

WILPF 2/24

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
FOR PEACE & FREEDOM
BRITISH SECTION



ANNUAL REPORT

1954-1955

FORTIETH
BIRTHDAY
NUMBER

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

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

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

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

International Headquarters:

12, Rue du Vieux College, Geneva, Switzerland.

International President:

Miss Emily Greene Balch.

The WILPF was founded at The Hague in 1915, by women from 13 countries. Sections are now active in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Israel, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, U.S.A.

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

BRITISH SECTION

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Miss B. M. Baker	Mrs. K. E. Innes.
Miss Vera Brittain	Lady Mayer
Lady Boyd Orr	Miss Edith Pye
Rev. Constance Coltman, M.A., B.D.	Mrs. McGregor Ross.
The Hon. Mrs. Franklin, C.B.E.	Mrs. Agnes Stapledon.
Mrs. B. Duncan Harris, J.P.	Mrs. Mary Graham White.
Dr. Rita Hinden.	Mrs. G. McGregor Wood.

Hon. Secretary:

Mrs. E. F. Ineson.

Hon. Treasurer:

Mrs. O. Sutherst.

Hon. Editor, "Peace and Freedom":

Mrs. P. Cusden, M.B.E., J.P.

Hon. Liaison Officer:

Mrs. G. McGregor Wood

Chairman of Executive Committee:

Mrs. M. Nuttall.

Vice-Chairmen of Executive Committee:

Miss H. Walmesley, Mrs. L. de Swiet, Miss M. Dickinson.

1915-1955 LOOKING BACK

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom was born of the great movement for the enfranchisement of women, a movement which had gathered momentum throughout the preceding century. At The Hague in 1915 the campaign for the freedom of women found unity with the urge for that peace which alone can make freedom a reality. "Only free women can build up the peace that is to be."

The British Section started on 30th September, 1915, with an all-star committee—women already widely known, who had been annealed in the furnace of the fight for freedom. They defined this new venture as "an educative work that will not be accomplished in our time or in that of our children's children".

Looking back over the forty crowded years that have intervened—so full of war, tension and change—one theme can be traced which recurs constantly in the work of the League. It was first enunciated in the delegation that went from The Hague to the statesmen of the warring nations in 1915, urging them to stop fighting and submit their differences to arbitration. Then and through the years the League has moved into situations of conflict with the same purpose. In 1918 some of our members were soon in the "enemy" countries. They saw the effects of the prolonged blockade on the shrunken bodies of starved babies, and in the bitterness of men's minds. They turned aside to collect a million rubber teats so that those babies could get the milk that relief organisations were sending, and then, because they *knew*, they were able to speak with conviction to the thousands gathered in Trafalgar Square demanding from the Government the reversal of the blockade policy. The same might be recorded of the situation in the Ruhr; and again in 1920 in Ireland, where a British group went to work with the Irish Section to bring some sense of fellowship and healing. Returning they told what they had seen in the "devastated areas". Later they sent an appeal to Ireland that, when independence was gained, they should include disarmament in their national policy. In the same spirit during the general strike the officers sent to the Press, the T.U.C., and the Government a plea deploring "The division of the British people into two opposing and hostile camps . . . the idea of victory by *force majeure* is an illusion, and a curse to both victors and vanquished".

Then there was that inspired "Mission of Friendship to the Women of China" in 1927-8 when Edith Pye (Peace) and Camille Drevet (Freedom) went round the world with the message of goodwill rejoicing in "Young China's movement for Freedom". They also turned aside to greet the Annamite women of Indo-China, especially on behalf of French women.

And India. Agatha Harrison's work with India was done mainly through the India Conciliation Group, but she always brought into the WILPF the knowledge which she gained so painfully in her sharing with the people of India in their travail and their struggle for freedom. The memory of the quality of her work is a gift to our generation.

Of course there are many other instances, but this would be a one-sided comment on the years if it did not at least glance at some other aspects of our work. One reckons up with amazement the amount of knowledgable, purposeful speaking which was accomplished by a comparatively small handful of inspired and informed women, perhaps most of all in the dramatic propaganda of the Peacemakers Pilgrimage. Under the slogan "LAW NOT WAR" and with the co-operation of 27 other societies they set out on pilgrimage in 1926. From Edinburgh and Penzance, from Bognor and East Anglia the women came in their thousands, speaking everywhere, on village greens, in halls and market places, patiently explaining the opportunity of our country to sign the "Optional Clause" of the Hague Court, thereby accepting the obligation to settle all international disputes by conciliation

or arbitration and making the Kellogg Pact a reality. A resolution in this sense was sent to the Government from each meeting and this, with the final impressive rally in Hyde Park, had a profound effect on public opinion, and was a powerful factor in influencing the Government. Following the Pilgrimage was the disarmament petition which was sponsored by the Women's Peace Crusade in which the WILPF took the lead and of which Dr. Hilda Clark was the inspiration and administrator. In great Britain over 2,000,000 signatures were obtained and dramatically despatched for presentation to the Disarmament Conference.

So through the years the backcloth of our stage has been the moving, changing, chaotic picture of a world in travail and in flux. Across the stage, week by week, move our ceaseless efforts, to educate ourselves and to influence others; meetings, resolutions, letters and deputations to Ministers; all the educative work that goes to build up the public opinion which, in the long run, fashions the policies of the democracies. We are conscious that we are witnessing the birth of a world changed, shrunken and unified during these 40 years almost beyond recognition; a world overshadowed by the evil of fantastic powers of destruction, but also revealing immeasurable potentialities for good and for the release of the human spirit.

In this small world we take our place, not only in the life of our nation, but interwoven with the thought and work of the United Nations.

In this anniversary year we may well look back and remember the women who have shaped our policies. Names loved and honoured, too many to enumerate. But each of them contributed to the building of a world at peace. And we are their heirs.

BARBARA DUNCAN HARRIS,
Ex-President.

THE CHALLENGE OF TO-DAY

This year has a special significance for us—not because there is any particular virtue in the fact of being forty years old, but because at this moment in world history we are faced with a challenge similar in kind, but of even greater portent than that facing our pioneers in 1915.

The decision of the great Powers to harness nuclear power to the military machine has brought mankind to the very brink of destruction. We are faced with the inescapable conclusion that the nations must disarm, or perish.

The WILPF has always advocated universal disarmament and observance of the rule of law in the settlement of disputes. It has held the view that the prohibition of any particular weapon is illogical and futile, and that only the elimination of war itself can ensure peace.

The advent of the Hydrogen bomb, however, presents the world with a new and terrible situation. Disarmament Conferences have hitherto failed in their purpose and the current efforts to achieve agreement do not encourage hope. Meanwhile, the known as well as the unpredictable effects of nuclear explosions are appalling. Eminent scientists have made it clear that even the testing of such weapons endangers the lives, health, food supplies and reproductive powers of the human family.

How can we meet this challenge? That is the great question facing us in 1955.

PHOEBE CUSDEN,
International Vice-Chairman.

FORTIETH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Two parties have been arranged in London this year, one in connection with the 1955 Annual Council, and another to take place in the autumn. A financial appeal was launched for birthday gifts of "forty coins," which is remaining open until the autumn.

A special anniversary leaflet has been issued for free distribution in the campaign to get new members which is one of our primary aims in this fortieth year's work for peace.

Branches are making their own arrangements for special efforts, and individual members have been asked to respond in whatever way they best can in order to strengthen the League.

Details of activities are reported from time to time in current issues of the news sheet.

COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE.—Chairman: Mrs. Mary Nuttall.

Six Executive Committees have been held, at which attendance has been very good, averaging 25. An effort was made to find a more spacious and comfortable room in which to meet, but without success, the only possible room to hire being too costly.

The loss by death of two prominent members of the Executive—Agatha Harrison and Hilda Hartley—was keenly felt by the members, their service to the League being unique and invaluable though different in kind. Both were active in WIL work to the end.

In *May* when the Committee met the Conference on Indo-China was being held in Geneva, and a letter was read from Agatha Harrison appreciating the fact that the Press ticket for "Peace and Freedom" had enabled her to gain admittance into all the Press Conferences. She was able to make personal contact with a woman member of the Chinese delegation, the Minister of Information. This was the last of her many missions of reconciliation.

The afternoon session in May was held at the Friends International Centre and was followed by tea, and an address from the late Mr. Harold Timperley, the treasurer of the "War on Want" Council.

In *July*, the President, Professor Kathleen Lonsdale, visited the committee during the lunch hour and gave details of her forthcoming tour of Australia and the Far East. A cheque for £50 from the Agatha Harrison Fund was presented to her in recognition of the fact that she would be making contacts with and speaking to WIL groups and sections. (Only half this amount was used and was given to the Indian and Japanese Sections to help in their work.)

At the close of the meeting members attended a reception for Mrs. Pandit at the Overseas League (Club) arranged by the Women's Council, for India, Pakistan and Ceylon. Mrs. Pandit paid a warm tribute to Agatha Harrison.

