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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL
LEAGUE



Yearly Report

1937

PRICE 2D.

Women's International League

(British Section of the Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom).

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 1937—MARCH 1938.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE, 55 GOWER STREET,
LONDON, W.C.1.

Telephone: MUSEUM 3179.

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM.

Head Office: Maison Internationale, 12 Rue du Vieux Collège, Geneva.

Formed at the Hague Congress of Women in 1915 to bind together women in every country who desire to promote the following objects:—

- I.—The Settlement of Disputes by some means other than War.
- II.—The Emancipation of Women.

National Sections or Correspondents:—

ARGENTINE	ESTHONIA	MEXICO
AUSTRALIA :	FINLAND	NEW ZEALAND
VICTORIA	FRANCE	NICARAGUA
TASMANIA	GERMANY	NORWAY
NEW SOUTH WALES	GREAT BRITAIN	PALESTINE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	GREECE	PANAMA
BELGIUM	HOLLAND	POLAND
BULGARIA	HONDURAS	SOUTH AFRICA
CANADA	HUNGARY	SPAIN
CHINA	INDIA	SWEDEN
COSTA RICA	IRELAND	SWITZERLAND
CZECHO-SLOVAKIA	ITALY	TUNIS
DENMARK	JAPAN	UKRAINE
EGYPT	JUGO-SLAVIA	U.S.A.
EL SALVADOR	LITHUANIA	VENEZUELA

The BRITISH SECTION of the LEAGUE is known as

The Women's International League

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE, 55 GOWER STREET, LONDON, W.C.1

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1938.

Chairman: Mrs. Duncan Harris, J.P.

Vice Chairmen: Miss Pye, Mrs. Lankester.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. K. E. Innes.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. McGregor Wood.

Hon. Press Secretary: Miss Karleen Baker, B.Sc.Econ.

Miss Mosa Anderson.	Mrs. Grindley.	Mrs. Ormerod.
Mrs. Brayshaw.	Miss Agatha Harrison.	Miss W. G. Rinder.
Miss Mary Chick.	Mrs. Kraft.	Mrs. Savage,
Dr. Hilda Clark.	Mrs. Lankester.	Mrs. Paul Sturge.
Miss Maud Dickinson.	Mrs. Longson.	Mrs. Thornycroft.
Mrs. Greenwood.	Miss C. E. Marshall.	Miss Dora Warner.
	Mrs. Maxwell.	Miss Freda White.

Vice-Presidents:

Miss Vera Brittain.	Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.	Lady Unwin.
Mrs. de Bunsen.	Dr. Maude Royden.	Mrs. Basil Williams.
The Hon. Mrs. Franklin.	Miss Mary Sheepshanks.	Dr. Ethel Williams, J.P.

MEMBERSHIP is open to all women who are BRITISH SUBJECTS, who desire to work for the above two-fold object. Associate membership is open to women and men of any nationality. Minimum Subscription, 2s. 6d. per annum. Monthly News Sheet, 1d.; 1s. 6d. per annum, post free.

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.

March, 1937—March, 1938.

During 1937 hopes for the organisation of peace have had another severe setback, in the deliberate flouting by Japan of her Treaties and her aggression against China. In Europe there has been great tension internationally throughout the year, which has seen the increasingly vocal demand from Germany for a restoration of her Colonies; the formation of the Berlin-Rome-Tokio Triangle, and the definite withdrawal of Italy from the League of Nations, while the race in armaments has gone on. It is significant, on the other hand, that our Congress at Luhacovice, in a country bound by its position to be apprehensive, demonstrated once more the interest in peace and desire for it felt by the peoples. It is worth adding that the Congress received full official recognition from the Czech Government. In Britain, too, the year has been marked by an increased interest in the women's movement for peace, as such, and it is satisfactory to be able to record an increase of membership. We hope to develop our work in the coming months in such a way as to make use of the opportunity which the growing interest gives us.

Executive Committee.

Once again we record a high level of attendance throughout the year. Absentees from time to time have had the justification either of illness or of absence from England. Mrs. Lankester has been in India and Egypt, and Mrs. Paul Sturge in India, Syria and Palestine. Mrs. Unwin was obliged to resign owing to the illness of her husband, which necessitated their leaving London. Mrs. Brayshaw was co-opted to the Committee in September.

The work with which the Committee has been concerned during the year appears in the separate sections of this Report.

We are affiliated to the National Peace Council, the Women's Peace Crusade, the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, and the Women's Advisory Council on Indian Questions.

We are represented on the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union, the Moral Welfare Committee of the National Council of Women, the British Women's Liaison Group of the All-India Women's Conference, the India Civil Liberties Committee and the International Peace Campaign.

We have sent representatives to the Annual Congress of the National Peace Council, the International Peace Congress in London, the Conference of the British Commonwealth League, and to the Women's Freedom League.

We formed a contingent in the National Peace Congress procession to Trafalgar Square for a Peace Demonstration, and we co-operated with the Friends Service Council and the Friends Peace Committee in a public meeting against race prejudice, poverty and glorification of war.

The Committee has had great pleasure in welcoming to its meetings Mrs. Dryer of Vancouver, Frau Hertzka and Frau Harant of Austria, while members have called at the Office from Australia, Austria, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Palestine, Poland, Switzerland and the United States.

Sandwich Luncheon Meetings, held in the Office, have proved to be very popular and successful. The speakers were as follows:—Miss Agatha Harrison, on India; Miss Hilda Cashmore, on The Problem of the Educated Young Indian and the Villages; Dr. Sylvia Eltz, on the Peace Movement in Czechoslovakia; Miss Freda Utley, on the Sino-Japanese Situation; Mrs. Pollard, on Palestine; Miss Rinder, on Germany; and Miss Baer, on the International Situation.

