

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held on 3rd February, 1953

Before the meeting began its business members stood for a few moments in silence to record their sorrow at the distress and suffering caused by the great floods. The Chairman also told the meeting of the death of Mr Cusden; the sympathy of the committee for Mrs Cusden was once more shown in the silence.

Apologies: Mrs Schlossmann, Miss D. Hargreaves, Mrs Else Ecroyd, The Hon. Mrs Franklin, Lady Mayer, Mrs Barber

Present: Mrs A.E. Ashworth (Coventry), Miss A.M. Bailes (Worthing), Mrs I von Engel (Oxford), Mrs N.E. Greaves (Childwall), Mrs G. Malcolmson, Mrs Dayan, Miss C.H. McARA (Glasgow & Edinburgh), Mrs B. Duncan Harris, Mrs O. Sutherst, Mrs P. Cusden, Miss M. Dickinson. *Mrs Nuttall*
Mrs Ineson, Mrs Parkey, Mrs Needham *Miss Harrison*

Minutes With one small correction the Minutes were signed.

Matters arising

- 52:55 a) Handkerchief Stall: Mrs de Swiet reported that the 10/- rent for our stall had been returned and could be added to the profits. As there were a number of handkerchiefs left over, it was agreed that they should form the basis of a Bring and Buy Sale at the Annual Council. Mrs Malcolmson agreed to take charge of this.
- 52:46 b) East and West Friendship Council Mrs Ineson reported that she and Mrs Warner had discussed the possibility of closer co-operation with Mr Maurice Cole who had also sent a letter. It was evident that representation on their Council was not the way open to us. Various ways, however, of working more closely had been suggested. It was agreed that a letter be sent expressing our willingness to do this and to circulate both some of their material and a letter of our own to Branches, indicating possible methods of co-operation.

Annual Council

52:68 Agenda A very long discussion took place. This was mainly concerned with the problem of meeting the needs both of those who could come early but must leave soon on Sunday and of the others who could not arrive till later on Friday but could remain for the whole of Sunday. In the end the final drawing up of the Agenda was referred to Mrs Duncan Harris, Mrs Nuttall, Mrs Ineson and Mrs Warner.

The Open Meeting was discussed and Oxford (to whom a warm vote of thanks had been passed during the previous discussion) was asked to go ahead with all arrangements. It was hoped that the new President might take part either as a speaker or as chairman. On learning that Mrs Emmett could not come several other possible names were put forward and Mrs von Engel was encouraged to approach them, the first choice being Linda Grier.

Resolutions Mrs Ineson read the texts of resolutions received.

Miss Agatha Harrison Comments of past months with General Assembly Miss Agatha

52:69 Harrison, who was part of the Quaker team, gave some of her impressions of the Session. She valued the chance she had of being in close touch with Gladys Walser, who was representing the WILPF, and paid a very warm tribute to her work. She hopes that at the coming Congress, adequate time would be given for a report of the work done in this arduous world setting. Agatha Harrison also said she met with several members of the American Section - some of whom expressed real regret that the Congress could not meet in England. The situation arising out of dismissals etc in the UN Secretariat - was grave. Discussion of it would probably come up at the resumed session in February. The Non-Governmental Organisations were deeply concerned with this question and gave all the help they could.

Problems before the Assembly

Korea, and the many questions arising on Africa - occupied most of the time. In regard to the discussions on the latter - Agatha Harrison felt that the tone of these was more moderate than in previous sessions - but the issues remained unsolved. She said that greater attention must be paid to the rapid development of racial tensions in Africa in their relation to the peace of the world.

Resumption of work by General Assembly on Feb 24th

Korea - would be the first subject to be discussed, for the Assembly adjourned before the replies from China and North Korea to the Indian resolution could be discussed. She hoped that these would be taken into serious consideration as they were responsible statements from the two Foreign Ministers direct to the President, even though they flatly turned down the resolution. Agatha Harrison, for example, hoped that one of the proposals made by China would be explored - the resumption of the Panmunjom Talks, and that civilians could be added to the military negotiators. The wider questions - China's representation in the UN - was an urgent matter; for this HMG should press.

This question of Korea and China was referred to the Parliamentary Committee.

WILPF Congress Miss Harrison told of the regret felt in the American Section that Congress would not be held in this country. The American Section intended to send a big group to Congress. It was most important to ensure that Gladys Walser be given adequate time on its Agenda.

Looking back, Miss Harrison paid tribute to the great work performed by Gladys Walser and spoke of the "rot" which is undermining the very core of the United Nations because of the staff dismissals.

Finance

52:70

Mrs Sutherst reported on the current financial position and gave figures of amounts standing in our 3 accounts and under ear-marked funds. Speaking of the finances of last year she gave a general breakdown of the expenses of the Section. It was pointed out that strict economy would be needed to meet this year's budget which could not be lower than £1400 under present conditions. It was pointed out again that an average of £1 per member would meet this sum without extra appeals.

Office Affairs

52:71

Mrs Ineson reminded members that the general secretary had many responsible jobs to do and that taking charge of the office was only one of those. In spite of that the office work had never been done more easily, methodically and efficiently than at the present time with the aid of voluntary workers.

The general secretary was also secretary of the Parliamentary Committee and largely responsible for drafting letters and statements which go out from the committee. This entails research and contacts with outside organisations. It is felt that a stabilising influence is at work at Headquarters which will make for wider support from outside and an increase in membership. We are challenged to find the necessary funds to keep alive this vital centre of our movement. It was pointed out that it can be done by adequate weekly giving.

Annual Council

52:72

Hostesses: Mrs de Swiet and Mrs Malcolmson agreed to take on the duties of hostesses at St. Hugh's, Oxford.

Pooled Fares It was agreed that the fares of one delegate from each Branch should be pooled according to the Rules but that the Host Branch (Oxford) should be exempt. This year Executive members should not be able to claim fares if they stayed to the meeting on Monday.

Fees for Non-Residents It was decided that no fee should be set but that members should be asked to contribute to Council expenses by

putting something in a collecting box which should be available at each session. A collection should also be taken at the open meeting.

Peace House
52:73

Mrs Ineson reported that rooms in the Peace House were now available. The final choice was left to the Chairman and officers.

Branches Reading
52:74

A letter from the secretary stated that at their Annual General Meeting on Feb. 25th a resolution would be put to close the Branch. Mrs Cusden promised to try to delay the decision and to contact Mrs Isabel Davies to ask for her help. A letter should go expressing hope that the Branch would see its way to continue.

Sheffield A letter from the former treasurer was read expressing the wish of several Sheffield members to revive the former Branch. It was decided that a letter should go offering speakers if required and expressing satisfaction.

Cheadle Hulme Group of the Manchester Branch gave notice that they had passed a resolution asking for acceptance as a separate Branch. They wished the matter to be held over until after the Annual Council.

Hampstead Garden Suburb Group under the leadership of Mrs Nuttall asked to be accepted as a Branch. They have 15 members and others who are interested and may join later on. The Executive gladly voiced their acceptance and warmly congratulated Mrs Nuttall on having built up this new Branch.

West Kirby It was reported that no fees had yet been paid from this Branch and no letter received. Mrs Malcolmson said she knew that the matter was in hand and thought we should hear from them in due time.

Allegations of Communist Leanings
52:75

Mrs Needham read to the committee an exchange of letters between herself and W.S. Shepperd M.P. It was agreed that the matter was serious and that HQ action was called for. It was agreed to ask the advice, in the first place, of the Director of the NPC.

Central African Federation
52:76

Mrs McGregor Wood reported on the Conference which had been organised by the Leslie Hale/Fenner Brockway group. She referred to several outstanding speakers and made special mention of the brilliance and the dreadful and tragic business of Mrs Crossfield. It was agreed to try and get in touch with Mrs Crossfield and to fix a meeting with her over a meal.

Miss Dickinson reported on the tea which had been arranged by the Race Relations Committee and which was attended by about 50 people besides the four chiefs and their interpreters.

UNA Standing Conference (SCESWUN)
52:77

Mrs Warner reported that at the last meeting it was agreed that an annual fee of £1.1.0 should be paid by organisations participating. The Committee agreed to this payment. She also reported the development of working groups in the Standing Conference and the fact that this allowed organisations to include more of their members in the work of SCESWUN through membership of such a group. Our Human Rights Project would be shown to the Human Rights Group and might be taken up by other bodies.

