

November 1962

W A R B Y A C C I D E N T - P E A C E B Y D E S I G N

November 11 World-Wide WILPF Action Project

TO ALL BRANCHES

FROM: Elizabeth Tolles, U.S. Section Coordinator for November 11 Project.

As a result of the Cuban crisis and discussion of our November 11 project at the National Board Meeting, October 26-28, it seems useful to send out the following 11th hour suggestions:

1. In case you are concerned about the relevance of this project in the light of the present Cuban crisis may we encourage you to go on with your programs substantially as planned. Most speakers will make the necessary modifications in the light of the following basic facts:

- (a) That a crisis situation augments the danger of nuclear accidents leading to war. (See point 2 in the Conclusions of the Mershon Report which begins, "The danger of accidental war rises sharply in periods of international tension.")
- (b) That the United States Government is still formally committed to the goals of a nuclear test ban treaty and world disarmament.

2. If you have been unable to carry out this project for November 11, you are encouraged to do so at a later date, such as Human Rights Day, December 10. Enclosed statements of church bodies will help you to contact the ministers and rabbis in your community.

3. As one facet of the total U.S. Section project, it is hoped to have a delegation of WILPF members present to the U.S. Mission to the UN a series of resolutions from Branches across the country which, as a part of this action project, reaffirm their basic position on disarmament. The resolution might be worded as follows:

"In view of the facts presented that the armaments race increases tensions and, in the opinion of experts, will almost inevitably result in accidental war, we affirm our conviction that world disarmament under law is the only reliable means of prevention. We appeal for a more vigorous pursuit by our Government of a disarmament agreement."

4. In addition to returning the questionnaire on your action project (in the October Packet) we should appreciate your evaluation of the activity. This might include new and worthwhile approaches to disarmament and related problems, copies of speeches which might be useful to WILPF for further study and even distribution.

5. Grist to your mill - If you have not already seen it look up "Fail-Safe", the new novel by Eugene Burdick (co-author of "The Ugly American") and Harvey Wheeler. It has run serially in the Saturday Evening Post and is now out in book form by McGraw-Hill. See also the review in the October 20 Saturday Review of Literature by Norman Cousins and the interview with the authors in the same issue. Some wonderful quotes for us!

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