A successful Social to meet British delegates to the Luhacovice Congress was held, at which delegates gave entertaining as well as instructive accounts of the proceedings.

A Public Meeting was held at Friends House, Euston Road, to protest against the crime of war. The speakers were:—Dr. Maude Royden, in the Chair, Mrs. Gee (on Spain), Miss Chu Chen Koo (on China), Captain Mumford (on Air Warfare), and Miss Mary Sutherland, who moved the following resolution:—

“This meeting, deeply deploring the violence and intolerance which prevail over so large a part of the world at the present time: Urges H.M. Government to take the lead towards reconciliation and understanding:—

1. By announcing its readiness to give up exclusive privileges in trade and colonies so as to clear the way at the earliest possible moment for frank and open discussion for the remedying of economic and territorial injustices;

2. By seeking opportunity to renew discussions on disarmament and specially to work out immediate plans for the total abolition of the air weapon, and the effective control to that end of civil aviation.”

Far East.

On July 7th under the pretext of an incident which led to the disappearance in China of a Japanese soldier, Japan started her present war against China. The Executive has had the matter under consideration at every meeting. Action has included protests against the aggression and against the indiscriminate bombing by Japanese airmen of the civil population, sent both to our Government at home and to Lord Cranborne at Geneva, urging British action. A protest was also sent to the Japanese Ambassador, and a letter expressing grief and horror at the wholesale slaughter of the Chinese people was sent to the Chinese Ambassador. The Government has been urged to press for an embargo on the export of war materials to Japan and refusal to receive Japanese imports. Many of our branches took similar action. When it became clear after the failure of the Brussels Conference that the Governments would not put any boycott on Japanese trade, or even on war materials, many members of the Executive felt that it was impossible for pacifists to continue to give money for Japanese goods which might ultimately enable the Japanese Government to carry on the war. Owing to difference of opinion on the Executive it was decided not to undertake a campaign in the matter, but it was agreed that a personal boycott was a matter for the individual conscience and that the W.I.L. should announce its support of those of its members who felt it right to carry it out.

Various articles in the News Sheet have dealt with the Far East situation, and in October, a Luncheon Meeting was held at which Miss Freda Utley gave a most instructive address, and outlined the way in which she believes a trade embargo in co-operation with the U.S.A. and the Netherlands might bring the war to an end.

In February a letter was sent to the dockers who refused to load the Japanese ship “Haruna Maru” with iron and steel, expressing sympathy for their having taken action in accordance with their conviction that the cargo was for use in the manufacture of arms, and that by loading the cargo they would be assisting Japan in her war on China.

Spain.

The tragedy in Spain has been a constant preoccupation of the Executive Committee.

In general, we have supported genuine non-intervention in the struggle, while recognising that non-intervention has lamentably failed in practice, and has resulted in weighting the balance in favour of the rebels.

As different incidents have appeared to require action, we have urged various steps on the Government. In April, when General Franco was threatening the people of Bilbao with starvation, by declaring a blockade which he could not enforce, we felt it right to press for the convoying of food ships into Bilbao by British warships in those waters, and our Branches took similar action.

When the bombing of Guernica took place we sent a letter on the subject to the Government, and took the opportunity to link our expression of horror at the incidents with condemnation of the use of bombing on the North-West Frontier of India, and to press home the truth that only the total abolition of military and naval aircraft can prevent the repetition of such incidents in any future war. We supported a request of the National Peace Council for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Spain and the cessation of bombardment of open towns.

When Almeria was bombarded by the Germans in immediate reprisal for the attack on the *Deutschland*, letters of protest were sent to the German and Italian Governments and the Chairman of the Non-Intervention Committee.

Representative British signatures were obtained to a Memorial initiated by our Swedish Section, deploring the damage to social and cultural Spain, due to foreign invasion and intervention in her civil strife.

As regards assistance to refugees, while we could not give direct help, a letter was sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer urging a Government grant towards the support of the Basque children in this country, and a member of the Executive, Miss Pye, has been actively engaged in Spain and France as well as in England in the organisation of relief.

At the end of the year, the struggle is raging as violently as ever. We shall continue to watch for opportunities to suggest action likely to bring it to an end and to keep our Branches in touch with the situation from our point of view, as we have endeavoured to do throughout the last twelve months.

India.

The situation in India during the past year has engaged the careful attention of the Executive Committee. It has been a momentous year, for in April last the new Constitution came into force. A deadlock immediately arose as a result of the Congress Party refusing to take office after they had been returned to power in several of the Provinces. For this impasse, public opinion here was unready, and during these months, until in July the Congress Party (after protracted discussions) decided to take office, our work was directed towards helping in any way we could. Communications were sent to the Secretary of State for India, Lord Linlithgow, and Mr. Gandhi, urging consultation between the Government of India and national leaders. Individual members of the Executive Committee, closely in touch with the situation, did a considerable amount of work in the background of this struggle.

Much attention has been given during the year to the question of the North-West Frontier. Our Section was quick to see the inconsistency of protesting against the bombing of Guernica while we were bombing on the North-West Frontier. Communications voicing this were sent to the Secretary of State for India and to the Press. We have actively co-operated with the Committee of the National Peace Council, formed to consider this question, and supported its suggestion that the time is overdue for a thorough investigation of the methods that are being used for subduing the hostile tribes in this area.

