

*signed minutes*

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM, British Section  
Flat 16, 144, Southampton Row, W.C.1., Terminus 4116

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 5th February, 1952

The following members were present:-

Mrs Lydia de Swiet in the Chair  
Mrs N. Weiss, Mrs O. Sutherst, Mrs G. Needham, Miss Agatha Harrison,  
Miss Maud Dickinson, Miss A.M. Bailes, Mrs G.L. Barber, Mrs E.W. Pick  
Mrs Dora Holden, Mrs G.R. McGregor, Mrs C. Holmes, Mrs Duncan Harris,  
Mrs Mary Nuttall, Miss Christian McAra, Mrs Agnes Stapledon, Mrs  
Ineson, Mrs D.C.M. Warner, Mrs Ballinger, Miss Hargreaves, Mrs.  
Schlessmann, Mrs Cusden.

Apologies were received from:-

The Hon. Mrs Franklin, Dr. M.F. Lloyd Prichard, Mrs N. Greaves,  
Mrs McGregor Ross, Mrs Margaret Wickham.

The Minutes were confirmed and signed

#### Matters Arising

(2021) (1) Polish Group Mrs de Swiet reported that she, together with Mrs Warner and Mrs Ritchie Calder, had met the officers of the Polish Group and discussed their resignation. She felt that politically their views were very widely different from ours and that they were working mainly for a Federated Europe. Mrs Warner felt that in spite of differences there was a large measure of agreement in the constructive side of building for peace especially in education. They were anxious to form a Polish Section in Exile and it was decided to urge them to press for the formation of a world section which is allowed for in the International Constitution

2021d (2) Japanese Women It was reported that there had been no replies to letters sent.

2024 (3) National Free Church Women's Council. Mrs Ineson reported that she had received a personal apology from the President but no formal reply from the Executive. It was decided to press the matter further.

2028 (4) Malaya Mrs Warner had gone through all the available Press cuttings at the RIIA and had sent an interim reply to Miss Marie Lous-Mohr saying that, as far as could be discovered, there was no justification for the use of the term "concentration camps" (an expression the meaning of which has been wholly changed since it was first coined) to describe either of the two types of camp which have been established in Malaya. This did not of course necessarily imply our approval of their existence. No answer had been received from Miss Lous-Mohr. Malaya had been the subject of a programme in the BBC series "Taking Stock". It was decided to send a letter of appreciation to those responsible for it and to express the hope that other difficult problems would be treated similarly.

It was also decided that, after a further discussion in the Parliamentary Committee, the officers should draft a letter to H.M.G. on behalf of the Executive.

2031 Correspondence A letter of resignation was read from Mrs Mitchiner. It was decided to ask her to reconsider it and Mrs Stapledon offered to see her to talk over her difficulties which Mrs Stapledon felt were shared by others. It was felt by some that an opportunity should be given in the near future to discuss our aims and different view points.

The news of Miss Emily Horscroft's restoration to

health was received with great satisfaction.

Congratulations were to be sent to Mrs Cicely J Cooke on her election to the International Presidency of the Women's Co-operative Guild.

The closing down of the Sheffield Branch was confirmed and regrets were expressed. It was hoped that the remaining members would transfer to H.Q.

It was noted that the Secretary of Long Eaton Branch could no longer carry on her work. It was decided to write to each member, Mrs Stapledon offering to draft the letter, explaining the position and expressing the hope that the Branch would be able to carry on its activities.

It was also decided to write to Mrs Probert concerning the difficulties of Acocks Green Branch.

2632

Status of Women Committee Mrs Nuttall briefly reported on the work of this Committee during 1951. Considerable information has been submitted to the International Status of Women Commission of UN in reply to their questionnaire on Family Law and Property rights in England and Wales.

Action of some kind has been taken in connection with the following:-

1. Children's Passports
2. Equal Moral Standard
3. Domicile of Married Women
4. Distinguished Strangers Gallery in House of Commons
5. Legal Status and Treatment of Women
6. Royal Commission on Taxation of Profits and Income
7. General Election 1951

The work during the past year emphasises the value of having a co-ordinating Committee, to which members each bring their specialist knowledge so that action may be taken in pursuit of the Committee's object of securing for women equal status with men.

2088

Annual Council Agenda A preliminary agenda recommended by the officers was approved with some slight alterations.

Mrs Pick announced the arrangements suggested by the Leicester Branch for Saturday afternoon and extended an invitation to the Council to a bus outing followed by tea and an open session to which representatives of other women's organisations would be invited. Leicester Branch was warmly thanked.

The Annual Report was to be prepared by Mrs Ineson and Mrs Warner and for the sake of economy was to be stencilled and produced on the Gestetner.

2034

International W.I.L.P.F. Affairs Mrs Stapledon reported that it was now definite that the Congress would be postponed till 1953. The British Section's invitation for Congress to be held in this country had been emphasised and the need for an early answer was stressed so that preparations in the booking of a Conference Centre would proceed in good time. The meeting of the International Executive could not take place until July or August this year and would be held in France at the invitation of the French Section.

2035

Current Affairs

- 1) Miss Harrison spoke on some of her impressions of the Sixth Assembly in Paris mentioning in particular the Kashmir discussions in the Security Council. This problem, which has been before the U.N. for over four years, has often been marked by acute tension. But on Jan. 30th and 31st India and Pakistan gave a striking example of the way such

discussions should be conducted by their restrained and statesmanlike speeches. The atmosphere created augured well for the next difficult stage. Dr. Graham, the United Nations Mediator, was asked to return to the sub-continent at once, and continue his efforts - with the two Governments - and report to the Security Council on March 31st. Miss Harrison urged members to follow this situation closely.

2) Miss Harrison reported that Lady Mountbatten was proceeding to the Far East and Korea in connection with her work as Commandant of the St John's Ambulance Brigade. It was decided to send a telegram conveying our thankfulness that she was undertaking this visit and that Lady Parmoor should be asked to sign it.

2036 Finance Mrs Holden reported that Mr Dayan was going through the accounts for 1951 in readiness for the Balance Sheet for the Annual Council. The financial position at the end of 1951 was very grave. Time did not permit of any report of the International Account (Account Number 2) held by the British Section.

2037 Any Other Business It was decided to invite the Rev Ronald Orchard to speak at the next Executive on the question of the Federation of N. and S. Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

2038 Date of Next Meeting The next meeting of the Executive Committee to be held on March 4th, 1952

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#### Postscript to Minutes

#### Parliamentary Committee

As there was no time to give the usual report of the Committee's brief notes are added here:

- 1) A letter was received from Mr Eden in reply to that of the Committee on the subject of the appointment of a woman to the new Embassy.
- 2) S.W. Africa
  - a. A letter was sent to Lord Ismay expressing satisfaction at the solution of the Tshekedi Khama problem and hopes that in due course that of Seretse Khama might also be solved.
  - b. On advice from Miss A. Harrison, it was decided to make no further protest about Michael Scott's "banishment" by Dr. Malan.
  - c. Corporal Punishment: The Committee decided to get advice from the Howard League. A letter was also sent to Miss Baer. Miss Dickinson carefully scrutinised all available UN material and kept the committee informed of the situation.
  - d. The proposed federation of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland was considered. A recommendation to the Executive was put forward to invite the Rev Ronald Orchard to speak to them on this problem.
- 3) Disarmament When the meeting of the "Big Four" took place in Paris under the President of the UN, a letter was drafted by a small group, including officers of the Manchester Branch, and sent to all four delegates and to the Chairman. Mr Selwyn Lloyd replied by return of post. A letter was sent to Mr Eden asking for a fair consideration of Soviet proposals
- 4) UNESCO Gift Coupon Scheme It was decided
  - a. to ask the Editor to give details of the scheme in the

News Sheet and

b. to bring the proposal to the attention of the Executive.

5) Refugees

a. It was decided to prepare and distribute the paper giving the text of Queen Juliana's letter and Mr Truman's reply.

b. A cable was sent to UK delegates to UN urging proper support of the High Commissioners appeal for funds.

6) Cyprus Mrs Weiss reported on the current situation. The committee decided to take no action until Mrs Peat, now visiting the island, returned and gave her report.

7) Seuthend Council and C.O.s The Committee noted that the force of public opinion had obliged the Council to rescind its decision not to employ C.O.s

8) New Session of Parliament The Committee decided to wait for Mr Churchill's report to the House before making any fresh approaches.