Mary Nuttall
5:5:53

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM, British Section,
29, Great James Street, London W.C.1

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held in Oxford on Monday, March 23 1953

Present: In the Chair Mrs Nuttall
Mrs Ineson, Miss McAra, Mrs Greaves, Mrs Hartley, Miss Walmsley, Mrs
Needham, Mrs Ercyrd, Mrs de Swiet, Miss B.M. Baker, Mrs von Engel, Mrs
Cusden, Mrs Wood (M/c), Mrs Stapledon, Mrs Sutherst.

Cheadle Hulme Branch It was reported that the Cheadle Hulme Group of the Man-
-chester Branch had decided to become a full Branch. This was warmly
acclaimed by all members and Manchester was thanked for their co-opera-
-tion in helping the new Branch to come into being.

Correspondence Miss Harrison had written suggesting two possible letters to be
sent as from the Council: a) a personal note to Mrs Pandit expressing our
regret that she had not been accepted as Secretary General to the UN and
b) a letter to Mr Eden expressing our opinion that an Asian and in par-
-ticular an Indian would bring very much to this responsible and vitally
important post which would help to ease the situation and relieve ten-
-sions. It was agreed to ask Miss Harrison to draft this letter. The
other to be sent from the office.

drawn up at Geneva
It was agreed to send the letter to Mr Churchill without delay.

Education Committee After some discussion it was agreed that the committee should
try to meet regularly on the Monday before the Executive, probably at
4 or 4.30.

Distribution and use of Resolutions Working out of the fullest use was, as suggest-
-ed by Mrs Ineson, a routine job for the office. But the Committee
decided upon the following outlines of distribution:

- No. I To be sent to Geneva and, in suitably adapted form, to Congress.
- II To the Prime Minister, Mr Attlee, Mr Clement Davis, Ministers of
War and Defence.
- III Colonial Office, UN Human Rights Commission, UN Department of
Public Information, Trusteeship Council.
- IV Colonial Office, Africa Bureau, Central Africa Bureau
- V Foreign Office, UK delegates to UN
- VI Foreign Office, Status of Women Committee, UN Status of Women
Commission
- VIII Foreign Office, German Section, French Section
- XII Congress

Emergency Resolution on Conscience Clause HMG, selected MPs, NGOs.

It was agreed to send texts to all appropriate organisations and to the
national and local press.

The resolution on Central African Federation to be sent in telegram form
to HMG.

Thanks to staff A vote of thanks to the staff of St Hugh's was passed

Thanks to Mrs Malcolmson and Mrs de Swiet The two hostesses for the Council were
warmly thanked for all their help.

Thanks to Oxford Branch The Branch was again thanked for what had been done by
them to make the Council a success *special appreciation was expressed for
Mrs von Engel's work*

Thanks to Bursar A vote of thanks to the Bursar of St Hugh's was passed

Peace House It was agreed that when the move was over and it could be seen what
equipment and furnishings were needed a list should be prepared for the
Executive Committee.

*Mary Nuttall
5: 5: 53*

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held on 5th May, 1953

Present: Mrs Nuttall in the Chair (Mrs Duncan Harris not being able to be present at the beginning of the meeting)
Miss M. Dickinson, Miss D. Hargreaves, Mrs R.D.Wood (Manchester), Miss C.H.McAra (Glasgow), Mrs G. Malcolmson, Mrs N.Greaves (Childwall), Mrs E. Ecroyd (Croydon), Mrs McGregor Wood, Mrs Dayan, Miss Spurrell (S.Devon)
Mrs O. Sutherst, Mrs H.M.Hartley, Mrs M. Radley, Miss Bailes (Worthing), Mrs Cusden, Mrs Stapledon, Mrs C.C.Binns (Leicester), Mrs Duncan Harris, Mrs Weiss (Orpington), Mrs Peat (Hassocks), Mrs von Engel (Oxford), Mrs Schlossmann (Cambridge), Mrs Ineson.

Apologies: Mrs Needham, Miss Walmesley, Mrs de Swiet, Lady Mayer

Minutes: After the addition of some names to those present the minutes for the meeting held on 3rd February were signed.
With two small additions the minutes for the meeting on 23rd March were signed.

In connection with Apologies and with these Minutes: it was agreed that a letter be sent to Mrs Needham and also to Mrs de Swiet; Mrs McGregor Wood reported that she had presented Miss Haughton with the cheque collected by members as a small token of their appreciation for her work, and Miss Haughton's letter of thanks was read by Mrs Nuttall; it was suggested that all Branches might wish to write to Oxford expressing their appreciation of all the work done by the Branch to make the last Annual Council so successful.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of Executive It was proposed and unanimously accepted that Mrs McGregor Wood take the Chair during the elections.

32.11 Mrs Nuttall was proposed by Mrs Cusden, seconded by Mrs Stapledon as Chairman of Executive for the coming year. This was received with enthusiasm and she was unanimously elected.

After some discussion of the question of attendance at Officers' meetings and the difficulties imposed by distance and some consideration of the possibility of fares being paid (no decision taken) three Vice-Chairmen of Executive were elected en bloc

Mrs Hartley	proposed by Mrs Cusden	seconded by Mrs Greaves
Mrs de Swiet	" Mrs Greaves	" Mrs Malcolmson
Miss Dickinson	" Mrs Ecroyd	" Mrs Dayan

Miss Walmesley was thanked for her service as Vice-Chairman during past year. At this point Mrs Nuttall again returned to the Chair. Her first action was once more to propose a special vote of thanks to Mrs von Engel for her work at Oxford for the Annual Council.

A warm welcome was extended to Mrs Peat who was elected at the Council Membership Secretary and thus became an officer for the coming year.

Election of Sub-Committees

1) Parliamentary Committee

52.12 It was agreed to re-elect last year's members and to add to them all those visitors who had attended the committee regularly. The full Committee is therefore as follows: Mrs Botterell, Mrs Cusden, Mrs Dayan, Miss Dickinson, Mrs Fernau, Miss Hargreaves, Mrs Duncan Harris, Miss Agatha Harrison, Miss Haughton, Mrs Ineson, Lady Mayer, Mrs McGregor Wood, Miss Moll, Miss S. Morrison, Miss Nightingale, Mrs Nuttall, Mrs Peat, Mrs Radley, Mrs Jessie Street, Mrs de Swiet, Mrs Trinick, Mrs Warner, Mrs Weiss

2) Race Relations

Miss Dickinson, Mrs Greaves, Mrs Hartley, Mrs Malcolmson, Mrs de Swiet, Mrs McGregor Wood, Consultants: Miss A. Harrison and Mrs Radley.

3) Finance

The Officers were again to take the place of a Finance Committee as last year.

4) Publications

Considerable discussion took place about the possible scope and functioning of this committee. Mrs Hartley asked if the matter could be :

2.

reconsidered in July and after she had circulated a scheme she had in mind to the members of the committee for 52. This was agreed. The names of last years committee are as follows:

Mrs Coppock, Mrs Cusden, Miss Dickinson, Mrs Hartley, Miss Haughton, Miss Walmsley, Mrs Warner.

5) Social Committee

It was agreed that a small committee to undertake the planning and organisation of social functions would be helpful. Miss Hargreaves, Mrs Dayan and Mrs Radley were appointed and were given power to co-opt.

6) Education Committee

Members were re-elected en bloc. They are: Miss B.M. Baker, Mrs Kay Butcher, Mrs Ritchie Calder, Mrs Cusden, Mrs Hartley, Miss Spurrell (corresponding), Mrs Sutherst, Mrs de Swiet.

52.13 Time of Executive Committee

Mrs Hartley asked whether it would be possible to hold meetings from 1 - 5 p.m. instead of as at present from 10.30 a.m. till 4.30 p.m. This would make attendance easier and less expensive for members coming long distances. It was agreed to discuss the proposal fully at the next meeting when members would have had time to consider the pros and cons.