At the Annual Council Meeting last year, when Miss Harrison reported on the gravity of the situation in India, the need for closer co-operation of the W.I.L.P.F. with the Indian Women's Movement was stressed. As a result of our representations the presence of Mrs. Hamid Ali, an outstanding leader in the All-India Women's Conference, was secured at the Luhacovice Congress. We hope that as a result of her visit a lasting connection between the W.I.L.P.F. and the Indian Women's Movement will be established.

Since 1933, when at the Indian Women's instigation, co-operation between the All-India Women's Conference and British women's organisations was suggested and the Liaison Group of British women's organisations co-operating with the A.I.W.C. was formed, the W.I.L.P.F. has been an active part of the Liaison Group. Three members of the Executive Committee serve on it, and Mrs. Lankester has from its inception acted as the Liaison Officer, working with a similar officer appointed in India. Mrs. Lankester is also responsible for the *Bulletin*, to which many of our members subscribe. This records the outstanding developments of work undertaken by Indian women. Of special interest was the issue of April, 1937, which recorded the

part women had taken in the elections for the Provincial Legislatures. It is a matter of satisfaction that this year Mrs. Lankester has been able to accept the oft-repeated invitation that has come to her to attend in person the annual meeting of the All-India Women's Conference. She left for India in December and returned in time to report on her visit at the Annual Council Meeting (1938).

There is a general feeling abroad, since the Congress Party decided in July last to accept office, and the Provincial part of the Constitution is now in operation, that the situation in India is solved. Members of the W.I.L. will be under no such delusion. A scrutiny of the present position reveals to us that the real struggle lies ahead. The present situation was presented to members of the Executive Committee in no uncertain terms by Mr. Subhas Bose, the President-elect of the Indian National Congress, at a meeting they attended on January 13th. In his speech he warned the British public. The second part of the Constitution—Federation—is to come into force this year. Mr. Bose said that the moment this was introduced a crisis of first-class magnitude would result. The determined opposition, not only of the Congress Party, but of other sections of Indian opinion, should be understood and appreciated. All who heard Mr. Bose were impressed with the gravity of the situation that lies ahead. Accustomed as it is to "anticipate" situations that may arise, the W.I.L. must now be ready to help in this difficult future as it has done in the past.

A resolution was passed at the 1938 Annual Council urging the Government not to attempt to inaugurate the Federal part of the Government of India Act without the consent of the Indian people, and to seek forthwith consultation with Indian leaders.

Africa.

Although Mrs. McGregor Ross has been obliged to leave the Executive, she still gives expert assistance on all questions connected with native problems. Matters on which we have taken action include congratulation to the Government on statements made early in the year by the Secretary of State for the Dominions, that no alteration in the Constitution of Southern Rhodesia is contemplated. The claims of Trusteeship for "a politically defenceless people" were stressed. The value of the ratification of the International Labour Office Convention on migrant labour by Great Britain was emphasised and the suggestion made that the Union of South Africa might be influenced to conform to the same standards.

In December a letter was sent to the Secretary of State for the Dominions deprecating proposals for the handing over to South Africa of the three South African Protectorates (Bechuanaland,

Basutoland and Swaziland). It was urged that the Government should concentrate on carrying out suggestions made by Sir Alan Pim for land reclamation and economic development, and in improving the social, educational and health services of the Protectorates. A sympathetic answer was received from the Colonial Office.

It is a matter of great significance, as a sign of the stirring of African womanhood and their desire for peace, that we received this year a collection of signatures from nearly 6,000 women associated with the Lagos Women's League to a peace petition which they themselves had originated. The record of this petition has been sent to our Geneva Office for subsequent insertion in the "Golden Book" at the League Secretariat, and a letter telling of it was sent to Aga Khan, President of the 1937 Assembly. We are keeping in touch with the Lagos women and also with African women in Bathurst, who have made inquiries about our League. One of our members, Miss Gibberd, visited the Lagos group in December.

This year our International has been enriched by the formation of a Section in the new, independent Egypt. We are very glad that our Executive Member, Mrs. Lankester, was able to pay this newly formed Section a visit on her return journey from India.

The tragic situation in Abyssinia remains unchanged. The Italian conquerors are maintaining their conquest by terrorism and oppression. The League of Nations as a whole, and most individual Governments, have maintained the attitude of non-recognition, and it is to be hoped this will continue. A letter expressing our opinion was sent to the Government before the meeting of the League Assembly and eleven Branches took similar action. Acting on confidential information the Executive has suggested to our International Headquarters that the question of the increase of prostitution in Abyssinia due to the demands of the Italian soldiery should be raised through the Liaison Officer who represents the W.I.L.P.F. on the Social Service Committee of the League. We were represented at a Conference on "Abyssinia and Justice" in London in September.

Palestine.

Throughout 1937 affairs in Palestine have been very troubled. A member of the W.I.L., who was present at Luhacovice, was actively engaged in reconciliation work in Palestine and gave an account of her hopes for increased understanding between Arabs and Jews. Articles appeared in the News Sheet twice during the year and Mrs. Pollard, who had recently been to Palestine, spoke at a well-attended luncheon meeting. The situation continues grave and critical.

International Headquarters.

The Spring Meeting of the Executive was held in Bruges from 5th-10th April. Mrs. Duncan Harris and Mrs. Innes went as Consultative Members. The preparations for the 1937 Congress were an important item on the Agenda. The next Executive met at Luhacovice at the time of the Congress when Mrs. Innes and Mrs. Duncan Harris again acted as Consultative Members.

