

# PAX INTERNATIONAL

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Editor: MISS KARLEEN BAKER

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## INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, GENEVA 9-14 SEPTEMBER

Die Herbstexekutive in Genf war wohl eine der interessantesten Sitzungen, die die I.F.F.F. abgehalten hat. Man spürte in ihr die ganze Not unserer Zeit. Dieselbe drückte sich zunächst aus in den Berichten über die politische Lage in den dreizehn verschiedenen Ländern, die Delegierte an die Sitzung hatten abordnen können. Sie boten, trotz der vorbildlichen Kürze, deren sich die Berichtstatterinnen befiessen, ein sehr vielseitiges und dennoch auch wieder sehr einheitliches Bild, wie dies Gertrud Baer in ihrer Zusammenfassung und Schlussfolgerung hervorhob. Ueberall die wirtschaftliche Krise, nur hie und da etwas gemildert durch vermehrte Arbeitsgelegenheit in der Rüstungsindustrie und in den mit der Rüstungsindustrie zusammenhängenden Schlüsselindustrien. Ueberall die Gefahr einer zunehmenden Faschisierung sowohl von oben her, wie auch faschisierende Tendenzen und Gelüste in den politischen Parteien und Arbeiterorganisationen. Ueberall die drohende Spaltung in den Reihen der Pazifisten selbst, weil angesichts der immer neu sich gestaltenden Verhältnisse neue Probleme auftauchen, für die die alten Schablonen nicht mehr passen wollen; freilich andererseits auch wieder überall das Bestreben, möglichst alle Kräfte des Friedens zu einer starken Einheit zusammenzufassen. Der *"Auftrag der Völker an ihre Regierungen"* ist ein Ausdruck dieser Tendenz, für die Friedenssehnsucht der Völker eine gemeinsame Formel zu finden. Die *Weltaktion für den Frieden*, das *Rassemblement Universel pour la Paix*, ist ein zweites Beispiel für dieses Suchen nach einer Einheit. Die I.F.F.F. hat sowohl als internationale Organisation wie in einzelnen ihrer nationalen Sektionen an beiden Bewegungen lebhaft teilgenommen und gedenkt, es weiter zu tun. Aber neben diesen doch mehr theoretischen Kundgebungen tauchen die ganz akuten und aktuellen Probleme der Stellungnahme zu den einzelnen konkreten politischen Ereignissen auf, wie z.B. zum Bürgerkrieg in Spanien. Diese Frage und die Frage unserer Stellung zum Bürgerkrieg überhaupt drängt zu Entscheidungen, die die Gefahr einer Spaltung in sich bergen. Nicht, dass irgend jemand in der Liga den Bürgerkrieg guthiesse oder ihn begrüßte; aber es ist in den Diskussionen über Spanien klar zu Tage getreten, wie die Einen es für unvereinbar mit den Grundsätzen der Liga halten, selbst auch nur ihre Sympathie mit Kämpfenden auszudrücken, die sich der Waffengewalt bedienen, selbst wenn ihnen dieser Kampf von aussen her aufgedrängt wurde und sie für Recht und Freiheit kämpfen. Eine andere Gruppe von Pazifisten aber fühlt sich gedrängt, ihre innere Anteilnahme an dem schweren Kampfe der Ueberfallenen und Bedrängten auch öffentlich auszusprechen; sie

ist sich dabei der Gefahr einer Missdeutung ihrer Stellungnahme bewusst, der Gefahr, dass viele darin eine Bejahung des Kampfes mit roher Gewalt überhaupt erblicken; aber sie würden es ebenso als Schuld empfinden, eine rein dogmatische Neutralität zu beobachten, namentlich solange diejenigen Instanzen und Institutionen, die mit unblutigen Mitteln des Rechtes eingreifen könnten, die Rechtsbrecher gewähren und die Ueberfallenen verbluten lassen.

