

PAX INTERNATIONAL

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Editor: MISS KARLEEN BAKER

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INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS of the W.I.L.P.F. AT LUHACOVICE, JULY, 1937

Tentative Agenda

SUNDAY, JULY 25th.

Chairmen's Meeting and, if desired, Standing Committee Meetings.

MONDAY, JULY 26th.

Executive Meeting; Congress Committee Meeting.

TUESDAY, JULY 27th

Morning Session.

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.

Afternoon Session.

- I. Creation of a Real League of Nations.
 1. Total and Universal Disarmament on Land, on Sea, and in the Air, and Internationalization of Civil Aviation.
 2. Limitation and Regulation of State Sovereignty.
 3. Development and Extension of International Arbitration.
- II. Colonial Questions: Political, Economic, Cultural, Juridical.
- III. International Planned Economy.
- IV. International Basis of Exchange (Creation of an International Currency, possibly at first side by side with the National Currencies).

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28th.

Morning Session.

The same topics continued.

Afternoon Session.

What deductions as regards National Action follow from the Conclusions reached in the discussion on International Measures?—Immediate steps to be taken.

THURSDAY, JULY 29th.

Morning Session.

1. Nominations for Executive Committee.
2. Actualities: Political topics of the day *including* any contribution from Standing Committees: (Spain, Question of Minorities, Amnesty of Political Prisoners, Equality of Status, etc.).

Afternoon Session.

No Congress Session—Committee Meetings.

FRIDAY, JULY 30th.

Morning Session.

Political topics of the day continued.

Afternoon Session.

Report of Resolution Committee and Discussion.

Evening Session.

Vote on Resolutions (No Discussion).

SATURDAY, JULY 31st.

Morning Session.

1. Short Reports of National Sections on political and economic developments in their countries since the Spring Executive Meeting.
2. Ratification of Admission of New Sections.
3. Cancelling of Sections.

Afternoon Session. W.I.L.P.F. Business.

CLOSED MEETING.

1. Internal Affairs. Amendments thereon will be voted at 5.30 p.m.
2. Elections.

Evening Session.

Unfinished Business.

Meeting Place of Congress

The Congress is to be held from July 27 to 31 at Luhacovice—Czecho-Slovakia, a well-known spa lying among beautiful forests about 1,000 feet above sea level. It is on the main line from Prague, Dresden, Vienna and Budapest and there is good and modern accommodation available.

Accommodation

Comfortable rooms with running hot and cold water are at the disposal of all Congress members. Price for room and full board is Kc. 45 - 50. All rooms to be booked at Luhacovice only.

Address—Kurdirektion des Bades Luhacovice—
Mähren—Czechoslovakia.
'Phone 361 or 362.

On application reference ought to be made to conditions granted to W.I.L.P.F. Congress members.

Hospitality

Though our Czech Section have no Group in Luhacovice whose members could offer hospitality they have, in their usual generous way, offered bed and breakfast to 20 delegates. Will members of National Sections confer on this matter and apply for one or two of their delegates direct to *Lola Hanouskova, Orechova 346, Prague XVIII* (phone PRAHA 726 - 90), so that as many Sections as possible may profit from this kind offer, which will certainly mean a great help to many of them.

Excursions

The Section is preparing an excursion to the BAT'A works at Zlin, near Luhacovice, and to other places in the neighbourhood. A big Public Meeting in the open air is being planned and a Reception will be arranged by our friends. The local wireless station will be at our disposal.

Reduction on Fares

The Czech Railway Company grants a special reduction of 66⅔% on the return ticket from Luhacovice on condition that the usual fare is paid for the journey to Luhacovice. Members ought, on paying for their tickets, to ask for a certificate entitling them to a reduced return fare.

May we also draw your attention to another reduction which might prove valuable? The Austrian Railways offer 60% reduction to tourists who are staying in Austria for at least seven days.

Appeal for Funds

In order to ensure a successful Congress, funds will have to be raised. The Australian Section has generously sent a donation, even before the appeal went out, which amounts to just over 100 Swiss Francs. For this we are most grateful. The following is an appeal from our Hon. Vice-President:—

"Our 9th International Congress will be held in Czecho-Slovakia at the end of July. Only a few months lie between us and the opening of the Congress. Preparatory work in our Geneva office is in full swing. But increased activity necessitates greater financial backing.

