

31 MAY 1960



WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS
FÉDÉRATION SYNDICALE MONDIALE
FEDERACION SINDICAL MUNDIAL
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ
ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНЫХ СОЮЗОВ

Prague, le 25 mai 1960

All India Trade Union Congress
NEW DELHI - India

35001 Address all correspondence to
Adresser la correspondance au :

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SECRETARIAT DE LA
FÉDÉRATION SYNDICALE MONDIALE
PRAGUE I - RUE JANSKA 100
TÉLÉPHONE: 67.856
ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE: FESYMOND PRAGUE

JL/SM/1035

Chers camarades,

Nous nous proposons d'évoquer régulièrement dans notre Revue le "Mouvement Syndical Mondial" les événements importants ayant marqué l'histoire du mouvement syndical mondial afin de permettre de mieux en comprendre l'évolution et d'en tirer l'enseignement qu'ils comportent pour le présent.

C'est pourquoi nous voulons publier dans la Revue à partir d'octobre prochain une rubrique spéciale mentionnant de tels événements et les commentant brièvement, par exemple mouvements ouvriers, grèves et autres actions, catastrophes minières telles que Marcinelle, constitution de syndicats, initiatives des travailleurs comme les "subotniki" en U.R.S.S., importantes conférences syndicales, autres faits à condition, et seulement à la condition qu'ils permettent de dégager un enseignement. Le numéro d'octobre évoquera des événements qui se sont produits en novembre d'une année déterminée et ainsi de suite.

Pour la réalisation de cette rubrique nous avons besoin de votre collaboration. Nous pensons que vous pourrez trouver sur place un grand nombre d'éléments pour ce calendrier. Peut-être un tel calendrier existe-t-il déjà, pour votre pays ou internationalement.

Nous serions heureux de vous lire rapidement à ce sujet. Dans cette attente, nous vous adressons nos fraternelles salutations.

LE MOUVEMENT SYNDICAL MONDIAL

Le rédacteur en chef

J. WETZLER

F. Fachner



WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS
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ВСЕМИРНАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ
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Prague,.....

20. IV. 1960

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To: Affiliated National Centres
Trade Unions Internationals
(T.Ds. of the W.F.T.U.)

Circ: APMO - 27/60

Dear Brothers,

We were pleased to note that several National Centres responded to the appeal contained in our letter dated March 30 calling for solidarity with the workers and people of South Africa.

The recent developments in South Africa dealt with in our statement and our complaint to the I.L.O., which we are enclosing, show that the workers in South Africa need our active support and solidarity today more than ever before.

We are certain that our National Centres everywhere will intensify their efforts and together with other trade union organisations, will seek all possible ways and means to bring their active support to the struggle waged by the workers and people in the Union of South Africa.

Fraternal trade union greetings,

I. Zakaria
I. ZAKARIA

Secretary of the W.F.T.U.

25 MAY 1960



WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS
FÉDÉRATION SYNDICALE MONDIALE
FEDERACION SINDICAL MUNDIAL
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ
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Prague,.....

17 V. 1960

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To Affiliated National Centres
of the W.F.T.U.

To T.U.Is. (TD of the W.F.T.U.)

SG-ALC/Circ.32/60

Dear Comrades,

Our attention is drawn to a series of errors in the English translation of the "Statement of Solidarity of the WFTU with the Workers and Trade Unions of Asian Countries struggling against Interference and Threats of American Monopolies".

After a comparison between the French text of this Statement which is completely correct, and the English translation which was sent to you on April 20th, 1960, we have found that these errors do exist.

We regret very much to have overlooked these errors in the English translation.

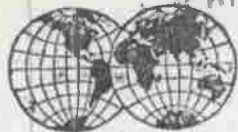
To rectify them, we are sending you a new and correct English translation of the Statement which is in full agreement with the French text. Please replace the other English text which you should consider as null and void.

Yours fraternally,

Secretariat of the W.F.T.U.



P.J.L.



- 1 APR 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS
FÉDÉRATION SYNDICALE MONDIALE
FEDERACION SINDICAL MUNDIAL
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ
ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНЫХ СОЮЗОВ

Prague, 30 III. 1960

To affiliated National Centres
To the Trade Unions Internationals
(T.U. of the W.F.T.U.)

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TÉLÉPHONE : 67.856
ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE : FESYMOND PRAGUE

SG - 26/60

Re: Solidarity with the workers and people
of South Africa in order to end racial
discrimination.

Dear Brothers,

The repressive measures which the South African Government has taken against the courageous struggle waged by the workers and people reached their climax when the police recently opened fire on a peaceful gathering of Africans demonstrating against the Pass-Laws. This shows that the Government not only persists in maintaining all the inhuman, undemocratic and barbaric laws of Apartheid and racial discrimination, but that it is also determined to apply them to the majority of the population, even though this has already cost the lives of more than 70 men, women and children.

The World Federation of Trade Unions, which has always given its complete support to the workers and people of the Union of South Africa in their just fight, has protested on behalf of all its affiliated organisations against the recent massacre in South Africa, and has called on the United Nations' Security Council to take steps to make sure that the Government of the Union of South Africa respects human rights.

Nevertheless, we believe that it is only through the struggle of the workers and people of South Africa, with the active support of the international trade union movement, that the shameful policy of discrimination will be ended. While hailing the success obtained so far, that is to say, the suspension of the application of the Pass-Laws, we believe that to win further successes the South African workers and people need active support and international solidarity.

We therefore call upon you to give the workers of South Africa maximum support and to show solidarity by:

- sending telegrams of protest to the South African Government;
- organising demonstrations and delegations to South African Embassies; to convey the protests of your members;
- sending messages to the U.N., asking them to act on behalf of the workers and people of South Africa;
- sending relief to the families of the victims;
- sending messages of encouragement to the South African trade unions.

We believe that all such steps will make our brothers in South Africa feel that they are not alone in their courageous battle and will encourage them in continuing their long struggle against racial discrimination to its victorious end.

Louis SAILLANT
General Secretary

P.S. We are enclosing the telegram which the W.F.T.U. sent to the United Nations' Security Council and the two telegrams from the W.F.T.U. to the South African Government.



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PRAGUE I - RUE JANSKA 100
TÉLÉPHONE 67.056
ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE, WESTMOND PRAGUE

Prague, 15th April 1960

Letter addressed to
Mr. David MORSE,
Director General of the I.L.O.
G E N E V A

Subject: Violation of Trade Union Rights

Dear Sir,

The World Federation of Trade Unions has the honour of drawing your attention to the recent and very serious violation of trade union rights committed by the Government of the Union of South Africa, and beg you to bring this complaint before the Committee on Freedom of Association.

We do not doubt that you are perfectly aware of the reign of terror and the regrettable steps taken by this Government. On this occasion, we would like to recall the resolution voted by the General Assembly of the United Nations which expressed its deep regret that the Government of the Union of South Africa had paid no attention to its earlier appeals and called upon the latter to revise its policy which casts a slur upon the rights of all ethnic groups. Further, we would recall the recent resolution adopted by the emergency session of the Security Council condemning the racial policy of apartheid and segregation as practised by the South African Government.

During the last few days there has been yet another example of a serious violation of trade union rights. The World Federation of Trade Unions has been obliged to lodge complaints with the I.L.O. on several occasions in order to make public the terrorist measures being used against the trade union movement of South Africa.

On March 30 at 2 o'clock in the morning, more than a hundred members of the liberation movement from all parts of South Africa, as well as leaders and militant workers from trade union organisations, were arrested under the 1953 Public Safety Act.

Among those arrested were notably Leon Levy, National President of the South African Congress of Trade Unions as well as Leslie Massino, General Secretary of this organisation.

Many other leaders, militant workers and trade unionists have been sent to prison. Those especially concerned are the leaders of the following trade union organisations:

S.A. Clothing Workers' Union, Johannesburg.
Railway Workers' Union, Durban.
African Food & Canning Workers' Union, Capetown.
Textile Workers' Union, Durban Branch.
Textile Workers' Union, Johannesburg.

This still incomplete list includes 8 Africans, 1 Indian, and 3 white members of the South African Congress of Trade Unions. Amongst those in prison all races are represented.

On the basis of the law mentioned above, the Governor-General is invested with power to proclaim a State of Emergency, to suspend Parliament and govern by mere decrees. The State of Emergency was declared on March 30 at 10 o'clock in the morning.

During a State of Emergency, those arrested can be detained 30 days in prison without their names being released to the public. Neither lawyers nor members of their families are permitted to visit them.

What is the reason for their arrest?

It is in fact that they have participated in the struggle to put an end to racial discrimination and to safeguard and to respect trade union and democratic rights.

They have been arrested in particular as a result of the successful national strike, on Monday, March 28, 1960, called in protest against the Sharpeville massacre.

The African National Congress declared March 28, 1960, as a "Day of Mourning" in memory of the victims of the Sharpeville massacre on March 21, 1960. As much as 95% of the population throughout the entire country took part in this strike; on the Cape Peninsula almost 100%.

The police and the army with all the means at their disposal forced the workers to go back to work. On April 8, police entered the localities inhabited by Africans in Nyanga. Many people who refused to return to work were put in prison. Altogether, throughout the country, more than 1,500 people were arrested and almost 200 held in custody. During a State of Emergency, it is forbidden to influence workers to join in a strike.

In spite of these measures, the strike lasted almost 2 weeks. Hundreds of Africans were maltreated in an effort to force them back to work.

All these events, the killings and the repressive measures taken by the South African Government constitute a serious violation of democratic liberties and human rights, and are an infringement of trade union rights, especially the right to strike, which is a right generally recognised.

The World Federation of Trade Unions is convinced that the I.L.O. cannot remain indifferent in such a situation.

The World Federation of Trade Unions calls upon the I.L.O. to instruct its Governing Body to take all the necessary steps to see that trade union rights and basic democratic liberties are respected in South Africa, and to secure the immediate release of all those under detention.

Please accept our respects and co-operation,

Ibrahim ZAKARIA
Secretary of the W.F.T.U.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

THE W.F.T.U. CONDEMNS KILLINGS IN SOUTH AFRICA

On March 23, Louis SAILLANT, General Secretary of the W.F.T.U., sent the following telegram to Dr. VERWOERD, Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa :-

"The World Federation of Trade Unions has learnt with indignation vicious actions against Africans which have already resulted in over sixty deaths and injuries to hundreds. On behalf of 101 million members the World Federation of Trade Unions vigorously condemns those responsible for these acts of violence perpetrated in order to apply the pass laws and the Government's barbaric apartheid policy which is condemned by workers throughout the world. The W.F.T.U. conveys to the families of victims the sympathy of their brothers and sisters of all races and reaffirms its complete solidarity and support to the African workers fighting racial discrimination. The W.F.T.U. demands that the Government pay compensation to the families of victims and special pensions to the orphans. It calls for an immediate end to racial persecution of Africans."

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

11th SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

(Peking, June 1960)

REPORT

on the first item on the Agenda

*Pengfei
Wang*

"International developments and the present activities and tasks of the trade union movement".

Dear Brothers,

Dear Friends,

For the first time since the foundation of the W.F.T.U., our General Council is meeting in the capital of the great Chinese People's Republic, the establishment of which has opened a new phase in the history of the peoples.

We are here as the guests of the Chinese workers and of their fine Trade Union Centre whose influence spreads daily through the trade union world.

On this occasion, and also because 1960 is the year of the 15th anniversary of the W.F.T.U., I should like to send particularly warm greetings to the Chinese workers and trade unions who, 15 years ago, through their representative, were among the founders in London of the first real world trade union centre - our W.F.T.U. Since then they have never ceased to make an invaluable contribution to the cause of unity and international working class solidarity.

Three years have passed since our Fourth World Trade Union Congress, whose far-reaching decisions have successfully guided our activities since 1957. Three years which have been distinguished by remarkable progress and by the untiring efforts of the socialist camp and of all the peace forces, but which have also been marked by many manoeuvres by the imperialist circles to place obstacles in the way of peaceful co-existence.

Only three years, but how many have been the developments which have put the hopes and the vigilance of the peoples of the world to a severe test.

Just a month ago millions of workers were celebrating with enthusiasm and confidence a May Day of unity, demonstrating for peace on a greater scale than ever before. United by the same will and the same hope to see achieved at last the relaxation of international tension and world peace, workers and trade union members of all political points of view and all trade union affiliations were looking forward to the holding of the Summit Meeting and to an international easing of tension, facilitated by the visits of Nikita Khrushchov to the United States, Asia and France.

Several days before the Paris Conference for which they were impatiently waiting, the working people learnt that the American State Department had just sent a military spy plane over Soviet territory from one of the United States' military bases encircling the Soviet Union. And this act was taken on the basis of a plan which had been thoroughly prepared and approved by the United States' President who at the same time was declaring his professed desire for peace and negotiation.

.../

After the exposure of the embarrassed lies of the culprits, world public opinion learned that, far from showing the least regret for this strange contribution to an easing of international tension, the American Government cynically boasted of it as part of a considered and long-term policy of systematically organising espionage flights over the Soviet Union, of systematically continuing to violate the national sovereignty of the U.S.S.R.

Faced with these methods of political gangsterism, how could the Soviet Government retain, in relation to the United States, the minimum of confidence essential to the progress of international negotiation dealing with questions as important and delicate as disarmament, the end of nuclear tests and the German problem? There was only one way out: for the American Government, which was responsible for this situation, to apologise and to give its solemn word that it would never again commit such acts. By obstinately refusing to take this step, made necessary by its own aggressive acts, the American Government carries the whole heavy responsibility for sabotaging the Summit Conference, preventing it from taking place and disappointing the hopes of the people.

In such conditions, in such an atmosphere, with the United States' policy of provocation exposed, to enter into negotiations at the Summit would have meant in the end to betray the confidence and hopes of the peoples and to risk losing any possibility of achieving serious results. By its firm stand, the Soviet Union has once more served the cause of peace and the interests of the people, in bringing to light the duplicity of the American imperialists.

The workers will take note of the fact that these criminal provocations by the American imperialists are not only an inadmissible and senseless insult to the working class and the people of the Soviet Union, but also a grave blow to the cause of peace and to the interests of all the workers.

The workers, in thus experiencing the firm solidarity uniting them to the working class, to the trade unions and to the peoples of the Soviet Union, will grasp the vital necessity of vigilance at all times and of strengthening their struggle for peace.

Faced with this series of open violations of international law, of shameful lies and then of cynical and provocative admissions, several days before the opening of important international negotiations, the W.F.T.U. condemns the aggressive and hypocritical policy of Eisenhower and his Government, who are in fact, under the cover of demagogic words, following a policy of force and "going to the brink".

Our Executive Committee at Bucharest has already denounced these manoeuvres by the U.S.A., which are part of their deliberate policy directed against an international easing of tension and world peace, in these terms:

"The Executive Committee draws the attention of the workers and trade unions to the fact that, in spite of the changes in the international situation, powerful reactionary forces, notably the arms trusts and militaristic groups, are still resisting any easing of international tension and opposing the peoples' wish for peace."

Since then the W.F.T.U. has continued in various documents to warn the workers that (I quote):

"On the eve of the Summit Conference, while the people of the whole world are struggling for an international easing of tension, for universal and complete disarmament, and to defend world peace, the W.F.T.U. notes that the American imperialists are intensifying their war preparations in Asia, extending their field of aggression, and committing acts of military provocation."

During May, in a declaration on the remilitarisation of the German Federal Republic, the W.F.T.U. emphasized that the aggressive circles in the capitalist countries, and in particular the arms monopolies, were increasing their manoeuvres and stepping up their activities aimed at bringing to nothing the efforts in favour of peace.

These same ideas have also been developed in a draft resolution now presented to the 44th International Labour Conference, as well as in the letter sent in May to the Heads of Government of the four Great Powers.

In the same way, the W.F.T.U. has condemned and continues to condemn the manoeuvres of the monopoly groups which direct and control the economic life of the capitalist countries and are directly interested in the arms race and the continuation of the cold war.

It has also condemned and continues to condemn the policy of cold war and feverish rearmament followed by the Bonn Government, supported by American imperialism and the other western powers. This year the leaders in Bonn have again increased their orders for armaments from the West German and foreign monopolies. The French and German trusts have received orders for the joint construction of aircraft and armoured cars. Similar understandings exist between Adenauer and Franco.

Defying the Potsdam Agreement, the NATO powers have helped the West German trusts, the sponsors of Hitlerism, to re-establish themselves as the dominant power in Europe today.

With the tacit agreement of the Western powers, Nazi criminals and revenge-seeking forces in Federal Germany occupy key positions in the machinery of State and in the new Wehrmacht.

The protest of public opinion over the Oberlander scandal and over the negotiations to set up West German military bases in Spain, Turkey, Greece, Belgium and Great Britain, has once more drawn attention to this criminal policy.

Adenauer's warlike proposals and his recent trip to Tokyo, which is dangerously like a pilgrimage to one of the points of the Berlin-Tokyo axis, prove to the peoples that those who are working for another world war are anxious to re-establish their fighting power and to lay down the law once again.

In these circumstances, is it not becoming more and more obvious every day that the signing of a Peace Treaty with the two German states and the ending of the dangerous situation which exists in West Berlin is an absolute necessity?

In face of the re-emergence of militarism in West Germany, we welcome with great satisfaction the policy of the German Democratic Republic, which is the first state in the history of Germany that is democratic and pursues a policy of peace. It embodies the best traditions of the German people and is a strong bastion of peace in Germany and Europe.

Defying the desire of the Japanese people, workers and trade unions, whose outstanding struggle we salute, the United States Government has concluded a new Japanese-American treaty with the Japanese militarists which widens its field of military intervention in South-East Asia as far as Chinese and Soviet territory.

Sabotaging the Korean Armistice Agreement, and in spite of the revolt of the people in South Korea, the United States' leaders are reinforcing their occupation army in that country and are setting up there ballistic missiles and atomic weapons.

Following their occupation of the Chinese territory of Taiwan and their financing of the contemptible puppets of Chiang Kai-Shek, they are now increasing their military manoeuvres and provocations in Chinese waters.

This attitude and the blatant American interference in South Vietnam and Laos are deeply disturbing to the people and workers of Asia and of the whole world. They are a constant threat to the peace, security and independence of the Asian countries.

On behalf of its 101 million members, the W.F.T.U. protests against these activities.

It affirms that for all the workers and people of the world there is only one people's democratic China which must be able to exert full sovereignty over all parts of its territory.

For all the workers there is only one Chinese Government, supported by its 690 million free people, which is making rapid strides, which must be recognised by all the western governments, and without which no permanent solution can be found to any of the great international problems in dispute.

In addition to the dangers involved in this American policy, attempts are being made to perpetuate or restore colonialism and racial oppression over the peoples under new forms, whether ruthless or disguised.

These attempts are also linked up with the cruel colonial war which the French Government is imposing upon the people of Algeria who have risen in their historic battle for freedom, dignity and independence, and with the atomic tests which were made despite the unanimous protests of the peoples.

Workers throughout the world demand an end to the war in Algeria by way of negotiation with the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic and by the genuine application by the French Government of the Algerian people's right to self-determination. They demand an end to atomic weapon tests, in Africa and the other continents. They are able to see that the Western governments are still obstinately continuing the feverish arms race.

The workers can see for themselves that war budgets continue to be boosted out of all proportion, which is disastrous for the working people whether they live in the United States, France, Great Britain or in Italy.

No move towards disarmament, not even a symbolic one is made by these quarters.

The workers also note that immediately after the discussions at Camp David, while the Soviet Union continued the partial demobilisation of its armed forces by putting a further 1,200,000 men back into work for peaceful purposes, the United States Government passed an even larger war budget.

Instead of following the example set by the demobilisation plans carried out in recent years by the socialist countries, the Western governments are continuing the arms race.

They sabotage the disarmament negotiations, while the United States Government openly announce its intention to recommence its nuclear weapon tests.

Having caused a deadlock in the "10-Power Conference at Geneva, they persist in their obstinate refusal to discuss the plan for universal and complete disarmament proposed as a basis for discussion by the United Nations itself. They consider it too radical and dangerous for their imperialist policy.

It can thus be clearly seen that the American act of provocation last May 1., far from being an isolated or uncalculated incident, was an integral part of a whole policy deliberately aimed towards preparation for war.

Because of the many obstacles that have been put in the path to peace, and in view of the fact that the struggle of the workers and peoples of the world against the warmongers has not yet achieved the vigour and unity necessary to bring them to reason, we consider that it is vitally necessary to continue with and to develop united action of the working people for peace. The objective conditions for the success of this struggle remain fundamentally favourable to our cause.

These conditions consist first of all in the fact that today the balance of forces is decisively tipping in favour of the socialist camp and of peace; in the remarkable scientific, economic and social development of the U.S.S.R. and the whole socialist camp; in their peace policy, supported by all countries which base themselves on the spirit of Bandung, by the working class and peoples' movements throughout the world. Furthermore, on the initiative of the Soviet Union, universal, complete and controlled disarmament has become a burning question of the day and one of the most important objectives in the basic struggle of the people as a whole, of the workers and of the majority of trade unions.

Now one of the countries which in all spheres ranks among the most powerful, in keeping with its policies for peace, is offering humanity the means of pushing back the dangers of war and abolishing all weapons of annihilation. This is precisely because it is a workers' and peasants' state.

In another field, the development in science and technology that has taken place over the last few years, particularly in the Soviet Union, opens a new era in the history of mankind, affording hitherto undreamed of possibilities for the conquest of nature and for progress.

The Soviet sputnik that marked our 4th Congress has been followed by a veritable constellation of luniks and other cosmic vehicles of the same origin which place Soviet science and technology in the first rank.

At the same time new popular forces against imperialism and colonialism are every day strengthening the struggle of the peoples for peace.

