker since she is not charged with any definite crime.

Great Britain

Owing to the great kindness of Miss Chick in inviting the whole British Executive to stay for a week-end in her beautiful home at Branscombe, Devon, knotty problems confronting peace workers to-day were thrashed out in a calmer atmosphere than is possible in monthly Executive Committee Meetings where time is limited.

The discussions ranged over a wide field; and interesting papers on "Are we called upon by events in the world to-day to modify our pacifism," "The problem of the dissatisfied powers" and "Ought pathological states of mind in a nation to be taken into account in developing our programme?" were given.

The Executive, at its last meeting, passed the following resolution:

While regretting that fuller inquiry has not been made by the Royal Commission on the Manufacture of Arms into the evils of the system of private profit, and believing that the influence of private interests has had and is continuing to have a serious effect both of increasing international fears and suspicions and of obstructing the desire of the people for reduction and limitation of armaments by international agreement,

Strongly supports the recommendations that the Government should accept full responsibility for the manufacture of and trade in Arms, that civil Aircraft should be included in this control and that the Government should press for the international adoption of the measures of control proposed in the draft articles put forward by the American Government in November, 1934, and accepted by the Committee of the Disarmament Conference in February, 1935, as a basis for discussion.

JANE ADDAMS INTERNATIONAL PEACE FUND Appeal from Geneva

The whole life of Jane Addams was devoted to the highest good of mankind: to PEACE, LIBERTY and JUSTICE.

As the summit of her record, history will place her international work for Peace during and after the World War. In April, 1915, she presided over the International Congress of Women at The Hague where the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom was founded by women from eighteen countries. Their message she took personally to the foreign offices of the belligerent nations, offering the organized assistance of the women of the world to bring about armistice and mediation through the action of Neutral States.

After the war, in 1919, Jane Addams and her international comrades fervently appealed and worked for a just and permanent Peace, equal rights for victors and vanquished; a new political, economic and social order for all nations to secure PEACE, FREEDOM, LABOUR and FOOD.

But the emergency call of the women went unheeded, and what was doomed to follow came upon us: moral and economic collapse; hunger, poverty and despair; self-destroying restlessness; hatred between nations; hostility everywhere; relapse into despotism; chaos. Now again the world barometer reads "Storm".

All over the earth we hear the cry of agony: "Save us from war! The people long for peace!" Women must answer this appeal. Another world war would mean mankind's destruction, and so, with a hundredfold more strength than ever before, we must take our campaign for Peace into all the countries of the world.

Work for Peace requires Money. If we had the funds the militarists are spending for war we could soon build a lasting Peace, because there is now latent the most ardent and widespread desire for Peace.

Can we make it articulate?

Let the people who want Peace give to our cause *NOW* the same financial support that war will surely exact from them, if we let it come, and we shall give full expression to the Peace will of the masses.

In whose memory can we undertake this task better than in the memory of Jane Addams, the embodiment of beautiful and radiant humanity? And what more appropriate memorial can we erect to her than a Fund for Peace? It was to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom that Jane Addams gave her Nobel Award because our work, she said, helped to win her the prize. The name of this League is engraved on her tombstone. We pledge ourselves to continue in the same line that Jane Addams approved, organizing women everywhere to express their will for the salvation of the human race.

Women and men, old and young, give all you can to the Fund we are raising. Give more than you think you can afford: so that we may use it to enlist the public in the struggle for Freedom and Peace. Help us to create

a New and Just Peace for all Nations.

The interest from the Fund will be used regularly for Peace, and the capital also, in case of emergency, which would have been the wish of Jane Addams.

The Jane Addams International Peace Fund welcomes all gifts, great or small. Send your donations to: Comptes de Chèque Postal No. I 7225, Jane Addams International Peace Fund, Genève.

This appeal has already been signed by the following: Anita Augspurg, Emily G. Balch, Selma Lagerlöf, Christian L. Lange, Clara Ragaz, A. Maude Royden.