Madame Ragaz and Miss Gertrud Baer were re-elected International Chairmen and Mrs. Innes was elected as the third International Chairman in the place of Madame Ramondt-Hirschmann.

Fraulein L. G. Heymann reported at the Executive at Luhacovice on the position of the Jane Addams Memorial Fund. She had collected for it 10,000 Swiss francs. This made possible the appointment of a Press Secretary, and Gertrud Baer accepted the position.

The Consultative Member at the meeting held at Basle from January 5th-10th, 1938, was Mrs. Duncan Harris. Miss Karleen Baker was unable to attend as Consultative Member owing to illness.

The Congress at Luhacovice in July, 1937, was attended by 180 delegates and alternates from 18 countries. The following went from Great Britain as delegates or alternates:

Delegates: Miss Karleen Baker, Mrs. Russell Brayshaw, Mrs. Coppock, Miss Gill, Miss Edith Hayler, Miss E. Horscroft, Mrs. Lennard, Mrs. Smallpage, Mrs. Thoday, Lady Unwin.

Alternates: Mrs. Henson and Miss Hopcroft.

Visitor: Mrs. Gutman.

The subject of general discussion was "The Bases of a New International Order." The conclusions reached were a confirmation of the lines along which the W.I.L.P.F. has worked since 1915. Resolutions dealt with topical subjects, the Spanish Civil War and Japanese aggression in China being the most prominent at the time. Egypt was admitted as a Section by a unanimous vote of the Congress, two Egyptian representatives being present. A message from India was brought by Mrs. Hamid Ali.

We were specially glad to have with us our veteran leader, Dr. Anita Augspurg, who celebrated her 80th birthday in September. A gift sent to her from the Sections bore witness to the admiration and affection she has gained by her disinterested work for our League in spite of personal difficulties.

A full report of the Congress was prepared by our International Headquarters and is available for 2/10 post free, from 55, Gower Street, W.C.1.

The Branches.

The increasing number of members on Headquarters Executive who are actively associated with the Branches, and the visits from Executive members to the Branches have happily resulted in a closer co-operation between the Branches and Headquarters. Several Branches, too, have availed themselves of the right to send observers to the monthly meetings in London. In this way the work of the Branches is known more intimately and the reports from Executive members, together with press accounts which come into the Office are a source of encouragement to the Committee.

Meetings dealing with many subjects have been held: the wars in Spain and China; the dangers of world rearmament, the British Empire and World Peace; an International Police Force; Palestine; the contribution of the great world religions to peace; the protection of women in industry, with particular reference to the new Factories Act; Air Raid Precautions. Some of the delegates to the W.I.L.P.F. Congress at Luhacovice have been kept busy reporting the proceedings to Branches. Following their Annual Meeting one Branch organised a Buffet Supper to which women residents of other nationalities were invited as guests of the Branch. Stories of how other lands spent Christmas, and the singing of carols in other languages made a pleasant evening. There has been co-operation with other organisations in Peace Weeks.

Many speakers in the Branches address meetings of other organisations in and around their own areas, while a member from Glasgow attended the Boeke Trust International Conference at Birmingham on behalf of the W.I.L.

Once again the Branches have shown their faith in the work at Headquarters by generous donations, without which it would be impossible to carry through all the work that is planned month by month. We know these gifts have only been possible because of the goodwill and hard work of the members when they have been called upon to work for and support Garden Parties, Sales, Meetings, etc., and the Executive is deeply appreciative of their warm co-operation. Although we have been in a critical financial position more money has been raised in various ways than in previous years.

We have Branches in the following places:—

Acock's Green, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Cheltenham, Croydon, Glasgow, Golders Green, Harpenden, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Marazion, North Wales (Wrexham, Oswestry and District, Rhyl, Llandudno

Junction and Deganwy, Penmaenmawr, Llanfairfechan, Bangor, Anglesea County, Menai Bridge, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Colwyn Bay), Preston, Shrewsbury, S.E. London, S.W. London, Stockport, Tunbridge Wells, Warrington, Welwyn Garden City, Worthing.

In addition to Societies affiliated to the above Branches we have at Headquarters Affiliated Societies, consisting of Branches of the Women's Co-operative Guild, National British Women's Total Abstinence Union, Women's Sections of the Labour Party, Women's Liberal Association, Wood Green and Southgate Women's Arbitration Committee.

Publicity.

As Press Secretary Miss Karleen Baker has been added to the Officers of the W.I.L. She continues her press and publicity work, aided by a special Committee. She has edited the News Sheet each month and has produced a number of leaflets. The editing of the International paper *Pax* remains in her capable hands.

The Committee is most grateful to Miss Baker for her devotion to the work. The Council sent her greetings and good wishes for a speedy recovery from illness, which prevents her continuing her work for a time.

Friends of Peace and Disarmament.

We have to report that as a separate section the Friends of Peace and Disarmament has been brought to an end. It was found very difficult with such a loose organisation to ensure the effective use of the leaflets issued. The leaflets, which were the most useful part of this work, will continue to be issued and sent to former Secretaries, who, we know, will make a systematic distribution. We are grateful to those who have helped us during the years of this experiment, which we feel has done helpful propaganda.

By-Elections.

There have been many By-Elections during the year and the Executive Committee drew up a list of questions to be put before Candidates by members or Branches in the Constituencies concerned. Notes on the questions were also issued. It was regrettable that in some cases we had no one to take action. The questions were, in these cases, sent to sympathetic organisations in the hope that through their members the Candidates would receive them.

