

# PAX INTERNATIONAL

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## IXth INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE W.I.L.P.F.

JULY 25th—31st, 1937

at Luhacovice, Czechoslovakia, in the Hall of the Kursaal (Spolecensky doum)

### A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER

**Sunday, July 25th:** Chairmen's Meetings and Standing Committee Meetings.

**Monday, July 26th:** Executive Meeting, Congress Committee Meeting.

8 p.m.

Reception of Delegates and visitors given by the Czech Section, in the Kursaal.

**Tuesday, July 27th:**

9.30—12.30

1. Opening of Congress—Greetings, Address of Welcome.
2. Roll Call.
3. Setting up of Congress Committees.
4. Appointment of Translators and Secretaries.
5. Introductory Speech:  
"Bases of a New International Order"—Dr. Anna Schustlerova, C.S.R.

3 p.m.—6.30 p.m.

I.—Towards a real League of Nations—Thora Daugaard, Denmark.

1. Total and Universal Disarmament on Land, on Sea and in the Air—Camille Drevet, France. and Internationalization of Civil Aviation—Miss Hayler, England.
2. Limitation and Regulation of State Sovereignty—C. Ramondt-Hirschmann, Holland.
3. Development and Extension of International Arbitration—Dr. Gertrud Dunant, Switzerland. and Co-operation: Report on Inter-American Relations—Dr. Gertrude Bussey, United States.

II.—Colonial Questions: Political, Economic, Cultural, Juridical—French Section.

III.—Questions of International Economics—Dr. Grete Stoffel, Paris.

8 p.m.

Public Meeting in the Kurpark of Luhacovice.

**Wednesday, July 28th:**

9.30—12.30

The same topics continued.

3 p.m.—6.30 p.m.

The same topics continued.  
What deductions as regards National Action follow from the conclusions reached in the discussion on International Measures: Immediate steps to be taken—Referent: K. E. Innes.

8 p.m.

Folk Songs in many languages sung by the Danish singer, Engel Lund.

**Thursday, July 29th:**

9.30—12.30

1. Nominations for Executive Committee.
2. **Actualities:** Political topics of the day
  - (a) Spain—Referent: Miss E. M. Pye.
  - (b) Co-operation between Sections of Neighbouring States. Czechoslovakia—Hungary, Jugoslavia—Bulgaria, Poland—Czechoslovakia.



- (c) Neutrality—Statement submitted by the Executive Committee.
- (d) Protection of Human Rights—Referent, M. Björnbom, Sweden.
- (e) Amnesty of Political Prisoners—Referent, G. Duchêne, France.
- (f) Equality of Status of Women—Proposals by the British and Dutch Section, and by Mmes. Lloyd, Doty, Meller.

3 p.m.—6.30 p.m.

Actualities continued.

8 p.m.

Meetings of Committees.

Friday, July 30th:

9.30—12.30

Report of Resolutions Committee—Discussion—Vote on Resolutions.

3 p.m.—6.30 p.m.

Closed Meeting: W.I.L.P.F. Internal Affairs.

#### CHILD REFUGEES—A NEW PHENOMENON

A wholesale exodus from the country of their birth of thousands of children without their parents is a new phenomenon in human history. Mankind in this so-called Christian era behaves with such ferocity and cruelty to his fellow men as to make this last outrage on natural human sentiments, this separation of parents and children essential if the future generation is to be saved for the Basque Provinces.

I saw some fifteen hundred of them arrive in France. As the tender drew towards the quay, one saw a swarm of children waving and crying "Viva la France"—the sound of their high trebles came over the water and many raised their thin little arms with the clenched fist of the salute they had learned. Seen together in a mass they looked woefully pale and undernourished, but they were full of gay courage, dainty and fresh; they were excited and keen to see a new country. What they had suffered for lack of bread was to be seen in the way they clamoured for and snatched at the good French bread and the fresh milk which had been thoughtfully provided for them. The one question they asked when they were told they would be sent on into the country was "will there be enough bread?"

