



WILPF RESOLUTIONS

19th Congress
Birmingham, England
1974

Indian Ocean as a De-Militarized and Non-Nuclear Zone

Believing that military encroachment on the Indian Ocean constitutes a threat to world peace

Welcomes the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly of 6 December 1974 favoring a zone of peace in that area,

Deplores the proposal of the United States of America to establish a military base on the United Kingdom territory of Diego Garcia, and the United Kingdom's decision to provide the facilities to the United States of America; and further

Deplores the presence of the North West Cape base in Australia

Requests the United Nations to take such steps as may be possible to:

- (a) Secure the withdrawal of all military bases and naval vessels from the Indian Ocean Zone and
- (b) prepare an international convention declaring the Indian Ocean a de-militarized and non-nuclear zone.

Nuclear Power

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in its 19th Triennial Congress at Birmingham, 17-20 July 1974,

Recognizing that nuclear power, whether used for weaponry or peaceful purposes presents grave dangers to health, life, peace and the environment, and that of all pollutants radioactive fissionable materials which is the most contaminating;

Recognizing that the world lives under the shadow of annihilation because of uncontrolled stockpiling of nuclear weapons in so-called overkill quantities;

Realizing that accelerated development of nuclear energy for war and peace has already presented a disposal problem of radioactive waste that defies solution;

Knowing that testing nuclear devices and operating nuclear power plants seriously irradiate air and water, and that the first by-product of the "peaceful" reactor is plutonium, a small amount of which is sufficient to make a nuclear bomb;

Being aware that at the same time there are alternative sources of energy such as the sun, winds, tides and geothermal heat;

We urge intensive worldwide research and development of these safe and clean natural resources to replace the nuclear source, and

We reaffirm the necessity for a total permanent cessation of all nuclear weapons testing, manufacturing and stockpiling, as well as of refraining from the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. To prevent the death of the earth and the incalculable suffering of all living things we demand the elimination of existing nuclear arsenals, and furthermore

We demand an immediate moratorium on licensing, siting, building, selling and operating nuclear plants anywhere in the world.

Chile

Whereas the military government of Chile has violently overthrown the legal government of that country and has instituted a reign of terror and hunger and economic chaos, and

Whereas the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom denounces such use of violence and repression, it

Urges all governments to bring pressure on the military junta to release all political prisoners, to save the lives of all the surviving former members of the legal government, to give safe conduct to all Chileans and foreigners who wish to leave Chile, to cease forced unemployment of hundreds of thousands of people designated as enemies by the junta, to cease courts martial held in secret, arbitrary arrests and detention without charges, torture and executions.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom calls on governments to
1) Open their borders to refugees from Chile and make jobs available to them and
2) Isolate the junta economically, diplomatically and in all other ways, and

Supports the actions and programs initiated by the representatives of legal parties and movements now working in concert in Chile Democratic headquarters in Rome, Italy.

Ratification of Agreement of 2-3 February 1971 Between France and the Federal Republic of Germany

In order that violations of human rights should not lead to new massacres, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom urges the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to ratify the agreement for legal help between the German Federal Republic and France made on 2-3 February 1971, to bring to justice

all war criminals and punish crimes against humanity. This agreement is based on the ratified UN Convention 1158 (XL I) on the Statute of Limitations.

A Call For Fundamental Economic Change by Non-Violent Means

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in its 19th Triennial Congress at Birmingham, 17-20 July 1974.

Is alarmed at increasing worldwide violence, racism, arms build-up and economic materials, which have not been contained in spite of our best efforts . This unhealthy condition of society is a threat to peace and freedom.

More than half a century of study and action on our part has led us to the conclusion that we have been dealing with the symptoms rather than the disease.

We have come to see the malady as inherent in an economic system based on production for private profit rather than production for human needs.

We have come to see that production for profit rather than for human welfare makes it impossible to achieve the goals of WILPF. We therefore believe that we shall not eliminate war, racism, violence, repression and social injustice unless we address ourselves to achieving fundamental economic change by non-violent means.

Food

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in its 19th Triennial Congress at Birmingham, 17-20 July 1974.