Treasurer's Report.

The 21st Birthday Party of the Women's International League, with congratulations offered in the form of money gifts, was held at the beginning of our financial year. So the new Treasurer who came on duty in March got a rather roseate idea of the position.

Money too came in excellently for the Anita Augspurg fund of which the treasurer was Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and later on very successful Garden Parties were held for Congress funds. Lady Baker at Hampstead and Mrs. Duncan Harris at Croydon were the hostesses at these delightful functions; both of them were much more than money-raising affairs.

These special efforts meant a great deal of work and much giving on the part of our members but no direct receiving as far as H.Q. funds went and by the autumn even the inveterate optimists among us were feeling very anxious. We sent a letter (rather too long a one we fear) to all H.Q. members and another to secretaries and prepared for a Bring and Buy Sale. Our own physician Dr. Hilda Clark gave us a stimulant in the form of a £50 loan; we made small sums by various devices such as a white elephant cupboard, a notice board, and we held the Bring and Buy Sale. The latter brought us a good response; several branches had special efforts for us; in the middle of it all, our friends subscribed £43 19s. od. to make Mrs. Lankester's visit to India and Egypt possible; and before the year closed we were even able to pay back our loan.

We should like to express our appreciation of the generous and understanding spirit shown by Miss Horscroft and Miss Stroud in offering to do without an Office Girl and we thank the many friends including the Women's Peace Crusade, who have helped us to get over this worrying time.

Nevertheless it is the conviction of your Executive that if members believe with all their hearts that we have a place to fill and a work to do they must undertake with energy the influencing of more women and consequent increase of membership. Only so will "this money business" be happily settled.

The Office.

For several months of the year the Staff remained the same, consisting of Miss Horscroft, Miss Stroud and Miss Florrie Chapman, but early in November Florrie left to take up more responsible work and her place was not filled owing to the financial depression. Miss Gill and Mrs. Bayes have given invaluable assistance in the

Office, and Mrs. Beagley, Mrs. Goodrich, and Miss Ruth Harrison have helped with the Luncheon Meetings during the year.

The continued interested and loyal devotion of Staff and Voluntary helpers to the work contributes more than can be expressed not merely to the smooth running of the Office, but to the effectiveness of the work as a whole.

In Memoriam.

Our League has had many losses during the year by the death of members. We print the names below. Three were outstanding workers for peace, social reform, and women's rights—Miss Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Mary Higgs and Miss Chrystal Macmillan. All were ardent spirits, full of courage and devotion. They worked to the end for the causes they loved. Their lives were an inspiration to all of us, to follow in their steps and to pass on the torch.

Miss MARGARET ASHTON.	Mrs. LOCKWOOD.
Miss JANET E. CASE.	Miss CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN.
Mrs. E. A. CLAPHAM.	Miss FLORENCE RENDALL.
Mrs. E. F. ERRINGTON.	Mrs. C. SELBY.
Mrs. C. O. HANSON.	Miss A. LORRAIN SMITH.
Miss Mary HIGGS, O.B.E.	Mrs. VESEL.
Mrs. E. E. KNOCK.	

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS.

March 15th, 16th, and 17th, 1938.

FRIENDS HOUSE, EUSTON ROAD,
LONDON.

Resolutions adopted at the Annual Council Meeting of the Women's International League.

1. Women, Peace and Freedom.

In view of the spread of fascist ideology with its menace to the status of women, the Women's International League calls on its members to exercise the utmost vigilance to safeguard women's recently won freedom in this country, and pledges itself to do all in its power to further their political education, and deepen their sense of responsibility for the furtherance of world peace."

2. India.

" This Annual Council of the Women's International League realises the grave opposition in India to the proposed scheme of Federation, and that an attempt to impose this will have the most serious results.

It urges the Government not to attempt to inaugurate the Federal part of the Government of India Act without the consent of the Indian people and to seek forthwith consultation with Indian leaders."

3. International Situation.

"Believing in the method of conference and not in that of force, this meeting of the British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom condemns the forceful incorporation of Austria in the German Reich.

It reaffirms its conviction that neither by violence nor by threat of violence can peace be secured or freedom preserved.

It therefore urges that our Government should immediately, through the League of Nations, press for the calling of a Conference, to include the U.S.A., to discuss what measures should be taken in the present situation in order to establish the reign of law in international relations so that legitimate grievances can be met by international agreement rather than by separate bargains with dictators."

4. Measures of General Appeasement.

(A) *The German Demand for Colonies.*

"This Annual Council of the Women's International League holds that if the conditions of a general peace are to be secured, any undertakings on the colonial issue must be part of a general settlement involving as essential factors:—

(a) the acceptance of a general and immediate obligation to reduce and limit armaments and to reverse the present concentration of national economies on preparations for war;

(b) the re-establishment of a system of international law and acceptance of the principle of impartial judgment in the settlement of international disputes;

(c) the acceptance, by all States involved in any agreement on Colonies, of Mandatory obligations, within the framework of the League of Nations, in respect of all the dependent territories under their control in which this would represent an advance towards emancipation. Such obligations should include precise guarantees against the militarisation of the native peoples, and against any form of monopoly in economic affairs. These territories should not be exploited for the benefit of any foreign State or Group, but should be held in trust for the native inhabitants; and the knowledge of and respect for the structure of native civilisation should form the basis of administration.

The Women's International League considers these factors indispensable to any peaceful general settlement, and therefore urges H.M. Government to incorporate such terms in any proposals they may make."

