

WILPF 2/29

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
FOR PEACE & FREEDOM
BRITISH SECTION



FORTY-FOURTH
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

APRIL 1959
TO APRIL 1960

ADDRESS - 29 GREAT JAMES STREET - LONDON - W.C.1

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

International Headquarters :

12, Rue du Vieux College, Geneva, Switzerland

International President :

Miss Emily Greene Balch

The WILPF was founded at The Hague in 1915 by women from 13 countries. There are National Sections in Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, U.S.A.

The WILPF has Consultative Status B with ECOSOC; Consultative Status with UNESCO; Specialised Consultative Status with FAO; and Consultative Relations with ILO.

The aim of the WILPF is to bring together women of different political and philosophical tendencies united in the determination to study, make known and abolish the political, social, economic and psychological causes of war, and to work for a constructive peace.

The primary objects of the WILPF remain: total and universal disarmament, the abolition of violent means of coercion for the settlement of conflicts, the substitution in every case of some form of peaceful settlement, and the strengthening of a world organisation for the prevention of war, the institution of international law, and for the political, social and economic co-operation of peoples.

BRITISH SECTION

Headquarters Office :

29, Great James Street, London, W.C.1. CHAncery 4817.

President :

Professor Dame Kathleen Lonsdale, D.Sc., F.R.S.

Vice-Presidents :

Miss B. M. Baker	Lady Mayer
Miss Vera Brittain	Miss Edith Pye
Lady Boyd Orr	Mrs. McGregor Ross
Rev. Constance Coltman, M.A., B.D.	Mrs. A. Z. Stapledon
Miss M. Dickinson	Mrs. L. de Swiet
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Dr. Rita Hinden	*Mrs. McGregor Wood
Mrs. K. E. Innes	(*Hon. Liaison Officer)

Hon. Secretaries :

Mrs. E. F. Ineson
Mrs. A. Shackleton
(Membership)

Hon. Treasurer :

Mrs. D. Gundry, J.P.

Chairman of Executive :

Miss Sybil Morrison

Editor, "Peace and Freedom" :

Miss Margaret Tims

H.Q. Secretary :

Mrs. Jean M. Anderson

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1959

Miss E. Adlam	Mrs. M. Nuttall
Mrs. P. E. Cusden	Mrs. E. Peat
Mrs. M. Dayan	Mrs. M. Phillips
Mrs. M. Fernau	Mrs. O. Sutherst
Mrs. N. Greaves	Miss H. Walmesley
Miss S. Morrison	Mrs. N. Weiss

Branch Representatives :

Mrs. B. Scott (Birkenhead); Miss Jesper (Birmingham); Mrs. B. Gray (Bradford); Miss M. McKenna (Childwall); Mrs. B. Coppock (Colwyn Bay); Mrs. E. Ecroyd (Croydon); Dr. M. Marwick (Edinburgh); Mrs. E. Campbell (Glasgow); Mrs. L. Williams (Great Crosby); Mrs. E. Southon (Hampstead Garden Suburb); Mrs. F. Pettit (Hassocks and Ditchling); Miss F. Ross (Leicester); Mrs. D. Wood (Manchester); Mrs. D. Pritchard (North Wales); Mrs. J. Hartstone (Nottingham); Mrs. Furth (Orpington); Mrs. Aitken (Oxford); Mrs. Brookes (Warrington); Mrs. Mason (West Kirby); Mrs. S. Cookson (Worthing).

JANE ADDAMS

1860 - 1960

1960 is a notable year in the history of the WILPF, marking the centenary of the birth of its distinguished founder-member and first International President, Jane Addams.

Jane Addams was born on 6th September, 1860, at Cedarville in Illinois. On 3rd September, 1960, the Jane Addams House for Refugees at Spittal in Austria is to be dedicated to her memory by the WILPF. Sections have pledged themselves to raise 20,000 dollars to contribute to the share of the building costs which falls to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Dr. August Lindt. In this centenary year we hope to make known to a wider public both the significance of Jane Addams herself and the present activities of the League.

Before the first world war Jane Addams' main work was in the field of social justice. In 1889 she founded Hull House, the international settlement in Chicago where many of her pioneer social and educational activities for immigrants are still being carried on. With her co-workers at Hull House she fought successful campaigns for the reform of labour laws and the protection of juveniles, and she was an active member of the women's suffrage movement.

In 1915 she presided at the International Congress of Women at The Hague, out of which the WILPF was founded, and she became its International President in 1919. From that time until her death in 1935 she devoted herself primarily to the cause of peace, and she received a Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

During and immediately after the first world war Jane Addams suffered considerable loss of influence because of her pacifist convictions. She lectured and travelled widely in support of relief measures for the alleviation of famine in Europe, and urged the foundation of a League of Nations based "not upon broken bits of international law but upon ministrations to primitive human needs". She had an almost mystical belief in the necessity of "peace and bread" and in the creation of a new world consciousness. To some extent, her vision has been realised in the specialised agencies of the United Nations; it is timely that the "Freedom from Hunger" campaign of the Food and Agriculture Organisation is being launched this year.

