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OF POLITICAL AND  
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# PAX INTERNATIONAL

The W. I. L. P. F. aims at uniting women in all countries who are opposed to every kind of war, exploitation and oppression and who work for universal disarmament and for the solution of conflicts by the recognition of human solidarity, by conciliation and arbitration, by world co-operation, and by the establishment of social, political and economic justice for all, without distinction of sex, race, class or creed. The work of all the National Sections is based upon the statements adopted and the Resolutions passed by the International Congresses of the League.

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12, rue du Vieux-Collège, Geneva  
Jane Addams, Honorary President

## STATEMENT ON DISARMAMENT FOR PRESENTATION TO THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

"The W. I. L. P. F. deeply regrets that, one year and a half after its opening, the Disarmament Conference has not yet had effective results, and that on the contrary several powers are increasing their armaments and even re-arming. The W. I. L. P. F. recalls that certain countries have pledged themselves by the Covenant of the League of Nations and other articles of the Peace Treaties to reduce their armaments, and that they have recognised the principle of equality in disarmament.

"The W. I. L. P. F. would also recall that it has always stood for equality in disarmament, believing that such equality should be achieved by the total disarmament of all and not by the re-arming of any.

"Conscious of the danger to world peace which would come from a competition in armaments the W. I. L. P. F. demands more energetically than ever as immediate measures :

1) Massive reductions not only in the quality but in the quantity of existing armaments,

- 2) important budgetary reductions,
- 3) strict international regulation of all manufacture and trade in war materials.

"The W. I. L. P. F. considers that there should be strict guarantee that no one who in any way represents the interests of the armament trade should be included in the personnel charged with the international supervision of armaments. It further considers that international supervision can only be effective if the countries signing the Disarmament Convention should abolish (where such exists) all repressive measures at present applicable to persons giving information concerning armaments, and should pass national legislation giving the commission power to compel witnesses and guaranteeing complete impunity for all who may be called as witnesses or may offer to give evidence.

"The W. I. L. P. F. urges that in the case of a violation of a Disarmament Convention such violation should be submitted without delay to the Permanent Court of International Justice."

This resolution was sent to the big

International Manifestation which was organised by the International Consultative Group to take place on October 15th, the eve of the re-opening of the Disarmament Conference.

## INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND RESOLUTIONS

In spite of the difficulties created by the world political and economic situation, 12 countries were represented at the meeting of the Executive Committee in Geneva, held from September 23rd to 27th.

The decisions of the Committee tend to intensify work in defence of peace and liberty, today so gravely endangered.

The Committee voted the following resolutions besides the statement on Disarmament :

### *Trial concerning the Reichstag Fire*

The representatives of 12 countries, meeting in the International Executive Committee in Geneva, strongly protest at the accusation made despite lack of any evidence, that Torgler, Dimitrov, Tanov and Popov were connected with the burning of the Reichstag.

They are convinced that a condemnation of the accused would give rise to a wave of indignation throughout the world.

### *Victims of Political and Racial Hatred*

The W. I. L. P. F. supports the action of the Howard League for Penal Reform in working for an International Commission,

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demand the immediate creation of a Commission of enquiry and supervision of the situation with regard to victims of political and racial hatred. suggests to the League of Nations to create a bureau on the lines of that which existed during the war for prisoners of war.

#### Repressions in the Colonies

The W. I. L. P. F. considers that it would have no right to express its strong condemnation of the terrible outrages committed by the Fascist regimes if it did not express as strongly its condemnation of the cruel means of repression and arbitrary measures such as special tribunals, corporal punishments, ordinances embodied into laws, air bombing, etc., which are commonly used by the Colonial Powers, even those which claim to be real democracies, against extra-European countries subjected to their rule—such as India, Indochina and others.

#### CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE OF WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Executive Committee of the W. I. L. P. F. decided to take the initiative in organising a Consultative Conference which will be of a strictly private character and will be held on November 18th and 19th in Paris. The Conference will be an exchange of views tending to coordinate and harmonise the work of different women's organizations which are ready to take action in defence of women against Fascism.

#### DEPUTATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Miss Dingman, chairman of the Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organizations, one of the members of the deputation which had an interview with the International Committee of the Red Cross on May 23rd (see June *Pax*), received a letter from their secretary on September 23rd in which he expressed the view that the attitude of the International Committee of the Red Cross was not correctly stated in the article published in *Pax* for June 1933. We therefore publish in full the letter of the International Committee of the Red Cross received four weeks after the deputation.

We regret very much that in spite of our repeated requests for an earlier

written statement of the point of view of the International Committee of the Red Cross, such a statement was not received before our article had to go to press for the June *Pax*. The letter of the International Committee of the Red Cross, dated June 1st, reads as follows (translation):

"Miss Dingman,  
Geneva,

Dear Madam,  
"With reference to the visit which you kindly made us three weeks ago and to conversations with Miss Baer as well as to our recent telephone communications, I have the honour of informing you that Colonel Favre submitted your request to his colleagues at the last meeting of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"The International Committee recognized that there is great similarity in our ways of looking at things. As M. Favre had the opportunity of explaining to you, we quite realise the insufficiency of technical methods in the protection of the civil population against the frightful dangers of aero-chemical warfare. The resolutions of the Committee of Chemical Experts as well as those of recent international Conferences of the Red Cross, have led us to study the problem of protection of the civil population from the legal point of view. The legal experts whom we consulted on this matter, as well as the Commission of Jurists which we brought together in Geneva in December 1931, pointed out clearly that it was almost impossible to guarantee the safety of the population against the dangers which would beset it in case of a new war. The Commission of Jurists—according to the document which I sent you—convinced us that protection based on a new international convention cannot be the object of full confidence. The reasons are given in the document mentioned. The Commission was almost unanimously of opinion that abolition of war could alone bring protection to the civil population.

"In view of this situation which we brought to the attention of the Disarmament Conference whose decisions we are awaiting, the International Committee of the Red Cross has fallen back on the possibilities of technical protection, however small they may be.

"As regards the national societies of the Red Cross, their program is at present similarly inclined. We do not believe that the technical measures of protection which are taken in different countries (construction of shelters, distribution of masks, exercises with masks,

etc.) tend to spread a false sense of security among the population. In any case we found no sign of such feeling in the literature collected by our Research Committee.

"The International Committee does not wish to encroach on the field of work of the Disarmament Conference and it awaits the latter's decisions. Not until they have been made, can the Committee pass a resolution as to the line to be taken. Taking everything into consideration, the Committee cannot interfere in technical questions which belong in the national sphere of action."

#### THE U. S. SECTION AND CUBAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS

Once again the United States Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has demonstrated the far-sighted wisdom of its policies.

On Pan American Day, April 18, 1932, during the annual meeting of the organization the delegates addressed themselves to a practical expression of Pan Americanism by launching a campaign for the withdrawal of the support of the United States government from the Machado administration in Cuba and the repeal of the Platt Amendment.

At that time the people of the United States had little knowledge of the Cuban political situation. With vigor the officers began to send delegations and resolutions to government officials and to secure publicity. The main part of the work was done by the Pennsylvania and Maryland Branches under the leadership of Ellen Starr Brinton, Field Secretary for the Pennsylvania Branch and Chairman of the National Committee on South American Contacts; Mrs. Mildred Scott Olmsted, Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Branch; Mrs. Samuel Wolfe of Philadelphia; and Mary W. Williams and Esther J. Crooks of Goucher College, Baltimore. On December 10, 1932, the Women's International League and cooperating organizations held in Washington an Institute on Cuban-American Affairs. In this conference a committee of Cubans and Americans was appointed to continue publicity on this question. In March 1933 a pamphlet summarizing the activities of the Women's International League in the Cuban political situation was published by Esther J. Crooks.

When Senator Borah spoke at the annual dinner of the United States Section of the Women's International League, May 20, 1933, he emphatically

expressed his conviction that the United States should withdraw support from the tyrannical administration of Machado.