(B) *The Van Zeeland Report.*

"This Annual Council of the Women's International League welcomes the Van Zeeland Report as a step towards international peace. It emphasises the danger of granting credits to certain countries without safeguards, to prevent their use for manufacturing armaments. It would advocate as a preventive of war immediate steps towards the lowering of trade barriers from restrictions imposed in the interests of limited groups and the adoption by general international agreement of constructive provisions for the regulation of trade and commerce in the interests of the peoples and of world peace."

5. Jewish Persecution.

"This Council of the Women's International League views with apprehension and indignation the extension in Austria of the persecution of people of Jewish race and origin.

In entirely condemning the attitude of certain powers to this question, it wishes to point out its detrimental effect on the much needed expansion of international commerce and exchange.

This Council urges that consequent on this persecution in Austria, with whose culture and art this country has close ties, attempts should be made to provide openings in this and other countries for a people who can bring intellectual, spiritual and scientific gifts to the country of their adoption.

At the same time it urges that H.M. Government should relax the restrictions on the immigration of Jews and others obliged to flee from Austria owing to this persecution."

6. Refugees.

"This Annual Council of the Women's International League

considers that the bringing to an end of the humanitarian work for refugees now being carried on under the auspices of the League of Nations would be a disaster not only to the refugees themselves but to the whole conception of international co-operation upon which world peace must eventually depend;

acknowledges with thankfulness the position taken by H.M. Government on the refugee question and asks them to maintain their support of the protection by the League of Nations, under single direction, of all refugees;

urges H.M. Government to be more liberal in applying at home the principles which it has supported at Geneva; to allow the entry

and residence of a larger number of refugees from political, racial, or religious persecution; to make it possible for them to earn their living and to share the privileges enjoyed by citizens of Great Britain."

7. Telegram sent to Sir Samuel Hoare, Home Secretary,

House of Commons, Westminster, 16th March, 1938.

"In view of tragic situation in Austria, Annual Council of Women's International League one hundred delegates and visitors from nineteen localities including Birmingham Bristol Cambridge Edinburgh Glasgow Leicester Liverpool Manchester Preston in session in London urges H.M. Government to see that refugees from Austria shall not be turned back at ports of Great Britain thus throwing upon France burden of our traditional hospitality."

8. Sino-Japanese Situation.

"This Annual Council of the Women's International League warmly supports the universal protests against Japanese aggression in China, and urges that in order to be effective these protests should be accompanied by action, the first object of which should be to cause that aggression to cease.

With this end in view, and in the earnest desire that our own country shall abstain from participating even indirectly in the crime that is being perpetrated in the Far East, it asks that so long as hostilities continue the British Government should

(a) place an immediate embargo on the export to Japan of all supplies necessary for carrying on the war, including fuel oil;

(b) use its influence to prevent the granting of loans and credits or the sending of military technical assistance to Japan;

(c) co-operate with the U.S.A. and the Netherlands in an agreement to exclude all imports from Japan.

It should be clearly stated that such measures of economic restraint would be temporary, for the sole purpose of stopping the war, and would be followed as soon as possible by the calling of a Conference for the free and equal discussion of world economic needs.

In view of the world-wide detestation of the use of aerial bombardment by the Japanese forces, the Women's International League urges the British Government to renounce all use of aircraft for such purposes and to take the initiative in a movement for the total abolition of military and naval aircraft."

9. The Manufacture of Arms.

"This Annual Council of the Women's International League

having considered evidence of the increasing strength of financial and economic influences connected with the system of private manufacture of armaments,

notes that this system is in itself a major obstacle to any approach to the limitation of armaments, and to political appeasement in international relations;

believes that the great majority of the people would support the view that such an obstacle should be removed, without regard to any alleged superiority of the system of private manufacture over that of national as regards efficiency, and

calls upon all the Branches and members to put this question in the forefront of the peace campaign."

10. Spain.

"In view of the prolongation of the suffering caused by war in Spain on the civilian population, and especially on the children, who are in some places literally dying of starvation,

this Annual Council of the Women's International League urges the British Government to make an immediate grant to the International Commission which has been set up to help Child Refugees on both sides.

It considers that a generous contribution by H.M. Government would strengthen its hand should an opportunity arise for mediation, with a view to the cessation of hostilities in Spain.

11. Spain (2).

The recent evidence of increased Italian intervention in Spain proves that the Fascist countries are not preparing for a withdrawal of troops or material.

This Annual Council of the Women's International League therefore calls upon the Government to take the lead in disbanding the Non-Intervention Committee and, in the first instance, to discuss with France the way to bring intervention to an end.

12. Air Bombing.

" This Annual Council of the Women's International League voices its protest at the continued policy of bombing from the air of native races by the British Government;

while noting the Prime Minister's recent statement that if an international agreement with regard to aerial warfare could be arrived at, H.M. Government would be prepared to prohibit the use of bombing aeroplanes for police purposes in any territory under British control, it urges that this country should be ready to give a lead in this direction without delay."

13. Austrian Situation.

" This Annual Council of the Women's International League

holds that the circumstances of Hitler's annexation of Austria under the display of overwhelming armed force is both an outrageous injustice to the majority of the Austrian population and a menace to the establishment of World Peace of a seriousness which cannot be exaggerated. The success of this threat of armed force is bound to strengthen the appeal of militarism to German youth, and indeed may not be without its effect in other countries.

The course of events leading up to and following the annexation confirms the fear that Hitler intends to pursue the policy of aggression, as described in 'Mein Kampf,' and of the absorption in the Reich, by force if necessary, of all German-speaking people.