The *September* Executive was cancelled as so many apologies for absence were received.

In *October* the Extended Executive was held at the Friends International Centre when reports were given of the International Executive held at Copenhagen by Mrs. Cusden, Mrs. Peat, Mrs. Nuttall and Mrs. Stapledon. Part of the afternoon session was conducted as a Parliamentary Committee with Mrs. Radley in the chair. Lunch was held at Friends' House when the President was welcomed back from her tour and spoke of her contacts with WIL members in India, Japan, and Australia, and successful meetings held. Arrangements were made for a public meeting at which Professor Lonsdale could report fully on her tour.

At the *December* meeting Mrs. De Swiet spoke on her visit to Germany and this was followed by questions and discussion.

Two further Executive committees were held, in February and March of 1955, at which plans were discussed for celebrating the fortieth birthday of the League, and arrangements made for the Reception to Mrs. Pandit, and the sessions of the Annual Council.

PARLIAMENTARY.—Chairman: Mrs. Myrtle A. Radley.

This committee met weekly when Parliament was in session and the regular attendance of its members made it possible for much work to be done (reported under *Summary of the Year's Work*).

Mrs. Fernau has given valuable service in reading and summarising *Hansard* for presentation to the meeting and the activities of the United Nations have been brought to our notice by detailed reports from our representative, Gladys Walser, in New York.

Letters reporting UN work from Gertrude Baer in Geneva and Madame Jouve in Paris have been received. The committee relies also on the special interest of some of its members on such matters as Race Relations, China and Formosa, Refugees, Status of Women, and European affairs.

Miss Tims undertook the Secretaryship when Mrs. Warner was regrettably unable to attend, and the committee owes to her the fullness and clarity of the Minutes which are circulated every week to Branches, groups, and interested members. This has made it possible to take joint action on some issues and to carry on helpful two-way correspondence with the Branches.

Amongst visitors entertained were:—

Mrs. Malin, of New York; Mrs. Duguid, from Australia; Dr. Bussey, on her way to the International Executive; Mrs. Karlen and Mrs. Fredholm, members of the Swedish Section; Mme. Jouve from Paris; and Mrs. Isono, an officer of the Japanese Section.

Invited speakers included:—

Mr. E. S. Sachs, from South Africa, who spoke on Oliver Schreiner's Centenary; and conditions of Life in South Africa.

Mr. Whitehorn, who gave an account of conditions in Formosa, having spent three years on the island.

Miss J. Merttens, who described and contrasted two separate visits to Kenya.

EDUCATION.—Chairman: Miss Hilda Walmesley.

In September, 1954, Miss B. M. Baker gave a challenging address on "Education at the Crossroads," at a lunch-meeting, and the Education Committee took up the challenge with a positive approach to the question on how far our educational system provided means to good citizenship, especially at the critical early adolescent stages. A questionnaire dealing with four main points was circulated to members and friends. The returns showed extremely good response and provided much varied and interesting material bearing on the whole field of citizenship training. While it has been extremely gratifying to find practically no evidence offered of discrimination on grounds of religion, race or sex, there are obviously wide differences in the educational facilities available for young people in urban and rural areas.

The exchange of Children's Art offers a pleasant and simple method of making contacts with other nations, especially where there is a language barrier. It is hoped that interest in the international exchange scheme, initiated by Mrs. Maude Muller of Pennsylvania and sponsored by the Indian High Commissioner in London, Mrs. Pandit, will spread widely and give our British children the exciting experience of sending away pictures and receiving others from abroad.

The aims of the WILPF will be achieved just in so far as the aims of education at all stages succeed in establishing those fundamental moral conditions in human relationships which are expressed with dignity and understanding by good citizens, first nationally, then internationally without discrimination.

RACE RELATIONS.—Secretary: Miss Maud Dickinson.

The Committee has not met this year, but great interest has been maintained by correspondence. The hon. secretary has done valuable work in supplying advice and information on the complex questions that have arisen. She writes about the year's work as follows:—

"It is impossible to write on Race Relations this year without recording the great debt we owe to Agatha Harrison for the wisdom, understanding vision and knowledge, with which she sought to help us in the consideration of this complicated question, and we are constantly reminded that we no longer have this guidance. Much of her life was given to establishing good and sympathetic relations with peoples of other races, notably of course with India; and what a harvest of friendship we have reaped there. In recent years the increasing problems of racial tension arising in many parts of Africa received her close attention. It must be our aim to go on with the work so well begun.

"We now have a number of members specially interested in Race Relations, and we endeavour to provide them with information, documents and copies of letters sent from Headquarters. Africa has again been our main preoccupation, and we are grateful to the Africa Bureau for its continued help and counsel."

The Section on "Race Relations" in our statement to the UK Delegates to the UN General Assembly is reported elsewhere. Correspondence referred to in the *Summary of the Year's Work*, shows both the way in which events have been dealt with, and the trend of our policy.

PUBLICATIONS.—Chairman: Mrs. Phoebe Cusden.

The Committee has met four times during the year, and discussed means of publicity by press, radio and advertising. Recommendations were made regarding the lay-out of "Peace and Freedom" and for revision of the blue brochure for propaganda purposes. Members of the Committee assisted in the preparation of the special 40th Anniversary leaflet.

MRS. PANDIT

One event which stood out in the year was the coming to London of Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, as High Commissioner for India. This appointment followed her term as President of the United Nations General Assembly.

We in the British Section especially welcomed Mrs. Pandit to this position, remembering her long association and friendship with Agatha Harrison as well as her more recent office as President of the Indian Section of the League.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S WORK

UNITED NATIONS

For the third year in succession a memorandum was addressed to the United Kingdom delegates at the United Nations and circulated prior to the opening of the Ninth Assembly, in October, 1954. In it we made known our views on the following items: Disarmament; Race Relations in South Africa; South-West Africa; Economic Development and Technical Assistance; Membership, with special reference to the principle of universality and the need for the seating of the Chinese People's Republic; Refugees; Arbitration. An addendum on the dispute over Cyprus urged the UK to stand by the principle of self-determination.

Whilst the Ninth Assembly was in session we were kept closely informed of the proceedings through regular reports from our Consultant in New York, Mrs. Gladys Walser, and from a study of the weekly news releases from the London Information Centre.

Members have maintained close contact with SCESWUN (Standing Conference on Economic and Social Work of the United Nations), and have taken an active part in its five working groups. Our representatives are:—

Technical Assistance: Mrs. Weiss.

Refugees: Mrs. Ineson, Mrs. de Swiet.

Status of Women: Mrs. Nuttall, Mrs. Sutherst.

Human Rights: Mrs. Warner, Mrs. Fernau.

Child Welfare: Mrs. de Swiet, Mrs. Sutherst.

We have co-operated in resolutions concerning Technical Assistance, Political Rights of Women, and Refugees (reported more fully elsewhere).

Mrs. McGregor Wood has continued to act as our representative on the UNA Women's Advisory Council; Mrs. Ineson and Mrs. Nuttall also attended two meetings with Mrs. Walter Elliot, the only woman member of the UK Delegation to the Ninth Assembly, and were able to put to her the concern of the League on the questions of Refugees and South West Africa.

We assisted actively in the nation-wide UNICEF appeal in the autumn, and received a letter of thanks from the Secretary.

The question of Charter Review has remained under consideration, and two observers were appointed to the Council set up for this purpose in October.

The resolution on an Emergency Food Reserve passed at the 1954 Annual Council was forwarded to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, and a personal reply received from the Director-General.

A letter was sent to the Soviet Embassy in May, when Russia came into the ILO and Unesco, expressing the hope that this co-operation would strengthen the United Nations.

We were concerned at the withdrawal of Consultative Status from the Women's International Democratic Federation in May and protested to the Foreign Secretary that the principle of universality in the United Nations was thereby violated. A detailed reply was received explaining the view of the United Kingdom (and other delegations) that this organisation had not fulfilled its obligations to further the work of the UN, but had mainly political interests.

When the issue of Guatemala came before the Security Council in July, a letter was sent to Mr. Selwyn Lloyd deeply regretting the UK decision to abstain from voting. The Foreign Office replied at some length, enclosing an extract from *Hansard* to substantiate its case, but the reasons given were not felt to be entirely satisfactory.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

First news of the Hydrogen Bomb tests carried out by America in the Pacific coincided with the 1954 Annual Council, and a letter was immediately dispatched to the Prime Minister asking for a moral lead from Britain in condemning these weapons, and in calling a meeting of heads of states for the purpose of outlawing "methods of mass destruction". At the same time an appeal was made to Mrs. Pandit to use all her influence in the United Nations towards stopping the testing and production of the bomb.