The great anti-imperialist alliance of people and of all the workers has been reinforced by hundreds of millions of people, who are now at last in a position to work enthusiastically for unity and progress, and to contribute to the cause of world peace.

New and far-reaching experiments are underway in the countries recently liberated from colonialism and tyranny, experiments to which the trade union movement is making its original contribution.

The groundswell of the anti-colonial struggle is shattering the political and geographical framework of decadent colonialism and is revolutionising the international political situation at a rate which is breathtaking for the western governments.

Along with all the forces of peace and progress, the W.F.T.U. has greeted and continues to greet with great joy the important victories won in particular by the peoples of Africa, and the decisive role played by the trade unions and the workers in this advance towards independence.

Finally, the very vigour of the working-class struggle in the capitalist countries and the important part played by the workers and trade unions in defending peace have weakened imperialism considerably and created conditions favourable to its isolation.

The W.F.T.U. is also aware that to gain and consolidate their national independence, to improve their living and working conditions, to maintain and increase their democratic and trade union rights, the workers of Africa and Asia must not only unite throughout their continent but must also be able to count on the wider international solidarity of the trade unions and workers throughout the world.

That is why, as in the past, the W.F.T.U. remains the main organiser of this international class solidarity.

In this respect, it never loses sight of the European colonialists' manoeuvres to maintain their economic grip in disguised or apparently new ways.

The Development of the Trade Union Movement

All these changes have their repercussions in the trade union movement which is also developing and going forward in step with history.

It is in vain that certain trade union leaders loudly proclaim the contrary in an effort to convince themselves, in vain do they trot out all the old cold war and anti-communist clichés; each day they find less and less response. They are helpless against the facts.

While making its contribution to the changes in the world situation, the trade union movement is itself changing.

The W.F.T.U., responsibly and with perseverance, makes every possible effort to remove the unfortunate consequences of the split in the trade union movement.

It can be noted, first of all, that the far-reaching impressions caused by the scientific achievements, by the present economic and social situation and perspectives of the socialist camp, as well as the first steps which have been taken towards the relaxation of international tension, have begun to set free a great many workers who are not affiliated to the W.F.T.U. from the grip of anti-communist propaganda and of the narrow economism within which it was hoped to restrict them.

In the same way, the workers in general, and a growing number of trade unions affiliated to the I.C.F.T.U., are being led to a better understanding of the facts about the socialist countries and are demanding the possibility to study them for themselves at first hand.

They are also encouraged to take a stand on important current problems, on the relaxation of international tension and on disarmament.

To the extent that they do this, with their class experience as a basis, they are encouraged to take a more active part in the struggle for peace, and finally to adopt attitudes which bring them closer to those of the W.F.T.U.

Moreover, the artificial barriers between the workers and trade unions of the world, particularly between those of the socialist and capitalist countries, erected by the instigators of the 1949 split, are beginning to crumble under the pressure of the mass of the workers.

In the same way, it deplures the activities of the American monopolies who seek by every means, including that of relying on the full co-operation of certain North American trade union leaders, to step into the shoes of their European competitors by making sure of new sources of profits and new military bases.

In Latin America too these recent years have been marked by a new surge in the struggles of the people against the monopolies, against the economic and political domination of American imperialism, and by new victories against the ruthless dictatorships that this imperialism supports and maintains.

In this respect, the success of the democratic and popular revolt in Cuba proves that it is possible to defeat imperialism.

This experience, like the growing democratic struggle in Venezuela and the powerful mass movements in Argentina, reveal the importance of the struggle waged by the peoples of Latin America for a radical change in the situation.

In sincerely greeting all the workers of Latin America, we call on all the workers and trade unions of the world to demonstrate even more firmly their solidarity with the splendid struggle of their Cuban brothers who are fighting to defeat the unceasing provocations of the American monopolies.

In the same spirit, we also wish again to express the firm solidarity of the V.F.T.U. with the workers and people of South Korea who, at the cost of heavy sacrifices, have just succeeded in overthrowing the dictatorship which was put in power by the American occupation troops in the name of western democracy.

After Batista, Syngman Rhee and Menderes have now disappeared; the puppets of Washington are being swept away one after another by the anger of the people.

Thus, day after day the facade of democracy, behind which American imperialism is seeking to hide itself in Asia, Latin America and Africa, is being torn down.

Together with the workers and peoples of Korea and Asia, we demand the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea and an end to their interference in the domestic affairs of this martyred country.

Enlightened by the developments in the international situation and inspired by the true spirit of international class solidarity, workers and trade union leaders at lower and middle levels are making greater demands and are becoming more active.

They want contacts and discussions to increase also in the trade union movement; they want to have mutual understanding.

They find, quite rightly, that it is possible to mobilise all the strength of the working class and trade unions for the defence of peace, in favour of disarmament, for an end to colonialism and for the defence of economic demands and democratic liberties.

We come across this idea more and more frequently every day in the writings of trade unionists belonging to the I.C.F.T.U., now not only among the rank and file, but also at the middle levels, in Great Britain, Belgium and Australia.

It is gradually making headway among the millions of workers who are escaping a little more each day from the isolation in which certain people have tried to keep them.

Enlightened by political events in the world, they want to see for themselves and be able to understand what their brothers and sisters in the socialist countries who are affiliated to the W.F.T.U. are doing.

That is why we note yet another transformation in the international trade union situation, namely a substantial increase recently in the exchange of official delegations, especially between trade unions affiliated to the I.C.F.T.U. and those of the socialist countries which are members of the W.F.T.U.

The delegations of Soviet and Chinese trade unionists and those of other socialist countries to Belgium, Great Britain, Canada, and other capitalist countries, as well as the thousands of delegates who met in a spirit of friendship on May Day 1960, are eloquent proof of this.

A number of organisations affiliated to the I.C.F.T.U., encouraged by the example of fruitful co-operation between the W.F.T.U. and independent organisations, and anxious to achieve active solidarity, do not accept the cleavage imposed on the trade union movement. They have accordingly begun to co-operate fraternally with the W.F.T.U. and the independent centres.

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This has occurred in the case of the International Trade Union Committee for Solidarity with the Workers and People of Algeria, which was founded by decision of our 4th Congress. In this way they have tested and proved in practice, that unity of action on an international scale is possible today.

We are also extremely pleased to note that the successes achieved in the struggle of the oppressed peoples against imperialism and for democracy have had a direct and very favourable effect on the trade union movement.

As a logical outcome of their active participation in this struggle, the workers have been able to rid the trade union movement of those unwholesome elements which collaborated with tyranny and imperialism and were the staunchest supporters of the cold war in the trade union movement itself.

Thus the workers of Cuba after their victorious revolution, eliminated the former trade union leadership grouped around Mujal and Batista, while their trade union centre disaffiliated from the I.C.F.T.U. in protest against the participation of these "Mujalists" in the regional leadership of this organisation and against the support this body had given to the Batista dictatorship.

Similarly, in the light of the dramatic events that led to the downfall of Syngman Rhee, we have seen the workers of South Korea rid themselves of their former trade union leaders who were condemned by their collaboration with American imperialism and the dictatorship. They had been members of the I.C.F.T.U. leadership just as are the trade union puppets of Chiang Kai-Shek.

The Struggle for Peace - the Key Problem

As our Fourth Congress pointed out: Faced with the fact that the imperialists have not abandoned their plans for the preparation and unleashing of a new world war; that they turn a deaf ear to the peoples' demands to reduce war budgets, to put an end to atomic tests and to ban the manufacture and use of thermo-nuclear weapons ... it is essential to intensify the united action of the workers and trade unions throughout the world in defence of peace.

The struggle for peace remains the essential task of the trade union movement.

The basic aims of this struggle remain unchanged:

- relaxation of international tension and peaceful co-existence;
- disarmament and an end to nuclear tests;
- the struggle against the rearming of Federal Germany and Japan and the abolition of military bases;
- the conclusion of a Peace Treaty with the two German States;
- the establishment of conditions favourable to fruitful negotiations among the great powers.

Disarmament has today been placed by the Soviet Union before all the peoples and governments of the world as an urgent question for negotiation.

But the road to reach this end will be long and difficult.

The interests opposed to such a development are still very powerful.

Whether or not a decisive change will be brought about in the international situation depends to a great extent on us in the trade union movement, on the united struggle of the working people, and on their co-operation with all sections of the people prepared to act in this direction.

We must be really convinced that the establishment of universal and complete disarmament as an urgent demand of all workers depends on our powers of explanation and mobilisation, relating this demand to the economic and social aims of the workers.

We must be able to show the workers of Asia, Africa, Europe and America that economic and social competition between the socialist and capitalist systems, the development of international trade and the re-allocation of the money from arms budgets to improve the position of the working people and to give economic and technical aid without strings to economically backward countries, can lead only to progress for all, without exception.

That is to say that the fight for peace, for universal and complete disarmament, is indeed the concern of all, that it must lead to international solidarity and closer united action among the workers and trade unions of the five continents.

Similarly, we must unceasingly expose to working class public opinion the consequences of the arms race which the western powers have carried on systematically for the past 10 years to the sole advantage of the trusts, and the monstrosity of such a policy, which is a concealed way of squandering the product of thousands of millions of working hours.

At a time when the question of universal and complete disarmament is posed concretely, it is necessary to point out what an absurd position we have reached in this field, and to recall that it is the capitalist monopolies who profit and the people who suffer from the appalling waste of energy which is the surest way of bringing on an atomic war.

Between 1948 and 1958 military expenditures in the United States quadrupled. From 1951 to 1959, they doubled. In 1947 this item amounted to roughly 5% of national expenditure; in 1957 it represented 10.3% of national expenditure. In 1960 military spending accounted for 57% of the federal budget.

If we look at all the NATO member countries we find that between 1950 and 1957 military expenditures more than doubled.

Between 1949 and 1959 these countries spent for military purposes 80% of the total amount expended by the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis during the Second World War. In 1960, nearly all the western countries increased their military budgets.

Today, it is essential to explain clearly to those who create all this wealth what happens to the money produced by their labour and what peaceful projects could be carried out with these fantastic sums.

It would be good to tell the workers in the German Federal Republic that the cost of only one of the twelve destroyers ordered by the Federal German Defence Ministry - that is to say, 128 million marks - would be sufficient to refund to the West German miners the money they lost up to 1959 owing to short-time. The 12,600 million marks spent on the purchase of war planes alone in their country would cover the construction of 630,000 low-rental apartments, and would go far toward easing the housing problem among West German workers.

Only a small share of annual arms expenditure would suffice to continue the payment of wages in the event of sickness to all the workers, with no waiting days and without increasing the social security contributions.

It would be good to tell the Canadian workers, as the Mine-Mill Herald has done, that half of the Canadian arms budget would permit a tax reduction of \$200 a year per Canadian worker, plus a monthly increase of \$15 on every old-age pension. The other half of this budget would build 87,500 new flats at \$10,000 each for Canadian workers.

Do these facts not give further proof of the close relationship between the struggle for universal disarmament and the struggle for the improvement of workers' living conditions?

Of course all this expenditure - which could not prevent the economic recessions of 1948-49, 1953-54 and 1957-58 - has increased entirely at the expense of civilian outlays.

From 1957 to 1959, apart from a slight drop in 1958 in the United States, the profits of the monopolies in all the capitalist countries have been growing continuously to attain new records at the end of 1959.

In the second quarter of 1959, profits in the United States reached an unprecedented record, and 1960 will be a year of exceptionally high monopoly profits in the history of the United States.

The workers should also realise that in the socialist countries, which are compelled to build up their defences pending acceptance of their many proposals and measures for disarmament, the tendency is quite different.

Consider the fact that in the Soviet Union military outlays are being systematically reduced while expenditures on social security and family allowances went up from 54 to 79 and then to 88.2 thousand million roubles in the three-year period from 1956 to 1958.

We believe that this is the substance of our task of explanation. But in addition it is necessary to oppose certain attempts to distract attention from the new prospects which would be opened by disarmament. These seek instead to draw the attention of the workers and the working people above all to the "difficulties" and "economic and social dangers" of disarmament.

The most striking example we know of this type of argument is undoubtedly an article by the American trade union journalist Victor Riesel, which appeared in the New York Daily Mirror, to the effect that disarmament can be a boomerang. The article states that the fact that the manufacture of the means of defence provides a livelihood for thousands of families has been overlooked; the fact that the disarmament talks alone have led to a drop in production, which will mean dismissals, has been forgotten.

Disarmament, the article says, raises the question of the livelihood of the workers...

The aim of such arguments is obviously to make the American workers believe:

- that disarmament and peace can be dangerous for the working class, that they lead to unemployment and economic depression;
- that negotiations on this matter must be slowed down (!)

This argument, which has been openly advocated for a long time by many American trade unionists, aims to cover up the fundamental responsibility of American imperialism for the arms race.

We therefore believe that we must remind each worker on the basis of his personal day-to-day experience that war preparations do not lead to peace, but to war; that they do not mean full employment, but eventually the deterioration of the workers' conditions; that the arms drive represents only a temporary stimulus for production, in the long run aggravating the contradictions within the capitalist economy and worsening unemployment.

Do not the recent experiences of the United States and European capitalist countries, which have undergone the most severe crisis since the Second World War, prove precisely that the policy of excessive arming, such as we have seen during the last few years, has in no way avoided the mass unemployment which is inherent in the very nature of capitalism?

Does this mean that a reconversion of the economy to peaceful purposes would give rise to no problems in the capitalist countries? No. Such a reconversion in itself, to the extent that it threatens the monopolies' most important sources of profit, will produce economic problems and provoke class opposition from these same monopolies.

To the extent that they are compelled to accept such a reconversion it is also clear that the monopolies will do their best to make the working class pay for these difficulties.

But this is precisely a question related to the continuous struggle of the working class against its exploiters, which makes it necessary for the trade unions to organise and give impetus to united action by the workers to improve their living conditions.

We would now like to draw your attention to these conditions, by examining in broad outline the evolution of the economic situation and the lot of the working people.

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION

The bourgeois press likes to speak about the sound basis of capitalist economy. But the actual situation is far less rosy. It is characterised by a deepening of the general crisis of capitalism. What are the salient facts and figures?

True, between 1957 and 1960 there has been an economic expansion in the major capitalist countries. But this expansion has been irregular, varying a great deal from country to country, with serious setbacks caused by the crisis in 1957-58 and followed by an unhealthy recovery in 1959.

In certain countries such as France, the German Federal Republic, Italy and Japan, the annual industrial production indices have been rising. The United States and Great Britain registered a slight increase in 1959 which followed the drop in 1958.

But since the end of 1959, despite the recovery so loudly hailed by the bourgeoisie, the idle production capacity remained at 10 - 15% in the United States, 5 - 10% in Great Britain and just over 5% in Sweden.

Besides, certain industries have been stagnating very seriously with no solution in sight.

This applies in particular to coal output in Western Europe, the United States and Japan, where stocks are piling up while the conditions of the workers are becoming extremely alarming.

The recovery in 1959 did not affect engineering in Britain, the textile industry in most countries and the shipyards.

This explains why in 1960 American big business announced further setbacks for the beginning of 1961 and the American trade unions have been sounding a warning.

If we compare these developments with the remarkable rate of economic development in the socialist countries it appears from the facts that the weariness of capitalism is particularly evident.

Two sets of figures will be sufficient: between 1953 and 1959, total industrial production in the U.S.S.R. increased by 90 %, in the United States by 11 %. When calculated per head of population this increase amounts to 71 % in the U.S.S.R. as against 0.3 % in the United States.

Between 1957 and 1958 industrial production of the eleven socialist countries increased by 26 % on an average.

In view of this relative weakening, the capitalist monopolies have further speeded up the process of concentration during the recent period, in an attempt to re-organise their restricted market and safeguard their sources of profit.

For this purpose they have strengthened their grip on the political life of the capitalist countries and have speeded up technical development in industrialised countries.

This tendency is especially well illustrated by the application of the European Common Market in 1959 which was dictated by certain political requirements aiming especially at the political and economic integration of the NATO countries and by American imperialism anxious to ensure the circulation and investment of its capital in Western Europe. As the W.F.T.U. and its organisations pointed out from the outset, the "Common Market" proved to be "the Europe of the trusts" where West German monopolies in particular and international groupings were increasing their stranglehold over the banks, insurance companies, iron and steel and all other important industries.

As they are concentrating their power, the capitalist monopolies, as a result of the renewal of their equipment and excessive exploitation of the workers (speed-up, rationalisation) have obtained a substantial increase in productivity.

From 1953 to 1958 productivity in industry has gone up by 40% in France, 36% in West Germany, 35% in Italy, 23% in Japan, 15% in the United States and 10% in Britain.

Automation has played an important role in this process, for instance on the railways, in the chemical, oil and metal industries.

This increase in productivity as well as the growth in capitalist production and the continued monopoly concentration cannot be divorced from the militarisation of the economy which has been an essential aspect of western policy as we have already pointed out.

The repercussions of this general development have been particularly disastrous for a number of economically backward countries which are tied up with the world capitalist economy.

This applies, above all, to those countries of Asia and Latin America whose hands are tied by military pacts with America. These countries have to spend a huge proportion of their meagre budgets and of their dollar loans on fabulous military expenditures which drains their economy, aggravates their backwardness and increases the hardships of the people. But these repercussions can be felt also in other parts of the world.

After having won magnificent victories in their struggle for political independence, the majority of these countries have to wage a relentless battle for economic independence, and to escape the neo-colonialist plots which aim at maintaining and even strengthening the grip of the monopolies by offering various types of aid.

Despite their serious setbacks, the capitalist monopolies are speculating on the need for investments and on the preparation in the colonial economies, and continue to exercise tremendous pressure on under-developed countries. This greatly impedes the development of these countries, except where drastic measures have been taken to do away with a colonial-type economy.

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The drop in the prices of raw materials in 1958 and 1959 has done much towards increasing the debts and budget deficits of the countries in South-East Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

But at the same time, the prices of imported industrial goods which are essential for the economy of these countries have gone up with the result that their trade position has become even worse than in 1953.

This development has had a catastrophic effect on the efforts which some of these countries are making towards industrialisation and some of them have had to drop their industrial development plans.

This has enabled American imperialism, in particular, to double its investments abroad, increasing them by 175 % in Africa, by 197 % in Far East and by 100 % in Latin America.

It goes without saying that this has brought fabulous profits to these imperialists who have asked the countries receiving their aid to devalue their currency and to practise austerity.

Therefore, the position of the working people in the majority of economically backward countries remains extremely precarious.

The drop in production has aggravated the problem of chronic unemployment. The rise in prices which has sometimes been extreme has restricted the already meagre purchasing power of wages.

To stand up to this pressure and to avoid putting off for many years any improvement in the living conditions of the mass of the people, radical economic measures are indispensable even though political independence has been won.

We think that two countries have gained particularly interesting experiences in this respect during the period we are discussing here.

Working from the correct principle that an agricultural country such as Cuba cannot achieve economic and social progress as long as a handful of foreign trusts and landowners control the land and the wealth of the country, the revolutionary Cuban Government decided to tackle the foreign monopolies and big landowners.

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Basing themselves on the support of the peasantry and the working class, the Cuban authorities have begun to expropriate the American monopolies, to distribute the land to the peasants and to diversify agriculture.

At the same time, a series of measures were taken to encourage the co-operative movement and the growth of agricultural production, to improve housing in the rural areas as well as the working and living conditions of the peasantry.

This created more favourable conditions for a harmonious combination of political sovereignty, economic independence and a balanced economy, which can make possible industrial development.

The Government of independent Guinea, guided by the same desire to forge ahead, has begun the transformation of economic life in the country, taking into account the specific conditions which exist in Africa.

When the French colonial authorities took the brutal decision to cancel all credits immediately after Guinea's access to independence, the Government of Guinea placed its full confidence in the mass of the people, calling on them to work for their economic, social and cultural advancement in the framework of economic independence.

Making good use of the traditional forms of collective labour, the Guinean authorities appealed to the peasants and workers to volunteer and make an active contribution to the construction of schools, roads, bridges and clinics which are essential if their conditions are to improve.

This has helped to some extent to compensate for the shortage of capital by drawing on voluntary labour which they call "human investments".

No doubt, these positive experiences which have been gained in the struggle against colonialism represent a valuable incentive for all countries which, in diverse circumstances, are dealing with the same problem of essential economic independence.

THE POSITION OF THE WORKERS IN THE INDUSTRIALISED CAPITALIST COUNTRIES

Let us now see what effect this development has had on the working people of the capitalist countries.

The workers in the capitalist countries exposed to the most cunning and disguised forms of exploitation are using more and more of their creative labour power but are receiving less and less in return in view of their premature exhaustion and human needs.

Wherever the workers have been able to strengthen their trade unions and their struggles during the last few years, substantial wage increases have often been won; while in some cases the purchasing power has increased slightly or stagnated (Great Britain), in others, as in France, it has dropped.

Recent official figures reveal that at the best, average increases have been lower in 1959 than during the previous year and these again were below those won in 1957.

During the past few years prices of consumer goods have gone up in a considerable number of countries.

At the same time big sections of workers in the capitalist countries, including millions of young, seasonal and agricultural workers and American negroes, continue to be victims of discriminatory practices in wages.

In most capitalist countries shameful discrimination is practised against women's wages.

This is an additional burden on the workers' budgets.

In several countries including Japan there is still no minimum guaranteed wage, and in many others where these minimum wages exist on paper, certain categories of workers are excluded.

When we compare wages with the output of the worker's labour power, which, as we have seen has increased considerably in all the capitalist countries, we find the same striking disproportion.

While wages in Italy, for example, have gone up by 6.4% between 1953 and 1959, the hourly output has increased by 40%.

This tendency has been aggravated by the fact that the employers although opposed to any wage increase try when they are obliged to give in to make such an increase dependent upon a speed-up.