52.14 Representatives to other organisations

- 1) National Peace Council The appointment of representatives to the NPC had had to be made by the Officers as time did not allow the matter to come to the Executive. Mrs Duncan Harris, Mrs McGregor Wood and Miss Haughton had been re-appointed and Mrs Nuttall had been asked to fill the place left vacant by Miss A. Harrison who did not wish to serve again.
- 2) British Commonwealth League
Mrs de Swiet and Mrs Weiss were elected
- 3) Status of Women Committee
Mrs Nuttall was elected with Mrs de Swiet as deputy.
- 4) Crusade for World Government
It was agreed that Mrs Fernau would be able to act as an unofficial "link" because we were still not able to meet the costs imposed by the pooled fares scheme practised by the Crusade.
- 5) No Conscription Council
Mrs Ecroyd had notified the office that she wished to resign and Mrs Needham, our second representative, was known to be ill and unlikely to be able to undertake extra commitments at present. Mrs Ecroyd agreed to continue to serve for the time being and it was agreed that Miss Haughton and Miss Morrison should be asked whether they would be ready to take on this work.
- 6) Women's Advisory Council (UNA)
Mrs McGregor Wood was appointed.
- 7) SCESWUN(UNA)
Miss Agatha Harrison and Mrs Warner were re-appointed.

52.15 Finance

A short statement of the current financial position was given by Mrs Boaden. Mrs Sutherst spoke of the need to maintain the Guarantee Fund to meet essential office expenses. She hoped that a letter would soon go to all HQ members asking for generous support of the Section and also for funds for Congress. Mrs Sutherst then reported that the legacy from Miss Hickling's estate had just been received and amounted to £318.14.11. It was agreed that £300 should be kept in our reserve fund (Co-operative Building Society) and that the remainder be placed in the Congress Fund.

It was agreed that a letter should go to Miss Hickling's Executors asking them to convey our gratitude to the family and recalling to them that Miss Hickling was remembered as an old and valued member of the WILPF, British Section. Mrs Sutherst reported that Congress Funds stood at £32 to which could now be added the £18.14.11. just voted to them.

52.16 International Congress

After considerable discussion it was unanimously agreed that delegates and alternates to Congress should be elected on the terms formulated in the following resolution which was put forward by Mrs Cusden:

"That this Executive Committee proceed to elect delegates to Congress and that the expenses of such delegates be met from the Section's funds. And that elected delegates be informed that, though the Executive Committee accepts responsibility for delegates' expenses, it

is earnestly hoped that those who are able will make as generous a contribution as possible to the delegation fund!!

It was recognised that the cost per person for 7 nights would work out at about £20.

Mrs Warner had failed to list the names put forward at the Annual Council but the list was available (thanks to several members note books) and it was agreed that delegates should be voted on by a postal vote. It was noted that the President had been unanimously elected as a delegate at Council and that Miss Brittain had been invited by the Officers to be another.

As Mrs Phillips was not able to accept election as a Consultant Member of the International Executive Committee, Mrs Nuttall was unanimously elected in her place. The list of names proposed for Congress therefore as delegates or alternates was as follows:

Miss Adlam,	Dr Charles MA., PhD,	Mrs Dayan
Mrs Greaves	Miss Hargreaves	Mrs Hartley
Mrs Ineson	Mrs Kinnish	Mrs Lund
Mrs Peat	Mrs Phillips	Mrs Dilys Pritchard
Mrs Sutherst	Mrs Thomas	Mrs Weiss
Mrs McGregor	Wood	Mrs R.D.Wood

Briefing of delegates It was agreed that delegates should be asked to meet the day before the next Executive and to attend the Executive itself if possible. The Agenda and resolution should be circulated as soon as they were available and delegates should be asked to say on what subjects they would be ready to prepare themselves to speak.

Resolutions It was reported that a general resolution on Race Discrimination had been sent already with a letter saying that the Section hoped for time to present a detailed and sharply focussed Emergency Resolution at Congress. It was also reported that the resolution on Refugees had been sent as from the Annual Council. Discussion took place on what the Section was pledged to do on the subjects of Waterways, the Arctic and Antarctic Regions and the questions relating to matters such as fishing, sea-beds etc. It was agreed that Mrs Warner should prepare a memorandum although she herself expressed doubts of her ability to produce anything likely to be useful and was uncertain of the competence of the WILPF to do more than take up a general position in favour of "internationalisation" and to ask Sections to keep watch on their particular spheres of potential or actual responsibility.

Mrs Peat: impressions of 5 months in the USA

52.17 Mrs Peat said that she would not refer to work at the UN as Miss Harrison would already have spoken of this and the Section had received reports and letters from herself, Gladys Walser and Mrs Weiss. She did however pay glowing tribute to the work of Gladys Walser as well as to Annalee Stewart both of whom she had seen in Philadelphia. She, Mrs Peat, had also had the pleasure and privilege of working at UN with Gladys Walser. Speaking of the present trends in the USA, Mrs Peat said that she felt that the threat to freedom constituted by McCarthyism was acting as a vitalising power in the American Section. During her visits to 12 Branches and 21 cities she often heard the wish expressed that the UK would give a firmer lead in world affairs; this wish was sometimes coupled with the explicit regret that British economic dependence upon the USA should inevitably make political independence and free criticism and action difficult. Mrs Peat said that she found in America the virtues and the faults of the young and stressed the insecurity she found both in public affairs and in individuals. She mentioned the very low standard of almost all radio and TV programmes and spoke of the vigorous Church life she found everywhere.

52.18 Annual Council Business Speaking of the Annual Report and the present practice of carrying in it an account of the Council of the previous year, Mrs Ineson suggested that a Report running, as does the financial statement from January to December might be considered.

52.19 Resignation of Louisa Jaques from Geneva Office

It was agreed that a letter of thanks and appreciation for Louisa Jaques' devoted and splendid service should be sent to her from the British Section. Mrs Stapledon reported that a fund had been opened for a gift to be made to her.

4.

52.20 Dates for Executive Meetings throughout the year It was agreed that the Committee would meet on:

Tuesday	7 July	
"	22 September	(Extended Executive; reports on Congress)
"	3 November	
"	1 December	
"	2 February	

21. Office Affairs

The linoleum for the floor and the gas fire and ring could be bought, Mrs Duncan Harris said, from the Jane Addams Fund. The question of cleaning was referred back to the officers with the hope that not more than 7/6 should be paid weekly. Other office equipment was discussed and Mrs Hartley promised to make enquiries about stacking chairs. The matter of the typewriter was referred back to the Officers. It was reported that Mrs Peat had offered to present the office with curtains. It was agreed by the trustees (Mrs Duncan Harris and Mrs Innes) that £60 of the Jane Addams Fund could be used to purchase permanent equipment.

22. NCC Pamphlet on Conscription

It was reported that the pamphlet said to have been written for the NCC by Mrs Phillips did not in fact exist. She had provided some material but had not been responsible for the use made of it.

23. Nottingham Coronation Plans

It was agreed to ask Nottingham to let the BBC Woman's Hour producer know at once of their participation in the decoration of a Park and the display of posters, banners, literature etc which was planned.

24. Manchester Resolution on Bury action against COs

The Executive noted with satisfaction the action taken by Manchester and agreed to send a letter to the same effect but adding a phrase pointing out that the right of Conscientious Objection is embodied in our laws.

25. Sheffield and Leeds

Mrs Hartley recalled her offer to contact Sheffield and also the Ford Memorial representative in Leeds.

26. Childwall action on Central African Federation

It was reported that Childwall had written again to their MPs on this matter.

Mary Kuttall
7.7.53.

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held on 7th July, 1953

Present: In the Chair Mrs Nuttall
Mrs Sutherst, Mrs N. Weiss (Orpington), Mrs G. Malcolmson, Mrs
N.E. Greaves (Childwall), Mrs H.M. Hartley, Miss E.M. Adlam, Mrs E.W. Pick
(Leicester), Mrs E. Ecroyd (Croydon), Mrs M. Dayan, Miss D. Hargreaves
Miss K. Spurrell (S. Devon), Miss A.M. Bailes (Worthing), Miss M.
Dickinson, Mrs E. Peat, Mrs B. Duncan Harris, Mrs M. Schlossmann,
(Cambridge), Mrs M. Radley, Mrs G. McGregor Wood, Miss H.R. Walmesley
(Birmingham), Lady Mayer, Mrs Bayes (non-member), Mrs D. Pritchard
(non-member), Miss W. Balk (taking Mrs Schlossmann's place 2.45 p.m.)
Miss A. Harrison

Apologies: Mrs Needham (Manchester), Mrs de Swiet, Mrs Ineson
Mrs von Engel, Mrs Cusden, Mrs Wood (Manchester).