An article by Professor Lonsdale taken from the *Atomic Scientists News* formed the basis of an emergency leaflet which was widely distributed in the branches and at mass meetings. Members co-operated in meetings and conferences arranged by UNA, the Joint Standing Pacifist Committee, and the Hydrogen Bomb National Campaign.

A statement signed by all Indian women M.P.s was received from the Indian Section in April, and immediately circulated to all branches and the Press.

Throughout the year the Executive and Parliamentary Committees continued to watch developments, and arising out of correspondence with Mr. Harvey Moore, Q.C., a letter was sent in November to Sir Gerald Fitzmaurice, UK representative in the UN Legal Committee, seeking advice on bringing the question of the legality of nuclear tests before the International Court of Justice. The deepening anxiety felt at this time with the news of the death of a Japanese fisherman from the effects of radiation also prompted us to approach several Members of Parliament to raise the matter in the House; this was subsequently done on several occasions. A reply received from Sir Gerald Fitzmaurice, in January, after his return to this country, explained that an advisory opinion from the International Court could only be obtained by means of a resolution in the General Assembly or Security Council.

A suitable means of approach continued to be sought, and a letter was sent to Mrs. Pandit in January seeking information on the position of India on this question; similar explorations on these lines were also made by the National Peace Council, with whom we have co-operated. We are particularly indebted to Mrs. Phoebe Cusden for undertaking a considerable amount of correspondence in seeking accurate information on the medical effects of atomic radiation from our own Japanese Section and from geneticists.

News that a fresh series of tests was to take place in the US, and that Russia was also developing hydrogen bombs, impelled us to write in February to both the US and USSR Embassies asking that such tests should cease, pending a general disarmament conference; an acknowledgment was received from the Soviet representative. At the same time a similar appeal was sent to Sir Winston Churchill and all Commonwealth Prime Ministers, who were then meeting in London.

The publication of the White Paper on Defence in February, with its announcement that Britain was to develop and produce hydrogen bombs in a policy of "defence by deterrence," brought a fresh impetus to action. The Parliamentary Committee drafted an emergency statement which was immediately circulated to every Member of Parliament before the forthcoming Defence debate. Our view was forcibly expressed that "the expenditure of vast resources on the production of such armaments can only be described as insane and immoral," and we urged that this country should take the lead in advocating their total renunciation.

Members supported a mass meeting of protest organised in March by Miss Sybil Morrison on behalf of the Joint Standing Pacifist Committee; amongst the speakers was Miss Vera Brittain, one of our Vice-Presidents.

DISARMAMENT

A letter was sent by the President to Sir Pierson Dixon, with copy to Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, regarding the composition of the Disarmament Commission sub-committee which met in London during May. A detailed reply from Mr. Selwyn Lloyd dissented from her view that the sub-committee should be broadened to include representatives of India and China and stated: "It would not be right for this sub-committee of the Commission to include Governments which are not members of the Commission itself, although there is no reason why the sub-committee should not arrange to take their views into account." He also added: "... so long as the Soviet Union adopts a reasonable attitude, and shows its willingness to get down to the practical details of disarmament, there will remain a hope that progress can be made."

Mrs. Jessie Street offered to represent "Peace and Freedom" at meetings of the Commission, but only the introductory session was open to the Press. Mrs. Street also gave a talk to the Parliamentary Committee in July on the outstanding differences between East and West, and prepared a detailed and valuable paper on the history of disarmament.

The debate on Civil Defence in the House of Commons on 5th July, revealed the inadequacy of the Government's proposals, and a letter was sent to the Home Secretary stressing that "the only real defence against the horrors of modern warfare is total and universal disarmament."

The signing of the Paris Agreements, with their proposals for the rearmament of Western Germany, led us to protest to Sir Anthony Eden in December. The agreements were particularly regretted in view of the more conciliatory proposals put forward by Mr. Vyshinsky on 30th September; the unanimous acceptance by the General Assembly in November of a resolution that negotiations should continue through the disarmament sub-committee; and the unanimous adoption of the "atoms for peace" plan on 23rd November. A reply from the Foreign Office stated the policy of H.M. Government that Western Germany "should have some armed forces so that she can play her part in western defence" and added that "the Soviet Union has already re-armed the East Germans".

A further letter was addressed to the Foreign Secretary in February, 1955, in regard to United States bases in this country and the nature of the "informal arrangements" under which they were here. The reply referred to arrangements made "for the common defence" and reaffirmed that the use of such bases would be a matter "for joint decision by H.M. Government and the United States Government". On the question of security, it was stated that H.M. Government were "constantly seeking . . . a comprehensive agreement providing for the total prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, and other weapons of mass destruction, together with major reductions in armed forces and other armaments," but until such agreement could be reached preparations must be made on the assumption that in the event of an attack "the free nations . . . would have to use all the weapons at their disposal in their defence."

REFUGEES

The new element in the work for refugees this year has been the introduction of the Five-Year Plan by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Dr. Van Heuven Goedhart. This aims at finding a permanent solution of the problem for the remainder of the refugees under his mandate, the bulk of whom are living in the 200 camps still in existence in Europe. The British Section has consistently pressed the Government to support this plan, and to take its share in providing the necessary funds.

The following resolution was sent by the British Section to the International WIL Executive and passed unanimously—

"Realising the need for refugees to be given a place in the social and economic life of the country in which they find themselves, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom welcomes and wholeheartedly supports the five-year plan of the High Commissioner for Refugees to promote a permanent solution on these lines for the refugees under his care.

"Sections are urged to publicise the plan and to press Governments to take a full share in providing the necessary funds both for emergency aid and for the carrying out of the terms embodied in the five-year plan."

In spite of pressure from various bodies the British Government took a completely unco-operative and negative attitude to the scheme, voting against the policy of international responsibility and reiterating the fact that their original large contribution to the Emergency Fund was all that they were prepared to give. Before the UK delegates left for the meeting of the UN Ninth Assembly they received the statement drafted by the Parliamentary Committee which included a plea for pressure on our Government to support the High Commissioner in his plan. It was feared that other Governments would follow the lead of Great Britain on this issue, and withhold their support too. Several Branches wrote to their local M.P.s expressing concern on this issue.

Mrs. Ineson was able to put this view to Mrs. Walter Elliot at a meeting of the Women's Advisory Council of UNA just before she set out for New York. It was felt that it was largely owing to Mrs. Elliot's subsequent work in the Third Committee that when the resolution empowering the High Commissioner to proceed with his scheme came before the Assembly it received H.M. Government's "moral support" and affirmative vote.

The obvious change of attitude of the Government was quickly followed up by the SCESWUN Working Group, the members of which requested the Foreign Office to receive a deputation prior to the next meeting of the High Commissioner's Advisory Council. This was granted and a deputation of five was received (in the absence of Mr. Anthony Nutting) by Mr. E. R. Warner, who represented the UK at the Council where the scheme was to be presented for ratification. Mrs. Ineson was invited to represent the WILPF, the other four members of the deputation representing the British Council for Aid to Refugees, the World Council of Churches, the Board of

Deputies of British Jews, and the United Nations Association. The discussion was lengthy and constructive and there was every reason to hope that the British Government would eventually accept its responsibility to share the necessary costs when details were satisfactorily settled.

In the meantime the Oxford Branch of the WILPF framed a resolution which was sent to the Foreign Secretary in February in the name of the Parliamentary Committee:—

“ . . . trusting that HM Government will co-operate in the plans now being put forward to clear the Refugee Camps in Europe within a period of five years and will give a generous contribution to the High Commissioner's Combined Fund for this purpose;

and that it may be found possible to relax the regulations governing the admission of guaranteed families in order to accept some of those containing, besides workers, one old or invalid member who is not likely to become a charge on public funds.”

RACE RELATIONS

The racial policy pursued by the Government of South Africa has continued to exercise our attention with growing concern. In April, 1954, a letter was sent to Lord Swinton (Minister of Commonwealth Relations) urging that on no account should HM Government accede to any demand by the Union of South Africa for the transfer to the Union of the High Commission Territories of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. In January, 1955, a similar appeal was addressed to Sir Winston Churchill on the occasion of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. The injustice of the Western Areas Removal Scheme (for the re-housing of Africans outside Johannesburg) was brought home to the British public in an article by Father Trevor Huddleston which appeared in *The Observer*, on 2nd May, and a letter of support and appreciation of his work was sent to Father Huddleston.

The relation of South West Africa to the Union has been continuously under review. Concern was expressed to Lord Swinton in July at “ the persistent refusal of the Union of South Africa to honour its obligations ” towards this territory, and it was urged that compulsory jurisdiction should be sought from the International Court of Justice. Following publication of the report of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on South West Africa, a letter was sent to the Chairman in September again recommending this procedure.