The first point in the resolutions of the League concerning Cuba, the termination of the Machado administration, was accomplished in August 1933. The League heartily commends President Roosevelt for his intelligent interest in Cuban affairs and his selection of Sumner Welles as special ambassador to Cuba. As Dorothy Detzer, National Executive Secretary, said in a letter to President Roosevelt: "We are indeed happy that the Machado regime has finally been terminated and that the revolution has been accomplished by almost non-violent means. We regret that it seemed necessary to make any kind of military gesture by dispatching warships to Cuban waters, but we do hope that the economic problems which are at the heart of Cuba's difficulties may be solved with the same dispatch and sympathetic understanding as Ambassador Welles' diplomatic mission."

The second recommendation of the League, the repeal of the Platt Amendment, is still before us. This Act, approved by the Congress of the United States, March 2, 1901, and incorporated in a Treaty between the United States and Cuba concluded May 22, 1903, and proclaimed July 2, 1904, imposes restrictions upon the freedom of the Cuban government in the matter of entering upon treaties, contracting public debts and allowing intervention by the United States for the preservation of Cuban independence and for the maintenance of a government adequate to protect life, liberty and property. The forcing of these regulations upon a very unwilling people was fundamentally wrong because Cuba understood when the United States aided her in 1898 in her war against Spain that the United States was doing so with no ulterior motive. A second reason for the repeal of the Platt Amendment is that it is outmoded. As Cuba belongs now to the League of Nations it is not likely that she will have to depend upon the United States for aid in preserving her independence in case of invasion by a foreign power. Also the retention of the right to intervene in Cuba is contrary to the non-intervention policy of our Government in recent years. Some people object to the repeal of the Platt Amendment because American business interests in the island might become unsafe. We are not convinced that American business interests are worth more than the rights of Cuban citizens. American business men cannot be absolutely sure that destructive

revolutions will occur if the United States relinquishes her right to intervene in Cuba. The recent change of government, for example, took place by means of strikes, with a minimum of bloodshed, and with little danger to American life and property.

The economic stability of Cuba, as well as her political independence, is necessary. The United States government is at present concerned with a program for the economic restoration of the island by a new tariff agreement, the reorganization of the internal and external debts of the Cuban government and the redistribution of Cuban sugar and tobacco workers in order that they may produce much of their own subsistence. Since plans are under way for economic improvement it seems better for the Women's International League to concentrate its attention on one point, the repeal of the Platt Amendment.

An enthusiastic effort in the direction of the repeal of the Platt Amendment would develop still greater confidence in the League on the part of Cubans. To date the work of the League for Cuba has drawn favorable comment from many Cubans. In one instance the news of the efforts of the League led Sra. Elena de la Pena, President of the Intercambio Femenino Internacional, to request that a group of members of the Women's International League should come to Cuba this past summer to assist in the restoration of peace in the island. Several distinguished Cubans have stated recently that they would like to have organized in Havana a Cuban Branch of the Women's International League. They desire to affiliate with this international organization whose genuine interest in peace and freedom they have seen demonstrated.

Esther J. Crooks,  
Chairman, Continuation Committee  
on Cuban-American Affairs. Baltimore, Maryland, U. S. A.

Since the action described in the above report, the First Region Conference of the United States Section, meeting at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, September 15, 16, and 17, approved the following action:

1. Sustaining the President in his declared intentions of non-intervention in Cuba.
2. Urging recognition by the United States of a government in Cuba acceptable to the Cuban people even though not desired by American business men.
3. Work for the repeal of the Platt Amendment.

#### NATIONALITY OF WOMEN

The First Committee (Legal Questions) of the Assembly of the League of Nations examined the question of nationality of women.

M. Gajardo (Chine) proposed that the Assembly should invite Governments before its next ordinary session to express their opinion as to the advisability of confirming the principle of the equality of sexes as regards nationality by a protocol open to the signature of States.

The Chairman noted that the proposal was for reference to next year's Assembly and that there should not therefore be a discussion on the substance of the question.