Although conditions have changed in the last century more rapidly than at any other time in history, the basic human needs remain as Jane Addams envisaged them: family affection, social security, labour for service rather than gain, loyalty to humanity and creative expression through the arts. She had the kind of universalism that can be applied in as many ways as there are human situations in need of correction: for instance, in race relations, technical assistance and education, industrial democracy, human rights, non-violent techniques and many others.

Background material on various aspects of Jane Addams' work, and reading list, can be supplied on request. Arrange meetings, write to your local press, and invite the co-operation of other bodies in making 1960 a significant year of progress towards our aim of a peaceful, free and united world—now needed as never before.

MARGARET TIMS.

FOREWORD

The membership of the WILPF is small in numbers, much smaller than the number of marchers from Aldermaston; but numbers, as such, are a very ephemeral kind of inspiration, lasting only so long as they can be seen. The small membership of the WILPF takes its inspiration from its stable background of progressive work for a society of the future in which war and injustice will have no place.

Jane Addams' vision of such a society would have been lost long ago if it had not been for the courageous, steady work of this small but active organisation. In 1960 we remember her, and we remember also that it is not only the year which her life and work are specially commemorated, but it is also the year in which the Annual Council expressed to Mrs. Ineson, its Honorary Secretary for thirteen years, their regret at her retirement and their gratitude for all she has done for the British Section.

In presenting her with an inscribed travelling clock and a cheque for £50 Mrs. Agnes Stapledon said: "The British Section of the WILPF asks you to accept this gift as expressing in a small way their appreciation and gratitude for all you have given in energy and thought and service to the Section and its work; their admiration for the way it has been carried out, and their affection and esteem for you, personally".

Mrs. Ineson's example, like the example of other pioneers, will be always before us, and her advice and presence fortunately still with us, as we go forward into another year of working for peace and freedom.

SYBIL MORRISON.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

The 14th Triennial Congress met in the Parliament Buildings in Stockholm from 27th to 31st July, 1959. The overall theme was "Alternatives to Violence", and the Congress was divided into Commissions for detailed discussion of three aspects of the subject—Human Rights and Civil Liberties; Political Settlements; and World Disarmament and World Development. A final statement of policy was issued on the findings of the Commissions. This was summarised in the Sept.-Oct. issue of "Peace and Freedom".

Resolutions were carried:—

(a) To stress again the urgency of seating the People's Republic of China in the United Nations;

(b) To ask Sections to press their Governments to give strong support to the re-convening of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Elimination or Reduction of Future Statelessness; and

(c) To advocate the establishment of a neutral zone through Central Europe and negotiations between East and West Germany on the question of re-union.

Matters dealing with bias in school text-books and a proposal to establish a scholarship fund for the study of international affairs at the Geneva Headquarters were referred to the Executive and Education Committees.

The International Chairman, Mrs. Else Zeuthen, presided over the Congress at which sixteen countries were represented. The British Section sent its quota of ten delegates and one consultant, Mrs. Weiss. Mrs. Nuttall, as an elected delegate, was asked to act as a consultant. In addition many visitors attended the Congress. Amongst the interesting events which took place were a civic reception at the City Hall, a public meeting addressed by Prof. Linus Pauling on "World Peace or Nuclear Annihilation" and an Open Air meeting in the crowded Kungstengarden at which there were "Voices from Five Continents". Mrs. Pettit spoke for Europe.

Mrs. Ragnhild Christiannsen was elected Hon. Treasurer in place of Dr. Else Stadelmann who resigned. At the Executive Committee following Congress, Mrs. Else Zeuthen was re-elected International Chairman, Mrs. Emily Parker Simon and Mrs. Agnes Stapledon, Vice-Chairmen—the latter in place of Mme. Andrée Jouve who resigned. Mrs. Phoebe Cusden remains editor of "Pax et Libertas".

THE YEAR'S WORK

1. COMMITTEES.—(a) **Executive.**—Since the Annual Council in April, 1959, the Executive has met four times, in June, September, December, 1959, and February, 1960, under the Chairmanship of Miss Sybil Morrison. Officers' Meetings have been held in the months between.

Two distinguished visitors were entertained at the September Extended Executive. On the first day Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, High Commissioner for India, and her daughter were our guests for tea at the Alliance Hall, after which Mrs. Pandit addressed the meeting and gave her views on the rôle of Britain and India in the world of today. The Chairman voiced the high regard felt by the members of the League for Mrs. Pandit's work for peace and understanding between nations during the period of her high office in this country.