This question, and that of South Africa's racial policy, came before the United Nations General Assembly in November. The attitude of the UK in the consideration of these issues by the UN caused us to protest to the Foreign Secretary in November, and a detailed reply was received in the following terms:—

(1) The resolution on South West Africa “ went beyond the procedure obtaining under the Mandate System of the League of Nations and so, in the United Kingdom view, was contrary to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice which both the General Assembly and the United Kingdom have accepted as a whole ”;

(2) HM Government were bound to regard the proceedings of the UN Commission on the Racial Situation in the Union of South Africa as “ illegal ”, since . . . “ it can scarcely be doubted that the policy of the South African Government with regard to the different racial groups in that country is essentially a domestic South African matter ”. The letter went on to point out, however, that the aim of the United Kingdom continued to be “ the advancement of all communities without discrimination on grounds of race, colour, or creed . . . the end we seek to achieve is in essence clear: it is not discriminatory ”.

Another African problem which has not lessened during the year is the situation in Kenya. The growth of the Mau Mau movement, and the methods used in repression of it, have caused great disquiet. Following the Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to Kenya, published in March, 1954, a letter was sent to the Colonial Secretary in May urging implementation of the constructive proposals contained in it, and in particular stressing the need for increased African representation in the legislature; in reply, the Minister concurred in this and stated that a “ comprehensive study . . . of the procedure for selecting African representatives ” was to be made. Attention was drawn in July to a forthcoming film—“ Simba ”—which seemed to exploit the detention of Mau Mau suspects, and letters of protest were sent to the producer and the company concerned; detailed replies received assured us that the objects of the film were not to inflame race relations or encourage the use of violence, but the public showing of “ Simba ” later in the year did not altogether confirm this.

Reports received through the Press of misconduct by security forces, coupled with the resignation of Colonel Young, and the publication of the Church Missionary Society's pamphlet, “ Kenya, Time for Action,” caused us to write to the Colonial Secretary in February regarding the methods of administering justice under the emergency regulations, and stating our conviction “ that HM Government should apply the same principles of justice to the African citizens of this Colony as to all other British subjects and that the powers exercised under the emergency should be examined with this object in view.”

The constitutional crisis in Buganda was also noted, and the White Paper issued in November was closely studied. Appreciation was expressed to Sir Keith Hancock for the personal part he played in achieving a settlement of this complex problem.

The decision of the United States Supreme Court in May to end segregation in state schools was warmly welcomed, and letters of support were sent to the US Embassy and to the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured Peoples in New York.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Prior to the opening of the Geneva Conference in April, 1954, a letter was sent to the Foreign Secretary urging the importance of agreed settlements in Korea and Indo-China. The text of a cable received from Gladys Walsler for the American Section was attached to the letter, which asked for co-operation “ to hold firm Britain's opposition to precipitate action jeopardising Geneva Conference ”. In the same month messages were also sent to Sir John Kotelawala of Ceylon and to the High Commissioner for India concerning the Colombo Conference of Asian Powers, and appreciation was expressed that India had refused to accept American military aid. The successful conclusion of the Geneva Conference prompted us to write to Sir Anthony Eden, M. Mendes-France, and Mr. Krishna Menon, in appreciation of their efforts to make peace.

Later, it was noted with some concern that the terms of the agreement did not appear to be fulfilled in South Vietnam, and a Member of Parliament was approached in March, 1955, to ask a question on the holding of elections in that area.

The dangerous situation which developed over Formosa early in 1955 caused great anxiety, and members were grateful to Miss Edith Adam for her continuous study of the problem and valuable advice. In February a letter was sent to Mr. Attlee expressing approval of his forthright statement on behalf of the Opposition, and asking that HM Government be pressed to make a similar declaration that this country “ is not prepared to follow the present lead of the United States in this matter.”

CONSCRIPTION

The case of an Israeli conscientious objector who was on hunger-strike was brought to our notice by the War Resisters International in June, and our Israel Section was at once informed. The Secretary replied that they were already taking action, and we were later informed that the objector had been released.

In January an appeal was received from the Central Board for Conscientious Objectors for support in obtaining a "conscience clause" for boy soldiers already in the army before the age of 18. Branches were circulated to approach their M.P.s and a letter was sent to the War Minister before the debate on the Revised Army and Air Force Act in the House of Commons. A reply from the War Office held the view that such cases "could best be dealt with administratively"; later, however, slight concessions were made at the third reading of the Bill.

STATUS OF WOMEN

The status of Women Committee co-ordinates the activities of 16 Women's Organisations in this country working for the equal status of women as citizens. Our representative, Mrs. Mary Nuttall, reports that during the year the Law of Domicile of married women has been studied; a memorandum was issued and a question asked in the House.

National Insurance with women's contributions and benefits was closely watched.

It was regrettable that the House of Commons recommended in the Mines and Quarries Bill clauses to restrict women's work and to class women with young persons.

There are still eight points in English law which discriminate against women. The committee therefore drew up a manifesto on these eight points to present to all prospective candidates at the forthcoming election. The eight points are:—

- Equal Pay.
- Equal Political Rights.
- Equal Moral Standard.
- Discrimination in Income Tax.
- Equal opportunities in employment.
- Equality under National Insurance.
- Domicile of married women.
- Equal opportunity in the Ministry for men and women in the Established Church.

Mrs. Nuttall was one of forty women who went on a deputation to Sir David Eccles, Minister of Education, in February, urging him to take steps to introduce equal pay for teachers immediately. As Sir David Eccles has for many years admitted the justice of this claim it was all the more discouraging when he said quite frankly that he would not do this.

The SCESWUN working group for the status of women has been studying the different standards of education and social standing in four countries in Africa:—Nigeria, Gold Coast, Sudan, and British Cameroons. There is a wide range of difference; but it was particularly noted that where women are allowed to trade and do business their social and political position is much higher.

The group continued to press HM Government to ratify the Convention on the Political Rights of Women.

WORK IN THE BRANCHES

Three Regional Conferences were arranged during the year and proved to be of great value in drawing together members of neighbouring branches and giving opportunities for the study of special problems under the guidance of expert speakers.

A London Regional Conference was held at Croydon in September on the theme of "Planning for Plenty". Credit for the excellent arrangements must go to Croydon, but members from Bromley, Hampstead, Hassocks, Orpington, Worthing and Headquarters also participated. Local teachers, UNA and other organisations were well represented at the conference. The speakers were Miss B. M. Baker, Professor G. Catlin, Mr. H. Timperley and Mr. P. D. Mehta. An additional attraction was the exhibition of children's paintings collected for "Art for World Fellowship", by Mrs. Muller, of the US Section, who was also present to talk about the pictures.

The North-West Regional Conference took place in Manchester on 30th October, when six branches joined together to discuss problems of Africa. Local branch reports were given at the first session, and Mrs. Ineson brought messages from Headquarters. Mrs. Yardley (Childwall) took the Chair at the next session, and Mrs. Sunners (Liverpool) gave an account of her work in welcoming the coloured people who arrive in large numbers at the Liverpool docks. Mr. Lodge of Manchester then spoke about the work of the British Council in providing for coloured students, and Mr. Eric Blackburn described Manchester's new project in offering educational facilities for older coloured workers in the city. Mrs. Garnett (Manchester) chaired the evening session when Mr. Victor Turner gave a fascinating and timely talk on "The Changing Pattern of African Village Life".

In October also the Hassocks and Ditchling and Worthing branches held an open meeting at Hassocks which was well attended and aroused much interest. Mrs. Duncan Harris spoke on the origins and growth of the WILPF, and Miss J. Merttens gave some personal impressions of visits to Kenya and Tanganyika.

BIRMINGHAM. Membership 57 (two resignations; nine new members). The year has not been an outstanding one, but the Branch has been active in a quiet way. The Committee met six times and there have been six members' meetings with an average attendance of 19.

Reports of the 1954 Annual Council were given by Miss H. R. Walmesley and Miss I. Hundy on 14th April. In June Mrs. Mary Phillips, B.A., a member of Nottingham Branch, gave an address on "The Psychology of Peacemaking", describing the modern scientific approach to human problems and the research now taking place in regard to Delinquency, Industrial Relationships, Education and Mental Health.

The Summer Meeting was held on 18th September by kind invitation of the Misses Sturge, when a talk was given by Dr. Cecelia Korn-Grundland, on a holiday in Spain. The Bring and Buy Sale raised £10 9s.

On 6th October, M. A. Lagnion of Birmingham University spoke on the "Qualifications of the Educator, with reference to France". A small number of members were privileged to meet Professor Kathleen Lonsdale, F.R.S., our National President, on 6th December, and hear about her recent tour round the world.

Miss H. R. Walmesley, Branch Chairman, represents us on the National Executive, and is Chairman of the Education Committee, to which office she brings knowledge and experience.

The Branch is affiliated to the Birmingham Peace Council, and the Standing Conference of Women's Organisations; and is represented on the Birmingham Council for the Welfare of Old People. We are in close touch with the United Nations Association, Miss Walmesley representing us on the Birmingham District Council, and we have contributed to the UNICEF appeal for funds.

