

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM
2006 Walnut Street, Phila. 3, Pa.

TO: Branch Presidents and others interested

FROM: Orlie Pell, Chairman
Committee on the Work of the International

October 1962

This is my first communication with you in my new capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Work of the International.

News of the International Congress held July 8 - 13 at Asilomar (California) has probably reached you in several ways: through some of the many participants; through the material for the coming Conference on the Dangers of Accidental War; and through the recent article in Four Lights. Enclosed are the Resolutions adopted at the Congress, or at the International Executive following the Congress, dealing with China and Taiwan, Cuba, Outer Space, the Development Decade, Peace Research, etc.

The over-all Statement addressed to Sections which you have seen in Four Lights also contains several items that you may find of interest.

Role of the Neutral Nations in Disarmament. The neutral countries must be strengthened in their awareness of the role they may play at the disarmament negotiations in Geneva, and at the UN, in proposing ways of balancing the stages of disarmament as called for by the US-USSR joint agreement. At no stage should any State or group of States gain military advantage.

Human Rights. We consider the policy of Apartheid practised by the Republic of South Africa to be a flagrant violation of Human Rights and we urge our governments to press the Republic of South Africa to change its policy.

We approve the patient, continuous attention of the UN to the implementation of the Declaration of Human Rights through such efforts as the periodic reports, seminars, advisory committees and special commissions with their valuable studies in specific areas.

We urge the ratification of the Human Rights Covenant to strengthen the efforts of the world community against Capital Punishment, Slavery, Genocide, Prostitution, and the infringement of the Right of Asylum, and for the achievement of the Political and National Equality of Women, equal rights and opportunities for Labor and Education, and to promote the interests of Refugees and Stateless persons.

World Trade. We are opposed to all forms of restriction and discrimination. We deplore trade agreements which are exclusive and we call for a world wide conference on world trade. It is essential for us to stress that the stabilization of raw material markets should be sought in more intensive international cooperation, especially through the United Nations.

(Copies of the complete Statement will be available from the Philadelphia Office.)

You will be interested to know that an International Seminar of a week or more, is being planned for July 1963, in Geneva. The topic will be "The Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament." The Seminar is open to all WILPF members and this year for the first time will be oriented to WILPF'ers. Why not plan now to take advantage of this opportunity? More details will come to you in subsequent Packets. Watch for them!

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Memo to Branch Presidents and others - con't

To strengthen both the cause of peace and ourselves as the International WILPF, the International set up several new committees, in which U.S. members are playing a part:

Committee on Disarmament. With Emily Parker Simon as chairman, together with Adelaide Baker and Gertrude Baer, they have the responsibility of keeping in close touch with current developments and of alerting and coordinating the action of Sections in this field, through a liaison person in each Section. I am serving as liaison for the U.S. Section, and will pass on immediately, by phone, information or recommendations for action to the appropriate person in the U.S. Section.

Committee on Peace Research. Elise Boulding is to be chairman, with Johanne Gjermoe of Norway, as Coordinator. They will encourage peace research in countries where it is feasible, and will work toward the establishing of an International Peace Research Center with experts from the physical and behavioral sciences regardless of ideology. (Elise is also on the Education Committee.)

Committee to Review the By-laws of the International. Marjorie Matson is on this committee, which will clarify the structure within which we work.

Committee to Strengthen Old and New Sections. Flemmie Kittrell and Emily Simon are on this re-organized committee, which it is hoped will apply clear-cut standards for admitting new sections and retaining old sections.

Evidence that the WILPF is expanding, and in important areas, was the admittance of two new Sections, Nigeria and Lebanon. Nigeria is our foothold in Africa, and Lebanon our first Section in the Middle East since the Israeli Section was formed some fifteen years ago.

The degree to which the International WILPF can gird itself to meet the demands of today for effective peace action, depends in large part on the support that all members, including members here in the United States, are willing to give. You know that financial support for the International WILPF comes from the dues of International Associates. If you are an International Associate, please pay your \$5 International dues promptly, at the same time you pay your national dues. If you are not yet an International Associate, won't you please become one, and share in this concrete way in the world-wide work for peace and freedom we are carrying on together.

Some of us carry special responsibilities in connection with the International, and it may be useful to review these briefly:

Emily Simon is one of the two Vice Chairmen of the International Executive.

Adelaide Baker is the Representative of the International WILPF at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Doris Shamleffer was newly-elected to be a full-fledged member of the International Executive.

Orlie Pell and Dorothy Hutchinson were elected by the U.S. Section at Atlantic City, to represent the U.S. Section as Consultative Members on the International Executive.

If you have any questions about the International - what it does or how it works - please let me know, and I will do my best to give you an answer. My job as Chairman is to make the work of the International clear to you. The job of Dorothy Hutchinson and myself as Consultative members of the International Executive is to make your concerns clear to the International.