On the second day Mrs. Margaret Ballinger of South Africa addressed the meeting. As a representative for 23 years of an African constituency in the South African Assembly, she gave an informative historical background to the present political and social restrictions placed on Africans under the Government policy of apartheid. Warm appreciation was expressed of her long years of service for Africans in the political life of South Africa.

(b) **Parliamentary.**—This Committee has continued to meet weekly under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Mary Nuttall. During the ten years since it was first established, it has consistently carried out its original aims:—

- (i) To keep in close touch with developments in the political field;
- (ii) To take on responsibility for conveying information to the Branches.

The reading of *Hansard*, *U.N. News* and letters from our Consultants (Mrs. Adelaide Baker, Miss Gertrude Baer and Mme. Andrée Jouve) makes the first aim possible, and the second is carried out by the wide distribution of Minutes each week.

Miss Dickinson has reported weekly on African affairs, keeping in close touch with the Africa Bureau and the UN Information Centre. Mrs. Myrtle Radley's frequent letters and newspaper cuttings from South Africa, where she has been living for two years and making extensive tours, have given much valuable information on political issues and racial tension. Mrs. Nell Greaves undertook a close study of the questions raised and suggested action when advisable.

At the time of the General Election in October, 1959, a questionnaire was drawn up and circulated to Branches and individual members to be used as a guide in putting questions to candidates, mainly on Foreign Affairs.

(c) **Education.**—The work of the Education Committee has been directed towards the progressive development and extension of its aims, "Education for International Understanding". Attention has been given to the inclusion of suitable liberal courses in extended programmes arranged by Education Authorities for both Youth and Adults as well as securing adequate expenditure on good standard library and text books. The availability of Technical Courses to both girl and boy students on an equal basis has also been considered. The Committee notes with satisfaction that the fourth part of the Crowther Report just issued, on the educational needs of the 15-18 age group, emphasises WILPF policy in that it looks forward to a "comprehensive system of County Colleges being established within eight years of the raising of the school-leaving age", though the WILPF advocates a drastic shortening of the interval.

The "Art for World Friendship" scheme is slowly extending. Delightful drawings have been sent and exchanges received. Mrs. Muller writes with appreciation of the British Section.

"The Aryan Path" (India) printed in its December issue an article by Mrs. Florence Pettit on the scheme.

2. PUBLICITY.—Miss Margaret Tims has continued to edit "Peace and Freedom". She has succeeded in producing an excellent survey of our work as it proceeds during the year in Branches and in London, as well as articles on current world problems. The paper is distributed free of charge to all members and used as propaganda in advertising the League to prospective members.

Mrs. Florence Pettit, Publicity Secretary, has written articles on the activities of the WILPF.

3. JOINT ACTION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS.—(a) **Delegation from Soviet Peace Committee.**—The League co-operated with other British Peace Organisations in making arrangements for the visit of a group consisting of five men and one woman from the USSR representing the Soviet Peace Committee. Discussions were held at Friends House during the first week at which two members of the WILPF took part each day. Members met the delegation socially at a reception arranged jointly with the NPC and the PPU.

Nottingham Branch entertained some of the delegates in the second week, the others going to Bath and Bristol. Finally Mrs. Doris Gundry represented the League at a week-end conference with the Russian group at Charney Manor, near Wantage. An agreed statement on problems discussed was drawn up and distributed.

(b) **Exhibition organised by the Campaign for War on Want.**—As an affiliated organisation to the NPC, the WILPF co-operated in the running of a stand at the War on Want Exhibition at Westminster Central Hall, January 16th-23rd, 1960. For one day during the week we had charge of the stand and were able to distribute leaflets and answer questions about the campaign.

(c) **Standing Conference on the Economic and Social Work of the United Nations.**—Members of the WILPF have continued to participate in the research and activities of the four working groups: Economic Development, Human Rights, Refugees and Status of Women.

(d) **Movement for Boycott of South African Goods during March, 1960.**—It was decided to support this campaign to strengthen the protest of the African people against the injustices of the Government policy of apartheid.

(e) **Status of Women Committee.**—This is a co-ordinating body of 15 Women's Organisations of which the WILPF is one. Miss A. M. Pierotti, a member of the WILPF, was elected Chairman on the death of Dame Vera Loughton Matthews, D.B.E., whose outstanding leadership in women's work will be greatly missed. The work of the Committee during the past year has included: Equal Guardianship of Infants, Married Women under the Law, the Domicile Bill (not passed by the House of Commons), Women's Votes in the Bahamas, and the preparation and use of a manifesto for the General Election.

4. THE JANE ADDAMS PROJECT.—This has been a corporate effort throughout the year by the whole Section, and has achieved an outstanding success. The aim has been two-fold:—

(a) To answer the challenge of World Refugee Year by supporting one of its projects—the closing of the Refugee Camps in Europe.