We record with regret the loss by death of Miss Hipsley, Mrs. Lane and Mrs. Burt, and are grateful for their work in the cause of Peace.

BROMLEY. Membership 17 (two losses; three new members).

Regular monthly meetings have been held, with speakers on Jamaica; Indo-China; and Germany. A meeting in memory of Agatha Harrison was held in May. In September Miss Margaret Bradley spoke about her work in Pakistan. The Branch co-operated in the Regional Conference at Croydon in September. A successful Bring and Buy Sale was held in November which raised over £8, and a talk was given by Mrs. Shave on her visit to America; the branch also had an enjoyable Christmas Party in December. In February, Mrs. Wills gave an account of life in China.

The Branch is grateful for help from its President, Miss Dickinson, and regret her recent accident which has prevented her from attending meetings.

CHEADLE HULME. (33 members). During the year we have lost our keenest member and well-loved Secretary, Mrs. Hartley, who provided for us the series of talks on the Revision of the UN Charter by Dr. Alex. Wilson, M.A., D.Phil. In October, Dr. Wilson spoke to us again on the work of the FAO, and in February we had a talk by Mrs. Wilson on German customs and life in a German village. In November, Mrs. Maitland, M.B., Ch.B., spoke on the Poliomyelitis Conference in Rome, and in December, Mrs. Gluckman, Hon. Secretary of the Manchester Bureau for African Affairs, spoke of her life in the Zambesi country where she spent eight years with her husband, Professor of Anthropology at Manchester University.

We joined in the Regional Conference held in Manchester in October. Members collected garments to help Mr. Eric Blackburn in his Evening Institute for Coloured Workers.

As purely social affairs and to raise funds a Garden Party was held in July, and a Whist Drive in December.

CHILDWALL. Membership stands at 67, recording a loss of 12 members and a gain of six new members. The Parliamentary sub-committee has written to three local M.P.s on the following issues:—

1. Indo-China and the Geneva Conference, in April.
2. Revision of the Army and Air Force Act (Conscience Clause for boys enlisting at 15), February, 1955. Acknowledgments were received. Mr. John Tilney enclosed the relevant page from *Hansard*, and Mr. Woollam further assured us of his attention to this matter when the Committee Stage was reached.
3. The racial policies of South Africa, at the time of the appointment of Mr. Strydom as Prime Minister. All three M.P.s expressed sympathy and appreciation of our views. Sir Victor Raikes referred our letters to the Commonwealth Relations Office, which replied very fully, but reaffirmed its own view that the UN could not legally intervene.

The series of meetings on the changing status of women and their service in public life was conducted in the spring—two of the speakers, Mrs. F. Cameron, M.A., and Mrs. P. Tiller, J.P., being founder members of the Branch. The winter session included speakers on India; Burma; Uganda; A Visit to Russia; and International Exchange Work among Adolescents.

Branch members attended a one year W.E.A. Study Group on Current International Problems.

In order to meet financial commitments a Social Sub-Committee has successfully organised a Whist Drive, a Coffee Party, three Square Dances and a family Christmas Party. From these occasions have come a satisfactory balance sheet and four new members.

COVENTRY. (Membership 15; one new member.) Meetings were held monthly and have been fairly well attended. Talks were given on conditions in Israel, U.S.S.R. and Canada, by speakers who had visited those countries; and on maladjustment of children. We have co-operated with UNA, National Council of Women and Standing Committee of Women's Organisations.

Correspondence was carried on in the Press, and with our M.P.s on the following subjects:—Armaments; A and H bombs; Pandit Nehru's standstill plan; racial discrimination. A letter on re-armament by Mrs. Chisholm, one of our members, was read on the BBC German News Service.

With gratitude for her inspiration and example we record the passing of Miss Mary Kibble, missionary and teacher, a member of our branch; she was one of the bravest people we have known.

CROYDON. (Membership 90.) The highlight in the Branch during the past year was the Regional Conference (referred to above). The subject of the Conference, with its close bearing on life in Asia, fitted in well with the course of lectures during the winter months, in which conditions, problems and achievements of countries in South-East Asia and the Far East were studied.

Through the year reports on the work of Parliamentary Committee and summaries of WILPF International News were given. Croydon M.P.s were approached to urge their support of higher Government contributions to the Specialised Agencies of the UN, and of the inclusion in the Army Act of a conscience clause for boy soldiers.

The Branch has added a second International Affiliation membership, and three of its Committee members have combined to form another corporate membership to Geneva. Several Branch members were lost through resignation, removal or lapsed subscriptions; six new members and one affiliated organisation were added.

EDINBURGH. (Membership 36; resignations three; new members three.)

At the Annual Meeting in April, 1954, Dr. Marwick reported on the Council Meetings in Liverpool. Mrs. McLaren's Garden Party and Bring and Buy Sale provided a very enjoyable social occasion and raised £10 for Branch funds.

Throughout the winter months we had talks on Jamaica, Formosa, Israel, Central Africa, American-Russian Relations and Edinburgh's Social Services. Following the most challenging talk, "A Way of Peace in Central Africa", by the Rev. Fergus Macpherson, a letter was sent from the Branch to an African Minister's wife in S. Rhodesia, expressing friendly greetings and sympathy in their struggle with racial antagonisms. UNICEF collections in October amounted to £3 7s. 10d.

Professor Lonsdale visited Edinburgh University in December and members were privileged to hear impressions of her journey "Round the World with a Message." A coffee morning was arranged to meet Dr. Lonsdale informally.

The removal to London of our Secretary, Mrs. Baker, on her husband's appointment to the National Peace Council, caused her resignation, accepted with great regret. We sadly record the death of Dr. Mary Hooper.

GLASGOW. (Membership 76; four resignations; five new members.) The year's activities commenced with the annual Bring and Buy Sale, followed by a social and musical evening.

After the holiday season, monthly meetings recommenced. Miss Edith Adlam's visit was of special interest, and her talk on Formosa greatly appreciated. In October, members actively assisted UNICEF's appeal and recently Miss Frieda White, Scottish Officer for UNA, reported on this, and on UNICEF activities.

Regretfully we report poor attendances at meetings, due mainly to bad weather and members' inability to travel longish distances. Nevertheless membership subscriptions kept up well.

Letters have gone to M.P.s on German re-armament and on the Formosa question; our Treasurer continued to write to the Press on those and other subjects, many of her letters being published.

The Branch is affiliated to the WEA and the Union of Democratic Control, and has contact with the Glasgow International Students Club.

Members assisted the students in their Flag Day for victims of the recent Indian and Pakistan floods. A beginning was made organising visits of students to members' homes; we hope for further development in this direction.

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB. Membership 29, a total increase of five during the year although we lost three members.

The Branch now has a representative on the Executive Committee and one member was elected to the Publicity Committee and the Education Committee. During the year we held eleven meetings.

In May a letter was sent to five M.P.s about the 1954 Council emergency resolutions and the Indian Women M.P.s' protest against the hydrogen bomb. Letters were sent to six M.P.s on the revised Army and Air Force Act, concerning boy soldiers, and replies have been received. During June we invited some Nigerian women and members of a West African group to a party.

At the Regional Conference in Croydon in September we were represented by five members. In October we held a special meeting (inviting husbands) to hear a First Secretary of the American Embassy give America's views on world affairs. We were fortunate to have at one of our meetings Mrs. Dorothy Hutchinson, Chairman of the National Literature Department in Philadelphia, during a brief visit to London.

Talks were given on the following subjects: Some Experiences in Peace Work (Dr. Joan Fry); Journey through Palestine (Mrs. Harvey Moore); India (Mrs. Chetsingh); Experiences in an Internment Camp in France (Miss D. Rolfe); How to Help Overseas Students (Miss Webber).

Several bring-and-buy sales were held to help with finances. Members have enjoyed attending Headquarters lunch meetings, and one member has been helping regularly in the HQ office.

HASSOCKS AND DITCHLING. Membership 26, an increase of seven. Meetings have been held monthly, and good reports published in the local press.

There was a good attendance at the open meeting held in October in co-operation with Worthing Branch (referred to above). The branch also sent delegates to the regional conference at Croydon. A report of the International Executive Committee held at Copenhagen in August was given by Mrs. Peat, one of the two British Consultants. Members undertook to complete the Questionnaire sent out by the Education Committee.

LEICESTER. Membership 32 (nine losses, two new members). The branch has had a year of interesting meetings and speakers, covering a wide range of subjects. Members are not young enough to launch out in new directions, and younger and more enthusiastic recruits are needed. The financial position of the branch is sound.

In February a discussion was held on the Jamaican immigration question, and three West Indian students took part.

The branch regretted the passing of Miss Isobel Forty at an advanced age. Her enthusiasm for any cause she sponsored was an inspiration to us all, and she is much missed.