"We take for granted that our co-workers, National

Sections and International Members wish to contribute to the Congress Funds though we know only too well that in these times of economic uncertainty and distress more and more frequent demands are made on you for support of both national and international work.

"But this must not and shall not hinder us. We must, despite all difficulties, redouble our efforts and procure the necessary funds for our 9th Congress.

"We do not need to explain how vital it is to hold our Congress at this particular moment when freedom and humanity are being trodden under foot.

"The holding of this Congress is more than a duty laid on us by our Constitution; there is urgent need to provide women with the possibility of making their voices heard.

"We must start work at once. Each Section should make a special contribution of at least 20 Swiss francs; use every opportunity, public or private, to collect funds; and induce each member to give personally one Swiss franc. International Members and friends of the W.I.L.P.F. can contribute according to their means.

"All contributions should be sent to Louisa Jaques, International Bureau, 12 Rue du Vieux-Collège, earmarked "for Congress".

"We send you our thanks in advance. You know that your support is vital and always appreciated. We count on you, in remembrance of long years of work in common and in reliance on our fundamental unity—though many differences divide us—to do your utmost. The world situation and the situation of our own W.I.L.P.F. make this 9th Congress an imperative necessity."

RAPPORT FINAL SUR LA CAMPAGNE DU MANDAT DES PEUPLES

Depuis Septembre dernier le travail du Secrétariat du Comité du Mandat a consisté :

1° à faire connaître le plus largement possible par des circulaires, des articles de journaux, des conférences, des chroniques radio, des lettres les résultats de la Campagne et en particulier ce qui concernait la *présentation du Livre d'Or à la S.d.N.*

2° à continuer le travail dans certains pays qui n'avaient pas achevé leur campagne et dans d'autres qui ne l'avaient pas commencée.

On sait que le Livre d'Or avait présenté les résultats obtenus en Australie, en Grande Bretagne, en Hollande, au Danemark, en Suède, en Norvège, en Finlande, en Hongrie, en Autriche, en Yougoslavie, en Tchecho-slovaquie.

Depuis Septembre les Comités de Suisse et de France ont présenté à leur tour les résultats à leurs Gouvernements respectifs de Berne et de Paris.

Des signatures individuelles ou collectives ont été reçues de Bulgarie, de Grèce, d'Égypte, d'Afrique du Sud, de Nouvelle Zélande, de Roumanie, d'Irlande, d'Esthonie, d'Algérie, de Tunisie et de France. Ces signatures ont été recueillies par certaines organisations: Union Chrétienne des Femmes tempérantes (N. Zélande, Bulgarie), Société des Amis (Afrique du Sud), Syndicats d'Instituteurs, Groupes Socialites, Loges Maçonniques (France).

De plus la secrétaire a pu faire personnellement adopter le texte du Mandat dans plus de 30 conférences, par plus

de 11,000 personnes. Elle a pu parler de la Campagne Internationale au cours de 5 *causeries par radio* à Paris et à Lyon.

En ce moment 500 listes en circulation dans divers pays ne sont pas rentrées. Les syndicats tunisiens ont demandé des listes *il y a 2 mois*.

L'ensemble des nouvelles signatures ou adhésions individuelles comptées s'élève à plus de 36.00 et nous comptons l'adhésion de plus de 30 groupes locaux. Mais nous n'avons pas le nombre exact des adhérents des organisations ayant accepté le Mandat en Suisse, en Égypte, en Grèce, aux Indes. Si nous comptons très modestement pour ces 4 pays 500.000 personnes, en ajoutant ces résultats aux 10 millions d'adhésions obtenus en Septembre et en rappelant que 5 organisations internationales comptant environ 3.500.000 membres ont adhéré au Mandat, nous sommes au-dessous de la vérité en disant que nous avons touché dans l'ensemble plus de 14 millions de personnes.

De plus nous avons fait connaître la Campagne du Comité Européen et du Comité Américain dans les journaux de 41 pays.

Le rapport actuel sera en Mars diffusé dans la mesure du possible vu l'absence de ressources financières. L'intérêt que présente cette campagne ne saurait échapper à personne.