*Lydia de Smet.*

THE HONORABLE  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
FOR  
SOUTH-WEST

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR 'PEACE AND FREEDOM, British Section  
Flat 16, 144, Southampton Row, W.C.1                      Terminus 4116

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Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held at Leicester on  
31st March, 1952

Present: In the Chair    Mrs de Swiet

Mrs Binns, Mrs Dora Holden, Mrs Olive Sutherst, Mrs N. Greaves, Mrs G. Needham, Mrs N. Weiss, Mrs Mary Nuttall, Mrs B. Duncan Harris, Lady Mayer, Lady Parmoor, Miss Amy Haughton, Mrs Edith Ineson, Mrs D.C.M. Warner, Mrs Agnes Z. Stapledon, Mrs Hartley (new member), Miss Hilda Walmesley (new member), Mrs McWilliam (new member).

52: 1    A short meeting was held after the Annual Council to decide where the Resolutions passed at the Council should be sent.

52: 2    It was decided that a letter be sent to the U.S. Section asking whether it was in fact true, as stated in a letter to The Times 24th March 1952, that the USA has not yet ratified the Protocol of June 17, 1925, prohibiting bacteriological warfare?

*Lynnie de Swiet.*

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held on 4th March, 1952

Present Mrs de Swiet in the Chair  
Mrs G. McGregor Wood, Mrs Julia Binns, Mrs G. Malcolmson, Miss D. Hargreaves, Mrs Mary Nuttall, Miss A.M. Bailes, Mrs G.L. Barber, Mrs N. Greaves, Mrs E. Ballinger, Mrs Dora Holden, Miss C.H. McAra, Mrs Agnes Stapledon, Mrs Ineson, Mrs Needham, Mrs D.C.M. Warner, Mrs Duncan Harria, Mrs Schlossmann, Miss Dickinson

Apologies Lady Parmoor, Lady Mayer, Mrs Weiss, Mrs Sutherst, The Hon. Mrs Franklin, Mrs Isabel Ross, Mrs Graham White, Mrs Cusden, Miss Agatha Harrison.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising

2024 A letter of apology from the Executive of the Free Church Women's Council was read and accepted. It was decided to ask them to minute the fact that the error had been made and that now it was quite in order for any local group to affiliate to the W.I.L.P.F. if they desired.

2028 Malaya It was reported that owing to the death of the King the matter had been held in abeyance. It was suggested that the Parliamentary Committee should be responsible for drafting a letter if it was found necessary to make a protest. The broadcast by the Archbishop of York on the subject of the concentration camps was referred to.

2031 Mrs Stapledon reported on her visit to Mrs Mitchiner and was thanked for undertaking it. A discussion followed on the reasons for Mrs Mitchiner's resignation which centred round the different interpretation of our aims made by individual members all of whom accept them as a basis for their work in the League, but differ in their views on certain issues. Mrs Ballinger, Mrs Greaves, Mrs Needham contributed to the discussion. They all said that in their Branches, the divergent views of individual members did not make it impossible or even generally difficult for them to work together within the WILPF for the aims which they all shared. There is almost always to be found "a level where we can all work together for the cause of World Peace and the abolition of war". Mrs Nuttall said that this variety of opinion among us, if accepted in the right spirit, should act as a challenge to us in all our decisions and actions and should not be regarded as a weakness inherent in the WILPF or a hindrance to progress. Mrs Duncan Harris said that at the next Congress the International aims and constitution would be under review and in preparation for that the Executive would have before them at a future date the views of different Sections on the need for revision. A discussion on this document would help to clarify our own position.

Branches Correspondence was read from Accoaks Green Branch which had decided by eight votes to five to close down. The main reason for this was their lack of new members and of any members who would take office and do the work of running the Branch. The decision was accepted by the Executive with great regret and it was decided to ask Mrs Propert to keep a group together if possible of Headquarter members. Letters had been sent from the

office to every member inviting them to join the Birmingham Branch or become Headquarter members. Miss Robinson Secretary of the Birmingham Branch was to be informed of this.

The Hassocks and Ditchling and the group at West Kirby were to be asked if they were able to form themselves into a Branch to be accepted at the Annual Council also strongly urged to send representatives to the Council.

Nothing further had been received from Long Eaton but Mrs Stapledon reported that she had drafted a letter which would be sent to each member as soon as possible.

2039

### Correspondence

1. A reply was read from the Foreign Secretary on the question of the suitability and powers of the woman to be appointed to take over the former responsibilities of the Women's Affairs Section of the CCG in the new Embassy in Germany, endorsing the points raised by us. It was felt that we must now wait until we could verify this.
2. A letter was sent to the Prime Minister signed by Lady Parmoor on behalf of the British Section protesting against the firing of a salute of guns into the Communist lines to mark the accession of Queen Elizabeth II. Only a formal acknowledgment had yet been received.  
Mrs Needham reported that Manchester Branch had written to the First Lord of the Admiralty on the same subject and had received a reply that an enquiry was being made.
3. Equal Pay campaign in County Council Election.
4. B.B.C. reply to our letter on their programme on Malaya.
5. World Government Crusade. Miss Haughton was re-appointed as delegate on Executive and Miss Walmesley as a substitute when there was a meeting in Birmingham. Miss Haughton was asked to send particulars to her.
6. A further letter was read from the Danish Section asking for children's books, suitable for translation. Several members of the Executive offered to take this up:- Miss Dickinson from the National Book Society, Mrs Nuttall from the Friends' Book Room and Mrs Needham from members of her Branch. It was suggested that Miss Baker should be asked to look through the lists.
7. Mrs Stapledon read a letter received from the International President, Miss Emily Greene Balch, asking if the British Section had taken any action on the question of Internationalising Waterways. Suggestions were given for a reply and the idea brought forward by Mrs Duncan Harris that the time might be ripe for a Conference on the subject. Mrs Warner was asked to embody this proposal in the talk on Plans and Projects at the Annual Council.
8. It was reported and noted with satisfaction that the group at West Kirby had sent a message of sympathy to the Queen and Queen Mother on the death of the King and that the reply had been published in the local paper.

2040

News Sheet Miss Haughton reported that a) an encouraging letter had been received from California and b) that Professor Lonsdale's article on the Quaker visit to the USSR, published in our News Sheet, had been reprinted as a separate leaflet by the Northern Friends' Peace Board. Miss Haughton was asked to point out to their Editor that our name was inaccurately given and to ask for correction in the

event of a reprint.

2041 Annual Council

Mrs Binns gave details of arrangements at Leicester and after discussion on necessary points it was decided

- 1) To book the smaller lecture room for Council Meetings so as to avoid mounting stairs to and from the refectory
- 2) To hold the open meeting in the large hall upstairs, the President to speak to the guests at the tea-table.
- 3) To ask those who are not residents to contribute 2/6 to the Council Expenses.
- 4) The pooling of fares of one delegate from each Branch shall be carried out with no exception.
- 5) Resolutions and Amendments to be dealt with by a Committee of three - Mrs McGregor Wood, Mrs de Swiet, Mrs E.F. Ineson
- 6) Chairmen and speakers to open discussion were decided on, names to appear on final agenda

2042 Congress It was decided that a letter should be drafted to go to Geneva confirming the invitation of the British Section to hold the 1952 Congress in England and pressing for a speedy reply so that the booking of a suitable centre could be done with hope of success. Enquiries were to be made from Bedford College as to available dates.

2043 Finance The first draft of the 1951 Balance Sheet was distributed to members and discussed. A letter was read from the auditor, Mr Dayan, giving his opinion that the financial situation was serious and the minimum sum necessary to raise in order to carry on the work of 1952 was £300.

Various items of expenditure and income were explained and it was decided that a wide appeal must be made for funds in 1952 and further thought given to this problem at the Annual Council. Mrs Stapledon announced that in response to her appeal to the Barrow Cadbury Trust, the sum of £300 had been received, £200 as a donation and £100 as a subscription. Mrs Stapledon was thanked for the thought and time she was putting into this "appeals" work and satisfaction expressed at the result so far. It was pointed out that this £300 was only sufficient for present needs, that expenses were rapidly rising and every effort must be made to raise other substantial sums so that new work could be undertaken. The Penny-a-Week Fund now standing at £209 was to be available for International work on the lines first indicated by those who initiated it and the scheme was to be continued and stressed at the Annual Council.

Date of Next Meeting The Executive would meet again on Monday, March 31st at Leicester at the close of the Annual Council

*Lydia de Swiet*



Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held at Friends'  
International Centre, 32, Tavistock Square, on 6th May, 1952

Present: In the Chair Mrs de Swiet

Miss Maud Dickinson, Mrs Gladys Needham, Mrs Una Chisholm, Mrs Jane McMaster, Miss Winifred Barlings, Mrs Olive Sutherst, Miss Doris Hargreaves, Mrs M. Dayan, Mrs H.M. Hartley, Mrs McWilliam, Mrs G.L. Barber, Mrs G.R. McGregor Wood, Miss Agatha Harrison, Mrs Else Ecroyd, Mrs B. Duncan Harris, Miss A. Haughton, Mrs N. Greaves, Mrs E. Ballinger, Miss H. Walmesley, Mrs Binns, Miss A.M. Bailes, Mrs N. Weiss, Lady Parmoor, Mrs E.F. Ineson, Mrs A. Stapledon.

