



WILPF RESOLUTIONS

21st Congress
Connecticut, USA
1980

Arms Trade

To the United Nations general Assembly:

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting at its 21st Congress at Quinnipiac College, August 18 - 23, 1980,

Deeply concerned by the rapidly escalating arms trade, which does not guarantee physical security to any nation but depletes the resources of both the supplier and the recipient nations so that they are unable to meet their basic human needs;

Believing that although the best solution would be the elimination of all arms trade, the implementation of Article 85 of the Final Document of the Special Session on Disarmament could be an appropriate first step toward this goal.

Strongly urges the General Assembly of the United Nations to immediately carry out this proposal reached by consensus and adopted by the Special Session on Disarmament.

Militarism in Japan

To all Sections:

Aware of growing pressures on Japan, from within and without, for increasing defense expenditures and involvement in U.S. military strategies,
Be it resolved that WILPF support through the Japanese Section all efforts being made in Japan to protest against re-miniaturization of Japan.

Statement on the Reunification of Korea

To all Sections:

Considering the failure of the South Korean Government to replace the representative Yusin constitution and Emergency Decrees with democratic parliamentary statutes and considering the prolonged ruthless martial law, and

Realizing that repression and unrest originated in 1945 with the division of the country and support of dictatorial regimes by western nations, and

Aware that constant tension between North and South caused by provocative incidents and accusations threaten to erupt into war, and

Recognizing that the majority of the people of both North and South Korea earnestly desire reunification of their ancient homeland,

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting at its 21st International Congress in Hamdon, Connecticut, 19- 23 August, 1980, urges all sections and members to:

- 1) appeal to their respective governments to call for the withdrawal of all foreign troops, nuclear and other weapons, and personnel from South Korea;
- 2) Work for persistent and active governmental and non-governmental support of peaceful reunification of Korea based on the three principles of the North-South joint statement of 4 July, 1972, that independence is to be achieved :
 - a) without foreign interference;
 - b) peacefully without resorting to arms;
 - c) in national unity as one homogeneous nation irrespective of difference of ideology, ideas and social systems.

(See also the resolution of August 1977 of concern about human rights violations in Asia.)

(See also the resolution of August 1977 calling on the UN to draw up guide lines aiming at the protection of people against the use of the mass for the encouragement of human rights violations, etc.)

Vietnam

To the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Secretary of State Muskie:

Whereas the continuation of the crisis in South East Asia endangers world peace, and

Whereas the rehabilitation and restoration of post-war Vietnam is crucial to peace and stability in South East Asia, and

Whereas the rehabilitation and restoration of Vietnam is impeded by the political and economic isolation maintained by the United States of America and some of its allies due to such measures as trade embargoes, absence of diplomatic relations and withholding of aid,

Be it therefore resolved that the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in International Congress, 19-23 August, 1980, urges the US to

normalize relations with Vietnam, remove the trade embargoes and contribute a just share of aid to the rehabilitation and restoration of Vietnam.

Chemical Warfare

To the WILPF International Office:

Mindful of reports of genetic harm resulting from the use of Agent Orange by the U.S. military force in Vietnam, indicating a threat to the well-being of future generations;

Declaring that the responsibility to prove a substance safe rests with those authorizing its use;

Be it resolved that WILPF (a) ask the U.S. government for a full investigation and report of the effects of defoliants, including Agent Orange, upon populations in Vietnam and on Vietnam war veterans, and (b) urge the United Nations to achieve a complete and effective ban on chemical weapons and insure destruction of current stocks, such ban and destruction to be permanently verified in genuine international cooperation, on the strength of and with the assistance of the recently reviewed 1971 Convention.

Toxic Substances

To all Sections:

Whereas dangerously toxic substances when banned or restricted in one country are now shipped to other countries, especially third world nations which may be unaware of their dangers, causing suffering and death, particularly among infants and children as well as extensive damage to the environment; and

Whereas toxic chemicals presented as insecticides and herbicides are the same substances used in chemical warfare and banned by a Geneva Protocol which was signed by the US in 1975 and shipment of these substances to foreign countries brings them closer, as weapons to US military targets; and

Whereas ecologically sound alternatives to the use of these hazardous substances have been convincingly and repeatedly demonstrated;

Be it therefore resolved that the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in its 21st International Congress at Quinnpiac College, 19-23 August 1980, urges all sections to:

- 1) Educate themselves on these vital issues;
- 2) Like wise educate the population around them;
- 3) Inform legislatures and regulatory agencies of these facts and their implications for world disaster demanding correcting actions.