MINUTES The minutes of the previous meeting were signed.

Before passing on to the business of the Committee a letter from
Mrs Ineson was read aloud by the Chairman.

FINANCE Mrs Sutherst gave the following figures from our various
accounts and funds: Current account: £359
52:27 Guarantee Fund: £290
Congress Fund: £ 53 plus £32 held
over
ld a Week Fund: £196

It was reported that Childwall had made two alternative
offers in support of our delegation to the WILPF Congress:
a) To accept full financial responsibility for Mrs Greaves,
or b) To give £5 to the Congress Fund.
In accepting the first offer with much appreciation the Com-
-mittee felt that nevertheless the business should be trans-
-acted as a book-keeping entry. Thanks were sent to the
Branch for this generous offer.
Some Branches were reported as being about to contribute to
the Congress Fund (as soon as their fund-raising plans had
been carried through) and it was expected that delegates
would probably be making some contribution towards the esti-
-mated £20 a head minimum expenses.

The basin and tap on the top floor were criticised and it was
left to the discretion of the Officers to decide whether, if
the NPC were agreeable, we should pay for the installation of
a more practical tap.

CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS

52:28 The resolutions to come before Congress were discussed by the
Committee in order that some general opinions on them might
be transmitted to the Briefing Meeting on the next day.
Provisional suggestions about speakers to our own and others
were made and Mrs McGregor Wood was definitely asked to move
our own Race Relations. Mrs Phillips had been asked to take
responsibility for that on Refugees. Two further matters
for the consideration of Congress arose: a) an invitation
from the British Section to hold the next Congress in the UK
(whether in '56 or '55) with the proviso that the dates must
be decided by the International Executive in Paris and must
be held to; and b) that some form of statement or manifesto
on Conscription ought to be made by the International WILPF.
It was agreed to try to ask for each Section to study the
situation in their own country and to submit information and
recommendations to HQ. It was recognised that on this sub-
-ject sections held very divergent opinions.

The resolution on Waterways submitted by Mrs Cusden (who had not been able to attend when the Officers considered the memorandum on the subject) was found to need some modification. This was to be drafted by Mrs Duncan Harris in time for the Briefing Meeting.

MRS GANLEY It was reported that Mrs Ganley had been awarded the CBE
52:29 and it was agreed that a letter of congratulation should be sent to her.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

52:30 Race Relations It was agreed that during the summer, when there would be no Executive Committee to which Race Relations could pass suggestions for action, the Officers might be referred to. Miss Dickinson reported on the drafting of the Emergency Resolution on the situation in S. Africa. She drew attention to the report of the UN Committee on Forced Labour. She asked that letter might be sent to Lord Hemingford in appreciation of his attitude in the recent debate in the House of Lords on Central African Federation. This was unanimously agreed.

Parliamentary Committee In a brief report reference was made to the full and careful reply from the FO to the letter and resolution on atomic and other weapons of mass destruction sent to them by the President. Action on Michael Scott's deportation included a letter to the press from the President and one from the Office to Mr Lyttelton. A letter had been sent to the Prime Minister after his review of the world situation expressing general satisfaction and approval while reserving the right to criticise or question certain specific points at a later date if this seemed advisable. The committee had enjoyed a most stimulating and delightful visit at its last meeting from Mrs Sayani, a Moslem woman, who was now doing wonderful educational work in India and who was a former Hon. Sec. of the All India Women's Conference.

UNITED NATIONS:

52:31 British Delegation It was agreed to try to get the names of the delegates to the next General Assembly.
Committee of Three (on S. Africa) Miss Harrison hoped that this committee might remain in being as a quasi-permanent negotiating body. Whether this point be added to the emergency resolution was briefly discussed but no decision was taken.

NO CONSCRIPTION COUNCIL

52:32 Mrs Nuttall reported that a new Secretary was being appointed to the NCC. The question of our representatives to the organisation (no-one having yet been found) was referred to the Officers.

WORLD PEACE DAY

52:33 Peace News had circularised us asking us to participate in a "celebration" of August 6 (Hiroshima) by sending a special message for inclusion in the paper. It was agreed to ask the President to send this.

WORLD PEACE INITIATIVE

52:34 Mrs Warner recalled to the Committee that some 2 years ago the UNA of Jamaica had asked for our support of a scheme to launch a world referendum on certain vital questions and that we had replied showing benevolent interest and wish to be kept informed but not giving direct support. A

representative of the group was now in the UK and was pressing various organisations, especially of women, to get the scheme started. He had reported that Miss Baer was favourably disposed. His draft resolution was read. After rather brief discussion it was agreed to refer the question to Paris and to find out whether the plan had been discussed (as was planned and hoped) at WFUNA.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

52:35 It was agreed that the date remained September 22 and that the time of Executive Meetings should not be changed. This would be an Extended Executive for reports of Congress. It was hoped that there might be a semi-public meeting in the evening (Monday or Tuesday ?) This and the possibility of a social function of some sort were referred to the Officers

S. DEVON STUDY CONFERENCE

52:36 Members were reminded that the conference which would be held at Dawlish was from 2 - 4 or 5 October. The main subject was not yet decided.

INDIA, PAKISTAN AND CEYLON NEWS

52:37 Miss Harrison urged members to take the informative and valuable paper which was edited by Miss Dickinson.

COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

52:38 The resolutions had been urged upon the committee by Mrs Street who had attended the conference. It was agreed that the texts should be available for delegates to our own Congress.

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The Executive Committee closed its session at 3.20 p.m. and at 3.30 its members together with a few guests, met in the WILPF offices for the ceremony of declaring these new premises formally open. Mrs Innes gave a brief but vivid account of the British Section's office history and after all members had studied the new portrait of Jane Addams and the plaque beneath it and had admired the curtains (kindly given by Mrs Peat) and the new stacking chairs, many of which had been presented by Branches or by HQ members, tea was served downstairs by the new Social Committee. In the evening some 12 or more members met again at the house of Lady Mayer to be entertained with light refreshments and with some delightful music. Present on this occasion was Baroness Nonomiya, a Japanese member of FOR and of the WILPF.

Mary Kuttall
22.9.53

WILPF, British Section, 29, Great James Street, London W.C.1

MINUTES OF EXTENDED EXECUTIVE
Friends House, 22.9.53

Before the business of the meeting began at 10.30 a.m. Mrs de Swiet suggested that a short period of silence and reflection would enable all members to take a fuller and more effective part in the day's work. This idea was welcomed and implemented.

APOLOGIES: Mrs Coppock, Miss McAra, Lady Mayer, Mrs McGregor Wood, Mrs Malcolmson, Mrs Stapledon, Miss Harrison, Professor Lonsdale.

It was agreed to send a letter of sympathy to Mrs McGregor Wood on the illness of her husband. It was then reported that Mr Ballinger was still very ill and the committee asked for a letter also to be sent to Mrs Ballinger. Appreciation was expressed of the work of Mrs Turkie in deputising for Mrs Needham whose continued illness is greatly regretted.

PRESENT: Mrs Nuttall in the Chair
Mrs E.F. Ineson, Mrs Ivy Heathfield (Loughton, Essex), Mrs F. Hitch (Croydon), Mrs E. Wise (Croydon), Mrs H.M.I. Hartley, Miss H.R. Walmesley, Miss Edith M. Adlam (Wells, Somerset), Miss D. Hargreaves, Mrs O. Sutherst, Mrs R.D. Wood (Manchester), ~~Mrs~~ Janet I. ~~Queen~~ (Worthing), Miss A.M. Bailes, Mrs de Swiet, Mrs N. Weiss, Mrs Linda Hayman (Hampstead Garden Suburb), Mrs B. Duncan Harris, Mrs N.E. Greaves, Miss M. Dickinson, Miss M. Gill (HQ visitor), Mrs M. Dayan, Mrs Mary Phillips (Nottingham), Mrs E. Peat, Mrs J. Binns, Mrs P. Cusden, Mrs E. Ecroyd, Mrs E. Goring, Mrs I. Holmes, Mrs von Engel, Mrs B. Spielman (HQ visitor), Mrs Agnes Shackleton (Hampstead, visitor), Mrs M. Radley, Mrs J. Goss (Hampstead Garden Suburb), Mrs M.A. Fernau (HQ visitor), Miss I. Charnācy (HQ visitor), Mrs Warner.