Bearing in mind that the Director General of the Food and Agricultural Organization has warned that there is only two weeks supply of food and grains in the world

Whilst supporting the setting up of a World Food Bank,

Urges upon all concerned the worldwide equitable distribution of food grains by means of national and International rationing, and

Instructs its national sections to take this matter up immediately with their respective governments.

International Control of the Seabed

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in its 19th Triennial Congress at Birmingham, 17-20 July 1974.

Aware of the exploitation already being undertaken by technologically advanced nations and by private companies,

Realizing that this exploitation will widen the gap between developed and developing nations,

Concerned about the depletion in fishing stocks due to over fishing by sophisticated fishing fleets,

Calls on all participants at the Third UN Law of the Sea Conference at Caracas
1) to abide by the 1970 Declaration of Principles, which was adopted unanimously, declaring the sea-bed and ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction to be the common heritage of mankind,
2) and to be willing to sacrifice national interests for the common good in the setting up of an international regime to control the exploitation of the ocean environment and also to control the equitable distribution on a global basis of both mineral and living resources, for the benefit of all mankind.

International Population Year

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Aware that the year 1974 has been named World Population Year by the United Nations 25th General Assembly, and that the work done during this year may have a decisive influence on our future,

Believes that the responsibility for population problems is the concern of men and women alike in all countries, and that attempts to motivate for preventive measures should be directed at both men and women,

Believes that information about male sterilization should be widely spread in both developing and industrialized countries, and

Believes also that women should have the right to choose whether or not to have an abortion.

Petition to the Governments of the USA, USSR, Great Britain, France, China and India (Copies sent to all governments of UN Member States)

For twelve years representatives of leading Nations have discussed the question of disarmament, but testing of nuclear devices, both atmospheric and underground continues. More atrocious weapons are perfected, and more Nations strive to become nuclear powers.

Gravely concerned at the failure of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to arrive at meaningful decisions to protect mankind from the incalculable results of atomic war:

We, the undersigned, urgently call upon the Governments of the USA, USSR, Great Britain, France, China and India to:

Stop immediately all nuclear tests, whether for weaponry or for peaceful purposes, and to reject the Threshold Ban Agreement which restricts testing beyond 150 kilotons, 7 1/2 times the Hiroshima bomb. We call on the governments of the USA and USSR to rescind this agreement, and on all Nations to work for the conclusion of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty:

to halt, simultaneously, the development and manufacture of new weapons and an increase in present stockpiles;

- 1) to follow up these genuine steps to disarmament by a declaration to abstain from using existing stockpiles and to conclude an early agreement for their destruction;
- 2) to support the conference of all governments with a view to imposing a world-wide ban on research, manufacture and use of nuclear weaponry and other agents of mass destruction.

Recommendations to the Members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in its 19th Triennial Congress at Birmingham, 17-20 July 1974.

Aware that governments have to be persuaded to cooperate and cannot be forced to do so,

Convinced that the international community can scarcely afford to neglect any instrument which has the potential to stimulate cooperation,

Regarding fruitful deliberations within the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament as promoting confidence between States,

Strongly recommends the members of the Conference of Committee on Disarmament to consider

- 1) The working paper on Presentation of Defence Expenditures and Their Distribution for Defence purposes (tabled by the Swedish Delegation)
- 2) The draft conventions on chemical weapons (CCD/361 and CCD/420) and working papers with more detailed suggestions on the same item.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom also recommends its sections to rouse public opinion on disarmament by publishing figures of the defense expenditures and by spreading information on the horror of chemical weapons.

Instructions to Observers and Emergency Forces

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in its 19th Triennial Congress at Birmingham, 17-20 July 1974.

Aware that United Nations observers and Emergency Forces in the future will be needed for Peacekeeping operations to a larger extent than at present, and also

Aware of the necessity of carefully formulated instructions for these observers and Emergency Forces,

Resolves to undertake a study of the instructions given to these Observers and Emergency Forces, and for this purpose

Calls upon its national sections to study these instructions and to submit suggestions, if any, for amendments to these instructions to the International Executive Committee before its next meeting.