Mit dieser Verschiedenheit der Auffassungen hängt die alte Frage der Kompetenzen der Vorsitzenden zusammen. Es ist klar, dass diejenigen, die eine politische Betätigung der I.F.F.F. als eine der wichtigen Aufgaben der Liga betrachten, den Vorsitzenden eine gewisse Selbständigkeit des Handelns zubilligen möchten, weil ohne eine solche keine politische Aktion möglich ist. Ebenso klar ist es, dass diejenigen, die sich mit volkserzieherischen Aufgaben auf längere Sicht begnügen, es weder für nötig noch nützlich halten, die leitenden Persönlichkeiten mit besondern Kompetenzen auszustatten.

Der Kongress der I.F.F.F. der in der letzten Juliwoche 1937 stattfinden soll, wird über beide Fragen, die der Arbeitsmethoden und die der innern Organisation der I.F.F.F., zu beraten und zu entscheiden haben. Es wird eine Aufgabe der nationalen Sektionen sein, schon diesen Winter im Kreise der Vorstände und der Ortsgruppen die Abklärung dieser Fragen vorzubereiten. Eine gewisse Klärung haben ohne Zweifel schon die Aussprachen im Schosse der Exekutive gebracht.

CLARA RAGAZ.

## RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Situation in Spain

"The Executive Committee of the W.I.L.P.F. has followed with increasing anguish and concern the tragic civil war now taking place in Spain.

"Since its foundation in 1915 the W.I.L.P.F. has repudiated every form of military force, and our conviction remains that violence is not only unethical but self-defeating, and that peace without freedom is a travesty.

"The W.I.L.P.F., conscious of the menace to democracy and world peace constituted by the fratricidal struggle carried on by the Spanish rebels against the legal Government of Spain, elected by the will of the people, points out that the neutrality of certain States has only been agreed to with the reservation that it must be complete and general.



"The continued reinforcement of the rebels with men, money and material by Fascist States, and by groups and persons who are their agents in many countries, renders this neutrality unilateral and constitutes in effect a sort of blockade of republican Spain, and may give neutrality the character of complicity. This permits the prolongation of the sanguinary struggle which, if continued, might lead to the wiping out of the Spanish Republic.

"We, therefore, urge the League of Nations immediately, under Article 11 of the covenant to establish an expert and independent body whose task it shall be to see that non-intervention is rigidly observed and to report continually and publicly to the Council of the League.

"But in the meantime we urgently demand that the States comprising the committee of Co-ordination (International Committee of Non-intervention) establish immediately a strict control to prevent all importation of arms and munitions to Spain and especially to stop delivery of war materials by fascist countries to the rebel forces.

"Finally we appeal to all democratic governments for the support by every moral, diplomatic and economic means possible of the legal Government in Spain in order to assist it to maintain democracy in that unfortunate land."

#### League of Nations

"The W.I.L.P.F. has since its foundation in 1915 stood consistently for a League of Nations, and it still believes that, in the political field, the collective organisation of peace machinery as embodied in the League of Nations is the only guarantee for the prevention of war.

"The W.I.L.P.F., therefore, deeply deplores the tragic failures of the League of Nations to deal adequately with the crises of the last few years. These failures do not primarily result from inherent defects in the fundamental idea of a League of Nations, whatever defects there are in the present Covenant. They reveal rather the strength of the invisible forces controlling the actions of the governments but beyond popular control.

"The W.I.L.P.F. believes that no external reform of the Covenant, however it might contribute to tiding over the present crisis, can avail to secure the proper functioning of the League of Nations to-day, unless its members rise to the level of a truly independent international outlook, disarm, and willingly abandon their sovereign rights within the sphere of the League.

"Such change is the only way to gain the confidence of the peoples of the world and to prepare for an effective reform of the Covenant."

#### Ethiopia

"Considering: that the occupation by arms of the territory of any State member of the League of Nations is contrary to the terms of the Covenant, and cannot deprive any member of the right of its membership and of being represented at the Assembly;

"The Executive Committee of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in session at Geneva from September 9th-14th, 1936, urgently requests the Assembly to consider the position of Ethiopia from the point of view of international law and to submit it to the Permanent Court of International Justice at The Hague."