LIVERPOOL. Membership 48. A general meeting was held each month except August. Three outstanding speakers were: Mr. R. Roaf, F.R.C.S., who spoke of his experiences in India in connection with the Colombo Plan, and later in the year again visited us to talk about his trip to Russia; Mr. Fred Adams, Assistant Director of Education for Wigan, on "The World Situation as I See It"; and Mr. Penry Jones of the Iona Community, who spoke on "Peace and Power Politics".

The Committee wrote to local M.P.s about atrocities to Kikuyu prisoners; the Hydrogen bomb; and boy C.O.s already in the Forces at the age of eighteen. The Branch helped to get signatures for the petition against

the Hydrogen Bomb which was sent up to Parliament, and made street collections for UNICEF. Money raising efforts included a whist drive; a coffee morning given by Mr. and Mrs. Malcomson; a jumble sale; and a luncheon given by Mrs. Honor Lee and Mrs. Grace Malcomson. As a result of the jumble sale a donation was sent to the new International Students' Hostel opened in Liverpool by the Methodists. Members have continued to meet the boats bringing coloured students from West Africa, and helped in entertaining these students through the year.

We have unfortunately lost a dear member, Mrs. Paul, who has gone to live near London.

Obituaries: Miss Milligan, a very old member; Mrs. Gillespie, in her ninty-first year; Mrs. M. Smith, suddenly, at Bath, where she was attending a conference.

MANCHESTER. Membership, 152. The quiet endeavour which characterised the work of 1953 has been well maintained during 1954.

Meetings on a variety of topics have been held, the outstanding event being the North West Regional Conference in October. Close touch has been maintained with the Parliamentary Committee at Headquarters, whose efficient work at a national level is much appreciated, by drawing attention to possible danger signals and danger zones. Locally, we have continued to send letters to our M.P.s and to the Press, whenever the occasion demanded. We co-operate with the Manchester and District Council for African Affairs, and the East-West Friendship Council.

The Branch has suffered a great loss in the death of Mrs. Hartley of Cheadle Hulme. So dear to her heart was our work that she worked on, unflinching, right until the very end. We shall not forget her.

NORTH WALES. Membership, 47 (one resignation; eight new members). During the year eight meetings have been held. Three were addressed by our own members, on the Far East, FAO, and the 1954 Annual Council; two by visiting members—Mrs. Nuttall, on the work of the WILPF, and Miss Adlam, on Korea and Formosa; and two by overseas students, on British Guiana and North Africa.

The most important and best attended meeting of the year was a tea given to overseas students from the University College; members afterwards asked students to their homes. A telegram was sent to the Foreign Secretary about a cease-fire in Indo-China. A copy of the Indian women's protest on the hydrogen bomb was sent to every Welsh paper, and one new member was enrolled as a result. We wrote to three M.P.s on the right of conscientious objection for boy soldiers. Members have knitted woollen squares to make blankets for refugees, and others have collected clothing. Owing to scattered membership the average attendance at meetings is about twelve, but bigger meetings are arranged in co-operation with other organisations.

NOTTINGHAM. Membership increased by four to 29, of whom about twelve are active members. Nine Committee meetings, and nine meetings with speakers were held.

Study, discussions and lectures covered such subjects as China, Africa, Nigeria, Palestine, Rhodesia and UNICEF.

We sent representatives to the Annual Council of the local World Government branch; the Executive Committee of the UNA branch; UNICEF meetings; a Hydrogen bomb protest meeting; and the British Women's Temperance League Annual Council.

Letters have been written to the Prime Minister and local M.P.s about the Hydrogen bomb; to the Foreign Secretary urging a negotiated peace in Indo-China; and later regarding Cyprus. We asked local M.P.s to support a conscience clause for boy soldiers; and wrote to the local branch of the Transport and General Workers Union deploring the workers' objection to the employment of coloured labour.

A jumble sale provided funds to assist peace-minded organisations; collections were made for UNICEF; and parcels have been sent to a Displaced Persons' camp. Efforts have been made to contact overseas students and nurses socially. Interest has been steady throughout the year.

ORPINGTON. Membership at 30 shows an increase of two in spite of some losses.

The Branch continued its study of Race Relations and during recent months has concentrated on the problems confronting us in different parts of Africa. Mr. Paul Sturge described conditions in Kenya and the work that Friends are doing there. Mr. C. Ngala-Ya-Mwamba, son of a tribal chief, gave an informative talk on N. Rhodesia. The "apartheid" point of view in South Africa was given by an Afrikaner, Mr. Schurink, reporter on a local paper. Mr. Gillmore Lee, an anthropologist from S. Africa, gave a vivid account of the disastrous consequences that were bound to result from the racial policy of his government, and in particular from the Bantu Education Act.

A successful garden party was held at which Mrs. de Swiet gave a picture of education in the Pestalozzi Village; special sales enabled the branch to make a contribution to UNICEF and to send £7 to Father Huddleston for the "Save St. Peter's" fund.

Before the by-election on 20th January, a deputation of four members put a number of questions to both candidates. The local press has regularly reported Branch meetings and published on the front page a resolution on atomic and hydrogen bombs sent in by the branch.

OXFORD. Membership, 34 (three losses; five new members). Monthly meetings were well attended, in spite of the large number of active societies in Oxford. Talks were given on Nigeria, India, and South Africa, by natives of the respective countries. Inspired by the talk given by Mrs. McGregor Wood from Headquarters on "All the World's Children," many members helped with the UNICEF house-to-house collection. A recent talk on Refugees in European camps aroused so much interest that steps have been taken by the branch to adopt individual refugees from these camps.

WARRINGTON. Membership, 21. Meetings have been held monthly with speakers and study groups; correspondence from Headquarters has been found most helpful. We heard an account of her six-months visit to Canada and the USA by our Treasurer. Resolutions were sent to Sir Winston Churchill and Mr. Attlee on Formosa; and on the renunciation of the Hydrogen bomb and other atomic weapons (a non-committal reply was received from Mr. Attlee).

We regret that Mrs. Aspden is shortly removing to another town; she will be greatly missed for her ability as Secretary.

WEST KIRBY. Membership, 32 (seven new members). Activity in the Branch has increased considerably and closer contact has been established with Headquarters. Attendance at meetings has improved, one of the most successful being the visit of Mrs. Cusden from Headquarters. A profitable Garden Party was held in August. It is the policy of the Branch to co-operate with the Liverpool Branch wherever possible.

WORTHING. Membership, 38. The Branch has maintained its interest in international affairs and monthly meetings have been held in spite of steadily decreasing numbers owing to ill-health and death. Interesting talks were given by guest speakers, including Mrs. Peat and Miss Adlam. We are trying hard to increase membership.

A severe loss was sustained in the death of Miss Lilla Reynolds after a brief illness. Miss Reynolds was for many years President of the Branch, and was an ardent worker in the cause of peace and international understanding. She was also an indefatigable worker for animal welfare and an opponent of vivisection.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE

This was held at Magleas Folk High School, near Copenhagen, from August 16th-21st, by invitation of the Danish Section. It was attended from the British Section by Mrs. Cusden, International Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Stapledon, member of the International Executive; and the two elected consultants, Mrs. Nuttall and Mrs. Peat.

The material contained in many of the resolutions tabled by National Sections was used as the basis for a comprehensive Statement which was subsequently widely distributed. It was sent to all delegates at the UN Ninth Assembly, and was sufficiently appreciated to be circulated with their official documents.

The British and Swedish Memoranda on WILPF international affairs were fully discussed.

A new International Treasurer was appointed—Frau Else Stadelmann of the German Section, in succession to Mrs. Dorothy Robinson.

Prior to the Executive, the International Summer School was held in the same premises. The British Section awarded bursaries from the Ford Memorial Fund to two Leeds students, Helen and Martyn Hunter, who wrote an interesting account of their visit—extracts from which were published in "Peace and Freedom."

The 1955 Summer School will be held in August near Hamburg, Germany. The British Section is offering small bursaries from the Agatha Harrison Fund for suitable candidates.

LONDON MEETINGS

One public meeting was held during the year, on 20th October, when the President spoke about her two months' tour of the Far East, to a large and appreciative audience at the King's Weigh House Church Hall. The Chairman was Dr. Rita Hinden, a Vice-President of the League and Hon. Secretary of the Fabian Colonial Bureau. Two new members were gained.

Professor Lonsdale described conditions in India, where she had talks with Mrs. Pandit, and the Health Minister, Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur; there was a great need for more young people from the West to work with Indians, and it was hoped that such social work might become a substitute for military service. In Japan she had an enthusiastic reception and good publicity for her meetings; in Australia the Press was of a lower standard, and in spite of the prosperity of the country there was near-hysteria about Communism. New Zealand and Canada seemed to have a healthy independence, and she was warmly welcomed.

The monthly lunch-meetings have continued most successfully with increasing attendances, and are now being held at the Friends' International Centre. A wide range of interests was covered in the following talks:—

Miss Mary Macaulay: Some Psychological Causes of War.

