

PAX INTERNATIONAL

S 665

Published by
the Womens' International League for Peace
and Freedom



International Headquarters:
12 rue du Vieux-Collège, Geneva

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Subscription price: 2.50 Swiss francs, \$1 or 2/6 a year — Chèques postaux: I. 1869

AGAINST THE BOMBARDMENT OF CIVILIANS. FOR THE ABOLITION OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT. FOR THE OUTLAWRY OF WAR.

The bombardment of open Spanish and Chinese cities, in which thousands of innocent adults and children are being sacrificed day after day, rouses indignation, horror and protest in all normal people.

The W.I.L.P.F. has for 20 years foreseen and endeavoured to combat the developments of modern war by bombardment and poison gas. In the early years of this development it was ridiculed and mocked for its forecasts by experts of civil and military science and technique; later it was branded defeatist and hostile to the defence of the home country.

To-day, the shattering experiences in the theatres of war have proved how right and realistic it was in this twenty-year-long struggle.

The conduct of modern war demands the employment of the most modern scientific and technical weapons, in order to defeat the enemy as quickly and as completely as possible.

Modern war rules out moral and humane considerations.

To wish to humanise it, is to misunderstand its essential nature. To talk of humanising it, can only mean: to humanise mankind, to free it from war, to abolish war itself.

To accomplish the abolition of war, we demand as a first step:—

The immediate total abolition of all military aircraft, and the Internationalisation of Civil Aircraft.

Without these preliminary concrete steps, all protests against the bombardment of open towns are meaningless and empty words.

Without these preliminary, concrete steps, action for the so-called "humanising" of war and violence amounts to a legalising of war and violence instead of their complete eradication.

Gegen die Bombardierung der Zivilbevölkerung Für die Abschaffung der Militärluftfahrt Für die Aechtung des Krieges

Die Bombardierung offener spanischer und chinesischer Städte, der tausende unschuldige Erwachsene und Kinder täglich neu zum Opfer fallen, lösen bei allen normalen Menschen Empörung, Abscheu und Proteste aus.

Seit 20 Jahren hat die I.F.L.F.F. die Entwicklung des modernen Bomben- und Giftgaskrieges voraus gesehen und bekämpft— in den ersten Jahren nach dem Weltkrieg verlacht und verhöhnt von Experten der zivilen und militärischen Wissenschaft und Technik, später gebrandmarkt als Defaitist und Feind der Landesverteidigung.

Die gegenwärtige Zeit mit den erschütternden Ereignissen auf den Kriegsschauplätzen hat die Richtigkeit und den Realismus dieses 20 jährigen Kampfes bestätigt.

Die moderne Kriegführung muss sich der modernsten wissenschaftlichen und technischen Waffen bedienen, um den Gegner so schnell und so vollständig wie möglich zu vernichten.

Der moderne Krieg schliesst sittliche und menschliche Ueberlegungen aus.

Ihn humanisieren wollen, heisst sein Wesen verkennen.

Ihn humanisieren kann nur heissen: die Menschheit humanisieren, sie vom Kriege befreien, den Krieg selbst abschaffen.

Zur Verwirklichung der Abschaffung des Krieges fordern wir als ersten Schritt:

Die sofortige totale Abschaffung der gesamten Militärluftfahrt und die

Internationalisierung der Zivilluftfahrt.

Ohne diese vorläufigen konkreten Massnahmen sind alle Proteste gegen die Bombardierung offener Städte scheinheilig oder leere Worte.

Ohnen diese vorläufigen konkreten Massnahmen bedeuten Aktionen zur sogenannten "Humanisierung" des Krieges, die Legalisierung seines Prinzips anstatt dessen völlige Ausrottung.

Internationale Frauenliga für Frieden und Freiheit, Genf, 12, Rue du vieux Collège.

SPAIN

Returning to Barcelona after an absence of 18 months, one has the impression that the population as a whole has accommodated itself marvellously to the changed conditions of life, and as in Austria during the famine years, has learned to live upon very little. The people in the street are cheerful and even gay, though the shops are completely empty of food, but it is only when one goes behind the scenes, sees the children, the old, and those whose digestions cannot stand a continuous diet of a meagre quantity of dried peas and beans, that the full weight of the present food situation strikes one.

For the moment there is a marked difference between the Catalonian inhabitants and the thousands of refugees that are crowded into every town and village. For these there are no allotment gardens and the ration of 100 grams of dried or tinned food, which is the daily allowance, with 50 grams of bread, is barely sufficient for life and certainly not for health. No milk, except what is provided to a small proportion of the children through the various relief agencies; no vegetables, no fruit, in fact no vitamins—and this affecting hundreds of thousands of non-combatants and a large proportion of the children who are the Spain of to-morrow. To anyone who knows what Spanish children are like, the rows of white-faced lifeless little beings that wait for their breakfast in the canteens, quite silent, give a terrifying picture of the mischief that starvation is working.