Some of them had a tiny packet of clothing, most had none; some pulled a coin out of their pockets and wished to pay for their food—and one and all asked for paper and stamps to write to their mothers.

These children were sent on into holiday camps in various parts of France and are being paid for by the French Government, but there were already some ten thousand Spanish refugees in the country. Since that date between three and four thousand more old people and mothers with their children have found hospitality there and saturation point will soon be reached if it is not already attained.

Saturday, July 31st:

9.30 a.m.—12.30

Closed Meeting:

1. Elections.
2. Ratification of Admission of New Sections.
3. Cancellation of Sections.

3 p.m.—6.30 p.m.

Public Session:

Short Reports of National Sections on political and economic developments in their countries since the Spring Executive Meeting.

Unfinished Business.

CLOSURE OF CONGRESS

Sunday, August 1st:

Public Meeting in Uherské Hradiste, near Luhačovice. Visit to the Exhibition of Folklore in that town.

Monday, August 2nd:

Excursion to the Bata town Zlin.

If more children were to be saved from the fate of those in Guernica, which threatens them, it was essential that Great Britain should take its share and the National Joint Committee for Spanish Relief is much to be congratulated on its courage and persistence which has at last overthrown the caution of officialdom and caused safety to be offered to some four thousand children on these shores. Thanks to the voluntary co-operation of every kind, a camp has been prepared in a week from which the children will be drafted off into various homes and institutions. So far no financial help whatever has been given by the Government, in great contrast to the generosity of the French Government—and the National Joint Committee has to assume the whole responsibility. Belgium and Switzerland are both offering to take Spanish children, but the Spanish Government is anxious to keep as many as possible in Spain, since the severance from all the ties of parentage and national home and language is so severe a strain upon childhood. Indeed the shock is so profound that some of the children will take a long time to recover.

It is reported that there are still some ten thousand children in Bilbao and the grief and despair of those who were not well enough to be included with those to come away must have been painful to witness. The present move towards an armistice to enable foreign troops to be withdrawn gives a ray of hope in a situation that is at its best full of tragedy and suffering, though we hope the friendly welcome the children have received will do something to soften it. In its worst aspect, it is a foretaste of what mankind may expect if a way is not found out of the nightmare of conflict and rearmament which darkens the sky to-day. By its illustration of what modern warfare means, it should serve to increase the efforts of all who are working to do away with it.

E. M. PYE.

#### HEADQUARTERS NEWS

##### Meeting of the Bureau of the Disarmament Conference

The following letter has been sent by the W.I.L.P.F. to the Bureau of the Disarmament Conference, Geneva:—

"The undersigned Chairmen of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom are convinced that they express the feelings not only of their own organisation but that of millions of men and women of all countries when they note with satisfaction the fact of your Bureau meeting again to deliberate on the burning questions of limitation and reduction of armaments.

"The Disarmament Petitions bearing 9 millions of signatures, presented in the name of fifteen women's organisations to the Disarmament Conference on the 6th February, 1932, and the 10 millions (which have since been increased to 14 millions) of signatures to the Peoples' Mandate to their Governments presented to the President of the League of Nations' Assembly in September, 1936, give proof of the immense longing of the peoples for peace and of their earnest desire to obtain peace not by armament but by disarmament.

"The Chairmen have been increasingly alarmed by the inactivity of the Disarmament Conference, an inactivity which has allowed the race in armament to assume unheard of forms and dimensions.

"Being convinced that it is impossible to establish permanent and true peace among the Nations under the threat of armaments or

to develop by the methods used at the present time a strong and universal League of Nations, as a suitable instrument for the solution of political and economic world-problems.

the Chairmen of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom convey to the Bureau of the Disarmament Conference the urgent appeal that

A DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE BE CALLED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, to which the Governments of all countries be invited, where not only the representatives of the Governments, the Army, the Navy and Military Aviation be heard, but also representatives of those organisations which since the Great War have made a special study of the causes that lead to war and the means of strengthening and building up all those international conventions, and institutions whose aim is the promotion of the common welfare of the peoples.