Miss B. M. Baker: Education at the Crossroads.

Rev. Elsie Chamberlain: Evanston, 1954.

Miss Minnie Pallister: Forty Years in the Peace Movement.

Mrs. Mary Stocks: The Situation in Israel.

Mrs. Eirene White, M.P.: Problems of Africa.

LONDON OFFICE

Miss Margaret Tims has now completed a year's work as Secretary in the office, a year in which the work has considerably increased. Miss Tims accomplishes it with quiet efficiency and helpful understanding. She has undertaken to be Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee, and the appreciation of the Minutes she writes each week is shown in the increasing

demand for them. They are a vital link between London Headquarters and distant Branches and through their distribution speedy united action of the Section can be taken when necessary.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Boaden for keeping the accounts in order, a most responsible, and to some extent thankless job. Her service to the League is unique and very important.

It greatly adds to the happy fellowship which exists in the office when Miss Gill or Miss Ruth Harrison are also there addressing envelopes, renewing cards, sending out *Peace and Freedom*, or appeals for subscriptions. Our thanks are due to them and to Mrs. Shackleton and Miss Goodchild for their help from time to time.

The office now possesses a steel cupboard in which its treasures can be stored in safety. This was brought with money given in memory of Mrs. Hilda Hartley, and it has been decided to record this on a plaque to be affixed to the cupboard.

EDITOR'S REPORT

We have continued to publish our news sheet *Peace and Freedom* every alternate month. Our aim has been to make it informative and through it to provide a link between Headquarters, the Branches and the individual membership. We have been greatly hampered in fulfilling this aim by the small size of the paper; it is frustrating to have to exclude much interesting and valuable matter for lack of space.

The paper circulates not only in the British Isles, but throughout the world and we are greatly encouraged by the appreciative letters we frequently receive. Criticism has been constructive and generally points to failings of which we are only too well aware, but which can only be remedied by more space.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to our contributors who have freely acceded to our request for articles and so added to the value and interest of the paper.

The Memorial Booklet of tributes to Agatha Harrison, published in July, was widely circulated and received with great appreciation. Copies of the booklet are still obtainable from Headquarters.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There is a minimum of expenditure in connection with the Headquarters of an organisation below which it cannot survive.

The fewer the members, therefore, the higher is their individual liability.

Recently there has not been a fixed subscription, but members have given of their own free-will. This faith does not, of itself, of course, guarantee uninhibited progress, but owing to the very healthy condition in which the year began, no special appeal for funds has had to be made during the year, although increased expenditure has been incurred.

The Penny-a-Week Fund originally created to help with overseas work, has been converted into the Agatha Harrison Memorial Fund.

From the accrued interest in the Isabella Ford Memorial Fund, two students from Leeds were sent to the WILPF Summer School at Copenhagen, in July.

Payment has been made in full for the Congress reports sent to members in this country, and a contribution of approximately 80 Swiss francs was made to the Louisa Jacques Fund in appreciation of her thirty years' work at Geneva.

Attention is drawn to the Fortieth Birthday celebrations from April to October this year. Thanks are due to all members for what has been achieved so far, and it is hoped that by October we shall have an increased membership and an adequate working capital.

BRANCH SECRETARIES

Birmingham: Miss E. Jesper, 455, City Road, Birmingham, 17.
Bradford: Mrs. B. Gray, 106, Rooley Lane, Bradford, Yorks.
Bromley: Mrs. M. Elwood, 50, Palace View, Bromley, Kent.
Cheadle Hulme: Mrs. M. Riley, 78, Swann Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire.
Childwall: Miss H. Dudley, 60, Garthdale Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, 18.
Coventry: Miss A. Underhill, 28, Holyhead Road, Coventry.
Croydon: Mrs. E. Ecroyd, 2, Benhurst Gardens, Selsdon, Surrey.
Edinburgh: Mrs. V. Mitchell, 57, Ladysmith Road, Edinburgh, 9.
Glasgow: Mrs. A. Shanks, 32, Crompton Avenue, Glasgow, S.4.
Hampstead: Mrs. L. Hayman, 66, Brim Hill, London, N.2.
Hassocks and Ditchling: Mrs. Pettit, 50, Mackie Avenue, Hassocks, Sussex.
Leicester: Mrs. S. J. Pick, 80, Letchworth Road, Leicester.
Liverpool: Mrs. E. Sunners, 39, Townfield Lane, Bebington, Wirral, Cheshire.
Manchester: Mrs. E. Turkie, 25, Danesmoor Road, Manchester 20.
Mrs. D. Lund, 8, Beech Walk, Alkrington, Middleton, nr. Manchester (co-secretary).
North Wales: Mrs. A. King, 3, Menai View Terrace, Bangor.
Nottingham: Mrs. B. Morris, 12, Derby Road, Beeston, Notts.
Orpington: Mrs. N. Weiss, 10, The Avenue, Orpington, Kent.
Oxford: Mrs. I. von Engel, 86, Kingston Road, Oxford.
S. Devon: Mrs. D. Bettinson, The Bungalow, Didworthy, South Brent, Devon.
Warrington: Mrs. H. Davies, Bleak House, Penketh, Warrington, Lancs.
West Kirby: Mrs. M. Mason, 2, Victoria Road, West Kirby, Wirral, Cheshire.
Worthing: Miss A. M. Bailes, 41, Balcombe Avenue, Worthing, Sussex.

AFFILIATIONS

The following organisations are affiliated to Headquarters:—

*Bradford Women's Permanent Peace League.

Herne Hill Methodist Church Young Wives' Guild.

London Congregational Women's Union.

Peckham Women's Co-operative Guild.

Winchmore Hill Women's Adult School.

(*In February, Bradford decided to join us as a Branch of the League).

The League is affiliated to:—British Commonwealth League; Comics Campaign Council; National Peace Council; No-Conscription Council; SCESWUN; Status of Women Committee; Women's Council for India, Pakistan and Ceylon.

Representatives are also sent to: Equal Pay Campaign Committee; UNA Women's Advisory Council.

Headquarters: OBITUARIES

Dr. Hilda Clark: foundation member; Foreign Relations Secretary, 1923-33.

Miss Agatha Harrison: foundation member; Vice-President; former Chairman of India Committee; member and former Vice-Chairman of Executive.

Miss K. O'Leary; Miss M. F. Pease; Miss Caron Rock; Mrs. A. D. Sanger.

Branches:

Birmingham.—Mrs. Burt; Miss Hipsley; Miss Lane.

Cheadle Hulme.—Mrs. H. Hartley, Branch Secretary; former Vice-Chairman of National Executive.

Coventry.—Miss M. Kibble.

Edinburgh.—Dr. M. Hooper.

Leicester.—Miss Isobel Forty (lecturer on Esperanto).

Liverpool.—Mrs. Gillespie; Mrs. Milligan; Mrs. M. Smith.

Worthing.—Miss Lilla Reynolds, ex-President.

A Tribute:

The whole British Section has felt the loss this year of two most valuable members—Miss Agatha Harrison and Mrs. Hilda Hartley. They were both working for the aims of the League at the time of their death; and much has already been written of their life-long service for peace.

The many tributes received and published in the Agatha Harrison Memorial Booklet were indicative of the world-wide field in which her reconciling influence was felt. She was truly a world citizen, one of the few who have grasped the need for understanding between nations and races, and dedicated their lives to its fulfilment.

Mrs. Hartley's work was concerned mainly with the Manchester and Cheadle Hulme Branches; but her brief membership of the Executive gave scope for her gifts of leadership and initiative to be used also in the service of the whole British Section.

ANNUAL COUNCIL, 1955

The fortieth anniversary celebrations began at the Annual Council held in London, 1st-4th April, when a reception was held at County Hall, Westminster, in honour of Her Excellency the High Commissioner of India, Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit. Mrs. Pandit received the 260 guests and chatted informally with many of our members. The reception was followed by a meeting in the great Conference Room of County Hall, when Professor Kathleen Lonsdale took the Chair. Mrs. Pandit gave a stimulating little speech, followed by the wife of the first Counsellor to the High Commissioner, Mrs. Haksar. Mrs. Grace Lankester and Mrs. Myrtle Radley, spoke respectively on the early associations with India and the present work of the League. Greetings and good wishes were expressed by Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Mrs. Cecily Cook, Miss A. M. Pierrotti and Mr. Reginald Sorensen, M.P. Mrs. Duncan Harris graciously expressed thanks on our behalf.

Attendance at the Council meetings was the largest since the war; the quality of work and spirit of the meetings was of a high standard. For the first time the experiment was held of incorporating ten resolutions into one Statement; an emergency resolution on the Hydrogen Bomb was drawn up. A Committee was appointed to make all domestic arrangements for the International Congress which is to be held in Birmingham in July, 1956.