#### Greece

"The Executive Committee of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in session in Geneva from September 9th-14th, 1936, comprising representatives of fourteen nationalities consisting for the most part of intellectuals, strongly protests against the arbitrary measures taken by the Greek Government against persons generally respected, such as Professor Svolo, Sotirion and many others. It protests further against the rigorous treatment which has been inflicted upon them in the prisons, without any accusation against them, except that of their democratic beliefs.

#### Colonies

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom congratulates the French Government, elected by the Front Populaire, on its gesture of amnesty towards the political prisoners in Indo-China, trusts that the Government will make as soon as possible the necessary reforms in the French colonies to secure for all inhabitants the rights of citizenship as a first step towards complete freedom and wishes all Colonial powers to act in the same way.

### THE NEW FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Since the last meeting of the International Executive the long expected step towards monetary stabilisation, by devaluation of the currencies in the so-called gold block has taken place. Co-operation between France, England and the United States has enabled this to be done without any catastrophe so far.

The devaluation of the franc and the currency agreement between Gt. Britain, France and the U.S.A. have already brought some modification of the strangle hold on international trade and in proportion as Europe abandons its artificial currency levels and comes down to the Franco-British-American level the removal of most of the "barbed wire" entanglements should be possible. At present there is only a small reduction in French quotas and tariff rates, but a price control committee has been appointed with power to recommend further steps in both directions. Italy has devalued the lire, despite the Duce's pledge and has had to scale down tariff duties. She will probably have to carry both processes further.

The representative of the British Government, speaking at Geneva, said that when currencies of restricting countries were better adjusted to world prices "the reasons for quotas and exchange control would have disappeared and it might reasonably be expected that quotas and exchange control would disappear also, as they would have lost their purpose."

This prospect of freer trade is a direct result of the prospect of stabilised international exchanges and its continuance and extension depends on continued and extended stability. But Germany has so far given no indication of her intentions, probably because of her internal difficulties in keeping down retail prices while her economic policy tends towards scarcity and high prices for everyday necessities, and on the other hand the American situation may be affected by the American elections. The chief service Great Britain can and ought to render is to uphold the currency agreement and to influence the U.S.A. to maintain it. Only after the President's election will it be possible to foresee any solution of the problem of full and final currency stabilisation.

W. G. RINDER.

## THE BRUSSELS CONGRESS

### LES FEMMES ET LE "R.U.P."

En dépit des critiques qui peuvent être justement faites à son égard, le "Rassemblement Universel pour la Paix", qui vient de se tenir à Bruxelles, tiendra une place importante méritée dans l'histoire de la lutte contre la guerre.

Il a réussi à unir, sur quelques principes essentiels, des Chefs d'Etats aux plus modestes membres des collectivités nationales; des intellectuels aux masses rurales si difficiles à toucher et dont l'action est cependant appelée à jouer un rôle d'une importance primordiale dans la défense de la Paix.

Mieux encore qu'aucun de ceux qui l'ont précédé il est parvenu à intéresser à une action commune des personnalités et des organisations souvent très éloignées les unes des autres.

Il a entraîné dans l'action un nombre considérable de femmes.

Dans la plupart des pays, les femmes ont, en effet, été particulièrement actives dans la préparation du Congrès de Bruxelles.

En Yougo-Slavie, les membres de notre Section se sont particulièrement signalées.

En France, ce sont les femmes groupées dans le Comité des femmes contre la guerre et le Fascisme qui ont été en tête pour le collectage des fonds.

La Conférence Féminine qui s'est tenue avant l'ouverture de Congrès a réuni nombre de délégués de pays, milieux, tendances politiques, convictions religieuses ou philosophiques très diverses dont quelques unes représentaient de grandes organisations internationales.

Ce fut "Commission des organisations féminines" qui groupa, après le Commission Syndicale, le plus grand nombre de membres (de 600 à 700 représentant environ 60 millions de femmes de tous les continents).