1° parce que les revendications exprimées de façon modérée mais claire dans le texte du Mandat sont précisément celles que vont être au 1° rang des préoccupations internationales :

réduction des armements et collaboration économique.

2° Le fait de faire connaître d'un hémisphère à l'autre le travail accompli me semble assez important au moment où les Etats Unis se préoccupent de plus en plus de l'Europe et de ces graves questions de l'armement et du nationalisme économique.

La campagne a été menée avec des ressources très réduites et dans une période où toute action de ce genre est très difficile. Mais les difficultés ne sauraient arrêter ceux qui veulent contre vents et marée maintenir les principes de leur idéal le paix désarmée. La Campagne du Mandat m'apparaît comme le préface d'une action énergique en faveur du désarmement total et universel.

Etant désignée pour collaborer avec la Section des Etats Unis pour le rapport sur le Désarmement, je proposerai à la Ligue de reprendre l'action pour le *désarmement total et universel*.

C. DREVET.

U.S.A. PRESENTS PEOPLE'S MANDATE PETITIONS TO DR. SAAVEDRA LAMAS

The People's Mandate to-day presented their petitions, bearing more than a million signatures, to outlaw war to Dr. Carlos Saavedra Lamas in an impressive ceremony in his office in the Anchorena Palace.

The petitions bearing the signatures were wheeled in upon a table. When the original plea for peace was made last Friday on behalf of the People's Mandate the actual documents were held up by the Argentine customs

officials. When they were finally released Dr. Saavedra Lamas made an appointment for yesterday for their official exhibition but he was unable to keep it because of the detained session of Congress.

Undeterred, thirty women returned to-day and succeeded in impressing the Nobel peace prize winner with the sincerity of their efforts. Miss Mabel Vernon of Washington explained the purpose of the People's Mandate. She told Dr. Saavedra Lamas that the Mandate made three points: the danger from mounting world armaments, the need for perfecting the existing peace machinery, and the necessity of ending the existing economic anarchy.

Dr. Saavedra Lamas, in reply, told the women that the cathedral of peace had, in addition to an architect and the publicized contributors, nameless workers who probably were the most important. He hoped that when the edifice was finished these women who had taken the trouble to give a concrete form to the undoubted sentiment of the masses of the world for peace would receive their just credit.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS OF BRITISH SECTION

The twenty-first Annual Council Meetings were held from February 23 - 25 in London and there was a good attendance of delegates throughout the three days. There were a number of items of special interest besides the discussion of resolutions. Mr. Thomas Balogh, a young Hungarian economist, at present lecturing at London University, gave a clear and thorough survey of the European situation which served as a good background for the discussions on resolutions. Miss Agatha Harrison, just back from a tour in India, gave a survey of the situation in that country, pleading at the same time for a more sympathetic understanding of the terribly difficult situation that has arisen over the New Constitution.

Miss Catherine Marshall opened the discussion on "A new Peace" and Miss Edith Pye gave a report on the International Executive and its recent work.

Spain

The seriousness of the Spanish situation was in everyone's mind and after a long discussion a resolution was passed; this, with a covering letter, signed personally by a representative from every branch present, was sent immediately to Mr. Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary.

The terms were as follows:—

"This Annual Council of the Women's International League holds that the armed assistance given by Germany and Italy to the Insurgents is an act of international aggression and a danger to world peace; and that the delays and secrecy of the Non-Intervention Committee have been tantamount to acquiescence in continued violation of the Non-Intervention Agreement.

"While believing that non-intervention should have been carried through by the League of Nations, it welcomes the Agreement at length reached by twenty-seven nations to extend non-intervention to include a ban on volunteers and to institute a system of frontier control to supervise the observance of the Agreement.

"It urges His Majesty's Government, in order to render this control effective:

- (1) to insist that the supervision of all Coasts should include neutral observers, that in no case it be left to the Germans and Italians alone, and that there should be frequent public reports on the results of supervision.
- (2) to press for agreement on the withdrawal of foreign soldiers now in Spain, and when this is accomplished, to propose to the League of Nations that means should be sought, consonant with the dignity of the Spanish people and their Government, to bring about conditions under which avenues to peace could be explored.
- (3) if intervention is continued, to appeal to the League Council to recognise this as aggression and to apply a financial and economic boycott against any Governments violating the non-intervention agreement.