MINUTES: After some discussion of the sentence beginning in line 8 of minute 52:28 it was agreed to be a correct record and the minutes of the Executive meeting of 7th July were signed.

MATTERS ARISING: 52:27 The matter of the tap on the top floor was reported to be in hand.
52:32 The officers had appointed Mrs de Swiet as one of our representatives on the No Conscription Council and Mrs Stewart (Hampstead Garden Suburb Branch) had been invited to act as the second.
52:34 No enquiries had been made in Paris about WFUNA's consideration of the scheme but it was believed that Miss Baer had indicated that the WILPF would not be ready to take part - at least at the moment. This was however not very definitely reported. Miss Dickinson agreed to find out the attitude of WFUNA from UNA in London.
52:36 The S. Devon Autumn School had been cancelled owing to lack of bookings. Mrs Holmes spoke of the difficulties of this Branch whose members lived rather far apart and many of whom were already giving their time and support to other organisations. Miss Adlam said that she had offered two possible dates for a drawing room meeting but had not so far had any reply. Mrs Greaves hoped that later on our Liaison Officer, Mrs McGregor Wood, might be able to visit and encourage the Branch. It was agreed to send a letter expressing regret.

CONGRATULATIONS

52:39 Mrs Cusden was warmly congratulated on her election to international Vice-Chairmanship and great pleasure and satisfaction was expressed at the election of our President, Professor Lonsdale, to the International Executive.

The Chairman spoke of the importance of the Section giving to these two members all possible support.

MESSAGE FROM EX-PRESIDENT

52:40

Mrs Duncan Harris extended a welcome to all members of the Executive as to all other members who were taking part in the Extended Executive's work. Speaking of the Congress and the impressions it left, she reminded the meeting that we must always see ourselves as part of an international whole; the significance of the WILPF lay in the fact that it was an international body; its strength lay in its national sections, through which its work must be done both directly by those sections and indirectly by the help and support they rendered to the international administration. Mrs Duncan Harris paid tribute to the work of the British delegation at Congress; she felt that the Section deserved to be as largely represented as it now was on the International Executive. Special thanks were given to Mrs Peat for her work as the main recorder and to Mrs Sutherst for the support given to Mme Jouve.

REPORTS ON CONGRESS

52:41

The Chairman, Mrs Nuttall, gave a comprehensive review of Congress and the two International Executive meetings which she attended as one of our Consultant Members.

The following were the chief points

- a) Procedure of Congress was frustrating but not all Sections agreed with British views on this. Professor Lonsdale was helpful with her clarity of thought and expression.
- b) Reports of Sections were extremely valuable and would make excellent subjects of study in Branches as would also the paper on non-violence by Mme Zeuten, the reports of UN by Gertrude Baer, Mme Jouve and Gladys Walser and the paper on Asia prepared by a Japanese member.
- c) The International Education Committee was re-formed and its papers could well be studied by the Education Committee of the British Section. Plans were made for a Training Course to be prepared by Gertrude Baer and Fru Hojer.
- d) The invitation to hold the next Congress in the UK was accepted by Congress with unanimity. Later, in the International Executive meeting following, another unexpected invitation from Israel was given and the whole matter referred to the Executive of August 1954, contrary to the condition of the British invitation.

* Mrs Nuttall expressed very great appreciation of the competent way in which delegates had prepared themselves to speak in Congress.

Mrs Cusden said that at Congress, as in most things, one got out of it just what one had been ready to put in. She deplored the unbusinesslike way the Congress was run. Speaking of Mme Duchene's report on Europe, which was turned down by Congress, she read aloud the statement which had been prepared and accepted in its place.

Mrs Duncan Harris then spoke briefly on the Constitution: she felt that the fact of the unanimous acceptance of a large part of the text (including a clause obliging Sections to contribute 10% of their income) was a good deal more alarming than the fact that one part of the text was referred back for further consideration.

After lunch it was agreed that Mrs Peat, Mrs Phillips and Mrs Sutherst should each be allowed 20 minutes if they wished and that other members reporting on Congress should be as short as possible. If the other matters on the day's agenda could not be completed, they should be referred to the officers.

Mrs Phillips felt, after this, her third, congress that the WILPF had still not learnt how to recognise and

avoid its mistakes and she stressed that it was unwise to gloss over frustration and irritations which could be prevented if lessons were learnt. In the field of procedure she thought the failure lay in the execution rather than in the planning. She had felt that in some matters the UK delegation, though on the whole a real team, had tended to work too much as individuals and had not acted on certain occasions as a group, making use of their Consultants and of the Standing Orders Committee. Mrs Phillips then spoke of our continued failure, in the international WILPF, to cope with problems of human relations. In her view, certain qualities of heart and spirit were lacking. Brains were not enough. She regretted that there had been no time for discussion of future policy; that we had still not learnt to abide by our own decisions; that there were too many resolutions, many of them not at all concerned with the actual theme of Congress. At the same time she was convinced that at this Congress there was a better spirit between national sections which had real and serious differences of outlook and opinion; many of the reports were most encouraging. She concluded: we must see to it that the bad things do not repeat themselves and that the good things multiply. Mrs Peat gave a brief report of the second International Executive Committee. Referring to the Education Committee she said that it was hoped that a Liaison Officer would be appointed to it from every Section. Mrs Sutherst said that the International Finance Committee was most unsatisfactory. No complete statement was available. The Finance Committee had not had an opportunity of considering the proposed budget. She felt that it was essential that we should know how our money was spent. Mrs Sutherst then gave a critical statement on the organisation of the international office and administration and made the following recommendations:

- 1) A change of Chairman
- 2) Complete separation of administrative and political work by:
 - a) appointment of an International Secretary responsible only to the International Executive.
 - b) establishment of a rule that no paid employee of the WILPF shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee.
- 3) Acceptance of the principle that the first charge on the League's income is the maintenance of a central International Bureau, adequately staffed. (i.e. by trained and qualified personnel)
- 4) that a statement be called for which will show clearly whence the League's income derives and that the Hon. Treasurer be asked to present a properly audited account annually. It should be laid upon the Treasurer of each section to present an audited statement of the International Funds in her hands, together with suggestions and criticisms of the Budget made by members of her Section. These should all be presented to the whole Executive Committee.
- 5) That an honorarium should be paid to Mme Jouve.

Miss Dickinson thanked Mrs Sutherst for her report and the clear picture she had given of the present position with regard to the International finances and their management.

Mrs Groaves said that she had felt that the Congress was like "a miniature United Nations". Our members are "likeminded in their aims" but very unlike in their ways of working. This made it fascinating to watch the negotiations which resulted almost always in finding agreement where at first it had seemed impossible.

She also stressed the growing importance and influence of women from Asia.

Miss Adlam spoke of the truth of the Japanese report in its emphasis on the revolutions taking place throughout Asia and in the emergence of India as the country par excellence in the practice of negotiation.

Miss Hargreaves agreed with Mrs Phillips about the lack of organisation and the haphazard arrangements. She felt that people knew each other too little and that often members were also quite unclear as to what was being done by the Congress; speaking as one of the Vote Counters she was sure that many people did not know on what they were voting nor whether they were voting for or against. She said that Japan now was in need of the same kind of support as Germany had been a few years ago. She hoped that every effort would be made to make and maintain contacts. Finally she hoped that those members of our Section who had been in Paris would do their best to speak as often as possible about it to Branches; it was most important that all our members should realise that they were members of a great international movement. We - the women of the world - could make a new world.

Miss Walmesley moved a vote of thanks to all members for their reports.

It was reported then to the Executive that, as Mrs Cusden in her position as International Vice-Chairman was automatically on the International Executive, Mrs Peat had been appointed by the UK delegation to act in her place as 2nd Consultant Member at the Executive which followed Congress. The Officers recommended that this appointment be confirmed and made valid until the next Annual Council. This was unanimously agreed.