(b) To raise a worthy memorial to Jane Addams in the year of the centenary of her birth. Individual members of Branches and Headquarters have given liberally gifts varying from 2s. 6d. to £100. Branches and HQ members, helped by friends outside the League, have arranged coffee mornings, garden parties and house meetings which have brought in sums up to £60 in one effort. Only in a few cases have contributions come in from outside sources.

The progress of the building of the Jane Addams House in Spittal, Austria, and its subsequent opening to receive the first families of refugees have been reported in "Peace and Freedom". The dedication of the house by representatives of the WILPF is due to take place on August 28th, 1960, when a plaque will be presented for the outside wall designed to express Jane Addams' belief in the linking of Peace and Bread.

Following the gift of £500 presented to the London Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in April, 1959, a further cheque for £1,000 was handed to Lady Elliot, President and Chairman of the United Kingdom Committee for World Refugee Year, by our President, Dame Kathleen Lonsdale in December of that year. The final gift will be handed over at the close of World Refugee Year in June, 1960. Up to the time of the Annual Council the total received was £2,160.

Memorial to Barbara Duncan Harris.—Croydon Branch has contributed a special sum of £150 which entitles them to have the name of Barbara Duncan Harris on the plaque on Jane Addams House. Other memorial gifts received from members of the British Section will be devoted to providing equipment for the communal library.

5. UNITED NATIONS WORK.—(a) **Statement to Delegates.**—As in previous years, a statement of our views on subjects appearing on the Agenda of the Fourteenth General Assembly in New York was drawn up and forwarded to the UK delegates. This dealt primarily with disarmament. In addition, our views were expressed on the Seating of the People's Republic of China, South Africa, Trusteeship Development, Technical Assistance, Slave Trading, Refugees and World Health.

(b) **Special Fund.**—A letter was sent to the Prime Minister supporting the appeal of the Director of the Fund, Mr. Paul Hoffman, for an increased contribution from the UK Government. Previously they had pledged only one million dollars a year while submitting schemes for work in the Commonwealth costing 15 million dollars. The announcement from the UN that the UK contribution was to be increased to five million dollars was noted with satisfaction.

(c) **World Refugee Year.**—As a supporting organisation of World Refugee Year, the British Section of the WILPF was represented by Mrs. Evelyn Peat and Mrs. Edith Ineson at the Lord Mayor of London's launching ceremony at the Mansion House. At the Scottish ceremony in Edinburgh which took place simultaneously the League was represented by Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell of Glasgow and Mrs. Vera Mitchell of Edinburgh.

The scheme has been an unqualified success in achieving both its aims—the corporate raising of funds by people and governments, and the opening of doors in the receiving countries to admit handicapped refugees as well as workers. In June, a letter was sent to the Prime Minister appreciating the second gift of £100,000 while pressing for a more substantial sum to follow and urging the admittance of more of the difficult cases from the camps in Europe.

Members have taken part in local efforts as well as contributing to the Jane Addams Fund, which will be mentioned in the WRY Souvenir Programme. Baroness Elliot, President and Chairman of World Refugee Year, spoke at a lunch meeting in London and at a Branch Meeting in Manchester. The British target has twice been doubled and now stands at four million pounds.

(d) **Statelessness.**—The Parliamentary Committee followed with interest the work of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in April, 1959, in Geneva on the draft convention on Reduction of Statelessness. When the conference broke down after three weeks, a letter was sent to the Foreign Secretary expressing concern, and urging HMG to give assent to the request of the UN Secretary-General to re-convene the conference without unnecessary delay. A favourable reply was received. Later it was learned that the conference is pledged to meet in 1961.

(e) **FAO "Freedom from Hunger" Campaign.**—Miss Gertrude Baer, UN Consultant at Geneva, sent full reports of the launching of this campaign and of the ways in which NGOs are asked to participate. The British Section studied the reports with a view to taking an active part in the campaign as it proceeds. At the Annual Council, Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell was unanimously elected to represent the British Section at the Conference of NGOs to be held in Rome in May, 1960.

6. VITAL ISSUES ON WHICH ACTION WAS TAKEN.—(a) **Disarmament.**—The statement sent to the United Nations delegates stressed the need for a realistic policy of total disarmament, and urged the UK Government to initiate a plan for universal disarmament of all kinds of weapons and armed forces. The speeches of Mr. Krushchev (USSR) and Mr. Selwyn Lloyd (UK), both of which contained plans aiming at universal disarmament, were studied and compared. A letter to the Prime Minister urged a speedy consideration of the Russian plan as being more comprehensive, and a resolution appealed for research into the economic, industrial, social and financial consequences of disarmament.

In a lengthy reply from the Foreign Office, we were reminded that all the disarmament proposals would be transmitted to the new Ten-Power Disarmament Committee due to meet in March, 1960. "Her Majesty's Government hope and believe that these developments may offer a basis for agreement and so increase the chances of peace and security which, like yourselves, they so keenly desire."