Mme Malaterre Sellier (France) supported the proposal of the Chilean delegate and the procedure suggested by the Chairman.

After statements by Sir Thomas Wilford (New Zealand); Mr. Perassi (Italy), Mr. Bela de Szent Istvany (Hungary), Miss Kerstin Hesselgren (Sweden) and Sir William Malkin (Great Britain), the Chairman suspended the meeting to enable the Chilean delegation to submit a resolution.

When the meeting was resumed, the Chilean delegation submitted the following text:

"The Assembly,

In view of the resolution voted by the 13th Assembly on October 12th, 1932, on the question of the nationality of women,

Having considered the suggestions made by the Chilean delegation with regard to this question, which, at the request of his Government, had been placed on the Agenda of the 14th Assembly,

Considering that a certain number of States have in their legislation provided for a very wide application of the principle of the equality of sexes,

Requests the Secretary-General to ask those States which took part in the codification Conference at the Hague to take a decision as to the advisability of establishing during the next session of the Assembly a protocol confirming equality of the sexes as regards nationality, to be open to the signature of the States that desire to accede to it.

Sir William Malkin noted that this text cancelled the procedure laid down by last year's resolution which instructed the Council to follow the question and to decide at what moment it would take it up. For this reason he would abstain from voting.

The Persian, Australian, German, Hungarian, African, Netherlands, Canadian



and Danish delegates declared that they would also abstain from voting.

M. Basdevant (France) proposed that to reconcile the views, the last paragraph of the Chilian draft should be replaced by the following text :

"Expresses the hope that before the next session of the Assembly the Governments will have made it possible for the Secretary General to communicate to the Council information as to the action which they may have been able to take in regard to recommendation 6 of the Codification Conference."

The Committee adopted the amended resolution unanimously and closed its meetings.

### QUESTION OF REFUGEES

The Sections of the League which are keenly interested in the question of Refugees, will be glad to hear that the Assembly of the League of Nations, has decided to recommend to the Council the creation of a High Commissariat for Refugees. The High Commissioner's responsibility will be very great. He will be able to call diplomatic conferences and set up an organization capable of solving some of the grave problems which have arisen from the forced emigration of thousands of persons.

## THE WAR IN THE GRAN CHACO

Many leaders in Europe and the United States do not realize the importance of the war between Bolivia and Paraguay over the Grand Chaco... More « interests » are at stake in the Chaco than appear on the surface, otherwise a settlement would have been secured before now.

For a year war was waged *undeclared*. May 10th Paraguay published that a « state of war existed ». At that time Paraguay had approximately 70,000 men in service and Bolivia probably 100,000, and there were hospitals in every town from Asuncion to La Paz. To date some 25,000 wounded, sick and worn out soldiers have returned to Asuncion from the Chaco. The number of dead is unknown (some say 10,000 Paraguayans and 30,000 Bolivians).

Paraguay thought the peace agencies of the world would prevent war and was not prepared to fight. Bolivia had prepared for years. She claims the Chaco as does Paraguay. She states that she is willing to arbitrate, but actually refuses to do so. Paraguay accepted the Mendoza Pact without reservation... This pact was arranged by Argentine, Brazil, Chile and Peru. Bolivia wishes to

discuss the question « All the Chaco belongs to Bolivia », while Paraguay wishes to have the boundary line between themselves and Bolivia in the Gran Chaco determined. For Paraguay the question is one of limits, for Bolivia it is one of territory...

*Summary of an article by Dr Arthur Elwood Elliott, Colegio Internacional, Asuncion, Paraguay, August 9, 1933.*

### NOTES

#### The World Peace Organization,

which has headquarters in Jerusalem, has issued a Call for the Erection of the World Peace Palace in Jerusalem. All information can be had through the World Peace Organization, Post Office Box 906, Jerusalem.

#### Books.

The A. B. C. of the Peace Movement, by Anna T. Nilsson can be ordered through W. I. L. Headquarters, price 1 franc. A French edition has recently appeared.

**In view of the Financial Situation, the next number of "PAX" will appear in December.**

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