It was agreed that various matters concerning this Congress and the next should be referred to the Officers and then to the next Executive.

It was agreed that when the official "Decisions" were sent from Geneva we should see how the question of the date and place of the next Congress were reported there. It might then be necessary to write to the Chairman expressing surprise that, as members of Congress had gone home certain that the next Congress would meet in England, it was now apparently still far from settled.

It was agreed that the next issue of Peace and Freedom could be larger in order that fuller reports of Congress might be carried.

VOTE OF THANKS TO MRS DUNCAN HARRIS When the Executive learnt that Mrs Duncan Harris had decided not to allow her name to go forward for the International Executive, a warm tribute was paid to her ~~many~~ years of service, and a vote of thanks, on behalf of the British Section was unanimously passed. (Proposed by Mrs Ineson and seconded by Miss Walmesley)

OFFICERS' DECISIONS

52:43

Mrs Ineson reported that at the meeting of the Officers held since the previous Executive had met, it had been decided to arrange a series of monthly lunch hour meetings during the autumn and winter at which our Vice-Presidents would be the speakers. The first of these would be held on 23.9.53 with Vera Brittain as the speaker and the next on October 21 when Dr Rita Hinden would speak on "Britain and Africa". The charge for these meetings would be 2/6 including a sandwich lunch which would be arranged by the Social Committee.

as consultant? executive were by

The Officers had agreed that some reorganisation of the office work was necessary so that Mrs Warner could have more time for the WILPF work needing concentration and quiet; she would be free to work outside the office 4 afternoons a week.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

52:44

Parliamentary Committee Mrs Warner reported that the Committee had prepared a draft letter on Conscription which they hoped might be sent to all MPs before the House meets. This was read and accepted. The Executive Committee asked that a letter be sent to the leaders of all parties urging that the vote on the National Service Act should be free. The Committee also accepted the recommendation that Mrs Peat should take Miss Harrison's place at SCESWUN during Miss Harrison's absence in the USA. It was further reported that work on the problem of race relations in S.Africa was under consideration; fresh impetus to this had been given by the two letters from Father Huddleston recently carried in the Observer. Initiated by the Officers, a Note had been prepared, after discussion in the Parliamentary Committee, which had been sent to all members of the official UK delegation to the General Assembly of the UN. Copies had of course gone to our own interested international officers and representatives

Education Committee This committee had not met since the last Executive. Its Chairman, Mrs de Swiet, had however visited the Pestalozzi School and she gave a report of what she had seen and reminded members of the inspiring background of active goodwill and constructive imaginative work which this scheme had called forth from citizens and governments of many countries. She stressed the atmosphere of serenity which pervaded the village. The Executive heard with satisfaction that other villages were already coming into being.

Race Relations Committee Miss Dickinson reported that the Emergency resolution on the establishment of the Committee of Three sent in by the British Section had been accepted. As the report was not yet available no letter had been sent to HMG. A letter had been sent, through the Parliamentary Committee, to Mr Lyttelton urging him to give most careful consideration to the views of the African representatives taking part in the discussions on the ~~Nigerian~~ Constitution. She noted with satisfaction that most of the recommendations made by Father Huddleston had in fact already been acted upon by the Section.

Central African Federal

Commonwealth responsibility in relation to S Africa

.....

Owing to lack of time certain matters were not taken during the Committee's sessions. For your information the following facts and figures from the report of Mrs Sutherst are given. They represent the financial situation of the Section at the time of the Committee.

FINANCIAL NOTES

Bal. on current a/c £160
Guarantee Fund £342

Expenditure continues at the rate of approx. £100 monthly It is hoped that Branch affiliation fees and outstanding subscriptions from HQ members will now be paid as soon as possible as the end of the financial year is approaching.

6.

CONGRESS a/c

<u>Expenditure</u> from WILPF funds	<u>Donations</u>	£134
£280	Refunds from delegates	£ 84
		<u>£218</u>

The gap of £62 it is hoped will be closed when those Branches who have not already done so, send in their special contributions to this Fund.

NEW PREMISES a/c

With the consent of the Trustees, the sum of £80 was withdrawn from the Jame Addams Fund to meet special expenditure in connection with the removal of the office. Gifts amounting to £23 were most gratefully received. There is a balance of £8 towards a few more small improvements to be undertaken shortly.

ld a WK Fund

Reduced to £80

FORD MEMORIAL a/c

Accrued interest £100

INTERNATIONAL a/c

Balance in hand £120

It is hoped that the International membership will increase in the next few years as preparation begins for Congress to be held in this country in 1956

The Hon. Treasurer places on record her appreciation of the response made to appeals and hopes that the determination to survive thus shown, will increase and multiply.

Mary Nuttall
2-11-53.

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 3rd November, 1953

APOLOGIES: Mrs von Engel, Mrs Peat, Mrs Hartley, Mrs Binns, Mrs Pick
Mrs McGregor Wood, Mrs R.D.Wood, Mrs Ecroyd

PRESENT: Mrs Nuttall in the Chair
Miss C.H.McAra, Mrs P.Cusden, Miss D.Hargreaves, Mrs Dayan,
Mrs G.Malcolmson, Lady Mayer, Mrs L.de Swiet, Mrs E.Wise,
Mrs Myrtle Radley, Mrs Ineson, Mrs Sutherst, Miss Adlam,
(Visitor), Miss Walmesley, Mrs Weiss, Miss Dickinson, Mrs
Duncan Harris, Mrs Schlossmann (after lunch), Mrs Greaves,
Mrs McGregor Ross, Mrs Warner, Mrs Boaden

Before the Minutes were taken the Committee sat in silence for a few minutes preparation.

MESSAGE FROM MISS BALCH The message to Congress from the International President, Miss Emily Green Balch was read aloud by the Chairman.

MINUTES An addition was made to Minute 52:42. The Minutes were then signed. (Miss Dickinson, who could not be present at this moment, asked for a correction to Minute 52:44 to be made and this was done.)

MATTERS ARISING 52:34 Miss Dickinson reported the Gallup Poll on issues of Peace and War had been on WFUNA's agenda but no support for the plan was forthcoming.

52:41 International Affairs.

- a) Congress Committee After some discussion it was agreed to form a Congress Committee. Its first duty would be to look at possible venues for the 1956 Congress and to bring details of these and specific recommendations to the next Annual Council. The following members would be asked to serve: Mrs Cusden, Mrs Nuttall, Mrs Peat, Mrs Sutherst, Mrs Malcolmson, Miss Walmesley, Miss Adlam, Miss McAra.
- b) Two letters from Miss Baer i) on the proposed training course to be held in Geneva next spring and ii) on the attitude of the WILPF to its Consultative Status with ECOSOC, (FAO, UNESCO also considered by the Committee). It was felt, with regard to letter i) that while the idea was a good one, time for finding suitable students was too short, while the course itself was too long and thus too expensive. It was therefore agreed that we should write saying that we did not feel able to support the plan for next spring. It was suggested - and the idea was warmly approved - that it would be an excellent thing if members could occasionally be sent to spend a week or more, watching and even working with our representatives at the UN and its Specialised Agencies. With regard to letter ii) a reply had been drafted in the office and **this** was accepted. It was left to Mrs Ineson and Mrs Warner to write the combined answer to both Miss Baer's letters.
- c) Reports of Congress (Matters arising) Mrs Ineson reported that Professor Lonsdale would meet the Executive from 5-6.30 on December 1st to give her impressions of the Congress. Mrs Sutherst referred to the points she had made at the previous Executive. Speaking on Finance she said that it was essential first to know where our money came from and then how it was spent. She felt that the priorities for the International budget were: office rent and expenses

