

R E S O L U T I O N S

adopted at the 15th Triennial Congress
San Francisco (Asilomar, California)

8 - 13 July, 1962

1. CHINA

Convinced that the seating of the People's Republic of China at the United Nations must be accomplished before an agreement on universal disarmament will be possible, and believing that the status of Taiwan must simultaneously be resolved, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, at its Fifteenth Triennial Congress meeting in San Francisco (Asilomar, California), July 8 - 13, 1962, urges:

- 1) That Taiwan be neutralised under the United Nations, and military support be withdrawn from the National Republic of China;
- 2) That, at the same time, all individuals be allowed to choose whether they will remain on Taiwan, return to China or go elsewhere, and
- 3) That appropriate United Nations action be taken to provide a means for the continuing neutralisation of Taiwan and for self-determination for the Taiwanese people, guaranteeing that their decision is implemented.

These measures would remove the present objections to accepting the credentials of the People's Republic of China, which should be immediately seated at the United Nations.

To: The People's Republic of China - The National Republic of China -
The United States of America - The Secretary General of the UN, U Thant

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2. VIETNAM

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in its Fifteenth Triennial Congress at San Francisco (Asilomar, California), July 8 - 13, 1962, views with concern the failure to reach a peaceful solution in Vietnam. The destructive warfare now going on, with the involvement of outside forces, may develop into global war.

To facilitate progress toward a peaceful settlement, we urge that the military assistance to both sides be withdrawn and that U Thant, Acting Secretary General of the United Nations, be requested to establish a United Nations presence in North and South Vietnam, to explore the basis for a cease-fire and for fruitful negotiation.

To: U Thant - Seat countries - China - North Vietnam - South Vietnam

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3. THE MIDDLE EAST

In view of the series of crises which have taken place in the Middle East, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at its Fifteenth Triennial Congress, meeting in San Francisco (Asilomar, California), July 8 - 13, 1962, urges the United Nations to decide on the demilitarisation of the whole region under the supervision of the United Nations. The funds now being spent for arms could then be used for the economic development of the region.

To: U Thant - The Israeli Government - All Arab Governments

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4. ALGERIA

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in San Francisco (Asilomar, California), July 8 - 13, 1962, has received with relief news of the independence of Algeria, achieved at such heavy cost. We hope the proclamation establishing independence will put an end to the action of the Secret Army Organisation. We deplore the renewal of violence which has already sacrificed so many human lives. We earnestly hope that the discipline and the wisdom shown by the Algerians since the Evian Agreement will enable them to achieve cooperation among all conflicting factions in the near future.

To: The French Government - The Algerian Government -
The French Delegation at UN New York and UN Geneva

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5. CONSIDERATION OF AFRICA AS A DENUCLEARISED ZONE

In support of the United Nations resolution on this subject, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at its Fifteenth Triennial Congress, meeting in San Francisco (Asilomar, California), July 8 - 13, 1962, recommends to all Sections that they urge their Governments to support the nations of Africa in the effort to keep Africa free from nuclear weapons.

To: All Sections - Adelaide Baker's African friends

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6. CUBA at its Fifteenth Triennial Congress meeting in San Francisco (Asilomar, Calif.)
8-13 July 1962,
The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom/reaffirms its policy of self-determination for ALL peoples and its conviction that no State shall intervene directly or indirectly in the internal or external affairs of any other State.

The WILPF... opposes any attempt to overthrow or support activities which might help to overthrow the Government of Cuba either by the use of force or by economic or political sanctions.

The WILPF... regrets that at the Punta del Este Conference the Government of Cuba was excluded from the Organisation of American States in spite of the fact that there were no laws on which to base such exclusion and that for that reason six countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico did not vote.

The WILPF urges that offers of mediation be examined, that refugees from Cuba should not receive military training or military assistance or be encouraged to engage in political activities.