Throughout the whole of Government Spain, the food is strictly rationed, no grower is allowed to sell except to the Government, though he may keep enough for his own use. But the fact remains, that Catalonia is cut off from its normal sources of supply of fruit, vegetables and wheat and the food situation is likely to become very serious throughout. For the moment the potato harvest is providing a little more to eat, but since the population to be fed is increased so far beyond its normal numbers, this will not last long.

In spite of the fury of destruction which created tragedies like that in Barcelona in March, and Granollers in June, and which occur constantly elsewhere, one never hears a word which would indicate a willingness to give up the struggle. The courage and resilience of the women is extraordinary. Perhaps among the most remarkable of the refugees are the Asturians, whose energy, capability and dependability make them ideal helpers in relief work.

It is interesting to note that in the accounts of the bombardments in the Spanish daily press, they are always spoken of as "Italo-German" and it appears as if efforts were being made to avoid bitterness in speaking of Spaniards on the other side. A large amount of space is given to stories of disaffection under Franco's rule and I heard the opinion many times expressed that if only the foreign troops would go, the Spanish people would soon settle their own affairs. But so far from that rapid victory for General Franco that has been expected in some quarters for the last two years, I had the impression of immense reserves of moral strength and determination which makes it appear as remote as ever.

There must, however, be no illusion as to the suffering that a prolongation of the struggle will bring to the civilian

population. The outlook is very grim and unless the civilized world refuses to allow the coming generation to be starved out of existence, and sends adequate help, the lives of thousands of children in Spain are threatened.

Dr. Negrin has given to the world in his speech of May 1st the terms on which republican Spain would rebuild its life. After demanding freedom from foreign interference he promises regional liberty and individual liberty of conscience, with free exercise of religious belief and practice; he reaffirms the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy; and promises complete amnesty for all those Spaniards who wish to co-operate in the tremendous work of reconstructing Spain and the thirteenth point ends with these words:—"It would be an act of treason to our country's destiny not to yield up all thought of vengeance or reprisals on the altars of a common mission of work and sacrifice, which in the interests of Spain's future all her sons must fulfil."

Religious freedom is returning and the decree published while I was in Barcelona that the sacraments may be administered to the men at the front by the padre of their choice was an interesting instance of it.

During my stay of nearly a month I was able to visit a large number of towns and villages in connection with the feeding schemes of the International Commission for the Assistance of Child Refugees in Spain and we found everywhere the greatest willingness to co-operate and gratitude for help given. The local municipalities have very heavy responsibilities with insufficient transport to assure the minimum food for population remote from all other means of obtaining it. The Mayors and Councillors are thankful for any scheme which will keep the children from suffering too much from war conditions, which weigh upon the whole country.

11th July, 1938.

E. M. PYE.

HILFE FÜR DIE KINDER DES TSCHESCHOSLOWAKISCHEN GRENZGEBIETES

In einer Zeit, in der die Gemüter von nationalen Leidenschaften aufgepeitscht sind und wir alle mit grösster Besorgnis der nächsten Zukunft entgegensehen, ist eine Tat des Friedens und der Völkerversöhnung von doppelt hohem Wert. Eine solche ist die grosse Hilfsaktion für Kinder der Grenzgebiete, die jetzt von der Tschechoslowakischen Frauenliga für Frieden und Freiheit eingeleitet wurde.

460 junge Staatsbürger beiderlei Geschlechts, deutsche und tschechische Kinder aus den wirtschaftlich am meisten leidenden Gebieten Böhmens wurden für einen Monat sorgloser Ferienzeit von der Frauenliga für Frieden und Freiheit in Ferienlager eingeladen. Mit grosszügiger Hilfsbereitschaft unterstützt die Stadt Prag, die Ferienfürsorge des Landes Böhmen und das Rote Kreuz die Aktion. Unvergesslich wird den Kindern, deren Eltern meist arbeitslos oder doch sehr bedürftig sind, diese Tat der Gastfreundschaft bleiben. Gerade in den Jahren, wo die jungen Herzen die tiefsten Eindrücke aufnehmen, erfahren sie über allen Nationalitäten—und Rassenhass die Menschenliebe und der Wille friedlich zusammenzuleben, muss den Sieg davontragen.