But the worker is not only exploited directly in his place of work— he is also exposed to pressure as a citizen and must hand over to the bourgeois state a bigger and bigger proportion of his meagre purchasing power in the form of taxes.

For many years the working people have had to pay for the arms drive and for the war preparations of the capitalist countries against their will.

In all these countries income tax has increased much more than taxes on profits. In the United States, Great Britain and France together, taxes in 1959 were 9 times higher than in 1939.

In all the capitalist countries the percentage of indirect taxes paid by the working people as compared with government income is on the increase.

It is certain that the trade unions must pay special attention to this state of affairs when advancing the workers' demands related to disarmament.

Between 1957 and 1960, the period we are mainly discussing here, unemployment, after having reached very high levels in 1958, still remains very high, despite the recovery in 1959-1960.

According to official statistics, 8 million workers in 10 of the biggest capitalist countries were out of work in 1959, the year of the relative recovery, which is only one million less than in 1958, the year of the crisis.

So capitalist economic recoveries which follow crises, are no longer accompanied by a corresponding recovery in employment but by continuing chronic mass unemployment.

This is what some people call "economic expansion with unemployment".

A strange economic boom for the jobless workers, for the 4,100,000 official American unemployed (5.2% of the total labour force), for the 450,000 jobless workers in Britain, for the 1,900,000 Italian unemployed, for the 8% of the Belgian workers who are out of a job, for the unemployed in Denmark and Canada who represent 4% of the labour force and for the millions of underemployed workers who are not covered by the official statistics.

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This mass of workers who are deprived of their livelihood includes tens of thousands of young wage-earners who are demanding that their right to work be respected and who are in vain searching for a job on the capitalist "labour market". It also includes thousands of poor peasants who are looking for jobs in industry.

In France 80,000 young people who have left the rural areas are every year looking for a job in industry.

In the United States, 2 million young workers go out in search of a job every year.

In the United States 40%, and in Italy 25%, of all the unemployed are below the age of 25.

In view of the continuation and mass character of unemployment, unemployment benefits prove to be inadequate everywhere, including the United States.

The trade union review "Labour" was right when it said that unemployment was like an iceberg. The part which emerged was only made up of dry statistics ... But below the surface we could see the faces of millions of children and families of the unemployed tormented by worry and hunger.

In the capitalist countries, the position of social security has been most alarming during the past few years.

In several of these countries, the governments have again tried to reduce or to abolish the contributions which the employers and the state are paying to insurance and social security, and to cut budget expenditure for social purposes.

Such is the case in France. Such is the case in western Germany where a professed reform of the social insurance scheme means that the workers will have to contribute towards medical funds in case of illness; this means that the workers will have to pay 1,500 million DM more.

In under developed countries the position is even worse.

In most of them legislation wherever it exists provides for very inadequate protection.

In some of these countries, thanks to the united struggle of the workers, certain good results have been obtained, as for example in Morocco, where the first social security system was introduced in 1959.

When speaking about accidents and occupational diseases, it must be pointed out that their number still remains very high and is rising to danger point even though there are ways and means of improving this situation.

Certain new occupational diseases are appearing, even in the most modern branches of industry.

The major causes are always the same: the capitalists give priority to their profits before the workers' safety.

To avoid meeting their responsibilities, they only too often refuse to recognise work accidents and occupational diseases.

The greater nervous strain and the heavier work load imposed by modern production make it more essential than ever to give the worker every opportunity to restore and renew his labour power.

Consequently the housing problem is becoming more important.

Now, what housing provisions are made for the workers and their families?

An I.L.O. report on workers' housing in 1960 found it necessary to state that:

"From the worker's point of view, the crucial question is as follows: can he, without being aided, first find a dwelling, and secondly rent or own decent housing by paying out a reasonable percentage of his earnings? A number of studies made on this subject unfortunately indicate that the answer in most cases is in the negative."

This remark is rather revealing even though we don't think that the problem of buying a flat concerns many workers.

In the capitalist countries the most serious aspects of the workers' housing problem remain the absence or shortage of housing, too high rents and finally, deplorable sanitary conditions.

More often than not we find that the housing policy concentrates on other purposes than the improvement of the workers' housing conditions.

This is precisely what Mr. Osborne W. Boyd, Chief of the Housing Division of the International Co-operation Administra-

tion implied when he said: "A global housing shortage is becoming more acute each year and threatens to bring about an explosive situation in many parts of the world. Lack of credits for new housing lies at the root of the shortages in most of the world. This excludes all but the wealthiest from buying new houses. As a result builders and building materials manufacturers are interested in catering only for the luxury market. Mass-built housing does not interest private capital."

This is certainly the most outspoken accusation of the housing policy pursued by the capitalist states, which is guided only by their hunger for profits.

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In order to encourage and shield their exploitation and the militarisation of the economy, the monopolists and the governments serving them have launched an exceptionally strong offensive during the past few years against trade union liberties and the rights set forth in the Charter of the Workers' Trade Union Rights.

Many leaders and active members of the trade unions have been exposed to particularly ruthless persecution in many capitalist countries, notably Iran, Portugal, Spain and Greece. In our ranks it has been directed in particular against Brother Shafie, Vice-President of the W.F.T.U., who has been in prison since 1958 following a military coup d'etat. In Argentina, our Brother Rubens Iscaro was arrested for having led the powerful workers' struggles in 1959. In the Union of South Africa, Brothers Leon Levy and Massina, President and General Secretary of the only multi-racial trade union centre, have been imprisoned together with thousands of coloured workers who are victims of the brutal reign of racist terror.

In Algeria, Aissat Idir, General Secretary of the General Union of Algerian Workers, has been murdered, a victim of colonial repression. The former members of our General Council, Kaidi Lakdar and André Ruiz, together with many other trade unionists, have been tried by military courts for their trade union activities.

Some, like Kaidi, although acquitted, have again been arrested and detained in concentration camps.

In other countries a large-scale offensive against the trade unions is linked to paternalist measures and aims at crushing the workers' struggle, at reducing the scope of the trade unions' action to discuss and bargain on working conditions and collective agreements. This offensive goes hand in hand with the arms drive and the militarisation of the western countries

In addition, workers on strike are exposed to repression which is often violent, strikes are being banned, there are mass arrests, sentences are passed and workers imprisoned, as during a number of big struggles waged in the United States, Greece, Latin America and Belgium.

Certain trades which it is hoped to put on the same basis as the army, such as the public service and transport, have been particularly affected in Japan, Argentina, France and America.

During the past few years, a host of anti-labour laws have either been passed, or are being prepared, in the capitalist countries, as for example in the United States, Canada, Australia, Spain, Greece, Great Britain, Japan and Ceylon.

In France and in Western Germany emergency military laws have been brought into being which jeopardise the fundamental rights of the working class.

In the German Federal Republic the military authorities can at any moment deprive the workers of their elementary rights, the right of association, of the press and of assembly. Men between the ages of 16 and 60 are liable to be called up for an extended period of military service.

The aim of all these laws and bills is to allow the capitalists to check and even crush all economic campaigns of the working class and to submit them to "arbitration", that is to say, to the control of the monopoly state.

A typical illustration is the recent American Landrum-Griffin anti-union law passed in the United States: the AFL-CIO was not able to organise a systematic mass struggle against this bill.

This law which has been added to the host of existing American anti-labour laws, provides for interference by the Secretary of the Labour Department in the activities of the trade unions, and compels them to submit regular administrative and financial reports to a government representative. It simply bans certain forms of strike and of solidarity action in the event of a struggle, imposing very heavy punishment.

In Canada a law has been promulgated limiting the right to strike and obliging the trade unions to repay the employers for losses caused by strikes.

This is a "legal" form of the practices introduced in Western Germany where a court sentenced the metalworkers to pay damages to the capitalist following the metalworkers' strike in Schleswig-Holstein in 1957.

The worker in the capitalist countries, struggling against the persecution of the trade unions, with his day-to-day difficulties, insecure and worried about his own future, is also rightly alarmed about the education and future of his children.

The position of the children of workers even in the economically most advanced capitalist countries is extremely difficult as far as their education and technical training are concerned.

Here the World Conference of Young Workers, organised in Prague in July 1958 on the decision of the 4th Congress, has done much towards throwing light on the conditions of young workers.

The 500 delegates who attended from 65 countries participated in a fruitful exchange of experience and drew up a joint List of Demands which has led to many steps by the trade unions.

The problems it deals with remain extremely topical in all the capitalist countries.

We have already pointed out the lack of job opportunities for millions of young people who are anxious to take their place in society.

But the question of education and of technical training is equally pressing and brings out the inability of capitalist society to deal with the problem.

Even though the number of young people who have reached the age when they should be training as apprentices has generally increased in the capitalist countries, opportunities for technical training have become steadily worse.

Young people leaving school have neither the opportunity to train as apprentices nor to learn a proper trade.

In the capitalist countries, the women who are taking an increasing part in economic life are still exposed to countless discriminatory practices and to excessive exploitation.

In under-developed countries these difficulties are even greater.

Equal wages is still among the most pressing problems. Inequality exists in several countries and this is revealed even by official figures.

But we cannot give an account of the difficulties of the working class under capitalism, without emphasizing the economic and political situation of the agricultural workers.

The development of machinery and new techniques as well as the strengthening of the huge capitalist landed properties in the industrialised countries, the continuance of the grip of colonialism and of feudal societies in the colonial and semi-colonial countries, means that they and their families are exposed to the most inhuman living and working conditions, to the worst form of exploitation, to unemployment, to chronic under-employment and very often to poverty and hunger.

This unbearable situation, so typical of recent years, leads them to play an ever-increasing part in the great economic and political struggles of the workers and peoples and in the economic awakening of those countries which have just won their independence.

These developments bring to the forefront of trade union activities the problem of the alliance between the working class and the peasantry in the struggle against the monopolies.

They must lead the trade union organisations, including the W.F.U., to give their constant attention to the particular problems of agricultural workers' organisations, to the defence of their immediate and general demands and especially of that of agrarian reform.

With this in view it might perhaps be a good idea if one of our next Executive Committees were to devote some of its discussions to these problems, in order to improve the work of our organisations and so enrich the discussions at our 5th Congress.

Our Agricultural Workers' U.I. might perhaps, for its part, plan an international trade union discussion on the conditions of agricultural workers and land reform.

This general picture shows that there is a wider and wider gap between the level of material production and its increase, its mechanisation, and the colossal profits accumulated by certain groups on the one hand; and the level of employment and wages, the satisfaction of the new and growing economic, social and cultural needs of all the workers and their families, on the other hand.

THE GROWTH OF STRUGGLES FOR DEMANDS

In order to react to the conditions imposed on them, to resist the more intense exploitation by the monopolies and the offensive directed against the rights for which they had to pay so dearly, the workers in capitalist countries have organised exceptionally strong and militant united battles during these past three years.

They have had to wage their struggles under extremely difficult conditions of economic crisis followed by a recovery which was accompanied by a stagnation in employment.

These struggles have also been conducted as international tension was beginning to relax, which proves that a thaw in the international climate does not, and moreover cannot, reduce the class contradictions that exist between the exploiters and the exploited.

The growing pressure exercised by the peoples to bring about an agreement on disarmament, compels the capitalist monopolies to cede ground on the political scene but at the same time causes them to try to increase even further the exploitation of the workers in order to protect to the maximum degree possible the capitalist profits and to solve their difficulties at the expense of the working people.

The experience which the working class has gained during the past few years has negated the theories on "people's neo-capitalism" and other publicity for class collaboration.

This experience again proves that the workers' determined and united action can to a certain extent reduce the harmful effects of economic laws governing capitalist society.

At the same time the successes won by their brothers in the socialist countries in all spheres of activity have aroused the enthusiasm of the workers of the capitalist world and have helped to guide their struggles better by opening new horizons.

As the analysis made by our 4th Congress foretold, in all the capitalist countries the upsurge of the workers' struggles has strengthened remarkably in the recent period both as regards the number of workers in action and the duration of the fights for claims, of which strikes are often only the critical stages.

In the United States the strike movement, which is continuing, may be regarded as the most significant counter-offensive by the American labour movement in the post-war period.

The number of workers involved in strikes went up from 1,390,000 in 1957 to 1,895,000 in 1959.

But the increase in the duration of their campaigns which is reflected in the official number of days lost, is much more striking because these so-called lost days have risen from 16,500,000 in 1957 to 23,200,000 in 1958 and to 68,500,000 in 1959. This means that during these two years they increased nearly four times over.

Each worker who was involved in some strike action in 1958 stopped work on an average for 36 days.

This is a record figure for the last 25 years.

One of the most significant examples is the great struggle by the American steelworkers which lasted 116 days.

Similarly, in Canada, the number of days lost because of strike action doubled between 1957 and 1958. The difficult strike at the International Nickel Company lasted 27 days.

For Latin America the figures are even more significant, especially those covering 1958-59, when unprecedented struggles of a high political level were waged.

There were a number of general strikes: for example, the general strike in Venezuela in January 1958, which greatly contributed to the overthrow of the dictator Perez Jimenez; the general strike in Cuba in January 1959 which helped to overthrow Batista; the general 24-hour strike on October 10, 1958, involving four million Argentinian workers, which followed the strike by 300,000 building workers lasting 2 1/2 months and the 45-day strike by 65,000 bank employees, and was itself followed by the strike of 250,000 railway workers, so ruthlessly suppressed by the Frondizi Government.

In 1959, 13 million Argentinian workers took part in three general strikes which took place along with many others.

We would further like to mention the 31-day strike by the Chilean copper miners, the general strike by 300,000 workers in Uruguay and the formidable strike by 60,000 Mexican railwaymen, which was brutally suppressed.

In Great Britain, the number of days "lost" went up from 2,462,000 in 1958 to 3,250,000 in 1959.

During the first nine months of 1959, 156,000 miners took part in 1,000 strikes, 120,000 automobile workers in 110 strikes and 300,000 printing workers downed tools to demand the 40-hour week and higher wages.

In February 1960, the mere threat by 350,000 railwaymen of a national strike was enough to make the British Government retreat and allow a 5% wage increase.

In France, where the number of token strikes increased enormously, one million civil servants stopped work in December 1959, and in February 1960 the workers throughout the country held a powerful general political strike against the fascist rebellion in Algeria, for the application of self-determination and the preservation of democratic freedom.

In Italy, there continued to be a large number of strikes throughout 1957, 1958 and 1959. In 1959, 5½ million workers took part in remarkable united struggles.

Special credit must be given to the repeated campaigns by the Italian metalworkers and textile workers; to the very long and courageous strike by the Italian seamen in June-July 1959, which was marked by magnificent international solidarity; and to the mass campaigns by the agricultural workers.

In March 1960, Holland experienced the biggest strike in the building industry since the end of the Second World War, and Belgium the greatest workers' struggles since 1950.

In Belgium, the point of culmination was the general strike of January 29, 1960.

In India, 500,000 Bombay workers organised a general strike in July 1958, and automobile workers stopped work for more than 200 days under particularly difficult conditions.

In Japan, roughly four million workers, which is 200,000 more than during the previous year, were involved in the 1959 SOMPO Spring struggles.

In the other Asian and African capitalist countries the working class has also increased its united action.

The industries which experienced the most severe and numerous strikes were transport, metal, iron and steel, engineering and mining, which was especially affected by the general crisis in the industry.

But at the same time the fighting spirit increased among office staffs and civil servants in France, Argentina and Canada, where these workers organised their first struggle since 1919.

We are proud to salute these millions of brothers and sisters on the five continents belonging to all trade union organisations. They have shown great courage in making it clear that they were not prepared to accept exploitation, and have given ample proof of unity and working class solidarity vis-a-vis the class enemy. They have also done much towards bringing about a general weakening in the monopolies' cosmopolitan alliance.

We salute all the workers who, while being exposed to the monopolies' offensive, have been victims of persecution by the bourgeoisie, who have been killed, wounded, imprisoned, persecuted and punished only because they wanted to defend their livelihood, dignity, and dearly won trade union rights and democratic freedom.

Rarely have we seen clearer examples of the aggressive character of the monopolies and of their coalition with the authorities of the bourgeois states, in an attempt to increase exploitation and paralyse the power of organisation and action of the workers.

In this respect, the big strikes which took place in the United States in 1959, and more particularly that of the 500,000 steelworkers, are very symptomatic.

It should be remembered that the bitterness of this strike was to a great extent the outcome of the unreasonable demands by the iron and steel trusts.

In what the capitalist monopolies call the "free world", the trusts not only oppose the American workers' demands but want to have every opportunity of speeding up the pace of work and increasing output targets without consulting the trade unions, of imposing new regulations governing pensions and benefits, of redoubling reprisals against the strikers, of dismissing labour they consider to be redundant and of doing away with benefits which had been won by workers' struggles.

Unfortunately, the negotiated compromise between the trusts and the union in the steel industry in the United States, while being an undeniable success for the workers' wage claims, will barely benefit the workers when it comes to the employers' "demands".

Discussion of these matters is still outstanding, but their danger has not yet been removed. All the trade unions in the capitalist countries must consider this as an indication of the direction which the monopolies' attacks are taking at the present time.

This example, like the systematic attacks in Britain against rank-and-file leaders who are the most active members of the trade union movement and the attacks which are developing in Italy and Japan, confirm the need for the workers to defend and consolidate trade union freedom and organisation at the workplace.

This must naturally be part of a general campaign to defend trade union rights and freedom, and in the first place the right to strike, which both in practice and from the legal point of view is the object of the employers' attacks.

In another sphere the successes won by powerful working-class campaigns during the recent period prove that it is possible to be victorious even when there is a crisis and despite the power of the monopolies, provided the struggle is waged on a mass scale and in unity and is backed by international solidarity.

It is thanks to united action and international solidarity that the Canadian miners at the International Nickel Company and the British, French, Italian, Belgian and West German workers have obtained substantial improvements in their wages and working conditions.

All these powerful struggles and the victories which were won have encouraged unity of action. This applies to all the general strikes we have mentioned, especially the powerful movements in Latin America, Belgium, France, and Italy, where unity of action was established even among the national leaders of the various organisations.

During the past three years, unity of action among the working class was tempered in the fire of the class struggle against the monopolies. The trend towards regional trade union unity has gained ground even on the organisational level.

This aspect is particularly striking in Africa - we shall discuss this in another report - in the countries of Latin America, in Chile, Uruguay, Venezuela and Cuba, where especially the independent trade unions are seeking a way to bring about a continental regrouping on the basis of the class and anti-imperialist struggle.

In Europe the serious effect which the first measures in the application of the Common Market have had on the workers' general living and working conditions, and the experience which the workers in various European countries have gained in the struggle against this institution, make increasingly evident, even to the most reluctant, the need for concerted action by all the trade unions against the monopolies in the Common Market.

The first steps in this direction have already been taken by National Centres of various affiliations, and covering different industries, especially metalworkers.

However, it is clear that the opposition to unity shown by certain trade union leaders in the I.C.F.T.U. has hindered certain struggles and limited their success.

One cannot help being astonished at the violent attacks which the leadership of the American steel workers' union launched against the U.F.T.U. only because the latter, fulfilling its strict duty towards working-class solidarity, lodged a complaint with the I.L.O. against the application of the Taft-Hartley law by the American Government in support of the steel trusts.

We believe that this regrettable attitude has caused as much damage to the cause of the workers as the silence observed by the I.C.F.T.U. Metalworkers' Federation about the proposals for concerted action made by our Metalworkers' T.U.I. in order to encourage active solidarity among the European steel workers against mass imports of European steel to the United States, which strengthened the position of the employers.

The U.F.T.U. has exerted all its efforts both on the industrial level and in international organisations to promote international solidarity with the big working class struggles against the monopolies, and to contribute to their success.

We should like to draw particular attention to the good work done by the Trade Union Co-ordination and Action Committee of the Common Market Countries in order to establish a list of demands for each industry which would guide the united struggle of the workers and trade unions of Europe against the monopolies' alliance.

The activities of the Trade Unions Internationals and the formation of the new Trade Unions International of Workers in Commerce have done much towards promoting exchanges of experience and joint action by the workers and trade unions on the industrial level.

Excellent results have been obtained at the various international industrial conferences, especially those organised by the T.U.I. of the Metal and Engineering Industries, the Miners' T.U.I., the Trade Unions Internationals of Transport and Chemical Workers and by the Teachers. These conferences have given fresh impetus to campaigns for the achievement of demands and to unity of action in the various countries.

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A Joint Programme of Economic and Social Demands

From the breadth of present working class struggles arises a programme of economic and social demands, around which it is necessary and possible to organise united action.

The most urgent demands which can guide the work of the trade unions in the coming period are, above all, substantial **increases** in wages, old-age and other pensions, an increase in the basic wage, an end to discrimination in wages paid to women and young workers.

By advancing these fundamental demands, the trade unions in the capitalist countries will explain to the workers how dangerous it is if wage increases are made dependent on an increase in productivity, as the employers are arguing.

For us this is a fundamental class position.

No doubt, the increase in productivity which is so typical of the recent period is an additional reason justifying wage claims.

But to make the latter automatically dependent on the former, as certain collective agreements stipulate, means to impose on the workers work speed-ups in exchange for a theoretical wage increase which is cancelled out in fact, by the extra effort required and by the increase in prices.

Therefore, the entire trade union movement must make every effort to give effective support to the demands of young workers, women and agricultural workers against discriminatory practices.

The second group of demands which has appeared most frequently in recent struggles concerns the protection of the workers against the adverse effects of mechanisation and automation in a capitalist economy, especially against unemployment.