Elle fut présidée par Miss J. Schain (Etats-Unis), assistée de Mme de Lippens (Belgique).

Miss M. Dingman et moi-même avons été désignées comme rapporteurs.

Miss M. Dingman présenta surtout des propositions concrètes et mon rapport traita de "l'action des femmes pour la défense de la Paix".

Après un échange de vues très animé, les propositions suivantes furent unanimement adoptées:

Plébiscite International pour la Paix,

Organisation de Conférences nationales et internationales,

Echanges d'informations sur les méthodes diverses employées par les Comités nationaux, les faits intéressant la Paix et les actions entreprises,

Institution d'une "Journée de la Paix",

Constitution d'équipes internationales d'orateurs,

Création d'un Fonds international de la Paix,

Etablissement, dans le plus grand nombre possible de pays, d'un timbre postal de caractère pacifiste pour faire connaître dans les pays où il est impossible de le faire librement le désir de paix de ces pays,

Etablissement d'un contact étroit entre toutes les organisations Féminines pour renforcer l'action de propagande pour la Paix,

Création du "Sou de la Paix" pour faciliter le collectage des Fonds,

Demande d'une plus large représentation féminine dans les organes de la S.D.N. et dans ceux du R.U.P.,

Institution, auprès de la S.D.N., d'un "Conseil de Vigilance des Peuples" dans lequel seraient représentées toutes les forces de paix.

Les conclusions suivantes, tirées de mon rapport, présentées, à leur tour, ne soulevèrent aucune objection:

Les déléguées des organisations féminines qui ont pris part aux travaux de la Commission:

Croient à l'indivisibilité de la Paix;

Elles veulent la Paix pour tous;

Elles ont la conviction que la sécurité ne peut être assurée que collectivement;

Et que, seules, les mesures de sécurité collective pourront permettre le désarmement général qui reste leur but ultime;

Elles estiment que la S.d.N. étant, à l'heure actuelle, le seul organisme international capable de contribuer à l'organisation de la sécurité collective doit, non seulement être sauvegardée mais encore renforcée;

Elles souhaitent sa démocratisation;

Elles estiment que si les traités ne sont pas intangibles ils doivent être inviolables;

Elles croient que toute politique de capitulation constitue un dangereux encouragement pour les fauteurs de guerre;

Elles sont persuadées que c'est l'insuffisance de solidarité entre les Nations qui, actuellement, désirent le maintien de la Paix qui fait la force de ces fauteurs de guerre;

Elles souhaitent que ces Nations manifestent, enfin, avec énergie leur ferme intention d'unir leurs efforts, non pas pour entreprendre une "croisade" contre les Etats qui—plus ou moins ouvertement—préparent la guerre, mais pour opposer à ceux-ci la barrière d'un front uni des Nations pacifiques;

Elles espèrent que ce Congrès constituera une étape importante dans la voie de l'unité d'action des Peuples, des Etats, des groupements, des individus;

Elles demandent aux femmes de tous les pays, de tous les milieux sociaux, de tendances politiques et de convictions philosophiques diverses, de prendre conscience de leurs responsabilités et elles les appellent à venir joindre leurs efforts aux efforts de ceux qui luttent déjà pour la défense de la Paix."

Lues, ensuite, à la séance plénière de clôture de Congrès, ces déclarations furent largement applaudies par l'auditoire.

A la réunion du Conseil qui suivit le Congrès, 12 sièges furent attribués à des Comités Nationaux, dans le nouvel exécutif, et 8 à des organisations internationales. Parmi ces derniers 3 furent accordés à des organisations féminines: Comité des organisations féminines pour la Paix et le Désarmement, Comité Mondial des Femmes contre la guerre et le fascisme, Ligue Internationale des Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté.

Par la liaison des efforts de ces trois organisations une vaste action parmi les femmes du monde entier peut être organisée, conformément aux décisions de la Commission Féminine, et constituer une étape importante de plus dans la voie de l'unité d'action pour la défense de la Paix, unité que, chaque jour, les événements nous font considérer comme plus nécessaire.