Aus den deutschen Industriestädten Nordböhmens, aus

Reichenberg und Gablonz und deren Umgebung, aus Braunau in Ostböhmen, aus Hermannshütte und anderen Orten im Westen der Republik und aus dem Süden Böhmens, aus dem Böhmerwald, werden hunderte von Kindern zum ersten mal im Leben eine Reise antreten und als liebe Gäste bei tschechischen Freunden im Innern Böhmens aufgenommen werden. Aus Zwickau, das schon jahrelang einem Industriefriedhof gleicht, aus dem Textilzentrum Warnsdorf und den umliegenden Orten werden die Kinder kommen, werden in herrlicher Natur und bei guter Verpflegung neue Kräfte und Eindrücke sammeln, die sich sicherlich auch in ihrem späteren Leben nicht verwischen werden.

Das Schönste an dem Aufenthalt der kleinen Grenzbewohner wird aber unzweifelhaft die Atmosphäre der Ruhe und des Friedens sein, die sie umgeben wird.

Die Tschechoslowakische Frauenliga für Frieden und Freiheit sah es immer als eine ihrer vornehmsten Aufgaben an, diesen Geist der Versöhnlichkeit zu pflegen und die Frauen aller Sprachen dieses Landes einander näher zu bringen. Mit diesem Ferienwerk verwirklicht sie einen Teil dessen, was sie sich zum Ziele setzt.

Der Widerhall, den die Aktion in den Grenzgebieten findet, ist gross und sie kann viel dazu beitragen, der unvernünftigen nationalen Verhetzung entgegen zu wirken und die Jugend, um die es vor allem geht, zu demokratischen und wahrhaft friedliebenden Menschen zu erziehen.

PEACE WORK IN LATIN AMERICA

The following summary is made from the very interesting Annual Report on the work of the Committee for the Americas, sent to us by the Chairman, Heloise Brainerd.

"Most of the Latin-American countries are difficult fields for peace work at the present time. Fascist philosophy has spread widely, due to free news services and broadcasts from Rome and Berlin and to such spectacular appeals for popular interest as the flight of Italian airplanes led by Bruno Mussolini..."

"As to inter-American controversies, we rejoice that the Chaco dispute seems on the way to settlement, as Argentina has given Bolivia an outlet for her oil and there are reports of other concessions to be made. It is also most gratifying that in two other disputes the procedure of conciliation, through the good offices of the United States and other American governments, had averted threats of war: between Honduras and Nicaragua in a border controversy, and between the Dominican Republic and Haiti over a shocking massacre of Haitian labourers. The self-control and peace loving spirit of the Haitians in trusting to pacific means for a settlement furnish an example to all the world."

In Brazil "some women's organisations have peace committees, and a cultured woman who espouses the student movement sent delegates last year to the International Student Conference in Europe, which is bound to have a broadening effect. Some fine peace work is being done in the schools of Rio de Janeiro by a woman educator. The only peace journal in Latin America is still published in Bahai, Brazil. Passing on to Uruguay, we find two or three peace societies, but have not been

able to make effective contact with any. In Argentine the women are more awake to public questions, and just now are concentrating their efforts on the struggle to secure the vote and to keep the civil rights which the present militaristic government threatens to annul. Its attitude towards peace activities has prevented the organisation of the projected W.I.L.P.F. branch. It seems that here, as in Chile, we shall have to work with existing peace societies for the present. There is one effective group of about 100 members, and encouraging reports have just come from a recent one, the Argentine Federation of Women for Peace. The Federation is trying to form a sane public opinion on questions of peace and democracy and to promote closer relations with other nations, through such means as public lectures, radio addresses, newspaper and magazine contests, plays, etc. It petitioned the authorities to nationalize war industries and to forbid the sale of military toys. It now proposes a women's congress, to which reference will be made later.

Crossing the Andes to Chile, we find a live "Peace Circle," in Valparaiso, and after canvassing the situation thoroughly have decided to connect with it, rather than create a rival organisation. The leader, Sra de Ross, a well-known educator and pacifist, is now our delegate in Chile. The Circle annually conducts a contest in which thousands of school children take part, celebrates World Friendship and similar days, works with the Rotary Club, and has established relations with over 200 foreign schools and clubs. From Bolivia comes encouraging word of a growing peace spirit, shown in radio and other addresses, and the forming of women's groups which work for social progress and carry on peace education in schools, even some in remote places. One such group wishes to keep in touch with the W.I.L.P.F. At Lima, Peru, the principal of the girls' High School carries on peace education year after year, and some others are interested in peace work. In Ecuador we again find a delegate of the W.I.L.P.F. working for peace with voice and pen. To her it is due that Ecuador was the first South American country to ratify the peace treaties. She has not yet been able to form a group, nor has our delegate in Colombia, Miss Gomez V., whom some of us know personally. While not neglecting to cultivate all the intellectual women, she is now working primarily with men to create better understanding of international questions as a basis for future efforts, and has secured the organisation of a Bureau of Intellectual Co-operation which should have considerable influence. She has also started school correspondence with foreign countries."