Apologies were received from Lady Mayer, Miss Spurrell (whose place was taken by Miss Barling), and Mrs Malcolmson.

A letter written at the request of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II in answer to that sent by the WILPF, British Section, was read.

The Minutes of the meetings held on March 4 and 31 were signed.

Matters arising It was reported that no letter other than the  
2039 formal acknowledgment had been received from the Prime Minister on the matter of the firing of a live salute into enemy lines to mark the occasion of the Queen's accession. Manchester reported that a letter had been received in answer to theirs from the First Lord of the Admiralty stating that there was no inconsistency in this act. It was agreed to write again to the P.M. expressing regret that no reply had been received.

English books for the Danish Section: Miss Dickinson reported on the action taken to date. A bibliography of children's books, prepared for the National Book League, had been sent to the Danish Section 3 weeks ago; no acknowledgment had been received. The Committee thanked Miss Dickinson for the work she had done on their behalf.

2042 Congress. It was reported that Bedford College was fully booked in 1953 during the summer months.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee.  
52: 3 Lady Parmoor took over the Chair during the election of the Chairman. She introduced this matter by saying that it was a sign of good health and of vigour in an organisation when several names were put forward for any office. This was endorsed by Mrs Duncan Harris. Mrs de Swiet was open for re-election. Mrs Nuttall was proposed by Mrs Duncan Harris. Mrs Dayan and Miss Hargreaves were appointed as tellers for the ballot vote. Mrs Nuttall was elected. Lady Parmoor paid a warm tribute to the work of Mrs de Swiet during the previous year. Mrs Ineson also thanked Mrs de Swiet not only for her Chairmanship but for all the other work she had done for the League, and expressed the hope that she would continue with these valuable activities. Unanimous thanks were voted to her. While the tellers were counting votes Mrs McGregor Wood proposed that whichever proposed Chairman was not elected should automatically become a Vice-Chairman. This was unanimously accepted. Mrs Nuttall then took the Chair. Mrs de Swiet is therefore a Vice-Chairman. Mrs Cusden, Mrs Hartley and Miss Walmesley were also unanimously elected Vice-Chairmen.

Election of Sub-Committees

- 53: 4 Finance Committee After considerable discussion about the functions of the committee it was agreed that it should be kept small and that it should call for the election of Ad Hoc committees when the need arose for some special fund-raising undertaking or similar action. It was decided that the committee should consist of the two Hon. Treasurers, Mrs Stapledon and Mrs Sutherst, the Hon. Secretary, Mrs Ineson and Mrs Warner.
- Publications Committee During the discussion the possibility of this committee functioning in Birmingham (ie experimenting with the creation of regional committees) was put forward. It was pointed out that the expenses of this would be very heavy. Mrs Sutherst proposed that the committee should put forward its plans and financial requirements to the Finance Committee. This was agreed. The following were appointed to serve on the Publications Committee: Mrs Cusden, Miss Dickinson, Mrs Hartley, Miss Walmesley, Mrs Coppock and Mrs Warner. It was hoped that the full committee would meet on the day before the Executive Committee.
- Parliamentary Committee. Lady Parmoor, Mrs Duncan Harris, Mrs Ineson, Mrs McGregor Wood, Mrs Dayan, Miss Dickinson, Mrs Fernau, Miss Harrison, Miss Hargreaves, Lady Mayer, Miss Nightingale, Mrs Peat, Mrs Nuttall, Mrs de Swiet, Miss Haughton, Mrs Cusden, Mrs Weiss and Mrs Warner.
- Race Relations Committee The full committee would consist, it was hoped, of the following members: Mrs McGregor Wood, Mrs de Swiet, Miss A. Harrison, Miss Dickinson, Mrs Malcolmson, Mrs Greaves, Mrs Ballinger, Miss Billson. It would meet the day before each Executive meeting. In the interim periods, the day-to-day work would be carried on as before by the London members (mostly over the telephone). Miss Dickinson would act as convener for this group who would continue also to keep in touch with the Parliamentary Committee.
- London Group Mrs Ineson suggested that this was not the concern of the whole Executive. This was accepted and the matter was referred to the London Officers.

Representatives to other Organisations

- 52: 5 National Peace Council It was agreed that our representatives should be Mrs Duncan Harris, Miss A. Harrison, Miss A. Haughton, and Mrs McGregor Wood. Four deputies were appointed: Mrs Holden, Mrs Dayan, Mrs de Swiet and Mrs Sutherst.
- British Commonwealth League Mrs de Swiet and Mrs Weiss were appointed.
- Women's Council co-operating with the Women of India, Pakistan and Ceylon. It was reported (and later confirmed over the phone) that the three WILPF members whom we have considered as our representatives were and still are elected to the Council individually and not as representing any organisation. They are: Miss Dickinson, Miss A. Harrison, Mrs Rankester.
- Status of Women After some discussion it was agreed that Mrs de Swiet should represent the section with Mrs Nuttall as deputy.
- Crusade for World Government Miss McArz is there ex officio. Our representatives are Miss Haughton and Mrs McGregor Wood.
- No Conscription Council It was agreed that the trends in the NCC should be watched. Our representatives are Mrs Needham (Mrs Holden deputy) and Mrs Ecroyd.
- UNA Women's Advisory Council Miss Dickinson reported that the present position was very unsatisfactory as

the expected improvements in the running and work of the WAC had not taken place. It was agreed to check the situation and if it seemed advisable to withdraw from the Council giving our reason for so doing.

Annual Council It was agreed that this had been an extremely  
52:6 good Annual Council and that the decision to have no outside speakers had been well justified. A warm vote of thanks to Leicester was passed.

Mrs Warner reported on preparatory work for the proposed conference on Internationalisation of Waterways and Arctic and Antarctic Regions, the date of which is fixed for Oct. 4th.

The date and place of the 1953 Annual Council were discussed: a warm invitation from S. Devon was most regretfully turned down because of the extra cost in time and cash involved in the long journey. It was agreed to find out whether Birmingham would be ready to have the Council on the week-end March 27 - 30, 1953. It was agreed that S. Devon would be ideal for a summer school whether under British or International auspices.

Mrs Sutherst gave a brief financial report of the Council. After all accounts had been settled we had £13.7.4 in hand which represents the amount raised at the Bring and Buy Stall.

The Annual Report was discussed and it was agreed to have printed (not duplicated as previously intended) and to leave the questions of printer, lay out etc to the Secretaries.

Plans and Projects: Mrs Warner reported briefly on the decisions taken at the Council and drew members' attention to the duplicated paper they had already received.

Finance It was unanimously agreed that Mrs Sutherst be  
52:7 authorised to sign cheques in place of Mrs Holden. Proposed by Mrs Hartley and seconded by Mrs Cusden. Mrs Sutherst gave a brief report of the financial position. She said that while reminders recently sent out were bringing in unpaid subs. this was not going to cover our needs for the year; we needed more members as well as more money. The Executive sanctioned the order for a new stencil from Gestetner for our notepaper.

News Sheet As the March/April issue was a double number of 8  
52:8 pages costing £24 for printing alone it was agreed that there should be only three more numbers this year. The question of using wrappers instead of envelopes came up again. This was referred to the office.

International Congress 1953 The Executive Committee discuss-  
52:9 ed at length the recommendation put forward, with very great regret, by the Officers that in view of the apparent impossibility of a decision being taken by the International Executive to accept the invitation of the British Section before August and in view of the general situation at International HQ, the British Section should withdraw its invitation and leave the way clear at once for other arrangements to be made. After a long discussion Mrs Duncan Harris proposed and Mrs Cusden seconded that a letter be sent to all members of the International Executive informing them of this decision. The proposal was carried with two abstentions. It was agreed that the letter should be drafted and approved by the Officers at the table (Lady Parmoor, Mrs Nuttall, Mrs Ineson and Mrs Stapledon) with Mrs Duncan Harris.

4.

Parliamentary Committee  
52:10

Mrs Warner reported very briefly on its activities. Miss Dickinson drew attention to the fact that the British delegate had been one of the few who did not vote in the Human Rights Commission, ~~in~~ ~~favour~~ of the resolution calling for rights of self determination for Trust and Non-self-governing territories. It was agreed to send a letter of protest which Miss Dickinson had drafted to Mr Selwyn Lloyd, <sup>British</sup> the High Commissioner of India, other sections concerned and to our own International HQ. Mrs McGregor Wood drew attention to the way that Miss Mary Sutherland, our delegate, had voted in the Status of Women Commission.