And the International Office of WILPF, for its part, further resolves to press through its UN delegation for creative solutions at the international level to these alarming global problems; to take the lead in helping people everywhere to understand and to take corrective local actions, before it is too late, in curbing the exploitative and irresponsible practices of corporations; and to establish ecologically sound alternatives so that pure water, food, soil, air and sound bodies may once more be the birthright of our children.

Bolivia Coup

To WILPF and all Sections:

Whereas WILPF stands behind nations seeking self-determination in the struggle against domination and because of the recent coup d'etat in Bolivia which thwarted the hopes and aspirations of the people of that country,

Be it therefore resolved by the Women's International League for peace and Freedom, meeting in its 21st International Congress at Hamden, Connecticut 19-23 August, 1980, that the following actions be taken:

- 1) The Congress send a message to General Costa Mesa, Bolivia, expressing concern about the military coup and the subsequent violations of human rights demanding the release of the political prisoners and stating our concern about the disappearance of many political and religious leaders of the country;
- 2) The Congress requests that WILPF United Nations representatives bring the above matters to the attention of the United Nations;
- 3) WILPF promotes within sections, information regarding the build-up of the military in Argentina and other countries in Latin America.

Cuba

Whereas the United States of America and other allied countries have imposed a trade embargo for 20 years on Cuba that caused tremendous suffering for its people,

Be it resolved that Women's International League for Peace and Freedom meeting in its 21st International congress at Hamden, Connecticut, 19-23 August, 1980,

Urges the United States Government to initiate the normalization of diplomatic and trade relations with Cuba accompanied by the removal of the US military installation on Guantanamo Bay and the end of reconnaissance flights over Cuba.

Statement on the Middle East

To all Sections:

The 21st Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,

Recognizing WILPF's support for the rights of the Palestinian people, for the security of the people and states in the area, including Lebanon and Israel, and the welfare of all people in the area notes with grave concern the ever more critical and threatening situation in the Middle East, particularly in South Lebanon.

We are acutely aware that the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza creates conditions under which human rights are being violated. We are also aware that continuous settlement in the occupied areas and plans for Israeli government offices to be moved to East Jerusalem are additional barriers to negotiation. Barriers are also created when official Palestinian statements are issued which call for a democratic secular state "in all of Palestine."

Action of the WILPF should include support of all efforts for peace and justice in the area, especially those projects jointly proposed by Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews. (The Al Fajr and New Outlook Conference in November 1980 is a case in point.)

We call on Sections to investigate whether their government in any way provides aid to Israel for its West Bank-Gaza settlements; to publicize such aid in their country; and to actively oppose such aid. (An example of such action was U.S. Section support for legislation to withhold economic aid to Israel in the amount Israel uses for its West Bank-Gaza settlements.)

We call the attention of our Sections to the WILPF resolution on the Middle East which recognizes that military power cannot lead to a just solution in the area and urge the Sections to also investigate the extent to which their government sends military aid to any country or involved party in the Middle East and to work for an agreement among all possible arms suppliers to end arms sales to all countries in the region.

(See also the resolutions of the Executive Committee Meeting, July 1976 and the Executive Committee Meeting, October, 1975.)

Economic Conversion

To all Sections:

As members of an international women's organization, we affirm the dignity of people and the dignity of work both inside and outside the home. Today, men and women are being driven by economic necessity to work in military industry and in the armed services. Work may be a double-edged sword, both creating instruments

of death and killing or injuring workers and their families in the process. Changing this situation requires a cooperative approach by workers, management and community members.

Therefore it be resolved by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in its 21st International Congress at Hamden, Connecticut, 19-23 August, 1980, that all sections should:

- 1) Involve themselves and other groups in the peace conversion and economic democracy movements;
- 2) Encourage the development of plans for individual plant and base conversion on the local level;
- 3) Support national conversion legislation; and
- 4) Create links among local, national and international conversion efforts.

Energy Development

To all Sections:

Be it resolved that the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom meeting in its 21st International Congress at Hamden, Connecticut, 19-23 August, 1980,

Urges all the governments that

- 1) There be a halt to construction and a rapid phase out of all nuclear reactors.
- 2) Increasing use be made of safe and renewable energy sources such as solar technologies for heating and cooling.
- 3) More efficient use be made of all other resources, particularly in developed countries.
- 4) There be decentralization of every facility and use of small scale energy technologies more appropriate, especially for developing countries and which will create many more jobs.
- 5) The World Bank and Export-Import banks eliminate loans for nuclear reactors and instead fund safe and renewable energy technologies.

