

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM  
2006 Walnut Street, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

TELEGRAMS ON CUBA

from the National Board Meeting

October 26, 1962

TO: The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

NATIONAL BOARD OF UNITED STATES SECTION, WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM PROFOUNDLY DISTURBED BY IMMINENT DANGER OF THERMONUCLEAR WAR URGES YOU TO REFRAIN FROM INVADING CUBA OR TAKING ACTION TO DESTROY EXISTING BASES. URGE UNQUALIFIED ACCEPTANCE OF U THANT PROPOSAL.

Dorothy Hutchinson, President

October 26, 1962

TO: SENATOR J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, CHAIRMAN  
and every member Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

CONVINCED THAT THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE BEARS A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES, WE URGE YOU TO DO YOUR UTMOST TO PREVENT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FROM INVADING CUBA OR ATTEMPTING TO DESTROY BASES THERE, WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO THERMONUCLEAR WAR. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL HOLD NOT ONLY THE GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO YOU PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE IF THOUSANDS OR MILLIONS IN OUR AND OTHER COUNTRIES ARE KILLED. YOU MUST URGE THE PRESIDENT TO ACCEPT U THANT'S PROPOSAL FOR MORATORIUM AND NEGOTIATIONS IMMEDIATELY AND WITHOUT QUALIFICATION THIS TELEGRAM IS BEING SENT TO ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMITTEE.

Dorothy Hutchinson, President  
and National Board  
Women's International League  
for Peace and Freedom

October 27, 1962

TO: The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF WILPF URGES ACCEPTANCE OF SOVIET PROPOSAL CONCERNING BASES IN CUBA AND TURKEY AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. U.N.-VERIFIED REMOVAL OF CUBAN BASES WOULD ELIMINATE THE REASONS ASSIGNED FOR U.S. INTERFERENCE WITH FREEDOM OF THE SEAS AND WITH THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION BY THE CUBAN PEOPLE, AND THUS RELIEVE THE PRESSURES WHICH HAVE PUSHED THE WORLD TO THE BRINK OF NUCLEAR WAR.

Dorothy Hutchinson, President  
U. S. Section  
Women's International League  
for Peace and Freedom

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM  
2006 Walnut Street, Philadelphia 3, Penna.

STATEMENT ON CUBA  
adopted by the National Board - October 28, 1962

The one thing which emerges most clearly from the crisis of the last week, during which the world has teetered on the edge of thermo-nuclear destruction, is the absolute necessity for negotiation rather than violence. That the world has not been destroyed by the sharp confrontation between the U.S. and U.S.S.R., once again demonstrates the essential role which the UN and its dedicated Secretariat plays in the struggle for survival.

WILPF notes with deep regret that by responding to the Soviet challenge of the establishment of offensive missile bases in Cuba with the imposition of a quarantine, our Government violated its treaty commitments under the Charters of the Organization of American States and of the United Nations. We strongly believe that scrupulous compliance with international law and treaty obligations is an indispensable prerequisite to the maintenance of world peace. A situation having been created in Cuba which our Government felt threatened its vital security interests, it should have exhausted every possibility of peaceful settlement through negotiation, and by bringing the matter before the United Nations, rather than resorting to unilateral action calculated to bring the world to the brink of destruction.

The immediate goal sought by our Government in this instance may possibly be achieved by the policy adopted. But the long term goal of the world's peoples to live in a world free from nuclear war is jeopardized by a policy dependent upon one side yielding to the threats of the other. With leaders of each side believing that the other, if rational, must give way rather than resort to thermonuclear war, the path is open for the fatal collision when neither yields.

The WILPF takes encouragement from the fact that both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. have shown some measure of restraint in the current crisis. That the U.S. has, to this date, stopped short of invasion and/or bombing of the Cuban bases represents a victory for the forces of moderation within the Government over those who would return to that shameful period of U.S. history when sending in the Marines was the typical response to any hemispheric crisis. That Chairman Khrushchev first ordered his ships not to run the blockade then directed their return to the Soviet Union and, finally offered to dismantle the missile bases has demonstrated both restraint and a willingness to make substantial concessions in the interest of peaceful settlement of the present dispute.

We welcome the announced willingness of both the U.S. and U.S.S.R. to negotiate their differences under UN auspices, and their apparent recognition that the Cuban crisis, if resolved, can result in general negotiations leading to a detente between the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries. We believe that the opportunity here presented to negotiate a mutually advantageous military disengagement and territorial disarmament not only in Cuba, but also in Turkey and elsewhere, should be of tremendous significance in reversing the present arms spiral and in bringing about the general and complete disarmament to which both countries have committed themselves in principle, though not yet in practice.