"Our delegates in Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica promoted such objectives as a conciliatory public attitude toward border disputes, ratification of peace treaties, peace education in schools, and the reception of the Flying Caravan. Sra de Chacón in Costa Rica annually secures an observance of November 11th as a sort of peace day, and is now organising a Central American Women's Conference on Education. Coming into Mexico, our only active group is in Merida, Yucatan. The devoted women there work principally among the children—and what is more important? The Mexico City group continues inactive and some members have withdrawn but cannot make up their mind to start a new

organisation. They are, however, studying peace questions through other clubs, and a peace committee has been set up at the School of Social Service. On the international side, the work has largely consisted of making and maintaining contact with many peace workers in Latin America through individual correspondence and occasional circular letters, sending them considerable material and sometimes suggesting specific action."

The Chairman and members of the Committee for the Americas do all they can to develop contacts between U.S.A. members of the W.I.L.P.F. and women in S. America. "They are centres of inter-American propaganda, and often secure the interest of some visiting Latin American woman in peace work so that she too becomes a force for peace when she goes home."

A proposal of interest now under discussion is the holding of a "Congress of American Women, to meet at Lima prior to the official 8th Pan American Conference in December, 1938. The programme would be devoted to peace and women's rights, and the Federation hopes a League of Women of all the Americas could be organised. The Federation has had favourable replies from persons in Peru, Chile, Uruguay and Brazil. Our United States Committee for the Americas heartily approves of the Congress as right in line with the desire of our own Section to follow up the inter-American meeting held in Mexico City in 1930 under the auspices of the W.I.L.P.F. We are mindful that since Peru is under a dictatorship, it may be hard to secure good local support, and extremist elements from all countries must be kept out; that there will be difficulties in formulating the programme, etc., but we believe that much is to be gained by bringing the women's organisations together. We are sceptical of the proposal for a League of Women, but privately cherish the hope that perhaps the Committee for the Americas, which now has members in 14 nations and will eventually include all 21, may serve as a connecting link. The Chairman is therefore writing the Federation offering the co-operation of the International Committee, and will ask its members to be ready to help in their respective countries."

Another proposal for "the demilitarisation of the Mexican border" is being considered. "Following up the resolution to the President passed on this subject by the last Annual Meeting, it is proposed that a special committee be created for promoting the project. Although there are no fortifications, strictly speaking, there are seven army posts, an anomaly considering our long period of friendly relations with Mexico. The unfortified Canadian border has been widely and justly acclaimed, but let us not forget that there are no border fortifications between *any* of the American republics, so these posts are contrary both to the spirit of our Continent and the Good Neighbour Policy, under which we settle all questions by conference or arbitration, not by force. This, then, is the logical next step. As the chief objection would come from business interested around the posts, favourable pressure would have to come mostly from the border states too. The proposed committee would work up interest among our branches along the border and among other groups. The Committee might later take up the idea of "Jane Addams International Peace Park."

THE WOMEN'S PEACE PROCESSION, 18th MAY, THE HAGUE

The Women's Peace Procession held in Holland for the fifth time on the 18th of May, Goodwill-day, was a great success.

With the help of local committees preparations were made in a number of places all over the country, all on an equal basis, while the printed matter which was used was exactly alike in all places. Everything under the guidance of a central committee set up by the Women's Peace Union and the Dutch section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

10,000 women assembled in the place where the procession was formed, ranged behind 40 banners which bore the word "Peace". After two minutes' absolute silence they went through the town, also in silence, to a large exhibition hall where a short closing meeting was held. Some songs were sung together and the many letters of support and good wishes which had been received were read, and a few speeches made. Radio, film and press lent their assistance.

On behalf of the Women's Peace Procession deputations went to the Government; to the Permanent Court of International Justice, and one with thanks to the Municipality for their co-operation and hospitality.

Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands and Her Royal Highness Princess Juliana were informed by letter of the contents of the petitions presented.

THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The W.I.L.P.F. is represented on the above Committee, and the following information about its work is of interest. "The Joint Committee, founded in 1925, embodies thirty of the greatest International Associations. Having different aims, they all occupy themselves with education in a spirit of peace. They have united in order to voice the public opinion which they represent and to co-ordinate their efforts. Their concrete collaboration shows that positive work is still possible among people of good-will when they intend, regardless of political contingencies, to pursue an action which only seeks to institute co-operation as a normal means of conducting world affairs.

The Joint Committee favours all initiatives taken to exert successfully, on young people and adults alike, an influence of educative order, moral or social, which permits of a better understanding among the people of different nations.

The Joint Committee pursues studies and investigations on all questions connected with its programme. It publishes the documentation and conclusions thereof, which afford abundant material to all those concerned with the future of international relations.

The Secretary's Office of the Joint Committee works with the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, 2 rue de Montpensier, Paris (1er), where full information is available."