*Against  
Indians  
The Indian  
Delegates.*

Africa Bureau Miss Dickinson reported the establishment of this new organisation and gave a brief account of the meeting at which the African delegates had spoken on the question of Federation.

Date and Place of next meeting The next meeting to be held at FIC on July 1st. The two following meetings would be in September and October (with the Conference on Waterways and Arctic and Antarctic Regions on the Saturday preceding).

Correspondence etc. Time was too short and too few members remained for all correspondence to be dealt with. Mrs Stapledon reported that Long Eaton Branch had decided that its members should become HQ Members.

Mrs Stapledon also reported that she had received a personal invitation from the British Peace Commission to be one of the Peace Group which they hope may visit the USSR. The Committee expressed the hope that Mrs Stapledon would be able to go.

Mrs Warner reported the invitation from UNA to the British Section to appoint two representatives for the Standing Conference of NGOs having Consultative Status with ECOSOC and having sections in the UK. Miss Agatha Harrison and Mrs Warner were appointed.

Lady Parmoor reported the meeting arranged by the NPC for a few members to talk with Dr and Mrs Endicott, who were on their way back to Canada from a visit to China. She reported that the NPC was exploring the possibilities of finding a group of competent scientists and others, who would be acceptable to all sides, to go to China to investigate the charges and alleged proofs of Germ Warfare.

*Mary Nuttall  
1. 7. 52.*

copy for signature,

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM, British  
Section. Flat 16, 144 Southampton Row, London W.C.1 Ter.4116

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday,  
2nd July, 1952 in NPC.

Apologies: Miss McAra, Miss Walmesley, Mrs McWilliam (Mrs  
Holmes instead), Mrs Graham White, Mrs G.L.Barber, Lady Parmoor  
Mrs Dayan.

Present: in the Chair Mrs Nuttall  
Mrs J. Binns (Leicester), Mrs H. Hartley, Miss D. Hargreaves,  
Frau Hoppstock Huth, Mrs Lydia de Swiet, Miss K. Spurrell  
(Devon), Mrs N. Greaves (Childwall), Mrs I von Engel (Oxford),  
Mrs N. Weiss (Orpington), Mrs G. Malcolmson, Mrs C. Holmes  
(Liverpool), Mrs E. Ballinger (Birmingham), Mrs E. Ecroyd  
(Croydon), Mrs B. Duncan Harris, Miss A. Haughton, Miss M.  
Dickinson, Miss A. Harrison, Mrs O. Sutherst, Mrs P. Cusden,  
Lady Mayer, Mrs Peat (Hassocks & Ditchling Group), Mrs E.A.  
Simpson (Coventry), Miss A.M. Bailes (Worthing), Mrs M.Schloss-  
mann (Cambridge), Mrs Chisholm (Coventry), Mrs Agnes Stapledon,  
Mrs G. McGregor Wood, Mrs Mary Phillipps (delegate Int.Exec.)  
Mrs E.F.Ineson

Minutes with 2 corrections, the minutes of the previous meeting  
were signed.

Matters arising

2039 Books for Denmark Miss Dickinson reported that she had  
now heard that the books had arrived safely. A letter  
thanks and appreciation had been sent by the Danish  
Section.

Mrs Stapledon to Moscow It was agreed that while Mrs  
Stapledon went with the warmest good wishes on this  
journey she should not take with her an official greet-  
ing from the Section. Rather, she was asked to convey  
on all possible occasions, the sense of friendliness of  
British Women. Mrs Stapledon was asked to try to visit  
a Russian elementary school and to find out about the  
curriculum and material used. It was also suggested  
that she should speak about TAB whenever possible.

Letter from Mr Selwyn Lloyd. This reply to our letter  
of the UN resolution on self-determination was read.  
It was agreed that the Parliamentary Committee should  
acknowledge it and say that the Section will continue to  
watch the matter closely.

52: 5 Women's Advisory Council UNA Miss Dickinson reported on  
the last meeting she attended. She was asked to con-  
tinue to attend these meetings until the Committee decid-  
ed whether or not to participate in the work of the WAC  
as well as the new UNA Standing Conference of NGOs.

International Executive

52:11 a) Resolutions These were carefully discussed. It  
was agreed that the British members must be ready to  
speak on the question of the Rights of Asian and  
African Peoples. Our consultants were to decide  
between themselves which should speak to the British  
Resolution on Disarmament. The need for an Emergen-  
cy Resolution on the F. East was recognised. An  
Officers' Meeting was arranged for 11.30 a.m. on  
Wed. July 23rd to formulate this.

b) Letter from the Int. Chairmen in reply to ours.  
A very long discussion took place on the issues in-  
volved. It was proposed and carried that our Con-  
sultants should take to Geneva some form of written  
directive to use if they required it. This to be  
formulated by the Officers at the meeting on July 23  
and to contain Mrs Cusden's proposed statement "that

2.

it is undesirable that any one person should hold more than one major International office".

- c) Delegates to Geneva It was suggested that if Mrs Phillipps was not needed as a deputy, she should go as a visitor and that her expenses be paid from the old a week Fund. The possibility of Mrs Cusden's fare being met out of this fund was also discussed.

News Sheet Mrs Cusden spoke on her memorandum incorporating her plans for the News Sheet. After a long discussion mainly on the question of the title, it was agreed to accept Mrs Cusden's "Peace and Freedom" with her proposed inset giving the name of our organisation.  
52:12

Finance Mrs Sutherst gave a report of the current financial position. There being less than £300 in our account means that we are already using the Barrow Cadbury special grant and subscription for current expenses. The question of what to do with the accumulated interest on the Ford Memorial Trust was referred to the Officers, as was the question of taking a decision on furniture stored at Hatfield and of investigating into property still insured but now reported sold years ago. It was agreed that next year the WILPF Int. Summer School should be early advertised in Leeds so that the Ford Memorial Trust might be used to send a Leeds student.  
52:13

It was agreed that costs of installing more adequate lighting in the present office might be met from the Jane Adams Fund. The future of the whereabouts of the Jane Adams Fund (at present held in the Post Office) was to be decided by the Treasurers. The question of raising the NPC affiliation fees was referred to the officers with powers to act. Mrs Warner reported that we had now been given official information that our proposed Trust (W.I.T.) was not eligible for exemption from Income Tax. It was agreed to ask Mr Dayan if he could find out why our claim had been refused. Mrs Ineson reported on the present situation regarding the payment of Branch Affiliation fees. The officers recommended to the Committee that another HQ Week be held this year. After a long discussion it was decided the Week might possibly culminate in some function arranged during the WILPF weekend of Oct 4 - 7 at which the results would be made known. Mrs Stapledon reported that now that the Annual Report was ready she was sending out further appeals to Trusts

Parliamentary Committee The work of the Committee was reported very briefly; action had been taken inter alia on the question of German Rearmament; Anti-Semitism; the Indian offer of help in the Korean Truce Negotiations (on POWs). Full discussions on the general "moral deterioration" in this country culminated in a letter to the Archbishop asking if a delegation might wait on him. In his reply the Archbishop expressed clear recognition of the problem but said that his engagements did not permit further consultation. In discussion Lady Parmoor suggested that a letter of protest at the UK's behaviour about the Protocol prohibiting the use of weapons of mass ext rmination be sent to Mr Eden, Mr Selwyn Lloyd. This was referred to the Parliamentary Committee.  
52:14

Frau Hoppstock Huth, President of the German Section, brought greetings and good wishes and then gave a review of the situation in W. Germany with regard to the Bonn Agreements. Greetings of the British Section to the German Section were sent.  
52:15

Race Relations Committee Miss Dickinson reported that Mrs de Swiet had ~~taken~~ the Chair and that provincial members  
52:16

*Cousenka to take*

3.

were to act as liaison officers between Branches and London. The Africa Bureau had sent a delegation to H.M. Ministers on the proposal for Federation. A report of this and a commentary on the White Paper were to be issued. The R.R. Committee recommended that no further protest be made to HMG for the moment. A conference was called by the Central Africa Committee on the same matter. As we were already working with the Africa Bureau the R.R. Committee recommended that we should not affiliate but should keep in touch and help when possible.

It was agreed to send a letter to the Colonial Office (copies to Commonwealth Relations, our delegate on the Trusteeship Council etc) expressing satisfaction on the abolishment of corporal punishment in Tanganyika.

