

BRANCH LETTER

September 28, 1962

Dear Leader:

Welcome back!

Our long summer silence does not mean any lack of activity either here or throughout the branches - as witness our piles of correspondence, and as many of you know from personally attending the International Congress in California or entertaining the delegates from other countries afterwards. I myself went on to Honolulu and the outer islands by freighter (with a total passenger list of six persons, five horses, seventeen cows and 138 pigs!)

It was therefore a delightful surprise to find that three of our few members were there to welcome us, take us to our Japanese hotel and ask at once for a date for a public meeting when we passed through Honolulu again.

Hawaii is certainly a place where east and west meet and mix. With its "nationalist" spirit of pride in its Polynesian migrations 1500 years ago and their royal and feudal society, followed by Chinese, Japanese, etc. (read James Michener's new novel "Hawaii") it is different from any other state in the union and I am delighted that before I left an Hawaii unit of WILPF was organized under the temporary chairmanship of Miss Sakiko Okubo, a school teacher. They need all the help they can get, for the army and navy hold a dominant position economically and socially. Don't some of you have acquaintances there who might like to join? Lois Eckels, formerly of our Palo Alto Branch, is secretary-treasurer.

Incidentally the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii is offering 200 scholarships including travel for 21 months to graduate students from Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the islands of the Pacific and 100 scholarships to American graduates including travel in Asia.

The very first arrivals at the meeting where I spoke were our International Chairman and Vice-chairman, Else Zeuthen and Agnes Stapledon, who were en route to Australia and had seen the notice in the newspaper!

Since both Pax et Libertas (our international quarterly - your branch really ought to subscribe to it - \$1.50 per year) and Four Lights have good articles about the Congress and many of us are speaking on it, I won't use much space here except to say that 22 nations were represented, that two new National Sections were added (Nigeria and Lebanon) and that it was notable for the eagerness of the Arab women to be included; Iraq, Iran, Syria and Kuwait all had observers. One of the leaders of the Pakistani women tried very hard to get there. The Polish observer, Mrs. Zawadecka, has sent an official invitation to the United States Section to select seven representative American women to be their guests for two weeks next spring.

The resolutions passed are enclosed. The newly elected International Executive officers and members are: Chairman, Else Zeuthen; Vice-chairmen, Emily Parker Simon and Agnes Stapledon; Treasurer, Ragnhild Christiansen; Members, Gertrude Baer, Inga Beskow, Johanne Gjermoe, Ellen Holmgaard, Fujiko Isono, Shushila Nayar, Hannah Bernheim-Rosenzweig, Doris Shamleffer. Else Zeuthen was sent on a visit to new countries so Emily Parker Simon is acting International Chairman until January 1, 1963.

Where  
East &  
West  
line together

News  
from  
the  
International  
Congress

New international committees were set up to strengthen the international by working on the by-laws and on standards for national sections - also a Committee on Disarmament to develop simultaneous pressure on governments having delegates to disarmament conferences, and one on international peace research. It is characteristic of this stage in the struggle for peace that this Congress whose theme was "Total and Universal Disarmament - Now", after considering it from the economic, political and cultural angles, ended with a call for international peace action to prevent accidental war built around November 11th.

*November 11th*  
Elizabeth Tolles is the coordinator of this in the U.S. Section (See her sheet attached.) Note especially page 2 of the Bulletin of our Committee on World Development and World Disarmament in this packet under "The Final War: An Accident?"

*look who's talking*  
On September 29th I go to Massachusetts for a week where with the help of our Field Secretary, Nan Hanson they hope to have two new branches starting, to add to the two new ones organized last year.

On October 11 Annalee Stewart starts on a first fall trip. The California Branch has undertaken to pay her travel expenses to get her there where she will spend 10 days and visit all the new branches. November 3 - 8 she will be in New York State visiting Delmar, Albany, and Syracuse. Later (November 14 - December 7) she will go to West Virginia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and back through Illinois, Indiana and Pennsylvania. In general we are trying to get national people to as many of our new branches as possible. Is anyone going to be visiting in Arizona this winter? In Florida? In Hawaii?

Ruth Freeman has met with the Buffalo Branch. The Ithaca Branch is planning to call together representatives of all the western New York branches this spring with the idea of forming a Council or other machinery for coordinating their work.

Blanche Murphy of Springfield, Illinois, has been getting the St. Louis and Chicago leaders together so as to lay the groundwork for an Illinois State Branch and other WILPF expansion in that part of the country.

*Peace conferences are going international in a big way*  
Dorothy Hutchinson, as an individual, attended the International Conference of Women called by the Voice of Women where she made one of the keynote addresses (copies on request). This conference was called to develop support for "International Cooperation Year". Several other WILPF members were also there as individuals, or as representatives of other organizations. It resulted in plans to set up a small international committee of women representing "East", "West" and "Unaligned" areas.

There have been many other anti-war conferences this summer also: the one in Moscow ending with the "Message to the People of the World" (in this Packet), Ruth Gage-Colby went to this, as a representative of Women's Strike for Peace, and in addition attended the Tokyo Conference against A and H Bombs. Then there was one in Accra, Ghana and the pacifist one in India which is sending through the Ghandi Foundation, a delegation to call on both President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev. There is also the "International Declaration on the Student Peace Movement" issued in June by the Camp Sunnybrook (Pennsylvania) student international meeting.

more . . .

*Turn toward Peace*

With reports of all of these in mind Turn Toward Peace last July, set up a special committee on International Contacts, of which I am a member, to encourage development of an international federation of independent peace and disarmament organizations to consider the advisability of sponsoring a non-governmental international disarmament conference, to stimulate a second small London Conference on disarmament (probably in January) and to arrange for an exchange of ten or twelve leaders of the Soviet Peace Committee with a similar number of leaders of United States peace organizations.