It urges H.M. Government to state that full economic and financial sanctions would immediately be applied in the event of a further act of aggression in violation of the League Covenant."

Message to Women in the Provincial Legislatures in India.

The British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has watched with deep interest the development of the Indian Women's Movement in recent years and its contribution to the work of nation-building in that country.

Meeting in Annual Council its members send their greetings to women who have taken their place in the Indian Provincial Legislatures, and they congratulate those Governments which have given suitable women special posts of responsibility, including that held

so competently by the Hon. Mrs. Pandit, India's first woman Cabinet Minister.

This Council has deeply appreciated the message of organised Indian women sent from the last Annual Session of the All India Women's Conference, which confirms the conviction that at this time India can give a lead to the world in the repudiation of the principles of force and violence. This Council looks forward to the time when India will be free to play her own part in international affairs and make constructive contributions to the stability and peace of the world.

Constitution and Rules.

I. TITLE.

“Women’s International League” (British Section of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom).

II. OBJECT.

- (1) To work for that peace between nations, races, and classes which is based on justice and goodwill.
- (2) To work for the acceptance of the belief that war is a crime.
- (3) To substitute Conference and Law for Coercive Force.
- (4) To secure full rights of citizenship to women.
- (5) To co-operate with women in other countries who are working for the same ends.

III. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) *Members.*—Membership shall be open to all women who are British subjects, who accept the above object, whose purpose it is to work for its accomplishment, and who pay an annual subscription either to a local Branch or direct to the national headquarters.

(b) *National Headquarters Members* shall pay a minimum subscription of 2s. 6d. in January each year.

(c) *Associate Members.*—Women resident in Great Britain, other than British subjects, who accept the above object shall be accepted as Associate Members.

Men resident in Great Britain who desire to become associated with the work of the League shall be accepted as Associate Members.

Associate Members shall pay an annual subscription of not less than 2s. 6d. and shall be entitled to all privileges of members except the right of election to Council or Executive Committee and the right to nominate and vote.

IV. BRANCHES.

(a) *Formation.*—Branches shall be formed in consultation with the Executive Committee. They shall consist of not less than ten members who support the object of the League, and shall pay an affiliation fee of 3d. per member annually to Headquarters. Branches may make their own rules and by-laws, subject to the general rules and constitution of the League.

(b) *Affiliation to other Organisations.*—Branches of the League are free to co-operate with other societies in their neighbourhood, but before affiliating to any other organisation, they shall obtain the sanction of the Executive Committee.

(c) *Affiliation of other Organisations.*—Branches of the League shall have power to accept for affiliation any local organisation of women in their district which supports the object of the League and pays an annual subscription of the same amount as the annual subscription of two individual Branch members. Such an affiliated organisation shall be entitled to send two voting delegates to general meetings of the Branch, such delegates to have the same power as members of the Branch.

V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A.—*Constitution of Executive Committee.*

(a) *Committee.*—The Executive Committee shall consist of the Hon. Officers and twenty-three members, who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Council. Each Branch shall be entitled to send one representative to the Executive Committee meetings with power to speak, but not to vote, the Executive not being responsible for such representatives’ expenses.

(b) *Offices.*—The Officers shall be a President, Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries. The President, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries shall be elected by the Council at its Annual Meeting. The Chairman shall be elected by the Executive Committee from among its members. An assistant Treasurer shall be appointed when necessary by the Executive Committee.

(c) *Co-option to fill Vacancies.*—The Executive Committee shall have power to co-opt members to fill vacancies that occur during the year.

(d) Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for one year, and at the end of that term shall be eligible for re-election without nomination.

Members of the Executive who have not attended 50 per cent. of the meetings during the year shall not be eligible for re-election unless some specific reason for absence can be offered, such as illness or absence from the country, and there is good reason to suppose that they will be able to attend in the future.

B.—Powers and Duties of Executive Committee.

(a) The Executive Committee shall meet, if possible, once a month.

(b) The railway fares of country members shall be paid so long as funds are available for this purpose.

(c) The Executive Committee shall carry on the business of the League between the meetings of the Council in accordance with the policy agreed to thereat.

(d) It shall administer the funds of the League and direct the organising work.

(e) It shall have power to appoint special Committees for carrying out the work of the League.

(f) It shall have power to appoint and dismiss all paid officials.

(g) In all things on which the rules are silent, the Executive Committee shall have power to decide, subject to appeal to the Council.

VI. AFFILIATION OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

(a) *Central Executives.*—The Executive of the League shall have power to accept for affiliation the Central Executive of any national women's organisation which supports the object of the League and pays an affiliation fee of 5s. a year. Affiliated Central Executives shall be entitled to send two voting delegates to the Council Meetings of the League, such delegates to have the same powers as Branch delegates.

(b) *Branches.*—Headquarters shall have power to accept for affiliation any branch of women's organisations or women's groups within mixed organisations in districts where no Branch of the Women's International League exists. Such Branches shall pay an affiliation fee of not less than 2s. 6d. per annum, and shall be entitled to send one delegate to Council Meetings. Such delegates shall have the right to vote on all resolutions other than those dealing with the Constitution, with the election of the Hon. Officers and the Executive Committee.

VII. GENERAL COUNCIL.

(a) The Council of the League shall consist of the Executive Committee, Delegates from Branches and Affiliated Bodies, and the Vice-Presidents. The Vice-Presidents shall be nominated by Branches or by the Executive Committee members, and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

(b) Each Branch shall be entitled to one delegate and one card vote for every twenty-five or part of twenty-five members for whom the affiliation fee for the previous year has been paid. This must be paid not less than a month before the date of the Council in the case of new Branches or increased membership. If the appointed delegate be unable to attend all sessions of the Council she may transfer her card to a proxy delegate duly accredited by the Branch or Affiliated Society.