It had proved impossible to arrange for a meeting with the Nigerian women now in the UK under the auspices of the British Council because their timetable was so full. A letter will be sent from the office. Mrs McGregor Wood spoke of the need to increase contacts with Nigerian women, in particular with the Council of Nigerian Women. She suggested that a Liaison Group of Women's Societies might be formed for the purpose of insuring that African women visiting the UK should receive friendship and have immediate opportunities for making individual or group contacts.

Refugees Mrs Ineson reported that Dr Kullmann had asked us to  
52:17 press HMG for support of the Fund. It was agreed to do this.

Affiliations to our Section Mrs Ineson emphasised the need for  
52:18 fresh affiliations and said that there were many groups of younger women who ought to be doing some sort of international work but who needed to learn the ABC of such endeavours.

London Meetings Mrs Ineson reported that as central meetings  
52:19 had proved difficult and unsatisfactory, an attempt was now being made to organise regional gatherings. One such meeting had already been held at Miss Hargreaves' house and she had issued another invitation to London members of the Executive. Other regional plans were under consideration.

Publications Committee Mrs Cusden reported that, besides  
52:20 discussing the News Sheet, the Publicity Committee had considered the need for a brief "historical" throw-away leaflet. They recommended that this leaflet be prepared by the secretaries and duplicated in the office. This was agreed.

Day for Executive Meeting It was agreed to stick to the same  
52:21 day, i.e. the first Tuesday in the month.

Visit of Dr Ohnesorge Mrs McGregor Wood expressed her willing-  
52:22 ness to give a party at her house for Dr Ohnesorge.

ILCOP It was reported that this year the ILCOP was meeting in  
52:23 the UK from August 26 - 31. It seemed unlikely that any member would be free to attend as our representative.

Alleged Communist Sympathies and "subversive" tendencies.  
52:24 It was agreed by all Branch Representatives that it would be helpful to have a statement which could be used when it is necessary to refute such allegations. A draft text was read and approved.

S. Devon Weekend Conference It was reported that S. Devon  
52:25 hoped to organise a Conference in September 1953.

4.

The subjects suggested for study were the Internationalisation of Waterways and the Pestalozzi Village.

No Conscription Council Mrs Ecroyd reported on the meeting she had attended. The draft Questionnaire prepared by the NCC was referred to the Parliamentary Committee to consider putting forward additional questions incorporating women's position, duties, needs etc.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Tuesday, 2nd September, 1952.

.....

*Mary Nuttall  
2. 9. 52.*

*[Faint, mostly illegible text and bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]*



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM, British  
Section, Flat 16, 144 Southampton Row, London W.C.1 Terminus 4116

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held on 2nd September, 1952

This meeting of the Executive Committee began with a tribute to the late President, Lady Parmoor. The Chairman and the Ex-President spoke and the members then rose and stood silent.

It was then announced that Mrs Turkie, Vice-Chairman of Manchester Branch had just lost her only son who was killed in an accident while serving in Her Majesty's forces. It was agreed to send a letter from the Executive to Mrs Turkie.

Apologies: Mrs Schlossmann, Lady Mayer, Mrs Binns, Mrs Pick, Mrs Ballinger and Mrs Wickham.

Present: In the Chair Mrs Nuttall  
Mrs Dayan, Mrs Lydia de Swiet, Mrs H.M.Hartley (Cheadle Hulme), Miss D.Hargreaves, Miss H.R.Walmesley (Birmingham), Mrs G.L.Barber (Reading), Mrs O.Sutherst, Miss A.M.Bailes (Worthing), Miss M. Dickinson, Mrs G.R.McGregor Wood, Mrs G.Malcolmson, Mrs I.MacWilliam (Liverpool), Mrs N.Weiss (Orpington), Mrs N.E.Greaves (Childwall), Mrs E.Ecroyd (Croydon), Mrs B.Duncan Harris, Mrs Agnes Stapledon, Mrs E.F.Ineson, Mrs D.C.M.Warner, Miss A.Haughton, Miss K.Spurrell (Devon), Mrs Cusden, Mrs G.Needham (Manchester), Mrs Phillips, 73 Derby Rd., Beeston, Notts (Visitor), Miss A. Harrison, Mrs G.B.Trinisk 3, Shepherd House, Shepherd St., W.1 (Visitor).

Minutes After one small correction had been made, the minutes of the previous meeting were signed,

Matters Arising

52: 5 *the Council* Women's Advisory Council <sup>of U.N.A.</sup> It was reported that a meeting of a ~~sub-committee~~ was taking place on 2nd October at 4 p.m. Miss Dickinson expressed the hope that some other member besides herself would be able to attend. Mrs McGregor Wood offered to do so and this was gladly accepted by the committee.

Parliamentary Committee A report of the committee's work had already been circulated. Two points were brought forward here to the Executive of which the first, the establishment of an Education Sub-Committee of the Executive will be dealt with in a separate minute. The second point was in connection with the Trusteeship Council and our own Colonial Office. This latter had, in consequence of previous correspondence, sent to us a UN report including the statement made at the Trusteeship Council by the Governor of Tanganyika and the favourable comment made upon it by another member of the Council. The Executive expressed approval of the Governor's report but no action was decided upon.

Education Committee As a result of discussion in the Parliamentary Committee of a debate in the House on the nature of Children's Comics, the recommendation given above was brought to the committee. It was agreed that such a committee should be established forthwith. The Education Committee would have a wide field of action. It was agreed that its members should be appointed by the Executive; that the Executive should approve the names of other members which the Education Committee would wish to co-opt and that experts from outside (publishers, film producers, teachers etc) should take part on invitation in the committee's work as Expert Consultants and

should not become members of the committee. The following Officers (who ex officio are on all sub- or other committees) said they would wish to serve on the Education Committee: Miss Walmesley, Mrs Hartley, Mrs de Swiet, Mrs Cusden and Mrs Sutherst. The Executive nominated the following other members, subject to their agreement: Miss Spurrell, Miss Baker, Mrs Paine, Mrs Tiller, Mrs Ritchie Calder, Mrs Kay Butcher. Mrs Warner was appointed convenor of the first meeting. It was recognised that probably much of the work could be done without meetings; i.e. that individual members would be able to undertake a good deal of individual work; and that the committee would therefore probably only need to meet 3 or 4 times a year. Some Branches - Liverpool for example - had already done a good deal of work in educational fields and the hope was expressed that other Branches would begin to look into the subject and would co-operate with the main committee on the same lines as they already co-operate with the Parliamentary Committee.

Women in the Sudan Mrs Ecroyd quoted from a personal letter information about the condition of women in the Sudan. Mrs de Swiet suggested that an indirect approach through the enlightened women of Egypt would do more and do it more quickly to improve their lot than anything we could attempt directly. This was agreed. As regards the draft Constitution and the lack of voting rights for women it was agreed that we must continue to do whatever is possible to ensure that HMG expresses its clear opinion on this subject even though it has no power to enforce changes in the Constitution against the will of the Sudanese. It was agreed to ask our International Office to forward our letter (sent to Mr Eden etc) or some similar statement to the Egyptian Government.

International Executive Reports of the Geneva meetings were given by Mrs Cusden, Lady Mayer (written report read by Mrs Ineson) and Mrs Phillips. Mrs Duncan Harris and Mrs Stapledon added brief comments. (The decisions and resolutions have not yet been received in the office, but as they will be later, no minutes of the reports on them are given here). Mrs Phillips, reporting for the most part as an observer, though she acted all the time as a recorder to the International Office and was one of our Consultants after Lady Mayer left, spoke of the combination of extreme frustration and true inspiration which she felt both during and after the meetings. In conclusion she suggested that the only real way to maintain the WILPF and to increase its effective work, lay in making every possible effort to improve relations between sections and with the International Hq. She suggested that there should be Liaison Officers acting between all national sections. There was a good deal of discussion of the reports. Miss Harrison expressed thanks to Mrs Stapledon for her offer to take on the exacting duties of the new post of Administrative Officer at Geneva.

Race Relations Committee Miss Dickinson reported that at the meeting of the committee on the previous day a memo from Mr Michael Scott had been considered and that two letters had been drafted on the subject of S.W.Africa which she then read for the approval of the Executive. The first was addressed to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on S.W. Africa and was to be sent to the same other persons as the similar letter last year; the second was addressed to the other High Commissioners of Commonwealth countries, urging their corporate responsibility and asking for action on the question of the Union of S.Africa in the matter. The letter should also go, of course, to Lord Salisbury.

Both letters were accepted by the Executive and thanks were expressed to the Race Relations Committee for their work. Miss Dickinson further reported: that the possibility of sending a deputation to the High Commissioner of the Union had been considered. This, after discussion, was referred to the Parliamentary Committee; that as far as Central Federation was concerned, no action could usefully be taken at the moment; that on Oct. 9th a meeting on S.African Problems was being arranged by the Africa Bureau to take place at 7.30 in Church Hall, Westminster.