The workers and their trade unions are pressing for the following measures:-

- a) The reduction in hours of work without loss of pay, and in particular a 40-hour week in Western Europe. This demand is rightly very popular among the mass of workers. A powerful campaign for its achievement is today as important as that for an 8-hour day some time ago, in view of the productivity drive, the speed-up and the big army of unemployed.
- a) Unemployment benefits to be increased and paid over a longer period of time. In certain countries these immediate demands are linked up with the demand for the nationalisation of industries hit by the crisis, in particular, coal-mining. Here it is essential that the workers together with the unemployed should conduct a united campaign.

For the reasons we have already explained, each economic demand is related to the defence of trade union rights and notably the right to strike.

Under the present circumstances this is a highly important problem which calls for the strengthening of international working-class solidarity.

The protection and improvement of social security schemes are time and again included in the lists of demands advanced in many struggles, and must also be dealt with by all trade unions, providing solid ground for new steps towards unity.

In its desire to encourage the unity of action among the workers which is so essential, and to promote co-operation among trade union organisations, the W.F.T.U. makes the following proposals to all trade union organisations concerned:

1. to organise early in 1961 a European Trade Union Conference for a 40-hour week without loss of pay;

2. to form a united INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COMMISSION composed of trade union members and jurists to stimulate and organise the defence of trade union rights and of victims of anti-trade union measures;

3. to achieve one of the objectives put forward by the 4th World Trade Union Congress by bringing together a broad International Trade Union Committee for Action on Social Security, with the aim of stimulating new developments in the field of united action and international solidarity for this objective.

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THE CREATIVE STRUGGLE OF THE WORKERS IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

Now that we have dealt with the difficult struggle of the working class against the monopolies' attacks, let us examine the creative struggle of the workers in the socialist countries, covering one-third of the world.

The sputniks and space rockets, the first landing on the moon, achieved by the scientists, engineers and workers of the Soviet Union; the targets of the Seven-Year Plan, the magnificent "leap forward" by the Chinese people, and the progress made by the entire socialist camp, have rightly attracted the attention of world public opinion during the past few years.

From these developments, all the workers in the capitalist countries have been encouraged and inspired in their day-to-day battle against exploitation.

Many people's eyes were opened, and many among the capitalist bourgeoisie have had to acknowledge the creative power of socialism.

What has made such a pace of progress possible? The truth is being recognised and will be recognised even more rapidly as the number of delegation exchanges between the workers of all countries increases. The driving force of the historical changes which are today taking place under the banner of socialism is the conscious and creative struggle which hundreds of millions of men and women are conducting to bring about unlimited prosperity and abundance.

This is a conscious and creative struggle because it is taking place in a society where there are no exploiters or exploited, and where the fruits of the nation's labour go back to the workers either directly or indirectly: because in their day-to-day experience the workers find practical evidence of the relationship between their efforts in production and the satisfaction of their economic and social needs.

It is becoming increasingly clear to the working people that the force behind each sputnik, behind the impressive rate of production of the Seven-Year Plan, behind the bold targets laid down in the economic plans of the G.D.R., Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Bulgaria, behind the prodigious growth of the Chinese People's Republic, is the inexhaustible and irreplaceable creative effort of people who have been freed from exploitation.

It is this effort which in 1965 will allow the entire socialist camp to produce half of the world's industrial output.

How - in conditions radically different from those confronting their brothers in the capitalist countries - is this other and creative struggle of the working class in the socialist countries developing?

During the past two years this struggle has been marked by the workers' mass participation in socialist emulation; in the management of the economy, in the preparation of development plans, in raising productivity, and in the movement to develop the peoples' communes.

In the Soviet Union and in several other countries, this emulation has taken on new and higher forms: communist or socialist labour brigades, concentrated on the fulfilment of plans ahead of schedule by encouraging ^{one and} all to take an active interest in production, and by generalising the assistance which competing teams give each other. It has made possible the achievement of remarkable results and initial reports confirm that the Seven Year Plan will be fulfilled ahead of time and its targets substantially surpassed.

In China the creative efforts and enthusiastic work by hundreds of millions of workers in town and country has allowed our brothers not to confine themselves to big steps forward, but to make the now famous general "leap forward" which is overcoming the centuries - old economic backwardness and is bringing them closer to the fulfilment of their fundamental aim - to make China a great industrial and agricultural power.

It is this mass effort by millions of Chinese workers who give enthusiastic support to the regime they have built, which has allowed People's China to abandon once and for all the out-of-date social relations and the apparent inevitability of poverty and hunger which used to oppress the whole of Asia.

It is this which has enabled her to increase industrial production by 39.3% in one year alone (1958), while national revenue went up by 21.6% between 1958 and 1959 and fulfillment of the Plan is already three years ahead of schedule.

Year after year this peaceful army of millions of workers freed from every form of exploitation is growing. All the socialist countries are in a position steadily to create more jobs while increasing production.

On this basis, the workers in the socialist countries are competing with enthusiasm to raise national production which has become their concern since they became the ruling class of their country.

Having abolished unemployment, they are also striving to bring about a further and speedy increase in productivity.

They are doing this with the help of the worker and peasant state, taking thorough advantage of technical progress, electrification, complete mechanisation wherever it is possible and the rapid expansion of automation, which in their society is entirely in the service of the people.

On this basis, it is planned that under the Soviet Seven Year Plan, three quarters of the increase in industrial production (80% higher than in 1958) will result from improved productivity.

Furthermore in the socialist countries these last few years have been marked by a closer association of the workers in the actual running of enterprises and of the socialist economy, enabling them to use their spirit of initiative to a greater extent.

Production conferences have been introduced generally and are now a permanent feature, playing an increasing role in economic and social development.

At the same time the role and responsibilities of the trade union movement have increased steadily.

As peaceful competition develops, it is highly important to point out that at a time when, in the capitalist countries, an offensive is being waged against trade union rights and freedom which aims at reducing the scope and the role of the trade union in the enterprise, we observe in the socialist countries, that trade unions are continuously widening their functions and establishing closer relations with the workers.

The trade unions are being given a number of new tasks which up to now are carried out by the state.

This is a fact which will not escape the thousands of workers' delegations visiting the socialist countries every year.

Following several re-organisations of the economy in the U.S.S.R. and several other countries, the leadership at various trade union levels has been brought closer to the rank and file organisations by a decentralisation of the trade union structure.

This has modified the work of central and local bodies and reduced their permanent staff.

In the U.S.S.R. the role of trade union councils and committees in the various republics has been increased.

Trade union finances have been readjusted with the result that three-quarters or more of the dues remain in the hands of the branch.

In all the socialist countries the trade union organization today appears as a highly developed form of mass initiative, with decisive powers to which even the best conditions enjoyed by trade unions in the capitalist countries cannot be compared.

These powers are exercised:

- in the discussion and preparation of social legislation concerning the workers;
- in the elaboration, discussion and application of economic plans;
- in the management of enterprises and in the development of mechanisation and automation;
- in the organisation and supervision of work-safety;
- in calculating and establishing wages and output quotas;
- in the administration of social security;
- in the technical and cultural training of the workers;
- in examining and solving housing problems;
- in the satisfaction of the workers' day-to-day needs on-the-job (canteens, nurseries, sports, etc.);
- in settling labour disputes: no worker may be dismissed without the consent of the trade union organisation.

These are the facts of true democracy in the social and trade union life which is developing in the socialist world and which inspires the remarkable economic, social and cultural expansion stimulating the creative work of the mass of the workers.

However, this in itself would be incomprehensible if we failed to mention those aspects which give it meaning: unlimited material, moral and cultural progress, the prospect of abundance for all and the steady improvement of living and working conditions here and now.

We are sure that there is not a single worker in the capitalist countries who, during the past few years, did not hear with admiration of the magnificent targets which the workers in the socialist countries have set themselves. This applies particularly to the Soviet Seven-Year Plan which provides for:

- the systematic improvement of the people's living standards;
- decisive steps to overtake and surpass the most advanced capitalist countries in per capita production in an historically brief period.

After a thorough discussion and review of their immense resources at millions of meetings, the workers and collective farmers helped to work out the figures for the general economic expansion needed to achieve these objectives and make it possible to increase total industrial production by 80% by 1965.

They know that to fulfil the Seven-Year Plan on this basis, and by giving priority to the expansion of heavy industry, would mean for them a decisive step in the improvement of their working and living conditions, in the great peaceful competition between socialism and capitalism.

The Seven-Year Plan which is to improve living conditions makes for a 62-65% increase of the national revenue of the Soviet Union during the seven years, which is a general indicator and realistic basis for the improvement of living standards. This increase will guarantee a further 60% to 65% growth in consumption.

As regards social expenditure, that is to say the sums spent by the state on social insurance, allowances, pensions, scholarships, medical services, free education, housing, nurseries and rest homes, etc. the Soviet State is planning to spend in 1965, 360,000 million roubles as against 215,000 million in 1958.

The Plan provides for the construction of 15 million homes in the towns and 7 million in the country - sufficient to house the population of France and Italy.

Every year two million families will receive the keys to their new homes.

The reduction and eventual abolition of taxes are in prospect for the near future.

As for working conditions, the workers in the capitalist countries, at grips with automation and technological unemployment, have learned with understandable interest that in ten

years or so their Soviet brothers are going to work the shortest working day in the world with higher wages and more jobs available !

By 1964-1968 they will work only 30 to 35 hours a week and can look forward to genuine full employment and the general and continuous expansion of their economy.

And all this will be accompanied by a 40% increase in the real wages of workers, office staffs and agricultural workers. Food prices will continue to drop and the housing shortage will be solved in the coming decade.

The workers in the capitalist countries who are worried about the education and technical training of their children must further note that between 1959 and 1965 general compulsory and free education for all Soviet children will be extended from 7 to 8 years, that there will be a greater number of evening schools for young people from town and country, and that schools for workers will train 1.4 times more highly qualified specialists than during the period between 1952 and 1958.

Certain people who cannot be convinced so easily may ask: Very well, but what happens in the meantime?

In the meantime in the Soviet Union the latest session of the Supreme Soviet adopted the decision to begin immediately the gradual elimination of taxes and to shorten working hours without reducing wages. The year 1958 saw a virtually general increase in wages under the supervision of the trade unions accompanied by an increase in the lowest wages which reduced the spread between the highest and lowest wages.

Old-age and disability pensions were increased, and by 1959 more than 13 million workers were already on a 7 and 6-hour day.

During 1960 this working day is being generally introduced throughout the country.

In 1962 all workers will be on a 40-hour week.

In the meantime, nominal wages went up by 16.5% in 1959 in Czechoslovakia as compared with 1953 and there have been eight price reductions since 1948. In 1959, wages in Hungary were increased by 12%, in Rumania the national income increased by 17%, in Bulgaria and Korea by 20% and in Poland by 5%. In People's China wages increased by 5% in 1959 and the average income in the people's communes went up 10% as compared with 1958. In the G.D.R., the real income of the workers increased by 11% during 1959.

Special attention has been paid to the construction of flats for workers, improvement of working conditions, social security, improvement of social services for the population and especially facilities for working women provided by the local authorities.

Considerable sums have been allocated for culture, education and scientific research.

You will agree, brothers, that hundreds of millions of men and women even outside the socialist world have every reason to be enthusiastic.

All these facts are sufficient to explain the creative struggle waged by the working people in the socialist countries.

These facts can also clarify the outlook and inspire the day-to-day struggle of the working class in the capitalist world at a time when peaceful competition between the peoples becomes imperative.

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THE FIGHT FOR PEACE, AND THE TRADE UNIONS

As the international situation has developed, the question of peace has become more and more important in the preoccupations and activities of the trade unions and the workers.

As a result a closer relationship has appeared in the trade union movement between campaigns for demands and the fight for peace.

Working side by side with all sections of the people and especially those working with the World Council of Peace, the workers and their trade unions are playing an increasing and decisive role in the various demonstrations of world public opinion which have strongly influenced the course of events.

During the past three years, the keynote of the traditional strong demonstrations and growing number of delegation exchanges on the occasion of May Day has in practically all countries been the defence of peace.

In their united actions, the mass of the workers have chosen the most varied forms to work for peace.

In some countries, such as Japan and Great Britain, mass demonstrations, nation-wide campaigns and marches against foreign atomic bases and for the suspension of nuclear tests are being held every year around specific objectives which link up the campaigns for the achievement of their most pressing demands with the fight for peace.

Sometimes, more direct action by the workers is organised.

The courageous dockers of Yokohama enjoyed the support of the people and international solidarity when they refused to unload foreign ballistic missiles.

At this very moment more than four million Japanese workers, closely linked to the mass of the population, are taking vigorous action on an unprecedented scale against the Japanese militarists and American imperialism for the annulment of the Japanese-American military pact. The General Council will not fail to express its enthusiastic solidarity with the outstanding struggle which the workers and trade unions are waging in Japan to push back the forces of war.

The atomic tests by the French Government in the Sahara, carried out in spite of the unanimous opposition of the workers of France, have aroused a wave of anger and strong protests from the working people and trade unions of Africa.

The trade unions of Africa which led the movement made an invaluable contribution to the struggle waged by the French workers against the atomic arms race and to the campaigns organised by the international working class for the banning of tests.

Signature campaigns and weeks of action have been organised in Australia, Canada and Latin America, demanding the suspension of atomic tests and opposing the atomic arming of Germany.

Regional peace conferences are being held more and more frequently.

At big international political conference the workers and trade unions are making their voice heard with increasing authority. This was true especially at the time of the Geneva Conference on the German question in May and June 1959.

During the recent period a greater number of joint statements have been made on the problems of peace, the struggle against imperialism, and disarmament, by organisations of various affiliations, as for example, the one signed by SOHYO of Japan and the Soviet and Hungarian trade unions, and the statements made by delegations attending May Day demonstrations.

More recently, the Soviet proposals for universal and complete disarmament which have had widespread repercussions among the workers of all countries without exception, have given a fresh impetus to the workers' campaigns.

Therefore, the various trade unions are adopting more and more similar attitudes on the topical questions of peace.

On the question of atomic tests, apart from all the unions belonging to the W.F.T.U., there are a number of independent organisations such as the I.L.W.U. on the West Coast of the United States, the CUTCh of Chile, SOHYO of Japan, the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, UGTAN and the Moroccan Labour Union, which conducted a vigorous campaign against the French atomic tests.

Even in the I.C.F.T.U., the national centres of Canada, Britain, Belgium and Australia have called for the suspension of tests and the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

In the spring of 1960, some of the most important industrial unions opposed the leadership of the Labour Party and declared themselves in favour of the unilateral atomic disarmament of Great Britain.

The resolutions adopted by the 19th W.F.T.U. Executive Committee calling for the continuous mobilisation of the workers in the struggle for peace and disarmament, have greatly encouraged trade union action on this issue.

In Japan, Britain, Australia, Canada, and Latin America, the national centres or unions in important branches of industry have taken and continue to take stands on these problems.

In Belgium the Congress of the F.G.T.B. has taken a stand on these problems and has called for a reduction in military expenditure and recognition of People's China.

Even in the AFL-CIO certain voices are at last daring to make themselves heard, certain new trends are making their appearance, besides the ambiguous statements of certain leaders who support in practice the arms drive while paying lip service to possible disarmament. Thus Emil Mazey, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO automobile workers' union recently spoke in favour of the suspension of nuclear tests and for universal disarmament.

Simultaneously, the garment workers' union decided to organise a campaign in 1960 for disarmament, a reduction in military expenditure and a ban on nuclear tests.

A number of trade unions in Europe affiliated to the I.C.F.T.U. have been very uneasy about the continued rearmament of Western Germany and the expansion of the all-powerful arms concerns which were so dear to Hitler, as well as about the scandalous white-washing of war criminals, of the same type as Oberlander, who are still in leading positions in the Federal Republic.

The trade unions in the European socialist countries as well as the trade unions of Belgium, France, Italy, the G.F.R. and Great Britain, who have had some experience of the German militarists, are demanding a peaceful solution to the German problem.

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The trade unions in all countries understand that real peaceful co-existence implies the end of colonialist adventures and in particular of the war in Algeria, have recently organised a very strong solidarity movement with their Algerian brothers.

A most concrete, encouraging and fruitful example is provided by the work of the International Trade Union Committee for Solidarity with the Workers and People of Algeria, whose formation was proposed by the 4th World Trade Union Congress.

This example is all the more encouraging for a growing number of leaders of the I.C.F.T.U. because it shows that it is necessary to organise discussions and meetings between the big international organisations on the question of peace.

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The W.F.T.U. has always made and continues to make every possible effort in this direction, as shown by all its activity in this field since the 4th Congress.

During the past three years the W.F.T.U. and its affiliated organisations, drawing inspiration from the analysis by the 4th Congress of the new conditions which favour a better co-ordination of trade union efforts for the preservation of peace, and of the struggle for national independence, have done their best to elucidate and explain each event.

As distinct from the wait-and-see attitude of the I.C.F.T.U. and the I.F.C.T.U. which, without calling for struggle by the working people, rely simply on bourgeois governments and international assemblies, the W.F.T.U. has stimulated and guided united action and solidarity by the workers in this struggle. The W.F.T.U. has moreover done its best to improve co-operation between the trade unions and non-trade union circles working for the same objectives.

Therefore, the work of the W.F.T.U. has done much towards raising the general political standard of the workers' fight for peace which we have already pointed out.

The various sessions of the Executive Committee which were held since the 4th Congress have attached major importance to these problems.

This policy also guided the preparation, work and decisions of the European Trade Union Conference in Berlin, against the threat of atomic war, for disarmament and for peace, which was decided by the Budapest session of our Executive Committee.

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This Conference and the Week of International Action and Solidarity from October 15 to 22, 1958, which was decided by the Conference, did much towards co-ordinating the work for peace by the workers and trade unions.

They enabled millions of workers to demonstrate together their common desires to end the cold war, the atomic arms drive, nuclear tests, the policy of strength, imperialist provocations and the atomic equipment of the German militarists.

At the same time, the W.F.T.U. has made an active contribution to the struggle against the capitalist states' aggressive threats in the Middle East, the Far East and Algeria.

It has given its consistent and active support to the workers and peoples in the Middle East and Africa.

In this general picture, the work and decisions of the emergency session of our Executive Committee marked a new stage, rich in perspectives, in our co-operation with the trade unions of Africa and Asia, both independent and affiliated to the I.C.F.T.U.

Continuing its efforts to help the workers of the world to make their voice heard during the most important international events, the W.F.T.U. decided to organise the Goerlitz Trade Union Conference for a Peace Treaty with Germany, for Disarmament and a Ban on Atomic Weapons, in May 1959.

The decisions taken by this Conference, especially its delegation to the Foreign Ministers' Conference in Geneva, the Memorandum which the delegation submitted, and above all the Month of Action, which was organised on the initiative of the Goerlitz Conference, constituted a contribution to the mass struggle for peace and against the threat of German militarism.

A JOINT PLATFORM FOR PEACE

As we have seen, although the provocations and manoeuvres of the American imperialists have succeeded in wrecking the meeting of the Summit Conference, the objective conditions favouring the forces of peace have not been weakened by the recent events.

On the contrary, we can say that these forces have emerged much stronger. The duplicity and aggressive policy of American imperialism have been unmasked before the workers and peoples of the whole world.

But it is by a ceaseless struggle - more powerful and united every day - that the forces of peace will achieve their objective: lasting peace in the world.

To take steps toward an effective co-ordination of trade union forces in the struggle for peace is today a possibility. It is possible and necessary to call upon the workers and trade unions to fight for:

- relaxation of international tension and peaceful co-existence;
- universal and complete disarmament and the immediate reduction of arms budgets and taxes;
- the ending and banning of nuclear tests;
- the safeguarding of the national sovereignty of all countries;
- national independence of the peoples and the ending of the war in Algeria by the faithful application of the Algerian people's right to self-determination and by negotiation with the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic;
- the elimination of German militarism;
- a peace treaty with the two German states and the solution of the problem of West Berlin;
- the abrogation of the Japanese-American treaty of military alliance.

Further, the recent events have shown more clearly than ever that the workers and peoples must demand the suppression of military bases established by the United States and other imperialist powers on foreign territories.

On the question of disarmament, we believe that an economic and social programme linked with universal and complete disarmament, such as that established by our recent Executive Committee, could facilitate an international trade union agreement.

I would like to recall the following proposals made by our Executive Committee:

- to demand an immediate reduction of military expenditures, less taxation and a lowering of the cost of living;
- to indicate the great savings that could be made on arms expenditure, proposing production programmes for capital goods for the nation and a rise in the consumption of essential goods;
- to indicate, with a view to a more equitable distribution of the national wealth, the savings that could be made on the subsidies accorded to the monopolies;
- to make a vigorous demand for higher wages, old-age and other pensions, and family allowances, for security of employment and aid to the unemployed;
- to propose the introduction or improvement of social security schemes;
- to demand wider and improved vocational training and technical education;
- to draw up a programme for the reconversion to peaceful purposes of those national economies heavily devoted to military purposes, and providing for the construction of housing, schools and hospitals;
- to demand the right to be consulted and associated in the supervision, drawing up and carrying out of reconversion programmes;
- to show how reductions in military expenditure would make it possible to give economically under-developed countries long-term loans at moderate interest rates.

We maintain that on this basis it is possible to promote unity of action among the trade unions, both nationally and internationally. During the discussion, the members of the General Council will no doubt put forward concrete proposals for measures to strengthen the struggle of the workers in this field.

THE WORKERS' STRENGTH IS IN THEIR FIGHTING UNITY

Dear Brothers,

In concluding this survey, we can say that the key problem which once again confronts the entire trade union movement if further progress is to be achieved, is to bring about a decisive strengthening in unity of action and international working class solidarity between all the workers and trade unions, at all levels.

In the report we have pointed out that progress has been achieved in this direction; in the various campaigns, in the struggle for demands and in the fight for peace and national independence of the people.

The attitudes of various national trade union organisations in the different countries are closer together on the major problems of the hour.