G. DUCHÊNE.



## A WORLD-WIDE EFFORT TO STEM THE DRIFT TOWARDS WAR

The World Peace Congress recently held in Brussels stands out as unique among the many peace conferences and congresses that have been held in the last ten years. It was unique inasmuch as it was essentially a congress of peoples, as the thousands of delegates included peasants and workers, some of whom had never left their own countries before they came to Brussels. Moreover, it was not composed of delegates from the same organisation in different countries, but was representative of all shades of opinion, political and religious, and of all classes of society.

### The Four Points

Four points were laid down as the basis for discussions and their acceptance was taken for granted. The object of the congress was in short not to discuss political questions, but on the basis of the four points to devise methods of promoting international peace by means of co-ordinated work in the countries represented in Brussels.

The four points were the following:—

- (1) Recognition of the sanctity of Treaty Obligations.
- (2) Reduction and limitation of armaments by international agreement and the suppression of profits from the manufacture and trade in arms.
- (3) Strengthening of the League of Nations for the prevention and stopping of war by the organisation of Collective Security and Mutual Assistance.
- (4) Establishment within the framework of the League of Nations of effective machinery for remedying international conditions which might lead to war.

The acceptance of these principles being assumed, there was no discussion as to how they might be interpreted, neither was there any discussion on the present situation and the actual problems of peace in Europe to-day. It was natural that this should give rise to the criticism that the congress was conducted in an atmosphere of unreality, but it is to be remembered on the one hand that the Belgian Government, like the Swiss Government, had made it a condition of holding the Congress that there should be no criticism or attack upon other Governments or systems of government, and on the other that a detailed discussion on any of the four points would have been impossible in the time available and in a Congress of that character.

### A Great Congress

The remarkable features of the Congress were its immense size, the representative character of the delegates, and the extreme unanimity, enthusiasm and good temper of the thousands of people who were crowded together in conditions which were often those of considerable discomfort. The number of delegates to the Congress was immensely larger than had been expected, and it is scarcely an exaggeration to say that most of the material arrangements broke down. In spite of this it must be said that the organisers had accomplished miracles in getting the Congress on its feet at all, seeing that it had been moved from Geneva to Brussels a bare four weeks before the date of opening.

The number of delegates was estimated at about 5,000, nearly a thousand coming from France. They represented National

Committees in about forty countries, eight countries in which National Committees have been formed having been unable to send delegates. Twenty-two International organisations were also affiliated to the campaign and sent delegates, while six others were represented as "observers".

### The Commissions

It is obvious that with some thousands of delegates, discussion in plenary session would have been impossible, so the Congress was divided into a number of commissions, each of which held several meetings and reported its findings to the concluding plenary session. The principal commissions were the following:—Arts, Letters, Science, Aviation, Economic Affairs, Parliamentary Organisations, Education, Women's Organisations, Agrarians, Co-operatives, Religious Organisations, Youth Organisations, Trade Unions.

These commissions were extremely well attended and evoked an immense amount of interest, producing reports full of valuable material as to the way in which those who have common interests can co-operate across frontiers in support of world peace. These reports will be published and will be used by the delegates in their own countries to develop and strengthen the influence of the people for peace.

It is perhaps the first time that a body of agrarian workers with their leaders from the different countries have met at a Peace Congress, and the report of this Commission when it is issued will be one of the most interesting.

The Trade Union Commission was also largely attended and held lively meetings. In quite another field distinguished aviators, including Mr. Scott, of Great Britain, made some remarkable contributions on the subject of the part that aviation might play in peace and war.

### Does this effort come too late?

All along it was emphasised that this was a first Congress, that it was an effort to co-ordinate the forces working for international peace throughout the world, and that it was to be followed by intensive organisations so that the League of Nations and the Collective System should have behind them the organised support of the peoples throughout the world.