Educational Material For Peace

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in its 19th Triennial Congress at Birmingham, 17-20 July 1974,

Recognizing that UNESCO already produces educational material for peace,

Urging that body to increase the production of educational material suitable for children of varying ages on all aspects of disarmament including life in a disarmed world.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom also

Urges that sections able to do so should consider the preparation of leaflets on topics currently under discussion by the League (e.g. disarmament, conflict, resolution, law of the sea etc.) for the use of other sections than their own to gain interest and support from non-members. Such leaflets should contain some information about the League, and have space for the addition of branch addresses.

Emergency Resolution on Cyprus

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in its 19th Triennial Congress at Birmingham, 17-20 July 1974, calls on the United Nations Secretary-General to use the power of his high office to help restore independence of Cyprus and to prevent the escalation of violence.

A cable was sent to the Secretary General of the United Nations with copies to the Turkish and Greek Embassies at London. Mrs. Butler, MP transmitted the text in a letter to Prime Minister Howard Wilson and was asked to pose a question in Parliament on what the United Nations Force was doing, since Britain, Greece and Turkey had signed a tripartite agreement to preserve the independence of Cyprus.

Emergency Resolution Concerning the Conference of Government Experts on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in its 19th Triennial Congress at Birmingham, 17-20 July 1974,

Having for more than 50 years worked for total and universal disarmament,

Determined nevertheless to support the conventions on the prohibition of special weapons as mentioned in the Geneva conventions,

Wants to stress the importance of the presence of the victims of modern scientific warfare at the Conference of Government Experts on the use of weapons which may cause unnecessary suffering or have an indiscriminate effect. (held at Luzern, Switzerland, 24 Sept- 10 Oct, 1974)

Therefore we ask the conference to invite as witnesses representatives from the Provisional Revolutionary Government in South Vietnam and from the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam.

International Women's Year, 19th Congress, Birmingham, U.K. July, 1974

The Congress resolves as follows:

The problem of family and the emancipation are of growing importance as factors in the achievement of peace and the relaxation of international tension. They are a part of the program of the United Nations Second Development Decade. Consequently, the United Nations General Assembly has declared 1975 International Women's Year.(Resolution 3010/XXVII)

The aims to be pursued are:

- i) Universal recognition of the equality of women and men.
- ii) Integration of women in the total development effort and the recognition of the important role women play in economic, social and cultural development.
- iii) The recognition of the contribution of women to the strengthening of world peace and the need to widen their participation in the political decision making at national and international levels;
- iv) Promotion of peace movements through women's groups and other organizations and individuals.

As a contribution to International Women's Year, we call for:

- i) Equal opportunities at all levels of education, promotion of equal rights and responsibilities in the family;
- iii) The establishment of social services that will bring into harmony professional and family responsibilities;
- iv) Changing the stereotype image and the portrayal of the role and function of women and men in society, from birth, in the home, in schools, the mass media etc.;

- v) The protection of mother and child, sufficient kindergartens and day schools.
- vi) Special attention to the problems of the young generation, especially with regard to upbringing and integration in society.
- vii) Access to training and education in all fields or work especially in the scientific and technological fields.
- viii) Improvement of living conditions of rural women and their access to training in modern agricultural methods.
- ix) Equal rights and opportunities in the economic field, equal pay for work of equal value and protection of employment.
- x) Recognition of the contribution of women to the overall development of their respective countries through their participation in the national economic life.

It is recommended that the national sections of WILPF:

- i) In co-operation with other groups and organizations awaken interest in the aims of the International Women's Year through publicity and education campaigns.
- ii) Through different actions bring pressure to bear on the appropriate authorities for the implementation of demands that will bring an essential improvement in the living conditions and social improvement of women.

It is important to participate in the drawing up of a UN Convention which brings together the various aspects of women's rights to form part of international law and to make public opinion aware of the fact that only through the intensive participation of women - together with men - can best possible development in each country be achieved and the welfare of all and world peace be secured.

We urge that all international bodies, organizations and commissions should instruct their member nations to take steps to ensure that their delegations to all meetings of such groups should fairly represent in their composition the percentage of women in their population.

Understanding how essential it is to have women realize their responsibility to participate in peace making,

We also urge that steps be taken to introduce and improve education for peace especially the procedures of peaceful settlement of disputes on all levels from nursery school to university and continuing adult education.