International working class solidarity has developed, while contacts and exchanges between trade unions, previously isolated from each other, have grown.

This is true and positive.

But we cannot stop there.

The prospects of increased activities and the responsibilities falling to the trade union movement do not allow us to spare a single effort to forge ahead.

The struggle for peace, for the suspension of nuclear tests and for genuine universal and complete disarmament will be difficult and long.

If it is to be brought to a successful conclusion, it is obvious that co-operation, national and international unity of action and strong solidarity between all trade union organisations are urgently needed and indispensable.

The struggle against colonialism and for the protection of the independence of the peoples has reached a decisive stage.

Is it not clear that if the W.F.T.U., the I.C.F.T.U. and the independent organisations join their efforts, the success of this struggle could be brought much closer?

.../

The review of the workers' struggles which we have just made leads to the conclusion that class disputes in the capitalist countries will become more acute.

Is it not clear that far-reaching successes could be won in the struggle against the monopolies' collusion and concentration, if all the national and international trade union organisations were to act in unison?

No trade union organisation which is anxious to fulfil its tasks can avoid dealing with these simple matters.

Anyone who adopts a negative attitude towards these questions will be responsible for holding back the advance of the whole trade union movement and frustrating the will and action of the mass of the workers.

We will not and cannot accept such a responsibility.

Therefore, one of the major tasks of the W.F.T.U. will continue to be to seek and create opportunities to increase national and international unity.

The W.F.T.U. will fulfil this task in the certitude that anything which was possible in 1945 at the time of Japanese and Nazi military aggression, must be all the more possible and necessary in 1960.

It will do it by drawing on the vast trend towards unity which exists today throughout the world, and on quantitative and qualitative changes which are taking place in the world trade union movement.

But if these new opportunities and favourable conditions are not to be wasted and if the workers' struggles which are in the process of preparation are to have maximum effectiveness, it is essential for all the workers to take this problem to heart and to understand how important discussions and co-operation between all international trade union organisations, and more particularly between the I.C.F.T.U. and the W.F.T.U., would be.

It is essential that the workers should be more familiar with the conditions which brought about and destroyed international trade union unity and should know that during the past ten years the W.F.T.U. has always been willing to discuss and co-operate.

The best way to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the W.F.T.U. and of the London Trade Union Conference, would be to reaffirm our loyalty to the resolutions for unity adopted at the time; to the statement, today as topical as ever, which specified the character of the W.F.T.U. and declared:

"The (London) Conference sincerely believes that it is vitally important for the workers of the world if the trade unions of peace-loving countries, irrespective of race and belief, political, religious and philosophical outlook, unite in a World Federation".

At the time the trade unions of the whole of Europe, of America (with the exception of the American Federation of Labour which was absent), of Africa and Asia, were unanimous in their determination to establish organisational trade union unity as quickly as possible. This was a most important pledge.

It was based on a correct appreciation of the former weaknesses of the labour movement and resulted from a discussion at the Conference of the consequences of the split in the international trade union movement between the First and Second World Wars.

A programme was drawn up in 1945 and ratified by the Paris Foundation Congress.

This meant a big step towards international trade union unity.

However, four years later occurred the break in international trade union unity, that is to say, the break in the W.F.T.U. because certain trade union leaders threw overboard the decisions of the London Conference.

The W.F.T.U. and its present leadership have always been loyal to the solemn pledges made at the London Trade Union Conference.

During the past ten years it has made more and more proposals for unity to the I.C.F.T.U. because it always regarded the break in 1949 as a regrettable and negative event and never considered it to be final.

Every time the big workers' struggles reached a decisive stage during the past ten years and every time the workers of the world were threatened by a particularly serious danger, the W.F.T.U., disregarding all insults and slanders, always came forward with sincere proposals to the I.C.F.T.U. for concerted action, which it regarded essential and possible.

As far back as July 1951, our Executive Committee, in its desire to give more effective support to the bitter struggle which the working class was conducting for the achievement of demands, proposed a meeting to the I.C.F.T.U. to discuss the most appropriate means of defending the vital interests of the workers and applying the economic and social programme they had drawn up jointly in 1945.

The W.F.T.U. did the same in April 1953 in order to encourage the struggle for demands, and in May 1956 to stimulate united action for shorter working hours and a 40-hour week.

Each time a particularly grave danger threatened world peace, we again overlooked our different views and were anxious to serve the most vital interests of the working class and its desire for peace; we acted in the same way.

The I.C.F.T.U. remained silent.

Thus, on July 27, 1953, in view of the serious international situation, especially in the Middle East, and having been taught by our own experience that the division of the working class always encourages war adventures, we again approached the I.C.F.T.U. in order to seek jointly ways and means of barring the road to war.

Like our previous proposals, this offer of joint action remained unanswered. The same silence met our letter of February 15, 1957, suggesting united action for a cease-fire in Algeria where a trade union organisation affiliated to the I.C.F.T.U. is involved in the struggle.

Finally, on the occasion of the last I.C.F.T.U. Congress, we sent to its General Secretary the proposal that

representatives of our two organisations should meet in 1960 on the basis of the decisions taken by the Brussels Congress and by the Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U., in order to discuss the application of an Economic and Social Programme geared to the plan for universal disarmament.

Some people might argue: what is the good of recalling these things?

We are doing this simply because the path of the trade union movement leading towards unity must be clear and unambiguous. Also, because we cannot agree to the schematic reasoning of some people who just resign themselves to the break in the international trade union movement and repudiate the idea of international trade union unity under the pretext that the W.F.T.U. and the I.C.F.T.U. simply would not want to reach agreement.

.../

Brothers,

We know that it is extremely difficult to restore international trade union unity, that it requires a great deal of clear-sightedness, patience, a spirit of initiative, vigilance and above all loyalty to the workers throughout the world.

We are not in favour of unity for sentimental reasons, but we want unity for class reasons. Our desire for unity is based on our deep political conviction and on our continuous wish to find the most appropriate ways and means of defending the working class.

And this explains why we are not in favour of just any kind of unity. The only type of unity which we consider possible, feasible and durable is one where the international trade union organisation which would be re-established would not interfere in the internal affairs of the national organisations, if it considered each suggestion made by the working class and repudiated all interference by the capitalists, if it were an organisation, unconditionally serving the cause of peace between the peoples and universal disarmament and energetically opposing all forms of fascism.

But there are still stubborn adversaries opposed to the creation of this kind of unity.

They are among those leaders who determined the policy of the last Congress of the I.C.F.T.U. in Brussels by making it adopt resolutions which ran contrary to the desire for peace felt by the majority of workers throughout the world.

They are among certain trade union leaders in the United States, such as George Meany, who have always been violently opposed to any relaxation in international tension and have supported the policy of the most aggressive circles of American imperialism.

Of course, this does not prevent the W.F.T.U. from growing and this year when it is celebrating its 15th anniversary, the W.F.T.U. has reached a membership of more than 100 million. Furthermore, that does not stop the increase in the members of those in favour of unity even within the ranks of organisations affiliated to the I.C.F.T.U.; this does not prevent our brothers in the socialist countries from extending their friendly relations with all the trade unions of the world including those affiliated to the I.C.F.T.U.

But it is necessary to realise that such an attitude complicates and holds back the co-ordination of mass action for peace on the international level.

Many trade union leaders from Canada, Norway, Great Britain, Belgium, Australia, Latin America and other countries are seeking new means of action, supporting the establishment of contacts between leaders and organisations with different affiliations, and encouraging the exchange of opinions and information.

Some initiatives tend to increase the frequency of exchanges among trade union delegations and of bilateral and multilateral contacts. These aim at finding the best ways of dealing jointly with the principal problems engaging the workers in their struggle against the imperialists and monopolists.

Moreover, most recently, numerous trade union organisations at different levels affiliated to the I.C.F.T.U. have expressed in declarations addressed to us, their favourable opinion as to a meeting between the W.F.T.U. and the I.C.F.T.U.

Finally, the idea has been expressed in many trade union organisations that a consultative meeting be held which would permit, as a first step toward improved mutual understanding, a free exchange of views between the national centres of all affiliations.

All these suggestions are worthy of attention and the W.F.T.U. will not fail to do everything possible to put them into effect.

The desire for peace and unity is growing daily among the workers of the whole world, including those belonging to the I.C.F.T.U.

We shall not accept the responsibility for neglecting this desire for peace. From this tribune we would like to appeal anew to all trade union organisations without distinction, recalling a letter which our Executive Committee sent them some time ago: "In view of the fact that nothing can stop the trend towards a general relaxation in tension between the peoples,

workers and trade unions of all countries, and since everything must be done to render powerless the negative efforts which certain leaders of the I.C.F.T.U. are making to maintain the spirit of the cold war in the world trade union movement, the W.F.T.U. calls on the trade unions in all countries to do their utmost so as to:

1. Improve and expand national and international trade union relations without discrimination in a spirit of the widest possible friendship and brotherhood.
2. Take in common systematic and serious action for peace and disarmament.
3. Bring about a meeting between the international trade union organisations and, in the first place, between the W.F.T.U. and the I.C.F.T.U."

Dear Brothers, .

These are the main problems that we are putting forward for discussion at the General Council. We have made some proposals that aim at strengthening the action of workers and trade unions throughout the world to safeguard peace, to defend and widen the scope of trade union liberties and rights, to reduce working hours, to improve workers' living conditions and to strengthen trade union unity and international solidarity.

Still we call upon you to debate these proposals and to put forward to our meeting, (the most responsible meeting taking place between our Congresses) new suggestions and proposals that will make it possible for the international trade union movement to crown this year of the W.F.T.U.'s 15th anniversary with new and important successes.

While the imperialists are endeavouring, by their manoeuvres and provocations, to slow up the irresistible advance of the workers and people towards a lasting peace, towards the elimination of colonialism and of the exploitation of man by man, the workers of the world are tightening their indestructible links of international class solidarity so as to overcome all obstacles.

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

11th Session of the General Council
(Peking, May 30 -- June 6, 1960)

DRAFT

DECISION

In accordance with the Constitution of the W.F.T.U. the Vth World Trade Union Congress is to take place in 1961. Therefore the 11th Session of the General Council asks the Executive Committee to take decisions at its next meeting concerning the convocation, the draft agenda, the date and the place as well as representation at the Vth World Trade Union Congress.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

11th Session of the General Council
(Peking, May 30th - June 6th, 1960)

DRAFT

DECISION

After hearing the report given by the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. regarding the financial management of the World Federation of Trade Unions during the period from the 4th World Trade Union Congress (October 1957) up to date, and the Auditors' report covering the same period, the General Council approves the financial management of the W.F.T.U. from the 4th World Trade Union Congress up to its 11th Session.

Peking, June 6th, 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

11th SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

(Peking, May 30 - June 6, 1960)

DRAFT

A G E N D A

1. International developments and the present tasks and activities of the trade union movement.
2. The contribution of the trade unions to the fight against colonialism.
3. Auditors' report.

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

11th SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

(Peking, May 30 - June 6, 1960)

DRAFT

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3. Auditors' report.

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

11TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

(Peking, June 5 - 8, 1960)

RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN KOREA

The 11th Session of the General Council of the W.F.T.U. meeting in Peking, expresses its active solidarity with the workers and people of South Korea, who have risen against the fascist domination of American imperialism and its agents. It acclaims the heroic struggle of the workers and people of South Korea - for liberty, democracy and the right to a livelihood - that overthrew the Syngman Rhee clique.

But the American imperialists by means of brutal repression and perfidious tactics are backing-up new puppets so as to maintain their domination over South Korea, strengthen their military basis for aggression and perpetuate the division of Korea. These actions represent grave threats to peace in Korea and the rest of the world.

The General Council of the W.F.T.U. therefore calls upon the workers of the world and their trade unions to develop their active solidarity towards the struggle of the workers and people of ~~South~~ Korea for the immediate withdrawal of American troops from South Korea and the peaceful unification of the country. It invites them to take all steps that will effectively support this struggle and especially as from June 25, 1960, which marks the 10th anniversary of the unleashing of the war of aggression in Korea by the American imperialists.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

11TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE
WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

(Peking, June 5 - 8, 1960)

DRAFT

R E S O L U T I O N

on solidarity with the struggle of the Cuban people

The 11th Session of the General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions sends its warm greetings to the Confederation of Cuban Workers and to the workers and people of Cuba, who alongside their revolutionary government are waging a valiant struggle to defend their sovereignty and economic independence as well as the well-being and progress of the nation.

It denounces the subversive acts and provocations perpetrated by the U.S.A. against Cuba and warns the workers of the whole world of the danger of military intervention for which American imperialism is making active preparations.

It condemns the economic offensive by the big American monopolies against the Cuban revolutionary regime. It calls upon the workers and their trade unions to remain vigilant in the face of the American threat to boycott Cuban shipping.

The General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions calls upon the workers of all countries to strengthen their solidarity with the heroic struggle of the working class and people of Cuba against American imperialists.

The W.F.T.U. will take all possible steps to stimulate the development of this international working class solidarity, and give it practical means of expression.

Peking, June 8, 1960.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

11TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

(Peking, June 5 - 8, 1960)

DRAFT

TELEGRAM TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CONGO

The 11th Session of the General Council of the W.F.T.U., meeting in Peking, protests vigorously against the arbitrary arrest of Julien Boukambou, General Secretary of the General Confederation of African Workers and member of our General Council together with other trade union leaders, and against the closing down of the premises of this National Centre and the confiscation of its records.

We call upon you to order the immediate release of these trade union leaders and to restore and respect trade union rights.

The General Council of the W.F.T.U.

Peking, June 8, 1960.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

11TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

(Peking, June 5 - 8, 1960)

DRAFT

M E S S A G E TO THE WORKERS OF SPAIN

The General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions, meeting in Peking from June 5 to 8, 1960, sends sincere and fraternal greetings to the workers of Spain, who are conducting a heroic and difficult battle against the Franco dictatorship, for the achievement of their rights, the satisfaction of their demands, and the restoration of democracy in Spain.

The General Council deploras the existence of American military bases in Spain as well as the plan to establish West German bases, both of which considerably aggravate the danger of war in Europe.

The W.F.T.U., its affiliated National Centres and the workers of the whole world have always expressed their support and sympathy for the cause of the workers and people of Spain. They reiterate their solidarity with the present struggle for the liquidation of Franco's fascist regime, and against the deterioration of the living conditions of the working people and against spreading unemployment.

The General Council of the W.F.T.U. is confident that the united struggle of the workers and people of Spain will, with international aid and solidarity, achieve their economic and social demands and put an end to the Franco dictatorship.

Peking, June 8, 1960.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

11th SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

(Peking, June 5 - 8, 1960)

DRAFT

DECLARATION

concerning the executions and arrests of
Iranian workers and patriots

Since 1959 there has been a reign of terror in Iran.

The large-scale strike of 30,000 brickworkers in Teheran last summer and the powerful student demonstrations in the Iranian capital last January were bloodily put down by the military armed forces and American imperialism.

On May 4, 1960, the Iranian Government ordered the execution in Tabriz, provincial capital of Azerbaijan, of five Iranian patriots: Javad Farougui, Hassan Zehtab, Kosrow Azari, Ali Azim Zadeh and Ayouli Klantzi. Moreover, sentences ranging from ten years' imprisonment to forced labour for life were passed on seventeen patriots and workers, including one woman. They were condemned by a military tribunal which met behind closed doors in a hasty session which completely disregarded the principles of judicial procedure.

Frightened by the popular demonstrations in Turkey, the Iranian Government ordered a further wave of arrests of Iranian patriots of whom four, Bolourian, Youssafi, Chariat and Gassembou, have just been condemned to death.

The General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions expresses its deep solidarity with the workers and the Iranian people, and protests vigorously against the repressive measures of the Government of that country; it demands that the executions of the condemned **be not** carried out, that an end **be** put to the reign of terror and the imprisoned patriots set free.

At the same time it calls upon all the trade union organisations and upon workers of every opinion and affiliation, to strengthen their support of the workers and people of Iran in their legitimate struggle.

Peking, June 8, 1960.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

21st Session of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(Peking, May 29, 1960)

DRAFT

DECISION

At the request of several National Centres, and considering the numerous tasks of a national and international nature which confront the trade union movement during the present period, the Executive Committee has decided to postpone until the Fifth World Trade Union Congress the holding of a World Trade Union Conference for the Expansion of Economic and Trade Relations Between all Countries.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

21st SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE W.F.T.U.

(Peking, May 29, 1960)

DRAFT

DECISION

On the affiliation of Unions of Workers in Credit Establishments, Banks and Social Insurance Companies with the Trade Unions International of Public and Allied Employees.

After giving consideration to applications by unions of workers in credit establishments, banks and social insurance companies to affiliate with one of the existing Trade Unions Internationals, and in view of the fact that, generally speaking, the living and working conditions and the economic and social demands of workers in credit establishments, banks and social insurance companies in the capitalist countries mostly conform with those of workers in the public service,

The Executive Committee of the W.F.T.U. resolves to affiliate the unions of workers in credit establishments, banks and social insurance companies with the Trade Unions International of Public and Allied Employees.

.....oOo.....

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

21st SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Peking, May 29, 1960)

DRAFT

DECISION

On the proposal of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, the Executive Committee has decided to appoint Brother Kang Yong Ho as a regular member of the Executive Committee, replacing Brother Tong Hsin.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

21st SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Peking, May 29, 1960)

DRAFT

DECISION

The 21st session of the Executive Committee has decided to appoint as regular member of the W.F.T.U. Executive Committee, Brother Todor PRACHOV, President of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Trade Unions, who is at present an alternate member of the Executive Committee.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

21st SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(Peking, May 29, 1960)

DRAFT

DECISION

On the proposal of the General Federation of Korean Workers, the Executive Committee has decided to appoint Brother LI HYO SOON as a regular member of the Executive Committee, replacing Brother HAN SANG DOU.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

21st SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Peking, May 29, 1960)

DRAFT

A G E N D A

- Procedure of the 11th session of the W.F.T.U. General Council.
- *Various*

.....oOo.....

Session of the Executive Bureau of the WFTU

Peking, 4 June 1960

D R A F T

A G E N D A

Study of the reports on the first and second items on the agenda of the XIth Session of the General Council.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

21st SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE W.F.T.U.

(Peking, May 29, 1960)

PROPOSAL

concerning the affiliation of Unions of Workers in Credit Establishments, Banks and Social Insurance Companies to the T.U.I. of Public and Allied Employees.

After the 3rd World Trade Union Congress, unions of workers in credit establishments, banks and insurance companies both in the socialist and capitalist countries have on several occasions approached the Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. and of the Trade Unions Internationals of Public and Allied Employees and of Workers in Commerce with the request to discuss their international activity and, as a result, to form a Trade Unions International or enable them to affiliate with either of the two T.U.I.s.

At the Trade Conferences of the Trade Unions International of Public and Allied Employees and of Workers in Commerce, the representatives of workers in credit establishments, banks and social insurance companies put forward recommendations, asking the two T.U.I.s concerned and the W.F.T.U. Secretariat to examine the question of their affiliation.

Several unions are already in touch with the Trade Unions International of Workers in Commerce and with the Trade Unions International of Public and Allied Employees.

There are, of course, countries where bank employees belong to the same union as workers in commerce. Then there are others where they are members of the same union as public service employees.

In order to solve this problem, the W.F.T.U. Secretariat has called a meeting at its headquarters attended by members of the Secretariat of the Trade Unions International of Workers in Commerce and of the Trade Unions International of Public and Allied Employees. After a thorough discussion of the various aspects of the problem, the participants agreed that, in general, living and working conditions and economic and social demands of workers in credit establishments, banks and social insurance companies in capitalist countries resembled much more those of public and allied employees than those of workers in commerce. That is why they agreed to propose to the W.F.T.U. Secretariat that unions of workers in credit establishments, banks and social insurance companies should be allowed to affiliate with the Trade Unions International of Public and Allied Employees.

The W.F.T.U. Secretariat has discussed the problem and has expressed a favourable opinion on the matter. It proposes that the Executive Committee should accept the proposal.

.....oOo.....

- 8 JUN 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

June 1, 1960.

LOUIS SAILLANT INTERVIEWED BY THE SOVIET NEWSPAPER "TRUD"

The journal of the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions, "TRUD", published an interview with Louis SAILLANT, General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions, under the title "We must redouble our efforts in the struggle for Peace".

"Some days ago I visited the Central Park of Culture and Rest in Moscow and saw there an exhibition of factual evidence and documentary proof of the intrusion of an American plane over Soviet territory. The exhibition illustrated the low and despicable methods used by the American aggressors, the enemies of peace and of the relaxing of international tension."

"At this moment public opinion all over the world is condemning this activity of aggressive circles in the U.S."

This was said by Louis SAILLANT, the General Secretary of the W.F.T.U., at the beginning of an interview given to J. Shevtchenko and J. Kornilov, correspondents of the trade union newspaper, TRUD, during his few days stay in Moscow while on his way to the 11th session of the General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions in Peking.

Continuing, Louis SAILLANT said, "The General Council which will examine the problems, tasks and activities of the trade union movement in the present international situation, without doubt, cannot overlook the aggressive actions of the American militarists. The whole world knows what a big and important part the Summit Conference was to have played in the relaxation of international tension. The whole world was waiting impatiently for the meeting of the "Four Powers" in Paris. However, reactionary forces in the U.S.A., and in particular in the Pentagon, who were afraid that the conference may have produced favourable results, did everything possible to wreck the meeting and so prevent the conclusion of any agreement. It is for this reason that they commit acts of provocation. They sent a military espionage plane into the air space of the U.S.S.R. This provocation took place on May Day - the day of festival for international workers' solidarity."