*Cooperation on Crisis Issues*

At the Consultative Peace Council meeting in Jane Addams House this month, it was agreed that there were so many "crisis issues" before us that each of the five main peace organizations should undertake on behalf of all, to get together experts and formulate policies and action on one of them. Accordingly, the Fellowship of Reconciliation will arrange one on Cuba and Latin-America, November 10 and 11. The AFSC will set up one on Berlin and Central Europe in December; the WILPF on the Future of the UN in January and SANE on China and the A Bomb in February. The Friends Committee on National Legislation will do one later depending on what "crisis" develops.

*State Department*

A letter has come from the State Department inviting us to suggest people to be invited to a series of regional foreign policy conferences starting in December.

*Publicity*

Did you see the WILPF mentioned twice in Homer Jack's article "When Joe and Ivan Sit Down to Talk" in the New York Times Sunday Magazine Section, September 16, (pp. 29 and 94)?

*Handbook here*

Enclosed is the new Handbook ready three months earlier than usual! But even since this was made up there have been a couple of additions, although neither carries board membership: Ada Wardlaw (Mrs.) has been appointed alternate to Freda Kirchwey as U.S. Section Representative to the UN; Katharine Pittman has been made alternate to Adelaide Baker on UNICEF. Elsie Picon (101 West 80th Street, Apt. 9-D, New York 24), former National President, who has been living in Latin-America but is now back in the United States, has agreed to be our Referent on Latin-America.

*Put peace into Christmas*

We have a letter from UNICEF asking us to remind everyone that they are issuing international Christmas cards again, and that the money goes to a very good cause (it has now become a large source of income). They offer some profit sharing with those of us who sell them.

We have also had a letter from the U.S. Committee for Refugees saying the "The WILPF was probably the largest supporter of our gift-wrap program" on their first attempt to launch it last year. They have new "Tree of Life" designs and colors and offer branches 25¢ on each \$2 set they sell. (Write for more details about both of these.) And the Minnesota Branch has Christmas cards too, remember? Write to Mrs. Laura Cain, 3505 West 55th Street, Minneapolis 10, Minnesota. (Complete kit -50¢)

*Staff changes*

There are changes to report in the staff: Esther Podolsky and her husband are now part of the Peace Corps. They go to the Dominican Republic when their training period is over. Elizabeth Tolles' daughter Ellen, a college student, carried on over the summer. Now, Mrs. Diana Woodruff, a Vassar graduate and Columbia B.S. is the new Literature Secretary. Remember it takes a long time to find your way around in this multitudinous peace material and she is here only three days a week.

Marian Dockhorn is resigning as Membership and Extension Secretary because, with all three children in boarding school and college, she needs to make more money. Does anyone have a person to recommend for this two-day a week very interesting staff position? Also a good two-day a week stenographer for Kitty Arnett? Both are badly needed.

*Branches*  
*new + old*  
Camille Marker has resigned as Chairman of the Membership Committee so Marii Hasegawa is back and looking for a co-chairman. Inge Snipes has started work as Chairman of the Committee on Branches so I believe we have an excellent set-up for Membership and Branch Extension work.

*Executive Committee*  
The Executive Committee met here September 20 and 21 with an excellent attendance and some other committee chairmen sitting in. It was decided to set aside Friday and Saturday afternoons, Oct. 26 and 27, during the Board Meeting, from 4 to 6 PM for committee meetings. So will committee chairmen please let us know which day they choose as soon as they can?

*Action*  
The Executive Committee decided to set up a committee to see whether they can devise any methods for reducing our overhead. As our national committees become more effective and our local branches multiply, the demands on the office increase and the cost of supplies and services rise too, and without adequate increase in income we are faced with the problem of cutting our program or making some basic changes or finding more money. They will welcome suggestions.

*Accidental War*  
You will be glad to know that the WILPF is making steady and continuous efforts to counteract the wild statements and action of Congress both on Cuba and Berlin. Enclosed is our new throw-away on Accidental War (1¢ each). We are glad President Ayub Khan of Pakistan spoke forcefully at the UN against just this danger (P. 4, N.Y. Times 9/27)

*Improve Congress*  
Many of you happily are deep in campaigns to get better, more peace-minded people into Congress.

Don't get discouraged - I want to commend to your thought this paragraph from a letter which Richard Gregg, the lawyer and great American student of Gandhi, author of "The Power of Non-Violence" and other books wrote recently to the Committee for Non-Violence:

"Peace is, of course, not just the absence of overt physical violence. Like happiness, peace is not something that can be obtained by direct action. It is an overall condition that results from other conditions, and the lesser conditions are obtainable by direct as well as indirect striving. That is to say, peace is a by-product that comes automatically once the other conditions are established. One of the conditions that leads to peace is mutual trust. Trust comes as a result of repeated and prolonged actions that both bespeak and create a sense of human unity. Consistent talk going along with the deeds helps, but the actions speak louder than the words. Such items as honesty, truth in word and deed, perseverance, steadiness, giving more than one gets, taking risks for the sake of unity, - all these promote peace. If this be so, we need to do more than oppose bombs and bomb testing and warlike threats. We can safely follow Gandhi's lead and propose and operate a many-sided constructive program. It would be the activities of the constructive program that gradually build the conditions that finally result in peace."

Aren't we glad that WILPF has always had such a broad program?

Yours for a better world ahead.

*Walden Scott Olmsted*  
National Administrative Secretary