On the question of the economic consequences of disarmament, the reply stated that "the release of resources following comprehensive disarmament would be of great benefit to the country", but went on to express the belief that they would "certainly not expect extensive disarmament to dislocate the economy . . . Any

plan for comprehensive disarmament would have to come into effect by carefully planned stages spread over a number of years, and the economy of the country would thus have time to adjust itself naturally in the process."

It was felt that this view was most unsatisfactory and the question must be pursued in a further letter or statement.

(b) **South Africa.**—The policy of apartheid is being still more vigorously pursued causing untold hardship to African men and women. Opposition to the Government policy is growing in the United Nations and in many Commonwealth countries, as well as in South Africa itself. Our attention has been drawn to the splendid courage of the Black Sash movement and the increasing awareness of the wrongs of apartheid in the National Council of Women.

Subjects under discussion in Branches and in Parliamentary Committee have been:—

- (i) The enforcement of the Group Areas Act and Pass Laws for Women;
- (ii) Job reservations and forced labour on farms;
- (iii) The removal of African representation from the Assembly and Senate; and
- (iv) Apartheid in universities and in the nursing profession.

In the statement to UN delegates it was urged that HM Government should cease to consider an appeal to South Africa to reconsider its policy, which denied basic human rights to Africans, as interference in a purely domestic matter. When it became known that again the UK vote was against the resolution, a letter of protest was written pointing out the ill effects of the voting of HMG on the minds of Africans all over the continent.

When the Prime Minister's intention to visit South Africa was known, the hope was expressed that he would inform his hosts of his opposition to their immoral policy of apartheid. This he did in the now famous speech delivered before the House of Assembly. This gave a general feeling of satisfaction throughout the country.

In common with the rest of the country, WILPF members were horrified and distressed at the shooting down of a large number of Africans in Sharpeville in March, 1960, and a letter of protest was sent to the High Commissioner for South Africa.

Inevitably bound up with South Africa is the fate of South West Africa where similar measures of oppression were enacted by the Union. We expressed our views forcibly in our statement to the UK delegates to the UN, hoping for their support in petitioning that South West Africa should be a Trust Territory.

(c) **African Nationalism.**—In the study of events in Africa, it is clear that nationalism is the emerging pattern of the future. NIGERIA attains independence this year and the UK Trust Territory of TANGANYIKA, by wise and peaceful procedure, is hoping to reach that status. In the High Commission Territories, BASUTOLAND has obtained its new constitution, while BECHUANALAND is developing proposals for a Legislative Council and future constitution. KENYA—momentous decisions are being taken in 1960 and are being closely watched. In July, 1959, dismay was felt at conditions in the Hola Prison Camp where eleven detainees were beaten to death and others seriously injured. A letter was sent to the Colonial Secretary pressing for a judicial enquiry in order to restore confidence in British justice. In reply the Colonial Office re-stated its satisfaction with the administrative enquiry already being made and promised publication of its findings.

(d) **Central Africa Federation.**—Events in the three territories have caused grave concern. When a proposal was made for a commission of enquiry, we supported the view put forward by Mr. Gaitskell, leader of the Opposition, that it should be an all-party Parliamentary Commission. This was defeated, and when the Monckton Commission began its enquiry the Edinburgh Branch expressed their views in a statement to the members of the Commission, the Colonial Office, the Commonwealth Relations Office and local M.P.s suggesting that:—

- (i) A plebiscite in Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia should decide whether they remain in the Federation or secede from it;
- (ii) The Review Conference should have strong and truly representative African delegations from Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia; and
- (iii) The British Government should exercise to the full its protecting powers.

(e) **Slavery.**—The problem of slavery continues to be a matter of concern. Mrs. Mary Nuttall is now on the Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society and this enables us to work with greater co-operation on the problem. At the time of the WILPF Congress in Stockholm, representatives of the British and Norwegian Sections discussed the question with Mrs. Ulla Lindstrom, the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, who promised that Sweden would support any move through the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations to set up a Committee of Experts to implement the Slavery Conventions of 1926 and 1956.

When it was known that Denmark was to represent the four Scandinavian countries on ECOSOC as from January, 1960, the British Section asked Mrs. Else Zeuthen, M.P., the WILPF International Chairman, if she would bring the question of slavery to the notice of the Danish Government. The Anti-Slavery Society supplied the British Section with the factual material necessary for Else Zeuthen's speech in Parliament, which was made on February 7th, 1960. The Danish Foreign Minister, Mr. Krag, without giving any definite commitment, said that Denmark would always be on the alert for every opportunity of renewing efforts to abolish slavery. Through the joint efforts of the Anti-Slavery Society, the WILPF and the Society of Friends it is hoped to get the subject on the Agenda for the July meeting of ECOSOC in Geneva, with a view to the appointment of a Committee of Experts to advise on ways and means of combating slavery and practices akin to slavery.