"After the plane was brought down, the U.S.A. refused to condemn the provocative act of their military air force or to punish those directly responsible for this violation of the frontiers of the U.S.S.R., or to give a guarantee that such acts would not be repeated in the future. Leading circles in America are entirely responsible for the fact that the Summit Conference did not take place. The W.F.T.U. in the name of its 100 million affiliated members protests strongly against the provocative actions of the American aggressors. The imperialists may endeavour

to turn back the wheel of history, they may try in vain to undermine the great cause of peace and intimidate the peoples with provocations and blackmail, but such attempts are doomed to failure."

"A particular characteristic of our age is that the anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist sphere of the world is increasing and becoming stronger every day. The great anti-imperialist alliance of the peoples is gathering strength with the growing adherence of millions of new people and thereby adding an ever increasing contribution to the noble cause of maintaining and strengthening peace throughout the world."

"We must always remember the danger and obstacles which still exist for the workers. These dangers lie in the power and intrigues of the monopolist groups which direct and lead the economic life of the capitalist countries. These dangers are part of the cold war policy and the senseless arms race pursued by aggressive imperialist circles."

"Contrary to the Potsdam agreement, the high priests of N.A.T.O. have helped the West German trusts - the sponsors of Hitlerism - to re-establish their power. The policy of the Adenauer government shows once more that the aggressive forces are endeavouring to take hold and dictate their terms. Is it not clear that under such conditions the signing of a peace treaty with Germany and the clearing up of the dangerous situation that exists in West-Berlin are absolutely necessary? Yes, of course!"

"The situation in Asia is full of dangers. American imperialism is in control of the military bases established there. Despite the wishes of the workers and trade unions of Japan, whose courageous struggle the W.F.T.U. salutes, the government of the U.S.A. has concluded anew an aggressive Japanese-American Security Treaty with the Japanese militarists. Sabotaging the Korean armistice agreement, the United States leaders are expanding their occupation forces in South Korea and transforming this area into an area for atomic experiments and a base for American rockets."

Louis Saillant then dwelt on the problem of disarmament. He recalled that when the Soviet Union, shortly after the discussions at Camp David, took the decision to make a further reduction in its military forces, the United States Government endeavoured to get Congress to pass an even larger military budget. Aggressive imperialist circles in the Western powers and particularly those in the United States are continuing with the arms race. They practice a policy of delays and manoeuvres aimed at dragging out and putting off negotiations on disarmament and the ending of nuclear tests. All this underlines the need to search more intensively for a solution to the key problem of our age - universal and complete disarmament. Disarmament would enable enormous sums to be devoted to satisfying the workers' economic and social claims and to aiding the under-developed countries. The struggle for peace and disarmament is the concern of all workers and trade unions. The workers must redouble their efforts in the struggle for peace.

"The trade unions carry out their duty by consistently drawing the attention of the working class to the consequences

of the policy of the arms race. It is sufficient to say that between 1949 and 1959 the countries that are members of the N.A.T.O. allocated for military purpose 80% of the sum which was spent by the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo axis during the entire period of the Second World War. The war budgets for 1960 have increased in nearly all the western countries.

"The bourgeois press", went on Louis Saillant, "talks a lot about the economic healthiness of capitalism, yet, already by the end of 1959, despite the "economic recovery" so widely acclaimed by the bourgeoisie, unused productive capacity remained at 10-15% in the U.S.A., 5-10% in Great Britain and more than 5% in Sweden."

Louis Saillant pointed out that in many countries in recent years there could be seen a rise in the prices of goods of prime necessity. Similarly large sections of workers in the capitalist states, young workers, agricultural workers and American negroes, continue to suffer discrimination where wages are concerned. Womens wages are also the subject of shameful discrimination. This is another slice out of the workers' budgets. But the worker is not only directly exploited in his work, he also has to part with a growing proportion of his meagre earnings to the bourgeoisie in the form of taxes. In the United States, Great Britain and France the total taxes taken in 1959 were nine times higher than in 1939.

"As far as employment is concerned", said Louis Saillant, "we must remember that unemployment which reached a very high level in 1958, continues to be high despite a certain improvement in the last two years. According to official statistics, eight million workers in the ten largest capitalist countries were without work last year, only one million less than in 1958, the year of the crisis. The economic recovery which followed the crisis is not accompanied by a corresponding recovery in the employment situation. This is what some people in France call "unemployment in expansion", a very curious expansion which necessitates 4,100,000 "official" unemployed in America and 1,900,000 in Italy. The workers in the capitalist countries are waging a tough struggle for their rights and for a better life. In the U.S.A. the number of workers on strike increased from 1,390,000 in 1957 to 1,895,000 in the year just passed. But the number of their days on strike increased significantly. In 1958, each worker who took part in a strike action stayed out on an average of 36 days. This is the greatest length for 25 years.

In other countries, there are similar striking examples. Workers are demanding increased wages and pension benefits, an increase in basic wages and the ending of discrimination in the wages of women and young workers. Also being demanded are a reduction in the hours of work, without reduction in wages, a 40 hour week and an increase in the amount and duration of family allowances.

During some general strikes, in particular during the powerful campaigns of the workers in Latin America, France and Italy, united action has been consolidated and the tendency towards regional trade union unity strengthened. In the struggle for peace and for the ending of nuclear tests we find alongside all the organisations affiliated to the I.F.T.U., independent organisations such as the International Longshoremens Union on the West Coast of the United

States, C.U.T.C.h. of Chile, SOHYO of Japan, the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, U.G.T.A.N. and the Moroccan Labour Union which conducted a vigorous campaign against the French atomic tests.

In the I.C.F.T.U. itself, the national centres of Canada, Great Britain, Belgium and Australia have supported the ending of nuclear tests. During the Spring of 1960, many organisations of the most important industries supported the campaign for unilateral disarmament in Great Britain against the wishes of the leadership of the Labour movement. Even in the A.F.L. - C.I.O., where the leaders give practical support to the arms race, certain new trends are beginning to appear.

Finally, a number of European trade union organisations, affiliated to the I.C.F.T.U., have with some anxiety been forced to admit that the re-armament of Western Germany is proceeding. The powerful armament concerns in Eastern Germany are developing and becoming stronger. Millions of working people affiliated to unions in the socialist countries of Europe are, in the same way as those in Belgium, France, Italy and Britain, demanding a peaceful solution to the German problem.

The question of strengthening united action is the key question with which the whole trade union movement is faced. The positions of the different trade union organisations are considerably closer to each other as far as important current questions are concerned. International working class solidarity is growing, as well as contacts between unions that were formerly separated from each other. This is a true and positive feature.

The responsibilities that fall on the trade union movement require that we spare no effort to strengthen still more national and international united action by the workers and trade unions. Is it not obvious that if the W.F.T.U., the I.C.F.T.U. and the independent organisations united their efforts, successes in the fight for peace, for a better life and against colonialism would come sooner. No trade union organisation that desires to fulfil its tasks can avoid these vital questions. But if we are not to leave existing possibilities unexplored, all workers must realize and take into account what value contacts and co-operation can have, either now or in the future, between all trade union organisations, and fundamentally between the W.F.T.U. and the I.C.F.T.U.

The leadership of the I.C.F.T.U. has always systematically opposed contacts and any forms of unity. But it is becoming less and less successful in its attempts to prevent co-operation and such contacts since the desire for peace and unity on the part of the workers is growing.

"The task of re-establishing international trade union unity is enormous and demands a great deal of foresight, patience, initiative, vigilance and above all loyalty to the workers of the whole world."

Louis Saillant concluded with these words: "Unity is possible and necessary; in unity and solidarity lies the guarantee of further successes of the trade unions in the struggle for peace, disarmament and a better life for the workers throughout the world."

WFTU GENERAL COUNCIL SESSION OPENS IN PEKINGGrishin Urges Greater Workers' Mobilisation for Disarmament

PEKING, 5.6.60. (TASS).-- The 11th session of the General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) opened here on June 5. It is attended by representatives of over 60 countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America, including a delegation of the Soviet trade unions led by the Chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions V.V. Grishin. The session's agenda comprises three items:

1. Development of the international situation, the activities and tasks of the trade union movement at the current stage;
2. Contribution of trade unions to the fight against colonialism;
3. Financial matters and report of the auditors.

The opening speech was made by the WFTU President Agostino Novella, General Secretary of the Italian General Confederation of Labour.

Li Tse-po, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese National Trade Union Federation, greeted the session in the name of the Chinese trade unions and the working class of the PRC.

The report on the first item, "Development of the international situation, the activities and tasks of the trade union movement at the current stage" by the WFTU Secretary General Louis Saillant was read out by WFTU Secretary Marcel Bras.

At the afternoon meeting WFTU Secretary Ibrahim Zahariya made the report on the second item of the agenda, "The contribution of trade unions to the struggle against colonialism".

Speaking in the debate on the reports, V.V. Grishin, head of the Soviet delegation, said that the questions which are being discussed at the current session of the General Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions are of great importance for the workers and trade unions of all countries. In the obtaining situation, the struggle to preserve and consolidate peace is a problem of paramount importance which agitates the ordinary people in all countries.

The Soviet Union, the socialist countries, are fighting ceaselessly to prevent a new war, for the relaxation of international tension, Grishin continued. The consistently peaceful policy of the Soviet Union and all socialist countries reflects the very essence of the socialist system in which the power belongs to the working people who are vitally interested in peace. Our people devote all their efforts to peaceful creative labour, Grishin declared.

Thanks to fraternal co-operation and mutual assistance, Grishin said, all socialist countries are speeding up the rate of their economic development and scoring ever new successes in raising the living standards of the people. In 1965, the socialist camp will account for over a half of the world's industrial output,

...and this

and this will create pre-requisites for excluding world war from the life of society.

On June 2, this year, Grishin continued, the Soviet Government appealed to the governments of all countries to consider without delay and sign an agreement on general and complete disarmament.

Striving for early agreement on this question and taking account of the view of some states that disarmament should begin with the abolition of the means of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons' delivery, the Soviet Government has proposed to all countries to reach agreement on starting the process of general and complete disarmament with the prohibition and destruction under international control, already at the first stage, of all means of weapons' delivery, with the simultaneous liquidation of military bases on foreign territories. The new Soviet proposals on general and complete disarmament are an important step toward the liquidation of international tension. There is no doubt that they will meet with the approval and support of all the peace-loving nations. Grishin expressed confidence that the WFTU and all affiliated trade unions would make extensive arrangements for explaining the new Soviet proposals, and intensify the mobilization of workers for the realization of general and complete disarmament.

There is no doubt, Grishin concluded, that the World Federation of Trade Unions, marching in the van of the progressive forces in the international trade union movement, and all the unions affiliated with it, will score new successes in rallying the workers in the mighty, invincible front of struggle against imperialism, for peace among the nations.

WORLD PEACE COUNCIL BUREAU TO MEET IN JULY

LONDON, 4.6.60. (TASS).-- A statement issued today by John Bernal, Chairman of the Presidential Committee of the World Peace Council, says that the collapse of the summit conference lays "heavy responsibilities and tasks" on all the forces of peace. They need, Professor Bernal writes, to mobilize the peoples to bring the maximum pressure to bear on the governments so that conditions favouring an early meeting of the great powers may be created. A great renewed effort is called for to ensure that the nuclear test ban discussions in Geneva reach an early and positive conclusion and that significant progress is made in the 10-Nation Disarmament Committee. "The arms race", Bernal writes, "must be ended and peaceful co-existence must become the normal world climate".

For all these reasons, the statement says, it has been decided to call a meeting of the Bureau of the World Peace Council from July 9 to 11.

18 JAN 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

January 11, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE

A SWEDISH WORKER'S OPINION ON THE TRADE UNION SUMMIT

Gösta NILSSON, Swedish metal worker and member of the Swedish Metalworkers' trade union (I.C.F.T.U.) of Göteborg, today told the W.F.T.U. radio reporter his views about international trade union unity and the tasks of the Swedish trade union movement in this connection:

"The year 1959 will go down in history as a year marked by the relaxation of international tension. We still have to go a long way before confidence is restored between the nations and the ice of the cold war thaws completely. But the signal has now been given for a Summit Conference and people all over the world place great hopes in the forthcoming talks between the Heads of the Big Powers.

"The trade union movement which is basically international and for peace, has every reason to welcome this particular development. And the trade unions should do their best to encourage and hasten these efforts to reduce existing friction between the power blocs and to create a sounder international climate. Has anyone made such efforts?

"In the case of the W.F.T.U. we can say YES. The W.F.T.U. takes an active share in the campaign to preserve peace. The I.C.F.T.U., on the other hand, which includes the trade unions in the United States, Britain and the Scandinavian countries, has not committed itself on this vital issue. This organisation has made no attempt whatsoever to play its part in the present efforts to bring about a thaw.

"But this does not mean that nothing at all was done by that side. When the first serious cracks appeared in the ice as a result of the Soviet Premier's visit to the United States, the leaders of the AFL-CIO made their appearance on the scene. Their intention was not to hail Mr. Khrushchov's visit and to encourage better relations between the American and Soviet statesmen. On the contrary, the AFL-CIO leaders acted as though they were anxious to prevent a possible rapprochement, come what may.

"How are we to understand the American trade union leaders' attitude? Are we to assume that the AFL-CIO leaders who also hold top-ranking posts in the I.C.F.T.U., do not want to end the cold war? Or are we to understand that they have other

and more reliable ways of obtaining the same objective? One can't help wondering what these ways are.

"Maybe the leaders of the AFL-CIO and the other I.C.F.T.U. leaders do not think in such terms. It may be that they are looking at all events and developments from a strictly narrow "trade union" angle. We all know that they are conducting their own cold war at trade union level, with the W.F.T.U. as their greatest adversary.

"If they view the world from the deep trenches of this war, Khrushchov's visit to the United States must naturally have appeared to them as an ill-intended and hostile move.

"The I.C.F.T.U. is obviously not of the opinion that it is essential to end the war in the trade unions.

"The Resolutions adopted by its recent Congress do not give the impression that this organisation understands that under the present circumstances it is impossible to maintain this division and mistrust within the trade union movement, just as it is impossible for countries to continue the arms race for ever. The members of unions belonging to the I.C.F.T.U. who feel a spirit of responsibility are distressed to find that the I.C.F.T.U. leadership does not seem prepared to change its fundamental attitude to the problem of peace and international trade union unity.

"The international trade union organisations would do a great service to the cause of peace if they were to bury the hatchet. Everyone knows that it is not easy to settle the disputes between the I.C.F.T.U. and the W.F.T.U. But it should, nevertheless, be possible to create an atmosphere of greater tolerance. The W.F.T.U. has made efforts to bring about such a reconciliation. The leaders of the I.C.F.T.U. should now seize this opportunity and meet the W.F.T.U. halfway.

"The Swedish trade union movement which is fortunately united nationally, should make a special effort in order to break down the walls separating the international trade union movement. The fact that the President of the Swedish Confederation of Trade Unions is also the President of the I.C.F.T.U. seems to indicate that this is possible. The Swedish trade union movement should make it its duty to fight for international trade union unity."

18 JAN 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

January 14, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE

In an interview on the workers' struggles in 1959 and on prospects for 1960, Germaine GUILLE, Secretary of the C.G.T., states:

"A year has just passed, another is beginning, long live the New Year.

For the workers in the capitalist countries, 1959 was a year of powerful actions against the employers exploiting them. For the workers still suffering under the yoke of colonialism and fighting for national independence it was a year of bitter and tireless battles, frequently accompanied by bloodshed of the martyrs. For the workers in the socialist countries, 1959 was a year marked by magnificent achievements and far-reaching progress in all scientific, economic and social activity and the construction of socialism, which guarantees happiness and peace.

In France, 1959 opened new prospects for the working class. Far from being dejected by attacks from the reactionaries and De Gaulle's authorities, the workers have risen again and gone over to the offensive against those who exploit them. By uniting their efforts, they were frequently able to win appreciable successes and force the employers and governments to retreat. The working class has been fighting both for better working and living conditions and for peace in Algeria, a lessening in international tension and friendship between the peoples.

At the beginning of the New Year the workers and peoples are filled with great hope which they place in the forthcoming Summit Talks and universal and complete disarmament. This could make an ancient dream of mankind reality.

The Soviet Government offers such a prospect to the world. The beginning of the thaw brought about by the meeting between Chairman Khrushchov and President Eisenhower answers the deep aspirations of our working class.

In a few weeks, the Premier of the Soviet Union will visit France. The overwhelming majority of all French workers are looking forward to this visit. They take this visit as a victory for the forces of peace in the world and as providing solid ground for a speedy and definite relaxation in international tension. They are going to welcome Nikita Khrushchov both as the most fervent ambassador of peace and as the representative of the workers and people of the Soviet Union who are creating a new life, a life eagerly desired by the workers still exploited by capitalism and imperialism, a life they themselves are fighting for.

At the beginning of 1960 the workers of our country, like those throughout the world are inspired by a great hope of peace.

May the New Year bring happiness, the respect of the people's freedom and independence, peace and friendship between the people. This is our most ardent wish.

The international working class as a consistent force of peace, and the trade unions as organisations of the class struggle can play a decisive role in bringing this about. This is the task the World Federation of Trade Unions has set itself at the 20th session of its Executive Committee, and the C.G.T., its unions and the French workers are going to make an even stronger effort to fulfil it.

Side by side with the international working class and all peace-loving peoples, we shall force the remaining supporters of the cold war to retreat and pave the road towards universal and complete disarmament, a better life, freedom and peace."

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29 JAN 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

January 23, 1960.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

STATEMENT BY THE W.F.T.U. AGAINST THE ANTI-SEMITIC DEMONSTRATIONS AND NAZI ACTIVITIES

The revival of anti-semitic and nazi activities originating in the German Federal Republic and again making their striking and simultaneous appearance in a number of West European and American countries, are arousing great concern among workers and democrats throughout the world.

Such disturbances are intolerable barely fifteen years after the military defeat of the nazis and the universal condemnation of racism advocated by Hitler which resulted in the indiscriminate massacre and extermination of thousands of Jews, patriots and democrats, men, women and children in most ^{European} countries. Public opinion and, especially the workers, is rightly indignant.

In the certain belief that it is expressing the feelings of the working class, the W.F.T.U. protests most energetically against these shameful demonstrations of nazism and racism and calls on all the workers and trade unions to increase their united struggle against the rebirth of fascism and against its causes.

In Federal Germany, which today has a strong army equipped with ultra-modern weapons, denazification has remained an empty promise, despite all solemn declarations and pledges.

Thousands of nazis and war criminals, former supporters of the Hitler régime, hold key positions in the army, the police, the judiciary, the schools and universities, the administration and even in the government. Neo-nazi and militarist organisations are given full recognition and even encouraged, while working class and democratic organisations are banned, trade unionists, defenders of peace, communist and socialist leaders are tried and imprisoned by courts headed by former nazis.

The German militarists and reactionaries are alarmed by the new atmosphere of a relaxation in international tension and the prospects the forthcoming Summit Conference may open along the road to universal disarmament and peace.

Under these circumstances, the nazi demonstrations in Germany and elsewhere aim at blocking this road with new obstacles, and opposing understanding and co-operation among the people in every possible way.

Therefore, the W.F.T.U., true to the objectives outlined fifteen years ago by the First World Trade Union Conference in London (February, 1945), reaffirms that the struggle "for the extermination of all fascist forms of government and every manifestation of fascism, under whatever form it operates and by whatever name it is known" is one of the major tasks of the international working class in the struggle for democracy and the preservation of peace.

The W.F.T.U. hails the active participation of the workers and of many trade unions in the powerful demonstrations organised in various countries to voice the indignant protest of the mass of the people.

It calls on all the trade unions and workers to increase their vigilance and action to prevent the rebirth of nazism and all demonstrations of racism.

The W.F.T.U. gives its complete support to the efforts made by the F.D.G.B. against the revival of nazism in West Germany.

It insists upon the importance of realising a united working class and trade union front in this essential and urgent battle. It again points out the heavy responsibility falling to the trade union leaders of the D.G.B. in Federal Germany, if in the face of this upsurge of nazism and militarism in their country, accompanied by measures directed against the workers, they were to persist in their opposition to contacts with the F.D.G.B. in the German Democratic Republic.

Unity of action among the workers and trade unions of the whole of Germany which is fully endorsed by the workers of the whole world, is today more essential than ever before.

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U.

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

January 23, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE

Louis SAILLIANT, General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions, interviewed on the forthcoming tests of the French atom bomb in the Sahara, made the following statement:-

The World Federation of Trade Unions, certain that it is speaking for all trade unions throughout the world, for the workers and for many sections of the population, regards the decision by the French Government to drop an atom bomb in the Sahara as a particularly striking anachronism.

For the peoples throughout the world, for the peoples of Africa and Europe as well as for the people of France and all countries bordering on the Sahara, the cardinal problem of the moment is not the partial testing of an atom bomb, but universal disarmament.

Is the test the French Government is planning to carry out in the Sahara of a technical nature? It is a scientific project? We do not believe the French Government looks at its test from this angle, because technically speaking, this would be out of date, and scientifically speaking, this test would really prejudice France's international authority because it is so far behind the times.

The test is, therefore, a political act and this makes it incomprehensible.

The overwhelming majority of the people of Africa and Europe are against this test.

Negotiations are in progress between the representatives of the Republic of Mali and of the French Government in order to discuss the future importance of the State of Mali. It would be good if during these negotiations, the French Government were to ask its partners what the people in the countries bordering on the

Sahara think of the testing of an atom bomb in a territory so remote from France, but so close to the State with whom they are negotiating. The French Government would realise that it is encountering an enormous wave of unpopularity throughout Africa. And is this desirable under the present circumstances?

A few days ago, our World Federation of Trade Unions sent a telegram to Mr. Dag HAMMARSKJÖELD, General Secretary of the United Nations, asking him to remind the French Government of the decisions, discussions and conclusions at the U.N. General Assembly.

