



WILPF RESOLUTIONS

20th Congress
Tokyo, Japan
August 1977

Antarctica

WILPF supports the handing over of Antarctica as a trust territory to be administered by the United Nations for the benefit of all mankind.

This must ensure that Antarctica can never be exploited in any way, without the consent of the world community.

Apartheid / Southern Africa

WILPF considers that among the most crucial tasks today is the elimination of racism and the racism domination of peoples, particularly in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia.

The racist politics in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, and the illegal occupation of Namibia by the Republic of South Africa constitute a grave danger to world peace. WILPF fully supports the United Nations in its condemnation of the governments of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia and its call for a total isolation of these two racist regimes.

The 20th Congress of WILPF calls on all WILPF members and national sections to press their governments to comply with the decisions of the United Nations.

It urges its members to study the "Program of Action against Apartheid " adopted by the UN General Assembly on 9 November 1976 (Annex to Resolution 31/6) and to assist in every way its implementation. The 20th Congress of WILPF further calls on the Security Council to declare mandatory sanctions against South Africa and for the total application by all governments of such sanctions.

(See also the IEC resolution of July 1976)

Vietnam

The twentieth triennial International Congress of WILPF,

Concerned at the continuing suffering in Vietnam as a result of the war and the minimal reparation made by the United States administration,

Commends the US Section of WILPF for its efforts to persuade its government to honour its commitment as a part of the Paris Accords to aid the people of Vietnam, and

Urges all WILPF sections to support these efforts.

New International Economic Order

WILPF reaffirms the concern of the 19th WILPF Congress for the establishment of a New International Economic Order and

Emphasizes the need for fundamental rethinking about the necessary changes in national and international economic relationships, in particular:

- 1) Launching an educational program to stimulate international understanding and to face the need for changes in socio-political structures in order to promote greater equality among all citizens;
- 2) Calling an international conference to discuss ways of relieving the debts of less developed countries, establishing effective commodity stabilization agreements and a common fund;
- 3) Ensuring that any commitment by donor countries to meet the UN targets of official development aid be honoured in order to facilitate project planning in the recipient countries;
- 4) Developing a sense of responsibility by multinational corporations, with such international control as necessary.

(See also the Call for Fundamental Economic Change by Non-Violent Means by the 19th Congress of WILPF in July, 1974)

(See also the resolution of the Executive Committee in August, 1972 reiterating WILPF's opposition to competitive regional economic blocs whose motive is the self-interest of the affluent at the expense of the under-privileged.)

Peace Education

WILPF stresses the importance of teaching at all levels of education, the causes and costs of conflicts and war; and instilling the desire for peace and harmony, with the understanding of the means for reaching this goal.

Therefore, be it resolved that the WILPF through each of its national sections, use its influence and its resources to promote education for peace and freedom.

- 1) Working with education authorities to prepare and introduce suitable curricula and textbooks at all levels of education; to remove all teaching materials which glorify war and which suppose that armed conflict and violence are the only means of settling international and intra-national disputes;
- 2) Co-operating with teacher groups in developing suitable methods for teaching peace and freedom; disseminating information about current developments;

- 3) Forming coalitions with other peace groups interested promoting peace and freedom education;
- 4) Placing special emphasis on the work of the United Nations and its agencies.

It is further recommended that each national section appoint a Chair whose responsibility it would be to encourage and to coordinate the work of the section in promoting peace education. This Chair would report to the Chair for Peace Education of the International WILPF the activities of the national section as a means of furthering peace education among all national sections of the Organization.

International Peace Year

The twentieth triennial International Congress of WILPF call on the United Nations to declare an International Peace Year.

It commends to national sections of WILPF that they should use any suitable opportunity of joining with other organizations in observing peace days and suggests that Hiroshima Day, 6 August, is one such suitable date

International Population Year 19th congress, Birmingham, U.K. July 1977

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

Believes that the responsibility for population problem 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 legal right to choose whether or not to have an abortion.

Recombinant-DNA Technology

Recognizing that recombinant-DNA technology has a potential for destruction of life comparable to that only of nuclear fission, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom recommends:

- i) that the World Health Organization establish an international center for the purposes of studying, recording and monitoring recombinant-DNA activities so that recommendations can be made both to the United Nations and the governments involved;
- ii) that there be an expansion of current national and international programs for monitoring outbreaks of diseases, both in human beings and in plant and other

animal species so that the new disease resulting from the application of recombinant-DNA techniques may be detected as quickly as possible;

- iii) that national and international efforts be made to inform the public of hazards of this new technology and to seek public involvement to the greatest extent possible in making decisions as to whether such technology shall be used;
- iv) that all research and manufacturing activities involving recombinant-DNA material be subjected to strict national and international regulation and regulation of possession, sale, exchange, import and export of recombinant-DNA material and certain items necessary to its production including restriction enzymes;
- v) that there be developed stringent criteria for research and manufacturing facilities for physical and biological containment of recombinant-DNA material; that if experiments considered to have great potential hazard are legally permitted at all, they be conducted at a single isolated facility under international control and that all workers dealing with recombinant-DNA material be fully informed as to the nature and potential danger of such material;
- vi) that insurance be provided in case of accident for those whose occupations involve direct exposure to recombinant-DNA material and for the general public as well;
- vii) that the use of recombinant-DNA technology for the purposes of warfare be internationally banned.

(See also resolution of Executive Committee, July, 1976, requesting a report about nuclear hazards from the WHO.)

(See also the resolution of the 19th Congress, July, 1974, requesting a halt to all uses of nuclear power.)