(stationery etc) and the salary of an International Administration Secretary. The balance would then be allocated to the Consultants at ECOSOC, FAO, UNESCO and the UN in New York. Publicity for the WILPF would include the production of Pax et Libertas and the organisation of the Summer Schools. Mrs Sutherst stressed the need for ^a careful examination of the expenses connected with the International Executives and with Congress. She recommends the establishment of a Finance Committee with representatives from the National consultants. This would ensure at least some measure of the principle "No legislation without representation". Mrs Sutherst then passed to the need of separating political from administrative work, and; speaking of the need to find the right time and the right timing for action in dealing with our International organisation, she asked whether the British Section could not now prepare some form of Memorandum. In the discussion which followed Mrs Cusden thanked Mrs Sutherst for the excellent form in which she had presented her criticisms and proposals; she agreed with the idea of attaching the International Secretary to the Chairman and hoped that a group might draft a memorandum before the next Executive. Mrs Duncan Harris felt that it was quite impracticable and unpractical to have a moveable International Secretary. Mrs Radley suggested that the Officers should draft the Memorandum which should then be circulated to Branches. It was agreed that a special meeting must be called for this purpose.

x all costs to be
carefully examined
& value assessed
for expenditure made
This would include
Congress & Executive
Committee

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE Mrs Ineson was asked to write to Dr Albert Schweitzer and to include a tribute and message to his wife in the letter.
52:45

RESIGNATION OF GENERAL SECRETARY The chairman reported that at the last officers' meeting Mrs Ineson had read from a letter received from Mrs Warner giving her decision arrived at after much thought to resign her position as General Secretary. The officers, after serious discussion and many expressions of regret, had found themselves obliged to accept the resignation.
52:46
Mrs Ineson as Hon. Secretary, then expressed regret that the Chairman had not called on her to make this announcement to the Executive. She explained that she had gradually come to realise the inevitability of Mrs Warner's decision. It had been made after much heart-searching and many attempts to make the impossible possible. One person could not carry the responsibility of an increasing amount of Parliamentary Committee work and United Nations research demands as well as the daily details of office routine and correspondence. This was the reason that lay behind her resignation. It marked the end of a valuable and happy colleagueship between the two secretaries but the blow was softened by Mrs Warner's willingness expressed at the same time to carry on, if circumstances permitted, the specialised work she enjoyed doing in a voluntary capacity. To everyone's satisfaction she had not resigned from the secretaryship of the Parliamentary Committee.

After Mrs Ineson had paid tribute to the high quality of the service Mrs Warner had rendered to the League as its General Secretary many members followed with expressions of regret and appreciation. Mrs Cusden stressed the help she had received as editor of Peace & Freedom. Mrs Duncan Harris spoke of Mrs Warner's wisdom in handling matters of policy in the Parliamentary Committee and Mrs Radley as the new Chairman was greatly relieved that she could still

rely on Mrs Warner's help. Mrs Sutherst mentioned particularly the patience and readiness with which she helped to settle difficult and knotty problems over the telephone. Miss Dickinson added her tribute to the help received in her specialised work on Africa. The chairman reiterated the warm thanks of the Section for the services rendered by the General Secretary and Mrs Warner replied.

was there?
yes
Taking advantage of the fact that there was a vacancy on the Executive, Mrs Duncan Harris proposed that Mrs Warner be elected a member of the Executive Committee. This was seconded by Mrs Cusden and passed unanimously.

BRANCH NEWS

52:47

marked
Warrington Regional Meeting Miss Walmesley, who had attended the meeting as a representative of HQ, gave a vivid account of the three sessions of this regional gathering of 7 Branches. She emphasised the sense of confidence and purpose with which this occasion was instinct. Miss Walmesley also reported on a visit to Glasgow, where the same confidence was evident, together with every sign of a vigorous interest in our work; and a visit to Edinburgh where a small group showed again this vitality and faith. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Mrs Hartley who had been the initiator of the Regional Meeting at Warrington. Bromley and Croydon Branches were shortly holding Bring and Buy Sales. Bromley had joined with Orpington in a meeting at which Lady Hartog was the speaker.

ANNUAL COUNCIL 1954

52:48

Mrs Greaves brought a message from Childwall asking whether Civic recognition from Liverpool would be welcomed. The Committee was delighted that there was a possibility of some official meeting with the Lord Mayor. It was left with Childwall to make whatever arrangements seemed best. The alternatives were, probably, a public meeting on the Friday evening, or a private invitation to the Council to the Town Hall on Saturday morning.

JOHN CARTER, BRITISH GUIANA

52:49

The Committee turned aside from its Agenda to listen for about 30 minutes to Mr John Carter, leader of the opposition in British Guiana to the PPP. Warm thanks were expressed to Mr Carter *✓ for* this opportunity of hearing first hand the views and experience of the opposition.

✓ to Mrs Malcolmson for providing

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP: recommendations by the officers.

52:50

Mrs Ineson said that it was realised that a fresh approach to Branch life and work was becoming necessary. The decision to close down the Cambridge Branch had brought home to the officers the need for action. The emphasis should not be constantly on the organisation of meetings with outside speakers - valuable and stimulating as these could be. What was needed was an increase of group activities. The officers would like to see many more small groups of WILPF members; groups which would meet frequently either for discussion and study, for work on some special project, or for social or fund-raising purposes. To stimulate this kind of Branch development a new "Project Leaflet" was proposed and its preparation was left to Mrs Ineson with Mrs Warner. The officers also hoped that Mrs Ineson and Mrs Peat might visit all Branches in order to meet their Committees and to discuss with them suggestions, plans and problems. It was also reported that Lady Mayer had given £30 to help meet the costs of the visits and to allow of experiments with local advertisements in areas such as S. Wales and possibly in new towns such as Harlow. All these suggestions were accepted by the Committee.

4.

FINANCE
52:51

The Treasurer reported a balance of £260 in the current account. The Guarantee Fund stood at £142. The Co-operative Building Society held £674. (This includes all trust monies and special funds). There was a debit from Congress of £42. Speaking of International finance Mrs Sutherst pointed out that if we were now pledged under the new International Constitution to pay 10% of annual income into the International Account, then our current expected and necessary £1200 per annum would no longer be sufficient.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES Parliamentary Committee As time was running short it was agreed to omit the report of this Committee's last 6 meetings. Copies of the Minutes should be sent to the only two members who did not already receive them. Education Committee To overcome difficulties of meeting it was agreed to try and insert time for this committee during the day of the Executive's meeting. Miss Walmesley agreed to serve as Education Liaison Officer with re-established International Education Committee. Race Relations Committee Miss Dickinson read aloud the letter which had been sent to the Chairman of the Ad - Hoc Committee on S.W.Africa and reported that it had been circulated to the General Assembly in an Addendum to the Committee's report. She pointed out that we seemed to be the only organisation which had taken this kind of action. A vote of thanks to Miss Dickinson for her work on behalf of the Race Relations Committee was unanimously passed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 1st December, 1953

Mary Nuttall
1. 12. 53.

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 1st December, 1953.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. von Engel, Mrs. Binns, Mrs. Greaves, Miss Walmesley,
Mrs. D. Wood, Mrs. Hartley, Mrs. McGregor Wood, Miss Agatha
Harrison, Mrs. Pick, Mrs. Stapledon.

PRESENT: Mrs. Nuttall in the Chair.
Miss McAra, Mrs. Cusden, Mrs. Dayan, Miss Dickinson,
Mrs. Ecroyd, Miss Hargreaves, Mrs. Duncan Harris, Mrs.
Ineson, Mrs. Malcomson, Lady Mayer, Mrs. Peat, Mrs. Radley,
Mrs. Sutherst, Mrs. de Swiet, Mrs. Warner, Mrs. Weiss,
Miss Adlam (visitor), Mrs. Boaden (Finance Secretary).
Frau Hoppstock Huth, President of the German Section,
visited the afternoon and evening sessions.
The President, Professor K. Lonsdale, attended at 5.30 p.m.

Silence was observed before proceeding to business.
A warm welcome was given to Mrs. Warner as a newly-elected member of
the Executive.

MINUTES: The Minutes were passed and signed after the following
corrections were made:-
52:41(c) After "Mrs. Sutherst stressed the need for..."
delete rest of sentence and substitute "all costs to be
carefully examined and value assessed for expenditure made;
this would include Congress and Executive Committee."
52:49 In second sentence, after "Mr. Carter", add "and
Mrs. Malcomson for providing..."