"They are fully aware of the difficult and unfavourable circumstances under which you meet, yet in spite, or rather because of, the present world conditions they recommend their request to your careful consideration. If swift action is not taken the world cannot be saved from destruction."

##### Resolution presented by a delegation from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom to H.E. M. J. A. Quevedo, President of the Council of the League of Nations.

"The W.I.L.P.F., representing National Sections and corresponding members in 52 countries, reiterates its indignation at the inhuman massacre of the defenceless civil population and the destruction of property in Spain and in particular in the Basque Country by troops put at the service of the rebels by foreign countries.

"It considers these acts as a violation of all human and cultural laws.

"At different stages it has pointed out the flagrant violation of Article 10 of the Covenant of the League and it again urges the Council to take steps in the present session to assure:

"The immediate evacuation from Spanish soil of all Italian, German and Moroccan troops fighting with the rebels."

##### Bombing of the Basques

"The Executive Committee of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, in the name of countless women in many countries, strongly protests against the recent massacre in the Basque country of a defenceless population.

"Since 1915 the W.I.L.P.F. has advocated the pacification of the world; and repeatedly, but in vain, since the beginning of the tragic war in Spain, has made practical proposals for bringing it to an end.

"Destruction of human life and of cultural heritage continues.

"The shameful destruction of life and property in the Basque country, contrary to all rules of warfare and to all feeling of humanity, has aroused horror and indignation throughout the world.

"The Executive Committee of the W.I.L.P.F. declares that silence with regard to such criminality implies complicity; and again urges those Governments, whose action can be decisive, in consciousness of their responsibility to mankind, to take energetic measures to put an end to the Spanish tragedy."

##### Memorial About the Spanish Situation

The following memorial to intellectuals of all countries has been sent out for signature:—

"We, the undersigned,

"Remembering the great heritage which Spain has given to the world in art and literature, in the humanities, in science and in exploration, call attention to the damage done to the Spanish people through the invasion of their territory by armed forces from other countries.

"The social and cultural reforms inaugurated are cut short, the new schools are being destroyed, the life of the Universities interrupted, the works of art are endangered, from the great architecture of the past and the present to the humble homes of the people—all are crumbling under the hail of bombs and shells from foreign airplanes and artillery.

"We call on world opinion to urge the withdrawal of these armed forces, so that the Spanish people may be enabled to seek a way to unite in rebuilding their country for the rising generation and in contributing anew to humanity."

#### NEWS FROM SECTIONS

##### CANADA

*Extracts from a letter from the temporary corresponding Secretary.*

"At our last meeting we protested against the increased appropriation for armaments in the Canadian budget. There were many protests and the motions concerning it in the House of Commons at Ottawa produced the longest and fullest debate on Canada's Foreign Policy in fifteen years. The appropriation was passed, but the Government was disturbed over it, as a number of their own members voted against it; the protests still go on.

"Considering that Industrial Peace is an important part of any Peace programme, our branch has appointed a committee on Industrial Peace to study the subject and report. A resolution was passed recently urging the Provincial Government (which has jurisdiction in labour) to pass legislation facilitating the organizing of unions.

"We have secured some free time on a local radio station, in which we have short addresses and good music.



We have found the heads of our radio stations much interested in Peace.

"Recently we had a luncheon with a Panel Discussion on "Women and Fascism" which drew nearly one hundred women, and proved very popular.

"Next meeting we are to discuss the international friction caused by the British Empire establishing free trade within, while it puts up tariffs all round the Empire, resulting in other countries being unable to sell to the Empire and, therefore, unable to buy their raw materials therein.

"Our branch passed a resolution recently asking our Federal Government to take the proper steps to have Canada become a member of the Pan-American Union, with a view to her participation in future Pan-American Conferences.

### Great Britain

The following letter was sent to the Secretary of State for India:—

"The Executive Committee of the British Section of the Women's International League desires me to write to you on their behalf, as they wish to put on record their protest against the methods that are being used on the North West Frontier of India to deal with the turbulent tribesmen.