Finally Miss Dickinson pointed out that already once our Executive meeting had clashed with an important meeting arranged by the Africa Bureau; she asked that if this happened again, a member of the Race Relations Committee should be excused from the Executive in order to be present at the other meeting. This was agreed.

Finance

52:18

31

Mrs Sutherst reported the current financial position: with no outstanding debts there are £105 in hand. We are drawing out the last remaining capital. Certain sums are also held by us but are earmarked for special purposes. Our stocks of stationery are good so that except under exceptional circumstances we shall not need to buy for some time. Mrs Sutherst said that about £400 needed to be found to see us through the rest of the year. Three recommendations from the Officers were brought forward:

- 1) An Autumn appeal to all members: after considerable discussion it agreed that a "Lady Parmoor Thanksgiving Fund" should be opened. The details were referred to the Officers.
- 2) A nation-wide appeal for financial support to men and women not already connected with our movement. It was suggested that Branches should help in local circularisation of the Appeal and that an intensive campaign should be launched with voluntary help from HQ. The letter should be drafted first by the Hon. Sec. and Mrs Stapledon and should then be considered by a larger group. Facsimile signatures were recommended.
- 3) The weekly insertion for periods of 3 months in a series of periodicals of an advertisement of the WILPF. This was agreed.

Mrs Stapledon reported briefly on the response to her appeals to various trusts. It was suggested that a personal appeal should be made to Seebohm Rowntree and that the Ford Trust might be approached.

Visit to Moscow

52:17

33

Time was running short and it was agreed that Mrs Stapledon would only report very briefly to this Executive and that as much time as was needed should be arranged during the WILPF weekend (4-6 October) for people to hear everything that she had to tell and to have time for questions and discussion.

Study Conference Oct. 4

52:18

34

The times of the two sessions were left to the Officers for decision. Their recommendation that members should pay 2/6 a head and all others 5/- was accepted.

Next Executive

52:19

35

It was agreed that the next meeting should be an EXTENDED EXECUTIVE held on MONDAY, October 6th so that members would not have to spend so long away from home and that the weekend could be a real WILPF Weekend. (Please take note of the fact that this meeting will take place at FRIENDS' HOUSE, Euston Road).

World Peace Committee

52:20

36

Mrs Nuttall (and one or two other members) had received invitations to sponsor the Vienna Congress which the WPC are organising. It was agreed that the

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WILPF was not in a position to take the burden of sponsorship of this sort.

News Sheet

52:21

37

Mrs Cusden reported that the first number of the new version of the News Sheet would be ready at the end of the week. Thanks to the generosity of a Vice-President it had been possible to have an 8 page issue. The possibility of making some further use of the picture of Lady Parmoor which will appear, or of having a block made of one of the photos kindly loaned by Miss Ellis was referred to the Officers.

Crusade for World Government

52:22

38

In view of the heavy costs of pooled fares at CWG meetings it was agreed that for the time being we should not send the elected representative, but should maintain contact through Mrs Fernau who is on the CWG Council and is a member of our own Parliamentary Committee.

*Mary Kuttall  
6.10.1952.*

Date 6. 10. 1952.

Before the meeting opened the Chairman asked the Committee that a letter of sympathy be sent to Mrs Gwen Catchpool whose husband, Corder Catchpool, died in September. This was unanimously agreed to.

Apologies Mrs Barber (Reading), Lady Mayer, Mrs McWilliam (Liverpool), Mrs McGregor Ross, Mrs Holmes, Mrs Ballinger (Birmingham), The Hon. Mrs Franklin, Mrs Mary Graham White, Mrs Garnett, Mrs McGregor Wood.

Mrs Ballinger's apology came in a letter regretfully tendering her resignation from the Executive Committee because she no longer felt able to leave her home in order to attend its meetings. Her resignation was accepted with very great regret and it was agreed to send a letter to Mrs Ballinger thanking her for all the valuable service she had rendered as Vice-Chairman of the Executive and representative of Birmingham Branch. It was pointed out that the responsibility of appointing a successor rested entirely with the Birmingham Branch.

Present Mr Nuttall in the Chair

Mrs Sutherst, Mrs Stapledon, Mrs Ineson, Mrs Warner, Mrs S.M. Lewis, (Childwall), Mrs K. Piercy (Childwall), Mrs N. Greaves (Childwall), Miss M. Dickinson, Mrs P. Cusden, Miss C.H. McIvor (Glasgow), Mrs G. Malcolmson, Miss A. Haughton, Mrs H. Hartley, Mrs E.M. Yarrow, Mrs Else Ecroyd (Croydon), Mrs Elsie Wise (Croydon), Mrs Dayan, Mrs I von Engel (Oxford), Miss K. Spurrell (S. Devon), Miss A.M. Bailes (Worthing), Mrs Lydia de Swiet, Miss H. Walmesley (Birmingham) Mrs E. Goring (Hassocks & Ditchling), Mrs E.W. Pick (Leicester), Mrs J. Alexander (Finchley, London), Mrs F. Hitch (Croydon), Miss B.M. Baker, Mrs M.M. Spires, Mrs B. Duncan Harris. *Mrs Hargreaves*

Minutes of previous meeting After two small corrections had been made under "Matters arising" the Minutes were signed.

Finance  
52:39

1) Report by Mrs Sutherst who reported that the last remaining funds from our reserve account had now been drawn. The cost of HQ is £1200 a year, of which we normally receive half in subscriptions and donations and raise the remainder by special efforts. This year we have received £735 from all sources and have still to provide for the next four months at a cost of approximately £100 a month.

The first part of Mrs Sutherst's report was followed by a discussion of the position and the possibility and advisability (or not) of fixing HQ or Branch subscriptions. Mrs Sutherst then briefly described three measures which were planned to take place during the coming months:

- a) An appeal to "outsiders" to be sent out widely both from HQ and by Branches.
- b) An autumn appeal to WILPF members asking for a special effort to be made as a tribute to the late President, Lady Parmoor.
- c) The renting of a stall at a Sale of Work organised by Commonwealth, over which Mrs de Swiet would preside and to which members would be asked to send handkerchiefs and accessories to stock it.

2) Mrs Stapledon added a report on the other appeals (to trusts) and said she had drafted a letter to the Elizabeth Cadbury Trust.

There was a good deal of general discussion about the financial position and about the organisation of the Outside Appeal. It was agreed that when the letter was ready and when the matter had been fully considered and ways and means of working out lists which avoid duplication had been decided on, a notice should be sent out.

from HQ explaining the scheme and asking for the widest possible co-operation from Branches and HQ members. Mrs Greaves brought forward three proposals from Childwall for making the Executive Committee less of a drain on HQ finance:

- a) That the cost of fares be shared by HQ and Branches
- b) That HQ should pay individual members and Branches their representatives
- c) That the size of the Committee be reduced.

Mrs Malcolmson (for Liverpool) asked if financial statements could be circulated before the committee met. She agreed with Childwall that Branches might raise their own subscriptions, and that the raised subscription should then automatically include the News Sheet. She expressed gratitude to Mrs Sutherst for all her work. Mrs Hartley and Miss Walmesley also spoke in favour of raising contributions. Mrs Weiss said that she felt it would be impossible to do so at Orpington. Mrs Ineson referred back to the plan for the wide appeal and asked for real enthusiasm and backing for this scheme to try to save the British Section from financial embarrassment. An on-the-spot collection raised £14.0.6 towards the cost of postage for the appeal.

Publications Mrs Cusden spoke about her plans for Peace and  
52:40 Freedom. Although the committee warmly sympathised with her wish to have a second 8 pp issue this year, it was felt that this would make it impossible to judge the financial position fairly when the time came to reconsider the whole scheme. Mrs Cusden asked for the appointment of a business manager and suggested that Mrs Trinick, a former Reading member now resident in London might be asked. The matter was referred to the Officers.

Mrs Warner asked the members of the Committee whether they felt that the Notes from HQ which had been issued from time to time during the past months had been sufficiently useful to justify their continuance. The committee felt that they were worth while. The "throw-away" leaflet commissioned by the Executive at an earlier meeting was then circulated to members. They were asked to ensure that wide but careful use be made of them.

WILPF International Resolutions Mrs Cusden spoke to the resolu-  
52:41 tions passed at the Executive in July. It was agreed that the resolution on S.Africa be sent to Mr and Mrs Ballinger and the one on Germ and Atomic Warfare to the Foreign Office.