(See also the resolution of the 20th Congress, August, 1977, which calls for: "a free flow of information concerning nuclear hazards, immediate attention to the unsolved problems of waste disposal, the possibility of terrorism through theft of nuclear materials, the violation of civil liberties through increased miniaturization of

nuclear plants, and especially the problem of proliferation of plutonium which can be used for nuclear bombs" as well as the above 5 points.)

The Nuclear Arms Race in Europe

To all sections, to the NATO Ministerial Council, to NATO countries and to countries of the Warsaw Pact:

The 21st Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,

Considering that the biggest concentration of weapons of all types, especially of nuclear weapons, is found in Europe and that a danger exists of a further buildup of more destructive weapons just in this area,

Affirming as stated by several research institutes that a close balance between the NATO and the Warsaw Pact countries already exists concerning land-based nuclear weapons and other types of nuclear weapons centered on the European theater,

Convinced that a freezing of this balance must be an essential start for negotiations for reduction of the potential danger existing in Europe,

Urges strongly that the governments involved take initial steps for an annulment of the decision of deployment of 572 medium-range missiles as decided by NATO in December last year and a halt to further deployment of the SS-20 missiles on the Soviet side.

Change of US Policy on Nuclear Weapons

To all WILPF Sections and first two paragraphs to President Carter:

By issuing Presidential Directive #59, the Administration in Washington, DC, has shifted its nuclear war strategy from deterrence to "first-strike" capability, maintaining that a "limited and prolonged nuclear war" could insure security. Directive #59 moves from the policy of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD), primarily targeting Soviet cities and industrial centers, to a policy of counter force, targeting Soviet weaponry and sheltered command centers. The Directive encourages rather than deters nuclear war. Finally, its implementation would divert vast sums of money towards a further escalating arms race.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in our 21st International Congress at Quinnipiac College, August 18-23, 1980, strongly rejects the thought that any nuclear exchange could remain limited or could be prolonged without irreversible consequences to life and the environment, and the League continues to oppose the concept of "first-strike" capability.

Be it therefore resolved that WILPF call urgently and immediately upon members in all Sections, but particularly in the U.S. Section, to exert the strongest possible pressure upon governments, especially the U.S. government, for a reversal of this policy direction.

Reduction of Aid to the Marcos Government

(To President Carter and the US Congress)

Whereas the Marcos government, during nine years of martial law, has tortured, terrorized, jailed and murdered the people of the Philippines using military forces trained, equipped and financed by the US government and,

Whereas military aid to the Marcos government has been increased by 13% in the current budget of the USA; and

Whereas the Wolf-Hall Amendment, which for the first time would reduce the funds appropriated for the Marcos Government, can be the first step toward ending such support,

Therefore be it resolved that the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting at its 21st International Congress at Hamden, Connecticut, 19-23 August 1980 urges the Congress and the President of the US to support the adoption of the Wolff-Hall Amendment.

Withdrawal of US Military Bases from the Philippines

To President Carter, with copies to the Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency,
U.S. State Department, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations:

Whereas Clark Air Field and Subic Naval Base, two U.S. bases in the Philippines, are remnants of U.S. colonial domination of that country and are deeply resented by Philippine patriots as an abridgment of their national sovereignty; and

Whereas Admiral Le Roque, Center of Defense Information, testified that the U.S. Pentagon stores nuclear weapons at these U.S. bases, and the Civil Liberties Union of the Philippines warns that the presence of these U.S. nuclear weapons threatens to involve the Philippines in any future nuclear holocaust; and

Whereas U.S. bases in the Philippines provided the main logistical support for the U.S. war in Vietnam and are today the main source of supply for the U.S. naval force in the Indian Ocean;

Therefore be it resolved by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in its 21st Triennial Congress at Quinnipiac College, August 18-23,

1980, that the U.S. bases should be immediately dismantled from the Philippines in order to remove an affront to Philippine sovereignty and a center of U.S. nuclear arms in Asia.

East Timor

To all Sections:

Concerned about the continuing misery in East Timor under Indonesian neocolonialist subjugation on which Amnesty International recently testified before the United States Congress, reporting extreme violations of Human Rights, such as imprisonment without trial, torture and genocide,

Be it resolved that WILPF continues to bring the plight of East Timor people before the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations.