To: The U.S.A. Government - The Cuban Government - Organisation of American States

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7. PREVENTION OF THE USE OF OUTER SPACE AND THE HIGH SEAS FOR ACTIVITIES ENDANGERING MANKIND

Since neither outer space nor the high seas can be claimed as the property of individual nations, neither should be used by nations for activities which endanger mankind.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at its Fifteenth Triennial Congress, meeting in San Francisco (Asilomar, California), July 8 - 13, 1962, therefore recommends that exploration and utilisation of outer space be coordinated by the United Nations, and also that steps be taken to prevent the use of the high seas for nuclear testing and other activities which menace or destroy life.

To: UN Commission on Outer Space & its two Sub-Committees, Political and Technical
The US Atomic Energy Commission - The US Defence Department -
Sir Bernard Lovell - President Kennedy

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8. ATTEMPTS DELIBERATELY TO UNDERESTIMATE THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR TESTING

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at its Fifteenth Triennial Congress, meeting in San Francisco (Asilomar, California), July 8 - 13, 1962, views with alarm the attempts being made deliberately to underestimate the dangers of nuclear testing, and to prepare the people of the world for nuclear war, rather than strengthen the policies by which it can be avoided.

To: The Secretariat of the 18-Nation Disarmament Conference, Geneva -
The UN Disarmament Committee in United Nations, New York

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9. The UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

The Fifteenth Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in San Francisco (Asilomar, California), July 8 - 13, 1962, urges all Sections to press their governments to do everything in their power to implement without delay the U.N. Development Decade Resolution which was passed unanimously by the U.N. General Assembly in December 1961. This Resolution designates the current decade as the U.N. Development Decade, and specifically urges the Member States and their peoples to intensify their efforts to mobilise and to sustain support for the measures required on the part of both developed and developing countries to accelerate progress towards self-sustaining growth of the economy and social advancement.

To this end governments are asked to pursue policies designed to enable the less developed countries and those dependent on the export of a small range of primary commodities to sell more of their products at stable and remunerative prices in expanding markets; further, to pursue policies designed to ensure to the developing countries an equitable share of earnings from the extraction and marketing of their natural resources by foreign capital and to adopt measures which will stimulate the flow of private investment capital for the economic development of these countries.

A substantial economic advance of the developing countries is the indispensable condition for a peaceful and economically healthy world.

To: All Sections.

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10. UNITED NATIONS ADMINISTRATION OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

Considering the emergence of many colonial countries to independent status, and the urgent need of assistance of all developing countries; and

Recognising that these areas often comprise economic battlegrounds of aid motivated by expediency and opportunism in a struggle for raw materials, and perpetuation of "cold war" policies; and

Realising the natural suspicion and fear generated in the minds of the peoples concerned, and the pressing need to end exploitation and political domination by nations and groupings of nations;

Be it therefore resolved that the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at its Fifteenth Triennial Congress, meeting in San Francisco (Asilomar, California), July 8 - 13, 1962, recommend to its National Sections and Headquarters Members that they urge their respective Governments to support the legitimate claims of citizens of developing and newly independent countries for genuine freedom and self-determination by working for agreement among donor nations and groupings of nations that all programmes of assistance be channelled through or coordinated with appropriate Agencies of the United Nations.

To: U Thant - F.A.O.

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11. FINANCING THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS

As the demands upon the United Nations increase, the problem of assuring adequate financial resources has become acute.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at its Fifteenth Triennial Congress, meeting in San Francisco (Asilomar, California), July 8 - 13, 1962, therefore urges the governments of all nations to support the current United Nations Bond Issue to the limit of their ability.

To: U Thant, Acting Secretary General of the UN - All Sections

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12. CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at its Fifteenth Triennial Congress, meeting in San Francisco (Asilomar, California), July 8 - 13, 1962, urges its Sections to investigate the way in which conscientious objectors are treated in various countries. All material should be submitted to the Executive Committee as soon as possible, together with proposals for any steps it may be considered necessary to take.

To: All Sections

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13. PEACE RESEARCH

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom recognising the urgency of mobilising the intellectual as well as the moral and psychological forces of mankind on the making of peace, advocates international cooperation in Peace Research, preferably under the auspices of the United Nations.