International Constitution The draft of the new constitution is  
52:42 now ready and it was felt that Branches ought to have an opportunity of discussing it before it came to the Executive. Mrs Stapledon was asked to find out whether the Geneva Office could spare enough copies for our Branches.

United Nations General Assembly A message from Miss Harrison was  
52:43 read mentioning some of the key points she would be watching, welcoming the notes which the Parliamentary committee had prepared for our own delegates and promising to let the WILPF, British Section, know if and when they could do anything. It was reported that both Mrs Weiss and Mrs Peat might be able to get to New York for part of the time.

UN Mexican Conference of NGOs It was suggested that as it was un-  
52:44 likely that anyone from Geneva would be able to represent the WILPF at international level and as Mrs Peat would be near the Mexican border about the time of the Conference, Mrs Stapledon should find out whether Mrs

Peat might represent the WILPF on this occasion.

UN: Human Rights: Focus on the UK Mrs Warner reported the keen  
52:45 interest shown in this project by the Director of the UN  
Division of Human Rights.

Reports of Committees

52:46

- a) Parliamentary: The preparation of Notes for the British delegates had already been reported. Copies were circulated to members of the Executive at 3d a copy. Replies from the Foreign Office to letters sent by the committee in re the possibility of a Four Power meeting and on the reinstatement of Krupp were read aloud. It was agreed to write to the US Section on the question of Krupp sending a copy of the letter from the FO, and that Geneva should also be informed. In both cases the FO letter should be marked "confidential".
- b) Race Relations: Miss Dickinson reminded the committee of the scope and function of the Africa Bureau and said that the RR committee was in close touch with it. So far material of great value to our work had been sent free by the bureau; the moment had now come when an annual subscription had to be levied. (£1.10 for the Digest or £1.10.0 for the Digest plus any pamphlets which might be issued)

Michael Scott: visa to USA for UN Miss Dickinson then reported that the Rev. Michael Scott had been asked, as an accredited observer to the UN General Assembly, to take an oath in order to obtain a visa which, as a matter of principle, he felt unable to sign. It was agreed that a letter be sent at once to the American Ambassador in London asking that we might be reassured without delay that the UN was going to be allowed to function properly on American soil; that letters also be sent to the American Section and to Geneva; and that Mrs Lyons, from the Chicago Branch in the USA would convey verbally to Miss Walser our concern.

East and West Friendship Council In the absence of Mrs McGregor Wood Mrs Ineson told the committee that Mrs Wood had hoped to raise the question of more official representation of the WILPF at the meetings of the Council. It was agreed that this would be a good thing and it was hoped that Mrs McGregor Wood who takes a most active part in the Council's work, would do so in future as an officer of the WILPF, British Section and in its name.

- c) Education Committee: the Chairman, Mrs de Swiet reported that the Committee had held its first meeting a few days previously. The committee was still feeling its way but had already taken action in the matter of children's so-called "Comics" in a letter sent to the News Chronicle. Individual members were undertaking various bits of research work and in due course their papers would be duplicated and circulated so that at the next meeting they would see more clearly what work could best be undertaken. The Education Committee hoped that soon more use might be made of the Ford Memorial Fund and suggested that students or older school children from Leeds might be brought down both to the CENK Christmas lectures and to the NPC Youth Conference as well as, later in '53, to our own International School.

Reports of Work of other Organisations Mrs Nuttall said that the  
52:47 Status of Women Committee reported that the Sudan Draft Constitution had not yet been ratified. A deputation to the Mahdi of Sudan was being arranged.

Manchester Resolution on rights of Conscientious Objectors in  
52:48 Malaya. Mrs Wood (Manchester) spoke to this, saying that Manchester were sure of their facts and wished to go ahead, pressing local M.P.s on the matter. They hoped that a letter sending the resolution on behalf of the Executive might be sent to the Colonial Office. Mrs Duncan Harris felt that the exact position ought to be checked again and promised to do this.

World Parliamentarians Conference on World Government Mrs de  
52:49 Swiet and Mrs Nuttall reported briefly their impressions of this big gathering which had been attended by Parliamentarians from many countries.

NPC letter on Standing Order concerning affiliation to the British  
52:50 Peace Committee. After a short discussion it was agreed that WILPF representatives on the NPC should be instructed to vote in favour of the new Standing Order.

Women's Advisory Council of UNA Miss Dickinson reported that a  
52:51 new Constitution was being prepared. We could have several representatives (1 vote) if we wish and on payment of an affiliation fee of 5/- p.a. Miss Dickinson agreed to continue to hold a watching brief for the moment but said that she did not wish to be our permanent representative on the Council. The matter was referred to the Officers for consideration before the next Executive.

Annual Council 1953 Nothing further had been heard from Birmingham.  
52:52 As Miss Walmesley was not present at this stage of the proceedings it was agreed that a letter be sent asking for information about progress.

Peace and Freedom: Lady Mayer's help Mrs Cusden moved a vote of  
52:53 thanks for Lady Mayer's generous help towards the cost of printing; this was unanimously passed.

Reports from Branches Time was lacking for full reports but the  
52:54 committee heard that Cambridge had sent a copy of Peace and Freedom, with a covering letter to each of its members and that Childwall was looking forward to a talk by a member (present at the Executive) who had recently returned from Yugoslavia and to another from Lady Mayer.

*Mary Nuttall  
2.12.52.*



Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 2nd December, 1952

Apologies: Mrs Binns, Mrs Pick, Miss Dickinson, Miss Bailes, Miss Walmesley, Mrs Hartley, Mrs Stapledon, Lady Mayer, Mrs Franklin

Present: Mrs Nuttall in the chair  
Mrs Ineson, Mrs de Swiet, Miss D. Hargreaves, Mrs I. Von Engel (Oxford), Mrs Greaves (Childwall), Mrs Dayan, Mrs G. Malcolmson, Mrs Duncan Harris, Mrs E. Ecroyd (Croydon), Miss Spurrell (S.Devon) Mrs Schlossmann (Cambridge), Mrs McGregor Wood, Miss Haughton, Mrs Needham (Manchester), Miss McAra (Glasgow), Mrs Cusden, Mrs Sutherst Mrs Warner.

Minutes The following corrections or additions were added before the minutes of the previous meeting were signed: a) the date, 6th October, was inserted; b) the figure of £1.10 was changed to £1.1. in Minute 52:46 c) as the cost of the Digest only; d) the word fares was inserted after the word "members" under 52:39; Miss Hargreaves name was added to the list of those present.

Mrs Ineson reported the sudden death of the Chairman of our Bromley Branch, Mrs Jones. It was agreed that a letter of sympathy be sent from the Executive.

Matters arising:

52:44 Mrs Warner explained that no conference was being held in Mexico but that the International Conference of NGOs had instead been opened early in October in New York.

52:46 East and West Friendship Council As several members are already working with the council and as its activities are in accordance with our own aims and policy, it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Council asking whether a closer association with their work would be possible. Should the Council invite us to be formally represented, the Officers were empowered to ask Mrs McGregor Wood to act for us.

52:48 It was reported that the Manchester Resolution on the position of COs in Malaya has been forwarded, as from the British Section, to the Foreign Office. The FO had replied that COs would receive sympathetic consideration at the administrative level; the legislation had not yet come into force. A further letter was sent by the Parliamentary Committee pressing for proper legal protection of the rights of the CO in Malaya.

Finance

52:55

a) Appeals: Mrs Ineson reported that there had been a most encouraging response from Branches to the autumn appeal (Lady Parmoor's Memorial). Liverpool had sent £10; Childwall £35, with a promise of about £15 more; Nottingham £10.5; Devon £3, Orpington £12; Manchester had promised a donation at the end of the month and Leicester was hoping to raise a sum equivalent to £1 per member. There had also been a generous and prompt response from HQ members. Amounts received varied from 5/- to £50. Speaking of the financial situation and then more generally of responsibility for policy and for decisions Mrs Ineson reminded the Committee that the Section was one integrated whole, that Branches and HQ were - or should be - all working together and finally, that among the Officers the balance of HQ and Branch members was 50/50 while on the Executive, Branch representatives were in the majority. Thus there could be no question of "HQ" imposing a decision or policy for which "Branches" were in no way responsible. Mrs Ineson went on to put forward three proposals on behalf of the Officers who had met the week before:

1) That they were endeavouring to raise a Guarantee

Fund (subject to approval by the Executive) to secure the salaries of the staff.

- 2) That every effort should be made to assure the rest of the required income through subscriptions, affiliation fees and perhaps from special efforts on occasion by Branches. It was not right to make repeated "special appeals" nor did the method bring about financial stability.
- 3) Weekly giving, even at the low rates of 3d or 6d was warmly recommended as a sure way of raising the subscription of anyone who found it hard to pay out 10/- for example at once. A discussion took place about the advisability of providing special envelopes bearing the WILPF badge for this purpose. No decision was taken.