Nuclear-Free Pacific

To WILPF and Sections:

Noting the growth of anti-nuclear and independence movements in the Pacific regions;

Believing that these movements have the potential for uniting people in this region in a common struggle for survival and peace and maybe a step towards universal disarmament;

Be it resolved that WILPF supports a Nuclear Free Pacific Treaty and that Sections inform themselves of relevant events in the Pacific region and support demilitarization of the region as promoted recently at the Nuclear Free Pacific Conference in Hawaii.

Peace Education

To WILPF and all Sections:

Whereas Women's International League for Peace and Freedom around the world is concerned about education for peace and the need to share and learn from each other,

Be it resolved by the 21st International Congress, meeting in Hamden Connecticut, 19-23 August, 1980, that:

1) A communications network of all members writing and implementing peace education curricula to be formed by the International and its member sections, including the use of publications to promote the work of those involved;

2) Racism, because it is a major factor in destroying public education, be on the agenda of WILPF as an issue to be tied in with our peace education program and concerns including wherever possible seminars for teachers.

Appeal to UNESCO on Education for Peace

To the Director of UNESCO Department of Curriculum Studies and Methods of Education:

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in Triennial Congress, August 18-23, 1980, at Quinnipiac College,

Aware of international tensions and of freedom struggles in many countries with their risks of erupting into violence,

Urges UNESCO to:

- 1) Set up a U.N.-UNESCO radio station and to employ existing TV satellite facilities for transmitting information and U.N. policy on disarmament, human rights and development;
- 2) Develop world studies programs and disseminate them to ministries of education in all member countries; and
- 3) Emphasize to all ministries of education the prevention potential of peace education in a threatened world.

UNESCO Material for Peace Education

To ministers of education in countries with WILPF Sections; to directors of education, head teachers and other authorities to whom Sections and branches have access; to the World Council of Organizations of the Teaching Professions; to the American Federation of Teachers; to the National Education Associations, United States; to the National Social Studies Council, United States.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in its 21st International Congress at Hamden, Connecticut, 19-23 August 1980,

Aware of international tensions and of freedom struggles in many lands with their risks of escalating to the use of violence,

Urges your department (Section) to use the materials provided by UNESCO for education in peaceful conflict resolution, disarmament and global knowledge and to include world studies in any agreed curriculum recommended for general adoption.

Cambodia

(To government delegations to the United Nations)

Whereas the Pol Pot/IHeng Sary regime, having pursued policies of genocide within Kampuchea and having violated the rights of the people in an almost unprecedented way is no longer in control of either people or territory, and

Whereas the presence of the Pol Pot/lang Sary regime as the official representative of Kampuchea in the United Nations is unjustifiable both morally and legally and stands as an obstacle to the true representation of Kampuchea in the United Nations,

Be it resolved that the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting at its 21st International Congress in Hamden, Connecticut, 19-23 August, 1980,

Calls upon the member states of the United Nations to unseat the Pol Pot/ lang Sary regime at the next United Nations General Assembly in September of 1980.

Control of Space Technology

To all Sections:

Noting the proliferation of nuclear power sources in space technology and the development of nuclear and other weapons systems in outer space;

Mindful of the final document of the U.N. Special Session on Disarmament in 1978 expressing the need for international action in the spirit of the Treaty on Outer Space;

Be it resolved that WILPF Sections be asked (a) to take every opportunity to publicize the treaty and oppose the development and use of nuclear and other weapons systems in outer space, and (b) to approach the U.N. Environment Program, Nairobi, for information on any steps being taken through the program by governments or NGOs to prevent the use of nuclear power sources such as radioisotopes and nuclear reactors, expressing our concern about such use and about the development of nuclear and other weapons in outer space.

U.N. Peacemaking Machinery

To all Sections:

Realizing that WILPF's primary objective of "total and universal disarmament" has not been achieved in 65 years of campaigning;

Believing that other means of solving international disputes have to be accepted by the people of the world;

Be it resolved that WILPF pursue the implementation of Article 33 of the United Nations Charter with a view of preparing a well devised and documented submission to the United Nations outlining proposals for improving the peaceful settlement machinery of the United Nations, strengthening the International Court of Justice, establishing a permanent mediation board served by a reliable fact-finding commission, and developing arbitration machinery that would implement the Charter's demand that peaceful settlement should be sought "first of all" by these very procedures, as a peaceful world cannot be created by violence.