STATEMENT

issued from the Annual Council meeting in London, 1st-4th April, 1955.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Re-affirms the belief that it is within the power of men and nations to eliminate organised violence and warfare from the world, and to free mankind for the growth and exercise of the spirit in creative activities; and

that it is the responsibility of individuals to use their will to plan for peace, and the responsibility of nations and governments to place the welfare of all peoples before the prestige and self-interest of their own country or race.

Gravely concerned with the tensions existing in the Far East, which are in danger of plunging the world into a war of mutual destruction,

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom urges HM Government to work unceasingly to arrest this danger; to support the

calling of a conference of nations to negotiate the problems under dispute; and to take the following essential steps towards the easing of international tensions throughout the world:—

1. The seating of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and Security Council as the effective government of the Chinese people.
2. The initiating by HM Government of a plan for total and universal disarmament for presentation to the Disarmament Commission; recent developments in the field of nuclear warfare having made this a matter of urgency.
3. The adoption of a foreign policy based on the lessening of our overseas military commitments, which would lead the way to the abolition of conscription.
4. The immediate renunciation by HM Government of the use of hydrogen bombs and all other nuclear weapons.
5. The removal of all American bases and foreign military personnel from this country.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom welcomes the unanimous adoption in the United Nations of the resolution on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy and hopes that HM Government will give every possible assistance to the further development of this project.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom further believes that the problem of *Race Relations* in Africa and other parts of the world must be solved in the interest of world peace:

and would reiterate the words of the UN Charter, Article 55, that the United Nations shall promote "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, language or religion."

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom welcomes the proposals brought forward by HM Government for *Colonial Welfare and Development*, and urges that British citizens everywhere shall be assured of a basic standard of education, industrial legislation and social welfare;

that they shall not be forced to emigrate because of dire poverty;

and that the taxation of landowners and large profit-making concerns in the Colonies shall be such as to ensure that the fruits of their labour shall be retained by the native peoples and used for their benefit.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom supports the work of the *UN Specialised Agencies* in meeting fundamental human needs and believes they should have a prior claim on HM Government in supplying its full share of funds and personnel.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom would urge H.M. Government in particular:—

- (a) to increase its grant to the UN Children's Fund on behalf of the 500 million children still needing aid;
- (b) to give immediate and fullest support to Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development;
- (c) to support the establishment of a World Food Reserve Fund, as suggested and now being considered by the United Nations,

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION ON THE HYDROGEN BOMB

That this Annual Council of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom wishes to record the strongest possible protest against the decision of Her Majesty's Government to proceed with the development and production of the Hydrogen Bomb.

This decision, in our opinion, is aggravating the present tension between the West and the East, rather than, as stated in the Defence White Paper, "increasing the chances of peace."

We not only fear for the disastrous consequences to the human race, including future generations, of the use of these weapons, but strongly object to the policies which impose upon men the necessity to be the instruments of mass destruction.

We believe that this is the moment to renounce not only these monstrous weapons, but war itself.

We beg that HM Government should take note of the uneasiness and anxiety on this tremendous issue apparent in the minds of thinking people to-day, and earnestly pray them to lead the way to sanity and moral strength before it is too late, by refusing to manufacture nuclear weapons irrespective of the attitude and decisions of other governments.

RESOLUTIONS

COUNTY COLLEGES

This Annual Council of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

believes that the future peace of the world depends primarily upon a firm mutual understanding between peoples educated for and actively working towards progressively enlightened democracy as a form of government.

It therefore urges HM Government to explore immediately that Section of the Education Act, 1944, which empowers local educational authorities to establish County Colleges for further education; and in view of the many demands of the community and the difficult essential adaptations of young people in the changing role from scholar to citizen, to secure the necessary and adequate provisions to make the establishment of these Colleges a Statutory obligation.

RACIAL TENSIONS

We, members of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, British Section, viewing with concern the present exacerbated racial tensions in Africa, pledge ourselves to use our influence in any contacts we can make to promote inter-racial understanding and trust, and to work for fuller development, educational, economic, social and political for men and women of all races, both among visitors, students and workers in Great Britain and throughout the Commonwealth.

We will encourage anybody we know to be going abroad in any capacity, especially to different parts of Africa, to hold fast to these ideals, whilst adapting them to the complex situations which they find.

PARIS AGREEMENTS

This Annual Council of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,

believing that methods of war are morally wrong,

deplores the committing of this country, in the Paris agreements to the maintenance of armies on the continent of Europe for forty years, which may involve the continuation of conscription for the same period.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954

1953	To	EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.	1953	By	INCOME	£	s.	d.
122	Rent	...	120	0	0	247	Subscriptions	...	262	15	6
3	Lighting and Heating	...	7	7	9		Donations (including £100 from Barrow				
83	General Expenses	...	46	8	1	269	Cadbury Trust)	...	240	19	0
2	Insurances	...	1	7	1	244	Branch Affiliation Fees	...	201	13	0
558	Salaries and National Insurance	...	482	4	1	2	Sales of Literature	...	44	14	8
22	Travelling Expenses	...	96	17	8	80	Sales of <i>News Sheet</i>	...	98	13	3
8	Affiliation Fees	...	5	4	0	8	Meetings	...	9	12	6
70	Postages	...	71	12	1	14	Building Society Interest	...	18	14	0
	Printing and Stationery (including Annual					5	Bank Interest...	...	4	18	6
93	Report £36)	...	69	12	0	—	Annual Council—Surplus	...	13	10	5
13	Literature	...	45	14	2	60	Transfer from Penny-a-Week Fund	...	32	10	0
105	<i>News Sheet</i> —Cost of Printing	...	104	7	9	300	Transfer from Guarantee Fund	...	8	0	0
1	Meetings and Hire of Rooms	...	8	2	6	32	Transfer from Congress Fund	...	—		
24	Telephones	...	22	12	2		Transfer from Jane Addams Memorial				
2	Bank Charges	...	3	3	7	80	Fund	...	—		
10	Repairs	...	9	5	0	41	Lady Parmoor Appeal	...	—		
—	International Quota	...	25	0	0	7	Proceeds of Outside Appeal	...	—		
72	Expenditure on Office Equipment	...	—								
2	Annual Council—Net cost	...	—				Balance — Excess of Expenditure over				
	International Congress — Delegates' Ex-					—	Income for the year	...	182	17	1
34	penses	...	—								
19	Removal Expenses	...	—								
1243											
146	Balance — Excess of Income over Ex-										
	penditure for the year	...	—								
£1389			£1118	17	11	£1389			£1118	17	11

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1954

CURRENT LIABILITIES				FIXED ASSETS			
1953		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	1953		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
39	Accounts and Accrued Expenses...		20 3 6	—	Office Furniture and Equipment ...		Not Valued
CAPITAL FUND—							
	Balance, 1st January, 1954 ...	1039	17 6	CURRENT ASSETS			
	Add Legacies received during			530	Balance at Bank ...	269	16 10
	year	25	10 0	5	Cash in Hand ...	11	6 1
			1065 7 6	Co-operative Permanent Building			
	Less Excess of Expenditure over			527	Society—Deposit ...	621	11 0
1040	Income for the year	182	17 1	17	Payment in advance ...	—	
			882 10 5				902 13 11
1079			902 13 11				902 13 11
SPECIAL FUNDS—							
	Ford Memorial Fund—			SPECIAL FUNDS—			
	Balance as per last Account ...	117	18 2		Ford Memorial Fund—		
	Add Interest received	2	9 3		Co-operative Permanent Building Society		
			120 7 5	118	—Deposit	70	7 5
	Less Payment during year ...	50	0 0		Jane Addams Memorial Fund, British		
118			70 7 5		Section—		
	Jane Addams Memorial Fund,			90	Cash at Post Office Savings Bank ...	92	4 3
	British Section—				Penny-a-Week Fund—		
	Balance as per last Account... ..	89	19 9		Co-operative Permanent Building Society		
	Add Interest received	2	4 6	103	—Deposit	—	
90			92 4 3				
	Penny-a-Week Fund—						
	Balance as per last Account ...	103	8 5		Agatha Harrison Memorial Fund—		
	Add Amounts received during				Co-operative Permanent Building Society		
	year	4	1 7		—Deposit	76	1 0
			107 10 0				
	Less Payments in re-						
	spect of Overseas						
	Work £75 0 0						
	Transfer to General						
	Fund 32 10 0						
103			107 10 0				
	Agatha Harrison Memorial Fund—						
	Amounts Contributed less cost						
	of printing and circulating						
	Memorial brochure		76 1 0				
			£1141 10 7				£1141 10 7
£1390			£1141 10 7	£1390			£1141 10 7

I have audited the accounts of the Women's International League for the year ended 31st December, 1954, and certify that, in my opinion, the foregoing accounts are properly drawn up so as to exhibit the position of affairs in accordance with the information given me and as shown by the books.

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

22nd February, 1955

L. A. DAYAN, Incorporated Accountant,
Hon. Auditor

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