

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom
2006 Walnut Street, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

September/October 1962

TO : BRANCH CHAIRMEN AND RELIGIOUS CONTACTS CHAIRMEN
FROM: Louise Donaldson, Religious Contacts Chairman

In spite of tests and rumors of tests, and continued reports of racial disturbances, several things have come to our attention that may be heartening to the WILPF members who are also working through religious organizations.

First - to quote from the newsletter of the Catholic Association for International Peace, these words of the Pope:

"Turn your eyes to the people entrusted to your care, and listen to them. What do they ask, what do they implore you? They do not ask for those monstrous war machines produced in our times, which threaten to bring fratricidal massacres and worldwide havoc, but peace; that peace which would enable the human family freely to live, flourish and thrive. They ask for justice, which will in the end balance rights and duties in a just solution. Finally, they ask for tranquility and harmony, and only from this can real prosperity arise ... True peace is tranquility in freedom."

Second - to quote from a sermon by the Rev. Stephen H. Fritchman entitled, "America's Lost Conscience in Foreign Policy":

"We have become as Samuel Lubell suggests "a nation of moderates," of tranquillized and contented citizens, satisfied that the patterns of democracy expressed through election procedures for a majority of our citizens are producing the substance of democracy. At the very moment that we cherish this illusion, we are practicing incredible violations of our historic principles at home and abroad -- at home in suppression of civil rights and civil liberties, in a mushrooming secret police system, in preparations for hydrogen first-strike warfare, and abroad in support of governments in a score of countries which openly despise even the most elementary democratic rights of their people.

"This is a time when we are depending much more on the mailed fist than on the dialogue of patient negotiation. This discussion about foreign policy and its reform is taking place at a time when we know well that a hundred hands can touch the wrong button and bring down the very heavens on our heads. We have no choice worthy of man, but to think, to talk and to act for peace."

Copies of sermon at 10¢ each can be secured by ordering now from: First Unitarian Church, 2936 W. Eighth Street, Los Angeles 5, California.

Third - A beautiful Peace Poster, suitable for the bulletin board in any church, has been printed by Promoting Enduring Peace, Inc., 112 Beach Avenue, Woodmont, Connecticut. Free for postage - a sample is in this packet.

Fourth - Much usable material will come if you ask to be put on the mailing list of the World Affairs Ministry of the Palma Ceia Methodist Church, Dale Mabry Highway at Bay to Bay Boulevard, Tampa 9, Florida. A booklet, "At Noon of Day - Prayers for Peace" may also be obtained. George C. Hill, Associate Pastor of this church was recently appointed as the church's "international peacemaker" because of the congregation's conviction that "Christians have every right to expect this sort of leadership." (continued)

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Fifth - Social action departments from the American Baptist Convention, American Lutheran Church, Church of the Brethren, Disciples of Christ, Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, Methodist Church, National Lutheran Council, Presbyterian Church, U.S. United Church of Christ, United Lutheran Church, United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church, have united with the Friends Committee on National Legislation to publish "Voting Records of the 87th Congress". Write to your church agency for copies at 10¢ each, \$8.50 per hundred.

Sixth - From The Interchurch News comes this interesting item:

"Mrs. Esther W. Hymer, Director of Christian World Relations of United Church Women, represented the National Council of Churches, U.C.W. and the Council's Department of International Affairs at the meeting in Geneva in July of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Theme of this 34th session of ECOSOC was "Decade of Development". During the next decade this UN program will attempt to lay foundations in developing countries for productive economies through a sustained attack on disease, hunger, ignorance and poverty ..."

"A new service of the Washington office of the National Council is the Congressional Record Summary". It is available on request to churches, church councils and individuals wishing to keep up to date on current legislation and who do not have access to or the time to read The Congressional Record. The office is at 110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington 2, D.C. The office's publication MEMO, No. 480 of July 15, also carried a complete resume of the Supreme Court decision on prayer in the public schools ..."

Seventh - More than 500 members of the Church of the Brethren joined in a Peace Witness before the White House, the State Department and other government buildings on June 27. Members of the demonstration also called on more than 60 members of Congress and official delegations visited the chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on Foreign Relations and Armed Services.

Eighth - These are to be filled in
Ninth - by your account to your branch,
Tenth - of your activities.

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This last summer your chairman was privileged to take part in a Churchman's Study Tour of Europe and Russia, which was designed to help churchmen acquire information and insights which would enable them to be more effective in their work for world peace and order. Members of the study group came from varied places in the U.S. as far apart as New York, Texas and Alaska. For more information, write to Dr. Carl Soule, Methodist United Nations Office, Room 1016, 345 East 46th Street, New York 17, N.Y.