The World Federation of Trade Unions hopes that the African peoples will not hold the French workers and people responsible if the atom bomb is dropped in the Sahara nevertheless.

I am saying this as General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions and because I want to see unity between the workers of Africa and Europe. I am also saying this as a French citizen, fully aware that the French working class and people are not to blame for the French Government's intention.

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- 1 FEB 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

~~27th January, 1960.~~

PRESS RELEASE

Marcel BRAS, Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions, today made a statement on the anti-semitic and nazi activities which are occurring in a certain number of countries in an interview with the W.F.T.U. radio reporter, excerpts from which we give below:

"The World Federation of Trade Unions could not remain indifferent to the alarming events which occurred in Federal Germany and in several countries of Europe, in America and elsewhere in the world.

It should be remembered that the World Federation of Trade Unions was born of the anti-fascist struggle in 1945. Unity among the workers and trade unions of the whole world was established in the struggle against nazism, in the struggle for the preservation of peace and in the struggle for the improvement of the workers' living conditions. It should be remembered that one of the fundamental aims of the W.F.T.U. is anchored in the preamble to its Constitution: the struggle for the extermination of **fascism**, under whatever form it operates and by whatever name it may be known.

Since 1945, the governments of the western countries, instead of waging a consistent struggle against nazism, and instead of applying the agreements concluded at the end of the war, did their best to prevent the denazification of Federal Germany; they encouraged the revival of German militarism and glorified the spirit of the Great Reich among the youth. The workers are indignant at these nazi and anti-semitic outrages, and in certain countries, especially in Great Britain, Belgium and France they took part in various popular demonstrations to express their resentment and indignation. Even in Federal Germany indignant workers have been demonstrating their opposition to such nazi activities.

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In a number of unequivocal statements the trade unions of the D.G.B. in the Federal Republic and even their leaders have expressed their opposition to these outrages. However, it must be pointed out that their deeds do not tally with their statements, because while they declare their opposition to such activities, it is equally true that they are refusing unity which is essential and which would bring the nazi organisations to reason. They are particularly opposed to contacts with the F.D.G.B. - the trade unions of the German Democratic Republic - which is making repeated proposals for unity of action in order to crush all fascist organisations and prevent the revival of fascism and militarism in Federal Germany. This reveals an inconsistent attitude on the part of the D.G.B. leaders and it should be remembered that in 1933 it was the rift among the workers which allowed Hitler to seize power. Today we must do everything possible to establish unity among the working class not only throughout Germany, but also among all the trade unions, whether they belong to the World Federation of Trade Unions or to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, because all the workers in these organisations are anxious to bring about a greater relaxation in international tension and to work for the preservation of peace. To achieve this, the nazi and racist ideas which are spreading today, must be stopped once and for all.

The World Federation of Trade Unions will do all in its power to establish this unity."

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29 JAN 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

On January 23, the Miners' Trade Unions International sent the following telegram to S.A.C.T.U., P.Box 6731, JOHANNESBURG (Union of South Africa).

The Miners' Trade Unions International (Trade Department of the .F.T.U.) is greatly distressed by the appalling disaster in the Clydesdale Mine at Coalbrook threatening the lives of more than 500 miners. Hopes that relentless efforts by rescue squads will prevent the miners' death. Pays homage to the terrible suffering of these new victims of colonial and capitalist exploitation. Conveys sincere and brotherly solidarity to families of threatened miners and to all South African miners so bitterly tried. Miners' T.U.I. recalls that it has always given attention to the miners' safety as proved by recent international conference held in Moscow end October 1959 which energetically condemned the extremely bad living, working and safety conditions prevalent in particular in countries suffering under the yoke of colonialism and racism. Miners' T.U.I. calls on the miners of the world to express their active and united solidarity with their South African brothers to help them during the present catastrophe and to assist them to obtain greater safety, a substantial improvement in their conditions and in their struggle for genuine trade union and democratic rights.

Victorin Duguet

General Secretary.

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

February 1, 1960.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

THE W.F.T.U. PROTESTS TO GREEK GOVERNMENT AGAINST REPEATED VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION AND DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. has sent a telegram of protest to the Greek Premier, Mr. CARAMANLIS, again deploring the arbitrary proceedings instituted against George STERGIU, a well-known veteran trade unionist, suffering from a serious lung disease. The telegram further protests against his deportation ordered by a purely administrative decision.

These proceedings add to the increasingly violent repressive measures which the Greek Government is using against trade union members and democrats, several of whom have been in prison for many years.

Certain in the belief of conveying the strong feelings of all the workers, the telegram concludes, we demand that these measures are lifted immediately and that the basic principles of trade union and democratic freedom are finally respected in Greece.

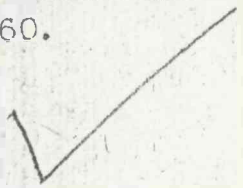
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February 1, 1960.

No. 128.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

February 19, 1960.



PRESS RELEASE No.110

SADAMU KOGA, General Secretary of the Japan Coal Mine Workers' Union interviewed by a W.F.T.U. reporter on the recent mining disasters in Japan, made the following statement:

"Let me give some figures, first of all, to make you understand about the frequency and seriousness of accidents in Japanese collieries. Some 90 persons were killed during the past 5 weeks; and more than 150 miners lost their lives in the past few months. The figure includes the number of the dead which has not yet been taken into statistics.

"In December last year, 7 persons were killed and 21 were severely injured by the gas explosion at Yamano Colliery in Kyushu; 23 miners were exploded to death and 20 men injured at Shinnyu Mine, also in Kyushu.

"At Shoro Colliery, Hokkaido, the wire rope for the waggon was down, which put 3 miners to death; and in the same month, 3 men were killed at Kamui and Oyubari due to falls of roof in the mines.

"During the month of January, 4 miners died at Horonai, Hokkaido, due to an accident of the shaft lift, and in February, gas exploded in Yubari, Hokkaido, and 38 men were killed. Five persons of them are still buried underneath the ground.

"Yesterday, on February 3, 4 miners were buried alive as the roof of the mine fell at Akana and two of them died.

"The Japan Coal Mine Workers' Union (Tanro) lodged a fierce protest to the Government and employers immediately after the big gas explosions in December and January. Miners throughout the country resorted to fierce protest actions including strikes.

"As soon as the Union was informed of an explosion at Yubari Mine on February 1, it issued a statement of protest addressed to the Government and employers.

"In the recent years, coalmine capitalists are frantically trying to cut down the price of coal to win the competition with heavy oil, whose demand is in increase. For this purpose, they are lowering the personnel expenditure by reducing the number of miners, on one hand, and reducing the expense necessary for the safety of coalmines, on the other. These are the steps taken by the companies to "rationalize" coalmine industry.

"It is plain as daylight that the recent accidents in mines are resulted from such anti-labor policies of the coal capitalists. Further, although a high official of the Safety Bureau of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry shifted the Government's responsibility to the intolerable measures taken by coalmine capitalists who are utterly neglecting safety measures to rationalize the industry, the Government must be severely accused for its irresponsibility in efficient supervision on the safety of collieries.

"Under the slogan of "Defend the lives of miners!", the Japan Coal Mine Workers' Union will fight this Spring against the coalmine employers who make light of the safety of coalmines. The union hopes that a powerful protest movement will be organised uniting the voices of all the workers of the country.

"Japanese coalminer's were enraged to hear the ruling of acquittal of the defendants who are responsible for the terrible accident at Marcinelle.

"We are also worried about the result of the accident which happened to a mine in South Africa two weeks ago. We are particularly outraged with the fact that the number of the black people killed by the accident has yet been unknown. That is nothing but a racial discrimination, and we Japanese miners can never allow such to happen to brother miners of the world."

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

March 5, 1960.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

TELEGRAM FROM THE W.F.T.U. TO THE MOROCCAN LABOUR UNION EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY ON THE OCCASION OF THE TERRIBLE DISASTER AT AGUADIR

March 2, 1960. M. MAHJOU BEN SEDDIK - Moroccan Labour Union -
222, Avenue Armee Royale, CASABLANCA, Morocco.

Deeply moved by the terrible disaster which has just plunged your country into mourning, the World Federation of Trade Unions conveys its deepest sympathy to the people and workers of Morocco. The W.F.T.U. assures them of its firm solidarity and fraternity. In order to help ease in some way the sufferings of the victims and their families the International Solidarity Fund of the W.F.T.U. is putting 1,000 pounds sterling at your disposal.

THE W.F.T.U. SECRETARIAT

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21 MAR 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

March 17, 1960.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE No.132

ACQUITTAL FOR THE PEACE BREAKERS TRIED

BY THE DUSSELDORF TRIBUNAL

Louis SAILLANT, General Secretary of the W.F.T.U. has sent the following telegram to the Fourth Chamber of summary jurisdiction of the Dusseldorf Tribunal:

"The proceedings against democrats from Federal Germany whose only crime is that they wanted to preserve peace, has caused a great stir which was expressed by world public opinion. Now that the Tribunal will be called upon to pronounce a verdict to the world, the World Federation of Trade Unions wishes to convey to you the feelings of the 101 million workers it represents. By pronouncing a verdict of not guilty you will prove to the world that in the German Federal Republic the right to free expression is enjoyed by all who work for peace, without distinction. A sentence would prove to international public opinion that this right does not exist in Federal Germany."

Published by the Press Dept.
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No.132

24 MAR 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

March 21, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE : No.121

Bert WYNN, Secretary of the Derbyshire Area of the National Union of Mineworkers of Great Britain (I.C.F.T.U.), made the following statement in an interview with the W.F.T.U. Radio reporter:-

"The formation of the World Federation of Trade Unions was hailed by myself as a very, very big step forward. It is not my job in this declaration to apportion the blame or the reasons why the split occurred in that particular organisation, only to say that it appeared to be mainly concerned with a question of the cold war rather than any specific issues connected with the organisation and its work, although obviously the question of the international situation at that time, was in fact, rife with the possibilities of intense controversy. Now I think a new situation has arisen in this respect. There is every possibility for the ending of the cold war, and the general attitude of the mass of the people is one demanding that the present unhealthy, dangerous situation should, in fact, end, and that the nations of the world find special accommodations to end the very explosive situation, and because of the success of the general demands of the people in this respect, a new start could be made as far as trade union unity is concerned. I have no specific proposals to make with regard to questions of organisation, but I think that there should be an end to these bans and prescriptions against any contacts between British trade unionists and trade unionists who, at the moment, are affiliated to the W.F.T.U.

"Secondly, I think there could be an examination of the basis of co-operation. Surely the economic situation is so

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serious, as far as we are concerned as miners, to warrant the possibility of discussing with the Polish miners and with the Czechoslovak miners and Hungarian miners and the miners of the Soviet Union, the internal situation as far as coal is concerned in Europe, and possibly contributing to a defence of the miners' standards and, of course, of the very difficult situation.

"Also on the question of the fight for peace, I think that the world trade unions could put a very big fight up for, and an insistence on, the Summit Meeting, and make a contribution on the question of disarmament.

"I think that all trade unionists are apprehensive at the very, very high level of armaments in the world, and that some of their dreams in regard to social services are being thwarted because of this very high level of expenditure. Surely, if the world trade unionists gave a lead on the question of disarmament, it would have a very, very big effect upon actions of Governments, and this could only be done by contact with those bodies which are affiliated to the W.F.T.U.

"It is along those lines that I think the progress could be made in this question on the unity of the trade unionists throughout the world. Obviously on the economic field, the backward countries, on the question of the colonial peoples, is a matter which impinges upon the very lives of trade unionists, other than the merely moral and political aspects of the colonial problems. A solution to this would be to the great advantage of British trade unionists and again this cannot be solved while there is a split in the world trade union movement and if there is success along these lines, then obviously organisation will follow."

28 MAR 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

March 22, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No. 122

In an interview on Nikita KHRUSHCHOV's visit to France, Gabriel GALLI, General Secretary of the National Independent Union of Survey Technicians and Office Staffs which has more than 3,000 members and represents 95% of all the workers in this branch, made the following statement:

"I think the visit is a good thing for peace, because I believe that the very personal and direct note which Premier KHRUSHCHOV has given these types of international meetings can help to bring about a solution to the problems facing mankind and remove the danger of a new world war. And besides, we must not forget that the Soviet people's struggle filled us with hope during the darkest moments of the nazi occupation. I, therefore, hope, Premier KHRUSHCHOV will be received in France with courtesy, sincerity and friendship. But I am sure this is the kind of reception he will receive and that our guest will go back with kind memories of France and her people.

"The material conditions and the security of the workers are linked with the situation at home and on the international scene which can both be influenced in a decisive manner by the action of the mass of the people. Why should Mr. KHRUSHCHOV's proposals on disarmament which he submitted to the United Nations not be taken up by the workers, why should we leave it up to some leaders?

"We think that the workers' organisations should have a say when economic policies are being shaped. So why should they not be allowed to have a say on the vital problem of a possible choice between war and peace?

"We are entitled to assume that what the workers have been saying on this subject has not been in vain. Today it is possible to look forward to the future and to the future of our children with far less fear than during the past few years. Can anyone claim that this is not as important as certain specific demands, social security for instance? This explains why we welcome the first signs of a lessening in international tension which appeared during the visit of the Soviet Premier to the United States. We maintain that discussions and efforts to bring about a co-existence between two different types of societies are much better than establishing the superiority of one or the other by the use of arms. We cannot but agree with the principle of peaceful economic competition between the two existing systems. We are certain that the workers can only benefit by such competition which alone will show which of the

two, socialism or capitalism, can guarantee the workers security of employment, better living conditions, greater social advantages, unlimited access to culture, and better promotion in all jobs and to responsible posts.

"The rulers of the United States as the leaders of the capitalist countries are proud that they have given the American people something which they themselves like to refer to in short as the civilisation of the refrigerator, of the automobile and of the easy chair, and of which they know the secret, which means undeniably high living standards for a considerable number of Americans. The leaders of the Soviet Union as the leaders of the socialist countries are also proud that they have encouraged a tempestuous expansion of education which today enables them to reap the fruits of their scientific successes. But it is also interesting to hear that this year the Soviet Union has begun to introduce a 7-hour day and 40-hour week for all workers and office staffs, that hours of work have been reduced to 35 a week for all more strenuous jobs and that as from 1965 the 35-hour 5-day week will gradually apply to all workers and office staffs, while wages will continue to rise and prices will drop."

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

March 22, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No.123

To mark Nikita KHRUSHCHOV's visit to France, the 700 workers and 75 foremen at the Mint have decided to strike a special medal in honour of the Soviet Premier. Here are statements by some of the workers in the undertaking on the subject:-

CHABRIANCHE; (Secretary of the C.G.T. Union): We make a very clear distinction between the Premier of a socialist country and the Premier of a capitalist country. In our undertaking there is a comparatively high ideological level and this prompts us to make this distinction. For example, we were extremely interested in the talks between President EISENHOWER and Premier KHRUSHCHOV at Camp David. The workers at the Mint have been waging a continuous battle for the preservation of peace, and they will continue to do so. This explains why they sincerely welcomed the invitation from the President of the French Republic to Nikita KHRUSHCHOV. As soon as the news about the invitation became known, someone had an idea. It is difficult to say exactly who it was, because the workers discussed the matter among themselves, informed the trade unions and then a meeting of the trades council decided to invite Premier KHRUSHCHOV to visit the Mint.

After a long discussion in the Works Committee unanimity was reached on the invitation to be extended to KHRUSHCHOV and we proposed to offer him a special medal. We submitted a design which was accepted. It had not been planned that we should receive Premier KHRUSHCHOV, but we would simply like to point out that we wanted to have it our own way and now practically all the workers are looking forward to meeting him very impatiently, because they all regard Premier KHRUSHCHOV as a real ambassador of peace and thank him most sincerely for his tireless efforts in this respect. I would like to add that the Mint will also be a place of historical interest for Mr. KHRUSHCHOV, because it is linked up with the name of CAMELINA, who was director of the establishment at the time of the Paris Commune.

STEFAN, member of the C.G.T. trade union committee and active member of the Workers' Catholic Action: As CHABRIANCHE told you, on the other side of the medal there are various designs which are symbolic of all ideologies. First of all, there is the peace dove carrying an olive branch. Since we wanted the medal to have a typically local character, we thought

it should also include the front of the building of the Mint. In view of the location of the building we chose the most representative monuments in the neighbourhood to please everybody - the Notre Dame for the believers, the Pantheon for the laity and atheists, the New Bridge which crosses the Seine near the Mint, symbolising the bridge between East and West. The Sputnik can be seen flying across the sky of Paris so as to pay tribute to N. KHRUSHCHOV. We thought this would express our regard for the Soviet Union and science in general.

A socialist worker, not organised in the C.G.T.: I consider this to be an event of far-reaching international importance which serves peace and a rapprochement between men of all races and every outlook and can lead to a happier life. I hope the staff of the Mint will be proud to take an active part in this event together with the workers of all the other industries in the Paris region. We are all looking forward to it.

Marcel JOISSON, a Catholic worker belonging to the C.G.T.:

I think we can be pleased with Premier KHRUSHCHOV's visit to France. The most important aim of this visit is, no doubt, to strengthen peace - peace of which Premier KHRUSHCHOV, as the leader of a great power, is one of the staunchest supporters. This visit cannot fail to bring our two countries closer together, both in the field of culture and trade. We, the French, do not yet know very much about the Russian people. In any case, I am looking forward to Premier KHRUSHCHOV's visit to the Mint, and as a Catholic, I shall do my best to give him a warm reception, and, if I get the chance, to shake hands with him.

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The Resolution

The following is the text of the resolution unanimously passed by the Lok Sabha on Monday on the recent happenings in South Africa:

"This house deplora and records its deep sorrow at the tragic incidents which occurred in Sharpeville and in Langa township, near Capetown, in South Africa, on March 21, resulting in the death of a large number of Africans from police firing. It sends its deep sympathy to the Africans who have suffered from this firing and from the policy of racial discrimination and the suppression of the African people in their own homeland".—
P.T.I.

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

March 24, 1960.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

THE W.F.T.U. CONDEMNS KILLINGS IN SOUTH AFRICA

On March 23, Louis SAILLANT, General Secretary of the W.F.T.U., sent the following telegram to Dr. VERWOERD, Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa :-

"The World Federation of Trade Unions has learnt with indignation vicious actions against Africans which have already resulted in over sixty deaths and injuries to hundreds. On behalf of 101 million members the World Federation of Trade Unions vigorously condemns those responsible for these acts of violence perpetrated in order to apply the pass laws and the Government's barbaric apartheid policy which is condemned by workers throughout the world. The W.F.T.U. conveys to the families of victims the sympathy of their brothers and sisters of all races and reaffirms its complete solidarity and support to the African workers fighting racial discrimination. The W.F.T.U. demands that the Government pay compensation to the families of victims and special pensions to the orphans. It calls for an immediate end to racial persecution of Africans."

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

March 26, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No. 124

The visit of Soviet Premier Nikita KHRUSHCHOV is a great event for France. Here is what some members of the staff of Orly airport had to say a few moments after his plane landed.

CATELOTTE, a technician: "I think the visit of Khrushchov is a good thing, because wherever the Soviet Premier has gone up to now, he has always expressed his desire for world peace. He has also made this quite clear during all the meetings he has had with leaders of other countries. The Soviet people have proved their good will by proposing international conferences where they have always come forward with new ideas which revealed their wish to live in peace, come what may."

SOMMIER, a fitter: "The arrival of the Soviet Premier in our country must be regarded as a big event, especially for the workers. I believe the talks between the Soviet Premier and the President of the Republic could do much towards solving the problem of disarmament and the suspension of nuclear tests. We must not forget that our country has recently exploded a bomb which has aroused protests in the majority of African countries. I think that in the place where I work most of the workers welcome Nikita Khrushchov's visit."

LE DANTEC, a fitter: "If peace were to be guaranteed throughout the world, my own conditions would certainly improve. First of all, I would have to pay lower taxes to pay for the war in Algeria which is now costing us a fantastic amount every year. If the present situation continues much longer, nuclear tests would constitute a serious threat for our own future and for the future of our children."

MORVAN, a shop steward: "In my opinion, Khrushchov's visit to France will contribute towards a further relaxation in international tension which can already be noticed. It is certain that it will encourage discussions among the workers and enable us who are active members of the C.G.T., to deal with a certain number of problems which interest the workers not only on the question of peace, but also as regards the various systems in the countries in question, under the circumstances, the difference which might exist between

capitalism and socialism. We think, and this is confirmed in our daily discussions, that the workers in the undertakings are showing greater and greater interest in these problems and no longer look upon the Soviet Union in the way it was described to them for such a long time. They want to know more about the causes behind the progress made by the Soviet Union which the whole world regards with satisfaction, because they know that such achievements cannot happen by accident. They realise that something has changed, that the system gives the entire working class and the people an opportunity to learn and obtain results which would be impossible under capitalism where the employers are only after their profits and are not concerned with the advance of science for the happiness of the workers.

Besides, if peace is established, we, active trade union members, will find it much easier to achieve our demands. Today, most of our demands are turned down because of the continuing war in Algeria and the feverish arms drive. The more money spent on atomic tests, the greater our hardships."

HERBERT, a mechanic: "I am sorry the management of Air France did not allow the workers to see the arrival of Mr. Khrushchov. We think that at Air France, like elsewhere, there must still be some remaining supporters of the cold war who are doing their best to prevent the workers from cheering someone who has come to our country to discuss a lessening in international tension and disarmament. I also think these remaining supporters of the cold war are making every possible effort to prevent the workers from approving Nikita Khrushchov's visit to France."