During the discussion about the allocation of responsibility for HQ finance which followed, Miss Spurrell reported that S.Devon hoped to make a contribution at the rate of £1 a head. At this point Mrs Ineson felt it was right to report that there was some real hope of the NPC taking possession of the Peace House in about 4 months time. The WILPF would have first option of accommodation there.

It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Lady Parmoor's sister, Miss Ellis, for the beautiful silver bowl and for the other effects of Lady Parmoor which she had presented to the Section to help the funds. The bowl had not yet been valued. Childwall Branch made the proposal that Miss Emily Green Balch's little booklet might be printed for sale in the UK if a publisher could be found who was willing to do the work for a nominal charge. The matter was referred to the Officers.

b) Handkerchief Stall Mrs de Swiet reported that a number of handkerchiefs had been received; she hoped that yet more were on the way. Mrs Dayan offered to help at the Sale of Work which is on 13.12.52 at Stansfield House, near Hampstead Tube Station.

c) Treasurer's Report (actually given later in the day, but included here for clarity) Mrs Sutherst said that at the moment we held about £280 in our current account and that expenses up to the end of the year would be around £100. She confirmed Mrs Ineson's report of the generous response to the Lady Parmoor appeal, which had brought in about £200 from HQ members. She reported the Officers' decision to meet monthly to review the financial position.

At this point it was agreed that the Guarantee Fund should be held on deposit as a separate account at the bank.

The best way of sending reminders to HQ members about subscriptions falling due was discussed. It was felt that it might be wise to revert to the policy of sending the reminders out each month to those who paid at that time in the previous year. In 1952 reminders were sent out to everyone in January and since then some members had been sent 3 further notices; this was uneconomic and was apt to annoy recipients.

Peace and Freedom Mrs Cusden said that she had nothing to add to her proposals made earlier in the year. She reluctantly accepted the necessity of only having a 4 pp issue and explained that the higher printing costs were partly due to the more attractive but more complicated layout. It was agreed that while the coloured heading should be kept, the layout must be prepared as economically as possible. Mrs Cusden urged members to do all they could to increase circulation.

Mrs Ineson suggested that Mrs Boaden might take over the financial side of the distribution of Peace and Freedom and that she should be appointed Accounts Secretary for the paper. This was unanimously agreed. Miss Von

3.

Engel asked that the essential information about the date of the WILPF foundation should be carried on the front page and at the top. This was agreed.

Report of Parliamentary Committee

52:57

Mrs Warner reported that the Committee had met regularly during the past two months. It had taken action on a number of matters arising either from the reports on Hansard presented by Mrs Fernau, or in the field of international affairs, or upon events reported in the press. Among matters dealt with were, for example: the position of women under the draft constitution for the Sudan; the rights of COs in Malaya; the release for reasons of "clemency" of Nazi war criminals; the situation in Kenya; the need for proper financial support of the specialised agencies of the UN; the revision, in 1955, of the Charter of the United Nations.

Mrs McGregor Wood asked whether it would be possible to arrange for a meeting of the Parliamentary Committee to be held on a Tuesday when the Executive met so that members far from London might have a chance of seeing it at work. This was warmly welcomed by Mrs Greaves and the matter was referred for consideration (by the Hon. Secretary and Chairman).

Report of Race Relations Committee

52:58

Mrs de Swiet reported the recommendations of the committee which had met the day before:

- 1) That an effort be made to meet the African Chiefs who are coming to the UK in January to attend the conference. This was warmly welcomed by the Executive.
- 2) That a letter be sent in January to Mr Lyttelton on the question of African Federation. Miss Dickinson had drafted a letter, but possible alterations might be made later should they seem advisable. The Executive accepted this proposal in principle and agreed to defer study of the letter till nearer the time.
- 3) That a letter be sent to Mr Nehru expressing support of his Korean proposals and our thankfulness for his speech. This was agreed.
- 4) That we should take part, if invited, in a deputation which may be organised by a group of progressive people (our contact is Mrs Grant Duff via Mrs McGregor Wood) to wait upon Mr Lyttelton. This was agreed.

Mrs Ineson added a report of information learned during the conference on South Africa organised by the Progressive League concerning the proposal put forward by Members of the Legislative Council of Tanganyika and now before HMG for the next stage to be a Council of 21 persons with equal representation for whites, Africans and Asians.

Current Events

52:59

Extracts were read from letters about the General Assembly and the work there of the WILPF from Mrs Gladys Walser, Mrs Peat and Miss Agatha Harrison. These were much appreciated and it was agreed that the main parts of the letters should be duplicated and circulated to Branches and Executive members.

It was agreed to send a letter to Mr Eden congratulating him on the attitude taken by him in New York on the Korean problem and saying that we welcomed the independent and essential point of view which he put forward for our country.

It was suggested that an effort be made to arrange a meeting with the UK's woman delegate, Mrs Emmett, on her return to this country.

Annual Council

52:60

It was reported that it had proved impossible to

find accommodation for the Council in Birmingham as had been planned. Miss von Engel agreed to investigate possibilities in Oxford, Mrs Schlossmann would make enquiries at Cambridge and Mrs Greaves asked if she might refer the matter to Childwall and then perhaps put forward a proposal to hold the Council at Warrington Hostel (?) *ST. Katherine's Training College.*

Women's Advisory Council of UNA  
52:61 The question of the participation of the WILPF, British Section, was discussed at length and very great differences of opinion on the matter were evident. The Chairman ruled that no decision could be taken without reference to the Annual Council and in the meantime it was decided that a letter be sent to the WAC explaining that while we were in great sympathy with much of the proposed aims and objects, we were not united on the interpretation to be put on the phrase "to support the work of the United Nations" and should welcome clarification on this point.

Points from Gertrude Baer's Geneva Letters  
52:62 a) Ratification of the Convention on Refugees. Miss Baer pressed all Sections to work for either the signing or the ratification of the Covenant by their respective Governments. Mrs Ineson reported that she had been in touch with Dr Kullmann, the UK representative of the High Commissioner for Refugees; he believed that HMG was working upon the ratification but knew that it was a matter requiring time. It was agreed that we write to HMG expressing satisfaction that the work was going forward and the hope that the UK might be the first country to ratify the Convention.  
b) Miss Baer in another letter raised the question of the advisability of carrying on Refugee work because of the political views, behaviour, influence etc of refugees. The Executive felt that, while this was a problem needing very careful consideration, a letter should be sent nevertheless at once to Miss Baer, affirming our belief that the approach to all matters pertaining to the refugee problem must be based on the principles of Human Rights and deploring the suggestion that this matter might be drawn into the sphere of political "horse-trading" or that we should concern ourselves for a moment with an attitude of mind savouring of witch-hunting.

International Constitution (Proposed Revision)  
52:63 Mrs Duncan Harris reported that the memorandum had been duplicated and that copies were now available for circulation to Branch Secretaries and Executive members.

Vienna Peace Congress  
52:64 It was noted that a decision had been made at Geneva HQ in consultation with the International Chairman, Miss Marie Lous Mohr, and Mrs Stapledon, to send an observer to the Congress in December. The reply sent from Geneva to the invitation received from the Peace Congress was read by Mrs Duncan Harris. It contained the following points:  
1) The person attending would be an observer.  
2) She will not be given authorisation to vote or to sign in the name of the organisation or to engage it in any action or appeal.

A discussion followed in which the feeling was strongly expressed that even to send an Observer was gravely prejudicial to the work of the Branches in the British Section especially as the fact had already appeared in print in a Communist paper. It was decided to write a letter to the International Chairman to tell her of our serious concern.

Mrs Blackburn  
52:65 The President of the Australian Section arrived at this point. She was warmly welcomed by the Chairman

5.

and when she spoke brought us greetings from the European Sections which she had been visiting. It is hoped that Mrs Blackburn will be able to visit Branches to speak and that she will soon visit the Parliamentary Committee. Mrs Blackburn is in this country till March and may be written to c/o Australia House, Aldwych, London.

Coronation Year: Miss Brittain's proposals Mrs Duncan Harris reported that during a discussion with Vera Brittain, she had made some suggestions for furthering the cause of the WILPF, British Section. These were to be considered by the Officers. During the discussion it was decided to write to Mr Eccles applying for an allocation of seats on the coronation route.

UNESCO  
52:67 The question of the expense of the proposed new building for UNESCO was raised. It was agreed that the situation must be watched but that this was not the moment for action.

Date of next meeting FEBRUARY 3rd, 1953

*Mary Kuttall*  
*3. 1. 53.*