There are those who say that this Congress comes too late, that it is ten years behind time; but ten years ago such a Congress could not have been organised, and those who witnessed the enthusiasm and determination of the delegates at Brussels will not easily believe that peace cannot yet be saved if the peoples of the world unite in its support.

K. D. COURTNEY.

### DECEMBER ISSUE OF "PAX"

It is hoped that the next issue of *Pax* will contain the following articles:—

*The Present Position in Austria.*

*Refugees.*

*Work in Czecho-Slovakia.*

*Women's Conference in Sweden.*

## NEWS ABOUT THE MANDATE CAMPAIGN

### PRESENTATION OF GOLDEN BOOK

The results of our Mandate Campaign are noted in the Golden Book which was prepared by our British friends. The Golden Book contained documents from Denmark, France, Finland, Holland, Hungary, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Czecho-Slovakia, Yougoslavia and Tunis.

As you know, the results of the Mandate Campaign in the above mentioned countries were submitted to the respective Foreign Ministers who have signed the Golden Book. On the first page of the Golden Book I have given a report of the Mandate Campaign in 25 different countries.

By counting the individual signatures, the votes at meetings and the total number of supporting organisations, we have reached as many as 10 million endorsements without counting the support of five big international organisations which include over 3 million members. As you see, the general result is encouraging.

Mr. Saavedra Lamas—President of the Assembly of the League of Nations received a delegation on the 26th September which handed him the Golden Book. In the absence of Mrs. Innes and Mrs. Duncan Harris, who had to leave for London, I introduced the delegation of eight members, one of which represented Australia, two France, two Norway, two United States and one Czecho-Slovakia. In handing the Golden Book to Mr. Saavedra Lamas, I pointed out to him that the women would continue the task of organising public opinion in favour of moral disarmament and in endeavouring to create a demand for the reduction of armaments which the Governments of the world could not ignore. I also requested the President to bring the Golden Book to the notice of the members of the Assembly to remind them of the urgent Mandate from people of all countries. Miss Blake told Mr. Saavedra Lamas that she had great confidence in him and in the Pan-American Conference, thanking him at the same time for all his efforts in the peace movement. Mr. Saavedra Lamas spoke to us very courteously and assured us that the League of Nations would not abandon its aim for the construction of peace. At the same time he emphasised the importance of the Women's Peace Movement which could play a great part in this direction.

The report of the above mentioned delegation will be given in the "League of Nations' Journal".

Our American friends know that we do not consider our task at an end, and that we want to continue our work. We shall have to find ways and means to carry on the Mandate Campaign in other countries such as the Baltic States, Poland, Roumania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Egypt, South Africa, etc., and to continue the work in the other countries.

Please do broadcast the People's Mandate to Governments by way of radio, press and conferences, and try to get people's support for it. I am going to speak on the wireless from Lyon La Doua about our Mandate Campaign on the 19th October, 9th and 23rd November under the title "Women and Peace".

CAMILLE DREVET.

### EN YUGOSLAVIE

Après les premiers nouvelles reçus de la Centrale sur cette action mondiale nous avons de suite accepté la campagne en principe, et décidons d'en participer, dans la manière la plus active. Nous avons obtenu bien vite le consentement du Gouvernement. Monsieur le Président Dr. Milan Stoyadinovitch consentait d'accepter le Mandat. Cela n'était aucune surprise, parceque Monsieur le Président est connu comme pacifiste. Comme conférencier excellent il nous a aidé dans notre travail pacifiste avant quelque temps. Nous sommes réussies également d'obtenir la permission indispensable pour ce travail de la police. Au meme temps nous avons organisé notre comité d'honneur. Dans ce

comité nous avons choisis premièrement des personnages illustres qui représentent des sociétés et des organisations ayant un programme pacifiste. En ageant de cette manière nous avons espéré d'intéresser plus vivement tous ces sociétés pour notre travail.

J'ai donné plusieurs fois des rapports d'un caractère informative et de propagande avant un publique invité par la presse, sur la campagne mondiale du Mandat en se basant sur les dates et les informations reçus par les lettres bien aimables et encourageant de Madame Drevet.