It is important that the various institutes and organisations working in this field in different countries should be in contact and keep informed about each other's activities and findings.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at its Fifteenth Triennial Congress, meeting in San Francisco (Asilomar, California), July 8 - 13, 1962, urges UNESCO as soon as possible to call an international conference of scholars working in this field, that scientists engaged in peace research may not only exchange ideas but also develop a new vision of their contribution to the building of world order.

To: Peace Research Institutes - UNESCO - Secretary-General of United Nations

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14. EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

In view of the urgent need for education and training in the developing countries, and in view of the great interest and willingness to contribute to this sector of Technical Assistance shown by the developed countries,

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at its Fifteenth Triennial Congress, meeting in San Francisco (Asilomar, California), July 8 - 13, 1962, stresses the importance of giving girls and women full equality with boys and men in access to education and vocational training. Where centres of higher education are concerned, it may be foreseen that, even where formal equal opportunity exists, women may not be able to compete owing to a lower standard of general education.

We therefore urge that special care should be taken at all levels of education to secure for girls and women access, support and encouragement to go in for qualifying themselves for varied activities in the community.

To: Status of Women Commission - Human Rights Commission - UNESCO - ILO

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15. SLAVERY

The Fifteenth Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in San Francisco (Asilomar, California), July 8 - 13, 1962, expresses its concern about the reports published in the Press, of the increase of slave trading and slave dealing in several countries, and asks every Section not only to persuade their Government to accede to the Slavery Conventions of 1926 and 1956, but to urge the Governments to take steps to implement the Conventions by requesting the Economic and Social Council to set up an Advisory Committee of Experts for this purpose.

STATEMENT ON THE GERMAN PROBLEM - Not for Publication

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom welcomes the current negotiations between the USA and USSR for a peaceful solution of the German problem and wishes at this critical moment to avoid making any public statement which might sound partisan rather than truly reconciling. The International Executive Committee, therefore, addresses this statement only to the National Sections of WILPF hoping that it will clarify the problems involved and suggest possible directions in which solutions may be sought. We hope that this may help our Sections to discuss developments intelligently and to offer constructive suggestions to their governments as way opens for them to do so.

STATUS OF BERLIN - The prompt reunification of Berlin and the eradication of the barrier symbolised by the wall which now divides the city, would be most desirable. However, many of us feel that this is not possible at the present time and that the first step which is feasible may be the neutralisation of West Berlin with strong international guarantees of freedom of access to the city under UN supervision.

With the rights of West Berlin thus guaranteed and tensions between East and West Berlin eased, the two parts might start developing a common life in preparation for eventually becoming again the capital of a reunited Germany.

STATUS OF GERMANY - We believe that, if the West German Government would clearly state its acceptance of the present boundaries of Germany, Poland's fears would be allayed and the negotiation of the whole German question would be facilitated.

The fact must be faced that there exist two governments in Germany and that it is important to establish communication with both of them in order to arrange steps toward the peaceful solution of the German problem.

On the other hand, it is to be expected that the German people now living under these governments desire the reunification of their country and want no steps to be taken at this time which will tend to make the division of Germany permanent.

Full recognition of the two German States and their admission to the UN would be considered de jure recognition of the present division of Germany as legally established and permanent. This would be a tragedy for both East and West Germans.

However, sub judice* recognition (namely, recognition that, while a solution of this problem is still being sought, two governments exist and must be dealt with) is acceptable and should be sufficient to enable the making of arrangements for relieving tensions and preventing the recurring crises which threaten the peace of Europe and the world.

DISENGAGEMENT - The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom strongly recommends that the revised Rapacki Plan calling for the denuclearisation and demilitarisation of all of Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia be favourably considered as a means for ensuring peace in this area so that the Germans may be permitted to negotiate among themselves for the eventual reunification of their country.

* This term is used, instead of de facto, since sub judice more clearly connotes the possibility of change in the situation under consideration.