"We are well aware that the analogy of Spain is by no means exact in detail, that it will be claimed that punitive measures were rendered necessary by the provocative action of fanatical leaders in Waziristan, and that before bombing operations take place warning is given so that non-combatants can escape. At the same time my Committee feel that charges against us of hypocrisy by other nations are not altogether without reason when on the same day that protests were made in the British press with regard to the bombing of Guernica, it was possible for such headlines to appear as 'Trapped Tribesmen Mown Down by R.A.F. on Indian Frontier' and for the *Times* correspondent to write of the 'enemy presenting good targets of which full opportunity was taken by aircraft and artillery' . . . 'suffering heavy casualties'. We realise also that those of the 'enemy' who were wounded would be without any skilled medical aid.

"Being convinced that no solution of the problems will be found in successive punitive expeditions, which have been tried for many years without any lasting appeasement, we would urge that the Government appoint without delay a commission of both British and Indian experts to enquire into the economic and other causes of the ever prevalent unrest. We consider that such an enquiry is long overdue, and that while present methods of attempting to subdue the tribesmen on the Indian Frontier is causing resentment in many parts of India, there is also in Great Britain a growing opinion which holds that the cause of world peace is being seriously retarded by this kind of action on the part of the British Government."

Other peace organisations have been approached so that a large volume of protest may reach the Government. Already the National Peace Congress has passed a resolution on similar lines and public protests have been made by the Union of Democratic Control.

### New Zealand

The Secretary writes:—"I have been instructed to send a brief account of the political position out here to the League.

"We are not a large body, our membership only numbering about forty; but we have been growing a little lately. The centre is here in Auckland where we meet once a month. Membership is open to anyone who desires to join. Correspondence from headquarters, from other Sections, and other Peace societies, is read and discussed at the meetings and addresses given by friends or visiting friends of the cause. The meetings are reported in the daily paper and in the weekly Labour paper in Wellington. Naturally, we also take a live interest in local affairs, two of our members being on the Hospital Board. Three associations in the Hawke's Bay district are affiliated to us—one Women's Institute in that district, another the Townswomen's Guild, the other the Women's Division of the Farmers' Union. There are also three or four individual members in other parts of the Dominion. We keep in touch with them by sending reports of the meetings and a good deal of the literature we receive from overseas. We are affiliated with the League of Nations Union and the Pan-Pacific Association.

"As you know, we have a Labour Government in power here. Many of our members support this Government, as it is more progressive than the other party. Since its advent a year and a half ago with a large majority many reforms have been made and existing conditions improved.

"The one thing that has rather disappointed us is the large increase in the Defence Bill—£250,000 being allotted in the last Budget. Naturally we peace lovers did not like it, but we realise that pressure from Britain was brought to bear on New Zealand. We do know, however, that the Cabinet is not in favour of war, we shall never have conscription here while this Government is in power, and just recently the Prime Minister assured a deputation of the Peace Association that the compulsory clauses of the Defence Act, which have been in abeyance for some years but are still part of the Act and could be put in force at any moment, would be repealed. We are confident, therefore, that our Ministers' full weight will be thrown into the scale for peace at the coming Imperial Conference.

"Relations with the mandated territory, Western Samoa, where there was so much trouble in the last six years are much better and the Samoan people appear to be much more contented. One of the first things the present Government did was to quash the sentence of one of their chief men who had been banished, and lift the ban from the Mau (an association of the natives). Also they are getting better prices for their bananas and other produce which all helps to make them contented."

### United States

On April 19th, the New York City branch held its Annual Meeting, a luncheon with the distinguished economist, Harold Laski as guest speaker. He was followed by Katherine Devereux Blake, Honorary State Chairman whose speech gave some account of the foundations of the W.I.L.

She pointed out that some of the principles laid down at the Hague in 1915 have since been made a part of the policy of the U.S.A. but that others still remain to be worked out.