(f) **Capital Punishment.**—At the time of the execution of Gunther Podola we restated our support for the abolition of capital punishment, and urged HM Government to give consideration to the findings of the Royal Commission. The Under-Secretary of State replied that as the Homicide Bill had been in force for less than three years, the Secretary of State considered it too soon to re-open the subject. A letter was then sent to the "Campaign for the Abolition of the Death Penalty" urging more vigorous efforts to educate public opinion.

BRANCH SECRETARIES

Birkenhead: Mrs. E. Sunners, Fieldside, Barnston Road, Heswall, Cheshire.
Birmingham: Miss E. Jesper, 455, City Road, Birmingham, 17.
Bradford: Mrs. B. Gray, 106, Rooley Lane, Bradford, Yorks.
Childwall: Miss H. Dudley, 24, Glenmore Avenue, Liverpool, 18.
Colwyn Bay: Mrs. Coppock, Old Telegraph House, Llysfaen, Colwyn Bay, N. Wales.
Croydon: Mrs. Ecroyd, 2, Benhurst Gardens, Selsdon, S. Croydon, Surrey.
Edinburgh: Mrs. Mitchell, 57, Ladysmith Road, Edinburgh, 9.
Glasgow: Mrs. Shanks, 32, Compton Avenue, Glasgow, S.4.
Great Crosby: Miss Amos, 30, Merrilocks Road, Blundellsands, Liverpool, 23.
Hampstead Garden Suburb: Mrs. Frost, 1, Cyprus Road, London, N.3.
Hassocks and Ditchling: Mrs. Field, 1, Clayton Avenue, Hassocks, Sussex.
Leicester: Miss F. Ross, 141, Lutterworth Road Leicester.
Manchester and Salford: Joint Secretaries: Mrs. E. Turkie, 25, Danesmore Road, Manchester, 20; Mrs. D. Lund, 8, Beech Walk, Alkrington, Middleton, near Manchester.
North Wales: Miss E. M. Tucker, Gwyndy, Llanddaniel, Gaerwen, Anglesey.
Nottingham: Mrs. Hodgson, 24, Warren Avenue, Sherwood, Notts.
Orpington: Mrs. Weiss, 19, The Avenue, Orpington, Kent.
Oxford: Mrs. C. Winsten, 10, St. Margaret's Road, Oxford.
Warrington: Mrs. Brookes, 28, Park Road, Sankey, Warrington, Lancs.
West Kirby: Mrs. Mason, 2, Victoria Road, West Kirby, Cheshire.
Worthing: Mrs. S. Cookson, Trelawney's Cottage, Sompting, Sussex.
Liverpool Regional Committee: Mrs. Piercy, 28, Montclair Drive, Liverpool, 18.

Obituary

Miss Mary Sheepshanks died in her sleep on 21st January, 1960, at the age of 87. She was a member of the Executive Committee from 1918-24 and from 1931-36; Honorary Secretary from 1931-34; Vice-Chairman in 1936 and Vice-President from 1937-40. She had also served as International Secretary in Geneva from 1927-30.

Miss Ruth Harrison, who died on April 14th, will be greatly missed by all London members who were privileged to know her. She gave valuable service in the Office for many years.

ANNUAL COUNCIL, 1960

For the first time in the history of the British Section, the Annual Council was held in Scotland. Excellent accommodation was provided at Jordanhill College of Education, Glasgow, and both Glasgow and Edinburgh Branches worked hard to ensure that the occasion should be a memorable one. Business sessions were as usual strenuous, but there were times of relaxation when we were entertained by the Scottish Junior Singers and by a team of Scottish Dancers; and especially when, on a very sunny afternoon, we were driven along the shores of "the three lochs". An Open Session was very well attended and was reported in both Glasgow morning newspapers.

The following resolutions were carried:—

WORLD FOOD RESERVE This Annual Council . . . asks that the United Kingdom representative to the United Nations should propose that a World Food Reserve be formed and operated by the United Nations to absorb surplus cereal production awaiting marketing, in order to maintain production and relieve distress in underfed populations and regulate prices in world markets.

"FREE THE WORLD FROM HUNGER" This Annual Council . . . welcomes the news that the United Kingdom is represented on the Advisory Campaign Committee of the "Free the World from Hunger" Campaign set up by the Food and Agriculture Organisation Conference last November. We ask HMG to contribute generously towards FAO's Special Campaign Fund, and to prepare for this world-wide campaign by a national effort to promote the full realisation and understanding of the paradoxical situation in which surpluses continue to exist side by side with hunger.