A l'occasion de la fête religieuse-national du St. Sava le grand apôtre, ce qu'on celebre chaque année à l'Université comme le patron de la culture et de la science, notre présidente a parlé du Mandat. Après cela, le publique vota unanimement pour l'idée de la paix. C'était une manifestation bien solennelle, mais chalereuse au même temps, et la sympathie pour le travail de la ligue se manifestait d'un façon imposant. A la fin du mois de mars nous avons eu notre rassemble annuelle. Cette fois nous avons de nouveau publié notre activité concernant le Mandat et gagné beaucoup des sociétés féminines pour le même.

Je considérais qu'il serait très important d'avoir un Meeting publique, consacré exclusivement au Mandat. Le 26 avril, après une campagne bien organisée dans la presse le meeting avait lieu avec un grand succès. Après des conférences pacifistes très intéressantes, le texte du Mandat était lu. C'était une acclamation extraordinairement cordiale, surtout de la part de la jeunesse qui salua le texte du Mandat. Plus que mille personnes ont voté cette fois pour la paix. En passant mes fêtes de Pâques à Zagreb, je profitais de l'occasion et je me metais en contacte avec un certain groupe de femmes, qui avait montré une grande volonté de collaborer avec nous. Je les aidais dans leurs efforts et nous avons réussis d'obtenir la permission de la police. Les dames de Zagreb nous envoyaient après un grand nombre des signatures. Au même temps nous avons discuté la possibilité du fondation d'un groupe de la ligue à Zagreb. A l'occasion du jour de paix, c'est à dire le 18.mai nous avons distribué des fleurs blanches de la paix dans les rues de Belgrade et au même temps ramassé beaucoup de signatures. Les étudiantes de L'Université ont aidées à cette occasion dans notre travail avec une zèle admirable.

Le texte du notre mandat était lu avant un publique d'un très grand nombre pendant la réunion anuelle d'un des nos plus grandes organisation féminine patriotique. C'est le Cercle des Soeurs serbes, contant 50.000 membres. Toutes ces femmes ont unanimement accepté le texte du Mandat.

Les chiffres définitives des signatures ce que nous avons obtenu sont les suivantes:

(1) *Signatures individuelles*: 16.324.

(2) *Signatures collectives*: représentant les grandes organisations diverses: 597.235. Ici je dois mentionner le Conseil de Femmes Yougoslaves, l'organisation féminine la plus grande, qui compte 430 sociétés comme membres. Ce conseil accepta le Mandat. En somme nous avons ramassé 610.559 signatures. C'est sont des chiffres en comparaisant avec des grande chiffres de certains pays bien modestes, mais tout de même considérables vues du point relatif. Grâce à notre activité, la presse quotidienne et le radio portaient plusieurs fois des articles et des conférences informatives et propagandistes sur la campagne du Mandat, en l'accompagnant toujours avec grande sympathie et bënëvolence. Pour conclure je suis obligée de dire que la campagne du Mandat a exigée un grand effort de travaille. Dans les circonstances, avec les ressources matérielles bien modestes de notre caisse presque épuisée le resultat obtenu est réel et honnête.

OLGA PALITCH.



## NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS

### DECISIONS MADE AT INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE

#### "Pax"

Miss Karleen Baker was appointed Editor. The paper is to appear monthly with the exception of August. Sections are asked to make a special effort to send in all news of their activities to reach the Editor by the first week of every month. For this purpose Sections are urged to appoint *Pax* Secretaries who can keep in direct contact with the Editor.

#### Headquarters

It was decided to remain in the *Maison Internationale* for another year. The unanimous offer of part of it as a home for two of our original members who cannot return to their own country unfortunately could not be accepted for reasons of health.

#### Jane Addams Fund

A new Committee was set up to try and raise a larger sum of money for the fund, as up to the present no very definite efforts have been made.