(c) The Council shall meet at least once a year to transact the usual business of an Annual Meeting. The travelling expenses of one delegate from each Branch to the Annual Council Meeting shall be pooled, but no Branch shall be obliged to contribute to the expenses or benefit by the pool for the first Council Meeting after its foundation.

(d) A meeting of the Council can be called at any time by the Executive Committee or on demand of one-tenth of the total number of Branches.

VIII. RULES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS.

A.—Ordinary Council Meetings.

(a) Ordinary meetings of the Council shall be held at a time and place to be fixed by the Executive Committee.

(b) The General Secretary shall notify the Executive, Vice-Presidents, Branches, Headquarter members, and Affiliated Bodies two months before the Council Meeting, and all resolutions to be printed on the Agenda must reach the Secretary not later than five weeks before the Meeting.

(c) The Preliminary Agenda shall be issued to Branches four weeks before the Meeting.

(d) All amendments to Resolutions must reach the office not later than twenty-one days before the Meeting.

(e) The Final Agenda will be issued to Branches one week before the Meeting.

(f) Resolutions shall be placed upon the Agenda in the name of a Branch or affiliated organisation, or of the Executive Committee, or of any member of the Executive Committee, or of any of the Vice-Presidents.

(g) No business which is not on the Agenda may be taken at a Council Meeting, unless urgency is voted on the recommendation of the Standing Orders Committee.

(h) Delegates shall be admitted to Council Meetings on presentation of the official delegate's ticket signed by the Secretary of the Branch which she represents, or by the General Secretary.

B.—Annual Council Meetings.

(a) At the Annual Meeting of the Council, which shall be held in February or March, in addition to the ordinary business the Council shall :—

(1) Receive and adopt, if approved, the Report and Balance Sheet for the year;

(2) Elect by ballot the President, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretaries, and twenty-three members of the Executive Committee;

(3) Elect Vice-Presidents;

(4) Consider any alterations of the rules that may be proposed.

(b) Nominations for the offices of President, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretaries, and for the Executive Committee Members may be sent in by Branches, Vice-Presidents, and Members of the Executive Committee, and must reach the Secretary two weeks before the Council Meeting. Resolutions to be placed on the agenda and proposed alterations of the rules must reach the Secretary not later than five weeks before the Council Meeting.

(c) The consent of the nominees must be obtained in writing before nominations are sent in.

(d) The financial year shall end on 31st of December, and all affiliation fees must be paid before that date. Members' subscriptions shall be due in January each year.

(e) Branches which have not paid their affiliation fees before the end of the financial year will not be entitled to send delegates to Council Meetings.

(f) The Final Agenda and draft Annual Report shall be issued to the Branches one week before the Annual Meeting.

C.—Special Council Meetings.

(a) The Secretary shall give the Branches at least three weeks' notice of a Special Council Meeting, except in case of national emergency. Resolutions to be printed on the Agenda must reach the Secretary at least fourteen days before the Council Meeting.

(b) The Preliminary Agenda shall be issued to Branches at least one week before the Meeting, and a Final Agenda, including amendments, shall be issued before the Meeting if time allows.

(c) At special meetings of the Council no other business shall be taken except that specified in the notice calling the Meeting.

(d) Rules may be altered at Special Council Meetings, provided that notice of such alterations be given in the summons to the Council.

D.—Agenda at Council Meetings.

(a) The first business to be taken at a Council Meeting shall be—

(1) Appointment of Tellers for the votes in Council;

(2) Appointment of Standing Orders Committee;

(3) Appointment of Members of the Council as Returning Officers and Tellers for the ballot voting;

(4) Appointment of Auditor;

(5) Adoption of Annual Report and audited Statement of Accounts.

At
Annual
Meeting
only.

(b) Otherwise the order of business shall be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee, and shall include the following :—

(1) Report of the Executive Committee;

(2) Election of President, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretaries, Executive Committee, and Vice-Presidents (at Annual Meeting only);

(3) Correspondence;

(4) Amendment to Rules and Standing Orders (if any);

(5) Resolutions, of which due notice has been given to the Secretary and by her to each Branch, and Amendments relevant to the motions before the meeting;

(6) Other business.

BANK ORDER.

(Bankers)..... Date.....

(Branch).....

PLEASE PAY to the account of the Women's International League, at the Midland Bank, 237 Tottenham Court Road, London, W.1, my Subscription of.....and continue to pay the amount, without application, in the month of..... in each succeeding year, until further notice.

Signature.....

Address

£.....

FORM OF BEQUEST FOR INCORPORATION IN A WILL DULY SIGNED AND ATTESTED BY TWO WITNESSES.

I give and bequeath to the Treasurer for the time being of the British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom the sum of.....free of legacy duty.

Witness..... Signature

Address..... Address.....

Witness.....

Address.....

All these signatories being present at the same time.

PAUL BAKER

Paul Baker, of the County of ... State of ...

do hereby certify that the within and foregoing ...

is a true and correct copy of the original ...

FORM OF DEED FOR REPLICATION IN A WILL
BUT SIGNED AND ATTESTED BY TWO WITNESSES

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the County of ... State of ...

do hereby certify that the within and foregoing ...

is a true and correct copy of the original ...

in and to the effect and tenor of the within and foregoing ...