The Council also calls on its own members and Branches to study and discuss the background papers that are being published by FAO and other specialised agencies and to arouse public opinion to the problem of continued hunger and malnutrition, its causes and possible cures

WILPF MEMBERS IN RUSSIA This Annual Council . . . welcomes the Russian offer, made by Mme. Z. Fyodorova (Executive Secretary of the Soviet Women's Committee) to Mrs. Prosser, to discuss individual membership of our League with a view to the formation of a Section of the WILPF in the Soviet Union, and we urge that the British Section send a recommendation to International Headquarters in support of this.

DISARMAMENT This Annual Council . . . deplors the increase in military expenditure as outlined in the Government White Paper on Defence. It urges HMG to ensure that its future actions will be more consistent with its declared statements on the need for world disarmament and with its support of the United Nations resolution on general and complete disarmament passed unanimously in the last General Assembly.

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF DISARMAMENT This Annual Council . . . feeling deeply the need for a wider understanding of the economic consequences of disarmament and the dangers of unemployment if plans are not made in advance for the transfer of labour from military defence to schemes for world welfare, begs HMG to set up a commission to study the matter and publish the results of its enquiries. It believes that by so doing, HMG would indicate a desire for disarmament, thus helping to relieve world tensions and build up trust and confidence both at home and abroad.

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WARFARE This Annual Council . . . urges that research into all forms of bacteriological and chemical warfare by HMG be stopped forthwith, and that instead research should be undertaken for the benefit of mankind.

WESTERN GERMANY AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS This Annual Council . . . views with the greatest anxiety the proposal to supply West Germany with nuclear weapons and urges HMG to vote against this decision in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

SLAVERY This Annual Council . . . is greatly disturbed by reports of the recrudescence of kidnapping for the purpose of slavery or practices akin to slavery.

It believes that merely to report to the Human Rights Commission on legislation concerning the age and registration of marriage is not enough. It urges HMG to take definite steps to establish, through the Economic and Social Council, a United Nations Advisory Committee of Experts on slavery and related practices, which could review the slavery question throughout the world and make practical recommendations for abolishing slave trading, slavery and practices akin to slavery.

SHAM ADOPTION OF CHILDREN This Annual Council . . . is deeply concerned about the sham adoption of children for the purposes of child labour and the conditions, which may be akin to slavery, under which they are forced to live. It therefore asks the International Labour Office what action, if any, is being taken by the International Labour Office in relation to this subject.

WIDOWED MOTHERS' PENSIONS This Annual Council . . . urges HMG to act without delay in changing the law so that widows, struggling to bring up a family without a husband, are entitled to full pension rights in addition to their earnings.

TECHNICAL AID This Annual Council . . . urges HMG to support United Nations Agencies more generously in order to facilitate the flow of goods, services and advice of a scientific nature to countries where it is needed.

CLEAN RIVERS This Annual Council . . . affirms its support of the Clean Rivers (Estuaries and Tidal Waters) Bill being presented by Mr. J. E. Ramsden and hopes that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government as the instrument of Parliament will ensure that its provisions are observed in letter and spirit; and this Council also hopes that its provisions will also be extended to all coastal waters near populated areas.

TRAFFIC IN HORSES This Annual Council . . . greatly deplors the traffic in live horses from Eire to countries on the Continent and the suffering inevitably involved in transit and the alleged brutal treatment on arrival at their destinations. It is satisfactory to learn that the Government of Eire is taking notice of this problem and the WILPF hopes that legislation will soon be passed forbidding the traffic in horses.

ANIMAL RIGHTS This Annual Council . . . concerned at the increasing exploitation of animals by their use in chemical and biological research *for war purposes* and for tests in space travel, considers (because of the inevitable suffering involved and in some cases admitted by the researchers) that it is timely to call for the setting up of a special committee of enquiry into these matters, and for wider publicity regarding the capture, sale and transit of animals.

Further, because many of these experiments are unworthy of true science, and degrading to those taking part in them, it would appear neither absurd nor unreasonable to anticipate the forming within the framework of the United Nations of an International Charter of Animal Rights. Such a Charter would strengthen the work of such world-wide organisations as the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare and greatly comfort those who with Dr. Schweitzer believe that works of mercy and reverence for life must include animals of every species.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT (Emergency resolution) In view of the recent sentence of death on Jim Smith for the death of a policeman after a fall from a car, this Annual Council . . . re-affirms its total opposition to capital punishment.

HIGH COMMISSION TERRITORIES (Emergency resolution) The fast-moving events in the Union of South Africa make it imperative that we should hasten to put our own house in order. The British Section of the WILPF assembled in Annual Council therefore urgently petitions HMG to press forward with further economic and educational improvements in Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland so that Africans in the High Commission Territories may feel pride and encouragement in the status and conditions of their native lands and may not be compelled to seek employment elsewhere.

COMPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE It was agreed that a decision on this matter should be postponed until the next Annual Council, and that in the meantime the question should be fully discussed at the June Executive and in the Branches.

The Bye-law allowing every Branch to send a representative to the Executive was renewed without voting.