KENYA
52:53

An emergency situation had arisen following the publication
of disclosures made at the trial by court martial of Captain
Griffiths. A letter was sent to "The Times" supporting
their leading article entitled "A Nation's Conscience" in
Saturday's issue (Nov. 28th).
Miss Dickinson had drafted a letter expressing strong
condemnation of the practices disclosed and urging that
enquiries should be instituted. The letter, after some
alteration, was accepted and it was decided to address it
to the Rt. Hon. Anthony Head, Secretary of State for War,
with a copy to Mr. Lyttleton.

OFFICE AFFAIRS It was reported that:-

52:54 a) A new sink and draining board had been fixed on the
top landing.

b) Mrs. Sutherst had provided curtains to cover the
wardrobe and the lower part of the sink.

c) After receiving many applications for the post, a new
Secretary had been appointed - Miss Margaret Tims, of
Ealing, formerly of Manchester where she was known to
some of our members. She was appointed from 14th Dec.,
1953, at a weekly salary of £7.10.0, with the possibility
of a rise after a probationary period. Her excellent
testimonials suggested that she had the necessary quali-
fications for our work:-

- 1) Agreement with our Aims
- 2) Skill in office routine
- 3) Initiative and ability to undertake responsible
work.

MEMORANDUM ON INTERNATIONAL WILPF AFFAIRS AND CONGRESS It was reported

52:55

that Mrs. Suthorst and the Officers had prepared a draft incorporating the views expressed by delegates to Congress, which had been circulated to Branches and Executive members. Mrs. Nuttall read a proposed introduction to the document in the form of a letter explaining its purpose. This was accepted and was to be sent with the memorandum.

A long discussion took place on the following points:-

- a) Whether it was advisable to send the memorandum to all Sections, as it might have a disruptive influence and personal feelings would be hurt.
- b) The advisability of dividing it into two sections: the first dealing with International Headquarters to go out immediately; the second part dealing with Congress to be kept back and used as a guide for International Executive members at their next meeting.
- c) Whether it would be possible to re-word it so as to eliminate the personal element entirely.
- d) The difficulties of translation and need to be clear and precise in use of words.
- e) The advisability of waiting until a concerted effort could be made instead of acting alone.
- f) The insertion in the memorandum of the idea that the Headquarters Office need not necessarily be in Geneva.

Final decisions on the form in which the memorandum should eventually be drafted and its destination were left over until the President arrived later in the day.

POLITICAL ASPECT OF ONE OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEMS IN GERMANY

52:56

Frau Hoppstock Huth was warmly welcomed and asked to speak to the Executive.

She responded by giving an account of the political nature of the problem confronting her people in the mass flight of so-called refugees which continued daily across the border into West Berlin from the Eastern Zone. While some were genuinely fleeing from hardship and persecution, the vast majority were enticed over by widespread propaganda, for which the German Federal Republic was held responsible. Reference was made to a letter sent by the German Section of the WILPF to the Federal Minister for All-German Questions, protesting against this "vicious political propaganda". An English translation of this letter was printed on the back of the current issue of "Pax et Libertas".

It was decided that a discussion of this problem should take place in the Parliamentary Committee on Dec. 16th, to which Frau Hoppstock Huth was invited.

ANNUAL COUNCIL, APRIL 2nd - 5th, 1954. The Executive received with

52:57

pleasure and satisfaction the news that the Lord Mayor of Liverpool had consented to be present at our public meeting on Friday, April 2nd, and to give us a civic welcome. The Childwall Branch was to be congratulated.

The question of speakers for the meeting was put forward by Mrs. Greaves in a letter to the Executive. Several comments and suggestions were made which were to be forwarded. It was decided that the final decision on the form the meeting should take and on speakers should be left to the Childwall and Liverpool Branches.

With regard to the Council Agenda it was decided that Saturday and Sunday would be needed for the Section's business including current problems, and that meal intervals should be long enough to allow for out of doors refreshment and social intercourse.

It was hoped that resolutions would be few and of good quality. Branches should keep this in mind when planning meetings for 1954.

REPORT OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE In the absence of Mrs. Warner
52:58 Mrs. Ineson gave a brief account of action taken and read a letter which had been sent to the Prime Minister on his going to the conference at Bermuda.

REPORT FROM UN Extracts were read from reports of UN sent by Gladys
52:59 Walser.

- a) Disarmament: Slight progress had been made in the Disarmament Commission and an atmosphere of give and take was present which showed the "UN at its best". Study of the resolution passed was recommended.
- b) Internationalisation of the Arctic Regions: The paper prepared by Mrs. Warner for Congress was being used in interviews with Iceland, Canada and Norway. Hope was expressed that the subject would come before the next Assembly.
- c) Written answers from the UK Delegation to WILPF working papers received from Gladys Walser were read, the subjects discussed being World Disarmament, Korean Political Conference, and Chinese representation at UN.
- d) The message of the President, Emily Greene Balch, to the Women Delegates of the UN attending the luncheon arranged by members of the American Section was read and appreciated.

RACE RELATIONS Miss Dickinson reported several items in connection
52:60 with the UN Commission of Three on the racial situation in South Africa. She had presented a survey of the voluminous report to the Parliamentary Committee, together with the draft of a letter to be sent to the UK Delegation to the Assembly; this had been approved with a slight amendment and was read to the Executive. A short comprehensive summary of the report and its recommendations as given in "India News" was also read.

CORRESPONDENCE Mrs. Nuttall read a letter from Mrs. McGregor Wood.
52:61 On her suggestion it was decided to write a letter of sympathy to the widow of the late Bishop Barnes. A letter was read from Mrs. Dorothy Wood of Manchester telling of the short visit of Mrs. Needham to one of their meetings. It was decided to write to Mrs. Needham expressing pleasure at hearing the good news and hopes for further recovery.

BRANCH REPORTS Encouraging news was given of activities in various
52:62 branches:- Hassocks & Ditchling, Croydon, Orpington, Bromley and Hampstead Garden Suburb. Mrs. Ineson reported that letters had been received from nearly all the Branches accepting the suggestion of meetings of their Committees to discuss membership with Mrs. Peat or herself. Dates for this tour had not yet been fixed.

"PEACE AND FREEDOM" Mrs. Cusden said the great need was for more
52:63 contributions and asked members to take more copies for use as propaganda.

FINANCE The Treasurer reported that we should finish the year with
52:64 a balance in hand. She expressed warm thanks to Mrs. Boaden for her continuous work on the accounts. Mrs. Boaden reported that all but two branches, Edinburgh and Worthing, had completed their payments of affiliation fees for 1953. She hoped to receive the rest before the end of the year.

NOMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL TREASURER

52:65

Mrs. Cusden referred to a letter from the International Chairman to the Sections in which they were asked to send in the name of anyone willing to take over Mrs. Dorothy Robinson's work, which she was relinquishing at the end of the year.

It was proposed by Mrs. Cusden, seconded by Miss Dickinson, and passed with acclamation that Mrs. Sutherst's name be forwarded to act as International Treasurer until the next International Executive, when the matter would be brought up again.

Mrs. Sutherst agreed on condition that no one else was available.

REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

52:66

Mrs. Ineson reported that a combined service of Thanksgiving was held at the Serbian Orthodox Church of St. Sava in London on Sunday, Nov. 29th, to give thanks for hospitality received by refugees in this country. "The Times" had reported it as a unique occasion when eight national Orthodox Churches had joined in the Liturgy. It was a justification of refugee work in this country.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: This was fixed for 2nd February, 1954.

At 5.30 p.m. the discussion on the Memorandum was resumed under the guidance of the President, Professor K. Lonsdale. The following suggestions were made by her:-

1. Mrs. Stapledon was terribly overworked and unable to cope with necessary matters in connection with the Congress, such as registering, etc.
2. One person should not have so much to do at the time.
3. All documents should have been prepared one or two months beforehand.
4. However urgent political matters were, events of the past week should not be considered and members should be properly prepared beforehand.
5. The Agenda Committee should have all its work done before Congress begins.
6. The Agenda must be dealt with first before any emergency resolutions were considered at all.
7. The International Executive really needed to thrash out what they want to do at a Congress.
8. Reports should not be read or spoken to.
9. Speakers - possibly from outside - should have a subject.
10. One whole day should be given to Congress business.

It was decided that the new draft should be prepared and sent out in the New Year.

Mary Kuttall
2. 2. 54.