A second resolution asked the representative of H.M. Government at Geneva to press for the appointment of an International Commission to assist with the evacuation of civilians from bombarded areas.

Resolutions on many subjects including Reduction of Trade Barriers, Profit on Arms Industry and the Government's "Defence Estimates" were passed.

21st Birthday Party

During the Annual Council Meetings, while delegates were together in London, the 21st Anniversary of the Foundation of the W.I.L.P.F. was celebrated by a Birthday Party. Those who went to the Hague for the first Congress in April, 1915, those who were prevented from going by the closing of the North Sea, and members of the first National Executive were entertained as Guests of Honour by the present Executive Committee. As no Birthday Party is complete without presents we had envelopes printed in which we suggested that members should enclose a gift in the form of twenty-one coins or treasury notes. The Party was a great success in every way and about 200 friends met together including about 30 of the "Old Gang". Miss Marshall took the Chair for a series of short speeches by Miss Courtney, Miss Bondfield, Miss Pethick Lawrence and Mrs. Harold Hills, and Mrs. Duncan Harris wound up on behalf of the present Executive.

A beautiful birthday cake with twenty-one candles was cut by Miss Ashton and one of the young members of the present Executive.

Messages were received from Mrs. Swanwick, Miss Chrystal MacMillan and others who were unable to be present. One message from Evelyn Sharp, the well-known writer and leader of the women's movement, we print here, as we think it will be an inspiration to all readers of *Pax*.

"Two things that in my memory shine out like stars against the dark background of the Great War are the Christmas truce of the soldiers at the Front and the meeting of the women from belligerent and other countries, at the Hague, each within six months of the outbreak of hostilities.

"Both were adventures of the finest kind; and I am proud to remember that, although my own part in the formation of the Women's International League was infinitesimal, I was at least one of the little group of women who met at Tilbury Dockhead in the early spring of 1915, prevented at the last minute from carrying a message of conciliation to their European sisters. Exasperated as they felt at this check to the British end of the experiment, they may have taken some comfort from the thought that, while a certain section of the Press derided them as "Peacettes in their Fifth Floor Eyrie" (a picturesque reference to an inexpensive office in Victoria Street), they had scared the First Lord of the Admiralty into closing the North Sea for the duration of the Congress, sooner than let loose so dangerous a company of agitators upon the battlefields of Europe. It was a beautiful thought, I remember.

"The Women's International League has done much since that dramatic birth, almost within sound of the guns. The best birthday wish I or any woman can send it on its 21st anniversary is the profound hope that neither the futility of statesmen nor the fears of peoples, neither lack of faith nor lack of vision, present as all these conditions are wherever men and women are gathered together in nations, will ever again combine at one awful moment to produce a situation which shall call for it to be re-born for the same purpose. To that I would add a further hope, if not a conviction, that, were this to happen, not a little group of women, but a vast concourse of men and women together, would rise up in every country to denounce so hideous a human error."

NEWS FROM AMERICAN SECTION

The U.S. Section now has two field secretaries working under Mildred Scott Olmsted's direction—Eleanor Eaton and Helen Hart. Since January they have been travelling in all the central States, as far west as Utah. The growth of State and Local Branches is slow but steady. Texas and Illinois are two of the most recently organized groups to be recognised as State Branches.

A new bulletin released from Washington headquarters has just made its appearance—*W.I.L. Labour Front*—edited by Eleanor Fowler, the National Labour Secretary. A mimeographed one-page sheet, it carries news of certain national legislation of importance to the W.I.L., and of the work being done by the Branches where Labour Chairmen are already at work.

Minnesota, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania State Branches send news bulletins, either mimeographed or printed, to their members. *The Peace Panorama*, published each month by the Minnesota Branch, is the most ambitious, being a printed four-page newspaper carrying articles of local and international interest.

Dorothy Detzer has been working practically day and night on the Neutrality Bills now before Congress. Mandatory neutrality is being urged by the W.I.L. and a number of other national peace groups. General debate in Congress is scheduled for the near future.