BALANCE SHEET—31st DECEMBER, 1959

CURRENT LIABILITIES				FIXED ASSETS							
1958		£	s. d.	1959		£	s. d.	1959		£	s. d.
£				£				£			
12	Accounts and Accrued Expenses	12	2 6								Not valued
69	Due to International Funds ...	151	3 1								
				163	5 7						
	CAPITAL FUND—										
	Balance, 1st January, 1959	557	5 8								
	Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	196	19 10								
557				754	5 6						
638				917	11 1						
	SPECIAL FUNDS—										
	<i>Ford Memorial Fund</i> —										
	Balance as last Account ...	86	4 8								
	Add Interest—Received ...	8	1 2								
86				94	5 10						
	<i>Jane Addams Memorial Fund, British Section</i> —										
	Balance as last Account ...	112	4 9								
	Less Transfer to Jane Addams Fund ... £101 14 9										
	Sundry Payments 8 19 1										
		110	13 10								
112				1 10 11							
	<i>Agatha Harrison Memorial Fund</i> —										
	Balance as last Account ...	114	1 11								
	Add amount received during year ...		1 10 0								
114				115	11 11						
£950				£1,128	19 9					£950	
											£1,128 19 9

I have audited the accounts of the Women's International League for the year ended 31st December, 1959, and certify that, in my opinion, the foregoing accounts are properly drawn up so as to exhibit the position of affairs in accordance with the information given me and as shown by the books.

13, Womersley Road,
Crouch End, London, N.8.

23rd March, 1960.

L. DAYAN, Chartered Accountant,
Hon. Auditor.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1959

1958	EXPENDITURE	1959	1958	INCOME	1959
£		£ s. d.	£		£ s. d.
128	Rent and Rates	130 15 7	340	Subscriptions	
15	Lighting and Heating	16 6 4	333	Donations from Individuals (in- cluding £100 from Barrow Cadbury Trust)	£314 8 6
29	Cleaning	29 5 0	326	Donations from Branches	454 10 8
42	General Expenses	45 16 7			768 19 2
2	Insurances	1 19 0	269	Branch Affiliation Fees	146 0 6
624	Salaries and National Insurance	598 8 0	18	Sales of Literature	7 12 6
	Travelling Expenses—		13	Meetings	12 17 6
119	General	£160 10 3	6	Building Society Interest	—
	Consultant Members to Inter- national Executive	—	18	Bank Interest	21 2 2
25		160 10 3	29	Annual Council	15 8 2
		4 3 0	2	Sundry Receipts	—
11	Affiliation Fees	4 3 0	20	Legacies	505 17 9
80	Postages	82 14 5	203	Balance—Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	—
97	Printing and Stationery	98 3 8			
53	Annual Reports	50 10 0			
30	Literature	18 17 10			
108	News Sheet—Cost of Printing (6 Issues)	£114 16 0			
25	Editor's Expenses	28 0 0			
		142 16 0			
30	Meetings and Hire of Rooms	26 19 6			
25	Telephones	27 6 6			
4	Bank Charges	3 15 6			
59	Repairs	—			
30	International Quota	30 0 0			
2	Corporation Duty	—			
30	Quota for Congress Report	—			
143	Expenses of Moscow Delegate	—			
134	Less Contributions Received	—			
—	Expenses of Delegates to Inter- national Congress	£337 10 0			
—	Less Receipts	237 13 0			
		99 17 0			
—	Contribution towards cost of Russian Delegation to United Kingdom	£50 0 0			
—	Less Receipts	2 13 3			
		47 6 9			
		1,615 10 11			
—	Balance—Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	196 19 10			
		£1,577			
		£1,812 10 9			
		£1,577			
		£1,812 10 9			

AFFILIATIONS

The British Section is affiliated to the following organisations: National Peace Council; Federal Union; British Commonwealth League; No-Conscription Council; East and West Friendship Council; SCESWUN; Women's Advisory Council of the UNA; Status of Women Committee; Women's Council (co-operating with Women of India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaya).

Organisations affiliated to the British Section are: London Congregational Union Women's Guild; Winchmore Hill Women's Adult School; Peckham Women's Co-operative Guild.

LONDON MEETINGS

Speakers and subjects included: Mr. M. W. Kanyama Chiume—*Nyasaland and Central Africa Federation*; Dr. Rita Hinden—*Reflections on an Asian Journey*; Mrs. V. L. Pandit—*Britain and India*; Mrs. M. Ballinger—*South Africa Background*; Dame Irene Ward, M.P.—*Interparliamentary Union*; Mr. David Ennals—*Problems for the Summit*; Baroness Elliot of Harwood—*World Refugee Year*; Philip Noel-Baker, P.C., M.P.—*The Prospects for Disarmament*; Mrs. Myrtle Radley—*Experiences in South Africa*; Mrs. Kulsum Sayani—*Women's Education in India*.

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