#### Forthcoming Congress

It was decided to hold the next Congress at the end of July, 1937, if possible in Czecho-Slovakia, as the need for propaganda and encouragement is great in Central Europe. The British invitation is to be accepted if Central Europe proves impossible. The subject is to be "A New Peace".

#### Congress of Radical Pacifists in 1937

Notice was given of this Congress to be held at Whitsuntide, 1937, in Paris.

#### International Peace Campaign

It was agreed that the W.I.L.P.F. should remain on the Executive Committee for the next six months, it being understood that complete reservation is made with regard to military sanctions.

#### Visits to Sections

A real need for more visits to the Sections was felt and it was left to the Chairmen to arrange for a tour by G.B. during the Autumn, if possible.

#### Telegram to Rosika Schwimmer

Remembrance of her fine work for peace brought enthusiastic approval for cabling birthday congratulations to Rosika Schwimmer in America, where she cannot be naturalised on account of her refusal to take the oath to defend the country by arms.

#### New Sections

Egypt has been admitted provisionally; the statutes and membership being in order. Members of Egyptian nationality are taking the initiative, but members of other nationalities are admitted. The activity of our Egyptian Section has already been evident in a request, stimulated by them, to the Women's Peace Crusade for material for a Peace Shop to be opened in Egypt. This material is being prepared and will shortly be sent.

#### India

Some Englishwomen living in India have applied to become an Indian Section of the W.I.L.P.F. The British Section thinks that the initiative ought to come from the women of India. Miss

Agatha Harrison (British Executive) is going to India this autumn and will be in close touch with those who might form a Section. The formation of an Indian Council for Civil Liberties was reported by Mlle. Rolland and it was decided to ask the British Council for Civil Liberties if they were helping this new organisation.

#### Correspondence

Letters have been sent (a) to President Roosevelt thanking him for his encouragement of the People's Mandate to Governments; (b) to Secretary Cordell Hull expressing appreciation of his recent speech to the International Congress of Scientists in Washington; (c) to Sir Josiah Stamp expressing appreciation of his speech to the Congress of Scientists in London.

### PRACTICAL WORK

#### Treatment of Prisoners in Central and South-East Europe

A discussion brought out the fine stand of Anna Pauker against Military Dictatorship in Roumania, on whose behalf a protest had been sent against her trial in a military court, which ruled out all possibility of appeal. Other cases were mentioned and the Delegates from Yugo-Slavia said that they had, with other organisations, arranged a deputation to their Government, and had received a promise of improvement in conditions. The Yugo-Slav delegates had also taken up the cause of some 250 Nazarenes imprisoned for refusal of military service. Arrangements were made for discussing with Pierre Cérésolle the possibility of alternative service, which they were willing to accept. The French delegates stated that the question of alternative service for Conscientious Objectors in France was to be taken up again with the new Government, and the Yugo-Slav and French Section agreed to co-operate in this question.

#### Delegation from the Polish Section to their Government

The recent evidence of friendly relations between Poland and France were warmly welcomed, especially by delegates from Czecho-Slovakia and France who hope it may be the beginning of a permanent peace. The Polish Section will arrange a deputation to their Government to express the gratification of the W.I.L.P.F. at the friendly rapprochement between peoples, and it will be glad if other Sections will approach the representatives of Poland in their countries in the same sense. It is sad to think that one of our original members, Dr. Budkiska-Tylicza, is no longer with us to join in this work which would so greatly have rejoiced her heart.

#### Refugees

A letter was sent to every delegate of the Assembly urging the necessity of a department within the League to give legal protection to all refugees. Sections are asked to urge upon their governments the signature and carrying out of the 1933 Convention and its extension to all classes of refugees.

#### A Better League of Nations

Sections are asked to give further study to the very interesting material presented to the Executive by Thora Daugaard as referent of the Committee for Revision of the League of Nations, which will be sent to them shortly.

#### Economic Aspects of a New Peace

Miss Balch has drawn up an interesting report which should prove a stimulus to the Sections' work for a New Peace.