NAVARRON, a member of the C.G.T.: "Personally, I am convinced Khrushchov's visit is a great event for the cause of peace. This takes me back some fifteen years when the Soviet Union took part in the struggle to defeat fascism. Our transport of deportees crossed the whole of Poland, but we knew that the Soviet troops were advancing rapidly. We again found this brotherhood which existed in the camps when we met the soldiers of the Red Army who freed us. Today we must remember those times."

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APR 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

March 29, 1960.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

W.F.T.U. PROTESTS AGAINST RACIAL POLICY AND BAN ON DEMOCRATIC ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

On March 29, Louis SAILLANT, General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions sent the following telegrams:

1. To Dr. H.F. VERWOERD, Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa.

"Instead of respecting the will expressed by the whole world that the shameful racial policy should be ended and the massacre of Africans stopped, your Government intends to ban all democratic Africans' organisations - the only means for the majority of the population in the Union of South Africa to bring peaceful changes to the terrorist regime of South Africa. The World Federation of Trade Unions, which gave its full support to the workers and people of South Africa till they won the suspension of the pass-laws, will continue to assist and show its solidarity with their just fight till all discrimination is ended and human rights respected. We demand withdrawal of the Bill to ban the democratic organisations and removal of the ban on democratic activities in the regions of Durban, Johannesburg and Capetown."

2. To the Chairman of the Security Council of the United Nations

"The fact that you are meeting to discuss the massacre going on in the Union of South Africa shows that the situation there is no longer bearable to world public opinion, which has already made vigorous protest against the shameful racial policy in that country. While welcoming your decision to meet, the World Federation of Trade Unions, expressing the will of 101 million organised workers, appeals to you not to limit your deliberations to the shooting of over 70 Africans, but to go to the roots of the whole discrimination policy, to condemn those who created this policy and to take the necessary measures for respect of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights."

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No. 135

18 1300

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

March 12, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE: No.118

When interviewed by a W.F.T.U. radio reporter, Makiko YAMAMOTO, member of the Permanent Executive Committee of SOHYO and President of the Organisation Commission of the 7th Women's Month in Japan, made the following declaration, from which we give some extracts:-

"This year, we are celebrating the seventh year of Japanese Women's Month, which was started under the slogan of "Women of Japan! Let us join our hands to defend happiness of children and ourselves!"

"Women's Month began on March '8, which is so important a day for all the women of the world, and lasts a whole month to April 10, a day of historical significance for women of Japan as they acquired the franchise on this day in 1947..."

"Let us unite ourselves to ban the revision of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty; let us join our hands with the people of the world to win total, complete disarmament! These are the two main slogans and we have ten more slogans indicating the pressing demands of ours, under which we will march through the Month of Women..."

"We are struggling resolutely to repel the pressures by reactionary forces. For instance, the fifth Mothers' Congress held last summer in the face of slanders and calumnies put up by the Conservative Party was attended by more than 10,000 mothers from all over the country. They were mothers who came not only from towns and cities but also from agricultural and fishing districts. "Rallies of working women" organised on workshop and regional levels last year discussed questions which were of direct concern to women at home and at workshops, contributing a great deal to strengthening ties between the working women and wives at home. Fight of women for the defence of their rights is growing, enlarging its scope and scale.

"We are determined to develop our fight to higher plane while we prepare for the 7th Women's Month. We must smash to pieces the Government's attempt for Japan-U.S. Security Treaty revision. We must unite every strata of Japanese women to come out against the ratification of the Treaty. In addition to this, on the basis of the lessons we got through our past activities, we will fight on continuously, calling on the public for the solution of women's problems, for defence of rights of women."

6 APR 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

March 31, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No.127

April 5th - decisive day for Japanese coalminers

Masayuki Kohno, General Secretary of the National Federation of Mitsui Coalmine Workers' Union (ICFTU) told the W.F.T.U. radio reporter:

"The Miike Coalminers' Union launched its action against the dismissal and reduction of wages presented by the company in September last year. They ordered the union to fire a total of 4,580 men and decrease wages by some ¥ 4,000 per person. Labor-capital negotiations followed but finally broke down.

"Then, the employers designated 1,277 members as 'the persons who had hindered the normal execution of the activities of the company and are subjected to discharge', which aroused a wave of popular indignation among unionists as they are in fact far from 'having hindered the official duties' but are active, true trade union members who had done a great deal for the interest of the union and the people in the community.

"Service clearance papers were delivered directly to the homes of the said 1,277 workers on December 11, 1959. We cannot and will not let them be dismissed as they have been ordered. We know that this is an important struggle for the defense of trade union movement. If one of them should be discharged as they wish, they will make it a precedent to fire trade union activists as ones who have hindered duties. We cannot allow this to become a precedent. We can never allow the employers to emasculate trade union activities in this way.

"Japan's Prime Minister signed the new Japan-U.S. Security Treaty in utter disregard of the stern opposition by the people. We are now in the grave situation, when we must stop the Diet from ratifying the Treaty, and for this a strong united action by trade

unions is badly needed.

"Fifty-seven days have passed since the company side locked out the trade union members. Their sole purpose is to drive the union into financial difficulty to root up the movement.

"But, Associations for the Miike Coalminers on Strike have been organized country-wide by the workers and trade unions chiefly affiliated with the General Council of Trade Unions (Tohyo), peasants and small businessmen who are fully aware of the significance of the coalminers' present struggle against dismissal.

"Stock of coal is gradually in decrease. For instance, coal stocked by coal capitalists is said to have decreased to some 2 million tons, while there is a growing coal demand in the country. This sets coal monopolies become more and more impatient over the resolute action taken by coalminers, and have started to undermine their action by driving in a wedge within the trade union.

"They have sunk as much as 3,000 million yen in to divide the union, on one hand, and have resorted to various hideous means to disrupt the workers, on the other. Already goon squads, racketeers and so on have been mobilized to split the union. The Union of Office Clerks, which is set up in parallel with the workers' union in collieries, is also being used to stir up the confusion.

"To our great regret, a second union, i.e. a company sponsored union, was set up on March 17, and some 3,500 workers out of 14,500 men have moved in, according to the company side. We must fight against such a union, also.

"From April 5 onward, unified strikes are planned by the coalminers' unions throughout the country, and 200,000-strong Japan Coal Mine Workers' Union (Tanro) has resolved to enter strike for unlimited period starting on the 11th.

"We are determined to make the coal capitalists withdraw the dismissal notice against the said 1,277 union activists. We ask the brothers of the whole world uniting to the W.F.T.U. will understand our struggle, fight with us for the defense of the 1,277 workers, and against dismissal, rationalization and wage-cut, which are endangering the living of the workers of Japan."

9 APR 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

April 4, 1960.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

THE TRADE UNIONS INTERNATIONALS PROTEST AGAINST KILLINGS IN UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

On April 1, 1960, the Metal and Engineering Workers' T.U.I. sent the following telegram to the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa:-

"On behalf of its ten million members, the Trade Unions International of Metal and Engineering Workers energetically condemns the violent persecution of the South African workers and people fighting for their right to move freely. It demands an immediate end to repressive measures and full compensation for the families of the victims."

A similar telegram was sent by the Trade Unions International of Workers in Commerce.

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186 APR 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

April 11, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No.128

Dekkar RAHMOUNE, Secretary of the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA) affiliated to the I.C.F.T.U. told the W.F.T.U. radio reporter:

I was greatly impressed by the 5th Congress of the C.G.I.L. (Italian General Confederation of Labour).

We, the Algerian workers, greet our Italian colleagues on the occasion of their Congress and would like to express to them our solidarity. We must not forget that 500,000 Italian workers and 500,000 Algerian workers are forced to leave their country and look for work in France where they are exposed to the same type of discrimination and the same sort of exploitation. We take advantage of this opportunity to appeal to the workers of Europe to make an even stronger effort to give more effective aid to the African workers in general, and more particularly, to the workers of Algeria who have been engaged in a war during the past six years to free themselves from French imperialism which oppresses them. We must remember that there is a direct relationship between the oppression of the workers in the colonial countries and the exploitation of the workers of Europe. Therefore, we must unite our efforts today more than ever before.

Even though we belong to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, we are attending the 5th Congress of the C.G.I.L. We have contacts with trade unions all over the world. We maintain that the policy and ideology each of us may uphold does not prevent the workers from joining in the common struggle, regardless of the continent in which they live and no matter what political opinions they hold. We further believe that at a time when considerable efforts are being made to bring about peaceful co-existence in the world, the trade unions are duty-bound to do

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their best so as to unite and wage their struggle under the most favourable conditions.

In one month's time, the All-African Trade Union Congress will meet in Casablanca to pave the road to a happier future for the workers of Africa. This will give us an opportunity to explain how we are going to work for international workers' unity by wishing to form an All-African Trade Union Confederation, in order to free all oppressed peoples from imperialist exploitation.

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

April 19, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No: 130

W.F.T.U. Secretary SUGIRI today told the W.F.T.U. radio correspondent:

"The workers and peoples the world over have been shocked by the cruel and anti-democratic measures taken by the Government of the Union of South Africa, which in the African township of Sharpeville opened fire on a peaceful demonstration of Africans against the hated pass laws employing jet fighters and armoured troop carriers to cow down the demonstration.

"The Government of the Union of South Africa has officially stated after that event that there were 63 persons killed, while according to the correspondents in the newspapers, there were 170 persons killed; among them were also women and children.

"This event is an evidence of the barbaric character of the Government of the Union of South Africa which is stubbornly maintaining its policy of racial discrimination.

"Workers and democratic and peace-loving peoples throughout the world have strongly protested and condemned this barbaric and bloody policy of racial discrimination. The United Nations Security Council has passed a resolution, condemning this policy of the Government of South Africa. The W.F.T.U., on behalf of its 101 million membership composed of workers of different colours and races, immediately after the Sharpeville massacre expressed its sympathy and solidarity with the families of the victims and with the struggle of the South African workers and people against racial discrimination.

"In spite of the fact that a continuous wave of protests is flowing from every corner of the world, the Government of the Union of South Africa obstinately continues to maintain its inhuman and anti-democratic conduct. The cruel measures have not only been taken within the limits of the Sharpeville township but also in other places, where the South African workers and peoples came out in protest actions.

"In order to stem the rising wave of struggle of the South African workers and people, continuing up to present time, a State of Emergency has been proclaimed and more and more areas are being brought under this State of Emergency. Democratic organisations have been banned and hundreds of democrats and trade unionists have been arrested and put in prisons.

"The South African Congress of Trade Unions, the only multi-racial trade union centre in South Africa has been forcibly barred from its activities, and its leaders, Leon LEVY, President, and Leslie MASSINA, General Secretary, are among those who have been put in the prison.

"Against the ban imposed on democratic organisations, the W.F.T.U. has already sent a protest cable to the Government of the Union of South Africa and at the same time it sent also a cable to the United Nations Security Council welcoming its decision on South Africa and further urging that its steps should not only be limited

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to the killings of the demonstrating Africans, but should extend to the rooting out of the whole policy of racial discrimination, condemning those who create this policy and that necessary steps should be taken for the implementation and respect of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

"The W.F.T.U. has demanded the immediate release of the imprisoned trade unionists, the respect for trade union and human rights and an end to the policy of racial discrimination.

"The obstinate policy of the Government of South Africa is an evidence of its blind refusal to acknowledge the development of the international situation which displays the increasing growth of the forces of the peoples - that is, the growing struggle of the peoples against imperialism and colonialism and the growing strength of the forces of democracy and peace.

"The imperialists and colonialists are already suffering now very much from the heavy blows dealt by the anti-colonial struggles and the people's struggles for democracy and peace, so that present-day imperialism has been deprived of its old strength. In this situation when imperialism is entering the phase of its doom, the imperialists and colonialists make every effort to maintain its position in colonial and dependent countries.

"They sow seeds of national chauvinism to divide the unity of the peoples; and, especially in countries still under absolute colonial domination, they apply a policy of racial discrimination to prevent the rise of the people, splitting their unity and that of the trade union movement.

"The present international situation shows, on the one hand, the growing weakness of the imperialists and colonialists with each passing day, and, on the other hand, the growing strength of the people's forces.

"The intensified repression of the Government of the Union of South Africa with its brutal and barbarous policy of racial discrimination is only a proof of its weakness and of the growing struggle of the oppressed South African people for their liberation.

"The present developments in South Africa show that the struggle of the South African people is entering a new stage, and the days can be counted on fingers when the colonial system in their country will have been finally smashed and liquidated.

"I do feel a duty to call upon our brother workers in South Africa to keep firm in their struggle for freedom, democracy and better living. Close your ranks and enlarge them to bring in all democrats in South Africa, regardless of the difference in colour, to carry forward your struggle for the release of all trade unionists and democrats - clamped behind bars - and for putting an end to the policy of racial discrimination which infringes human and trade union rights and democratic liberties.

"There is no doubt that workers, democrats and peace-loving peoples throughout the world are with you. You are undergoing untold sufferings and hardships under the brutal oppression of the policy of racial discrimination, but final victory will be yours. There is no force on earth which will be able to stem the rising wave of struggle of the workers and oppressed peoples of the world for freedom, democracy, national independence, social progress and peace."

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

April 27, 1960.

PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ

THE W.F.T.U. BECOMES THE ANNOUNCER OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF TOGOLAND

Louis SAILLANT, General Secretary of the W.F.T.U. today sent the following telegram to the Union of Trade Unions of Togoland

On the occasion of the announcement of the independence of Togoland the W.F.T.U. on behalf of its 101 million members, sends the people of Togoland its warmest congratulations. The independence of Togoland is not only a progressive step for the people of Togoland, but it is also a help and an encouragement for all peoples who are struggling against colonialism. The W.F.T.U. who has always supported their brave fight for national independence, along with all workers and trade unions throughout the world, supports them in their fight for the improvement of living and working conditions and for democratic freedoms. Long live independent Togoland !

Long live the unity of the workers and people
of Togoland !

Long live international working class solidarity!

Published by the Press Dept.
of the W.F.T.U.

No.148

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

April 27, 1960,

PRESS RELEASE No: 134

W.F.T.U. radio recorded opinions of participants, including many trade unionists, of the biggest popular demonstration that took place this century in Britain: the march from Aldermaston to Trafalgar Square, where police estimated the number had reached 100,000.

Trade Unionists were there in greater numbers than before. Amongst them were the banners of printworkers, vehicle builders, engineers, electricians, supervisory staffs and technicians, local government officers, and of the shop stewards' committees of Ford motor workers, B.M.I. radio and television workers, and London Airport workers of both B.E.A. and B.O.A.C.

Frank COUSINS, General Secretary of Britain's biggest union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, joined the march and also addressed the final demonstration in Trafalgar Square with these words: "My organisation is proud to be in the forefront of the movement to get rid of these weapons, which are military nonsense and economic suicide for Britain".

Richard BRIGINSHAW, Secretary of the National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants, also speaking for the platform, urged that the message of the march should be taken into the trade unions and that the whole movement should turn its attention to ensuring success for the Summit.

A Ford worker told the W.F.T.U. reporter that he had also been delegated to go to Paris for the Summit Conference, where the voice of British workers will join the chorus of workers from all lands asking the Heads of State to agree on total and universal disarmament.

Canon COLLINS of St. Pauls Cathedral, Chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament which organised the march, and who himself led it from the beginning, summed it up in Trafalgar Square: "We want the Prime Minister to tell the Summit that Britain has shown this Easter weekend that it wants life and not death, and wants to get rid of all nuclear weapons. Whatever anyone else was going to do", he said, "Britain should say that she was going to have no more nuclear weapons, no more nuclear bases, and no more alliances which had nuclear weapons as their basis."

He urged the great crowd before it dispersed to remember the horrors of the cold war and war itself and to continue the fight, and after a moment's silence the crowd responded with a mighty "I will".

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

April 28, 1960

PRESS RELEASE No: 135

Ron MAXWELL, Organiser of the Sydney, Australia May Day Committee 1960, and Vice-President of the Sydney Branch of the Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia (ICFTU), today told the W.F.T.U. radio correspondent:

"May Day 1960 in Australia will achieve its greatest triumph. In Sydney and all the main cities and basic industrial centres, there will be a record mobilisation of unions, workers from factories, mines and workplaces generally.

The main theme animating all demonstrations will be peace and success to the Summit Talks. All useful people in Australia, place great hopes in the growing strength of the peace forces, led by the Socialist Soviet Union.

Dramatic successes registered in 1959 and 1960 inspires them with the conviction that the Summit Conference will contribute to a real lessening of tension and a decided step towards disarmament as submitted by Nikita Khrushchev to the United Nations Assembly.

In Australia the trade unions, womens organisations, youth, cultural sporting and working class political bodies will guarantee that May Day 1960 will correctly express these feelings."

Ron Maxwell then spoke to the W.F.T.U. reporter about the fight for a shorter working week and for higher living standards, and continued:

"The fight against restrictions on trade union liberties, curtailment of democratic rights, also demands a bold declaration on May Day that will show the Federal Government and the capitalist class generally the workers mean what they say.

And as May Day is the embodiment and symbol of international solidarity, the heroic efforts of the African masses for democratic economic and political equality will be colourfully and dramatically presented.

The horrible and premeditated massacre of men, women and children in South Africa has aroused the Australian people.

Never before has there been such unity in protest meetings and demonstrations against Apartheid bestiality," said Ron Maxwell, asking for trade union unity on South Africa by the W.F.T.U. and the I.C.F.T.U.

He concluded by saying:

"Our minds will also be stimulated by the stirring strike battles in the big capitalist countries, and above all, we will greet our socialist brothers and sisters and see in their advances and victories, a guide to our own future.

LONG LIVE MAY DAY !

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY !

SPEED THE VICTORY OVER EXPLOITATION AND WAR !"

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16 MAY 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

May 3, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No: 139

Alex MOFFAT, Vice-President of the Scottish Mineworkers' Union (I.C.F.T.U.), General Council member and past President of the Scottish Trades Union Congress (I.C.F.T.U.), was interviewed by the W.F.T.U. radio correspondent. He said:-

"The workers in many countries appear to be travelling along roads which have got common objectives. Expressions for international disarmament and peace are evident everywhere. On economic problems there are great grounds for unity amongst them. It is in this situation that we need one international trade union organisation. In Britain, for some time, there has been no discussion on the question of international trade union unity, but there is evidence now that in the trade unions of this country there is a desire to have one organisation representing the workers of the world. I hope that within the next year evidence of this will be more clearly stated in the congresses that are being held in Britain. The two most important items on which the W.F.T.U. and the I.C.F.T.U. should get together, I think, are disarmament and improvement in the conditions of the workers economically, which can come as a consequence of disarmament."

Asked, "Would you say that to the miners in particular that such a getting-together of the two international bodies could bring benefit to their particular considerations?" Alex Moffat replied:

"I think it would, and I think the miners will be in the forefront of trying to break down the barriers of disunity that exists within the next year or so."

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23 MAY 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

May 16, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No.144

Louis SAILLIANT, General Secretary of the W.F.T.U., when interviewed by a W.F.T.U. radio reporter about the Summit Conference made the following declaration:

ATTENTION - EMBARGO UNTIL 8 p.m.

The Conference between the four great powers opened in Paris on May 16. World public opinion and particularly the workers, both men and women throughout the world were waiting for this Conference. World peace has hung in the balance for too long now. Peoples are living in a state of uncertainty as to the future of the human race. Will this meeting satisfy the real desire of the workers and the peoples throughout the world for peace? We have the right to be optimists. We know the nature of the differences that set the great powers one against another, powers that were allies during the Second World War. We consider that the cold war which has lasted more than ten years has enormously jeopardised the moral and material interests of the workers throughout the world. At the present time when the great powers are building up their arms supply, the world could have known a great flowering of social and economic progress and general development, if the money spent on armaments had been utilised in the services of humanity. Regardless of their trade union affiliations their political opinions and the kind of regime in which they live, workers throughout the world are paying heavily for the arms race and the armed forces. Along with other sections of the people they have declared themselves to be unanimously in favour of universal and complete disarmament. They think agreement can be reached if the Soviet-American resolution that was adopted unanimously at the 14th General Assembly of the United Nations following the proposals for universal and complete disarmament presented by the U.S.S.R. is respected. We are pinning all our hopes on the success of this

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Paris Conference. We cannot conceive that these four responsible persons who will meet there will not make their contribution to bring about peace. We expect that the outcome of this Conference will make it possible for the workers throughout the world not to live in hope of peace, but in conditions that will ensure peace. I think that the workers will have this assurance provided that they realise that peace will only be brought about by the vigilance of peoples who express their desire for peace in no uncertain fashion.

24 MAY 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

May 19, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No.145

Jacques N'GOM, General Secretary of the GENERAL UNION OF WORKERS OF THE CAMEROONS (G.U.W.C.) has made the following statement to a W.F.T.U. radio reporter on the growth of the anti-colonial struggle in Africa and the 11th session of the General Council of the W.F.T.U. which opens in Peking on May 30, 1960:

The whole of the African continent is in a state of ferment. The African people are gradually freeing themselves from the yoke of colonialism. In this historical battle, 1960 will be a year when the liberation of Africa will have made tremendous headway. The Cameroons, Togo, Belgian Congo, Nigeria and Italian Somali have been or will be declared independent States by the end of this year while the Federation of Mali and Madagascar are at present negotiating the same problem with the French Government. The Algerian people are conducting a powerful and heroic struggle for their national independence. Even those countries which have become independent States within the French Community after the Referendum on September 28 are pressing for their international sovereignty. Countries such as Nyasaland, Uranda Urundi, Tanganyika and Kenya have become the scene of a relentless battle for independence. Territories under Portuguese domination which were still the last stronghold of colonialism are now awakening to the liberation struggle. Between 1956 and 1959, Lybia, Morocco, Tunisia, Ghana, Sudan and Guinea gradually gained independence and Egypt chased the British and French imperialist troops from her territory and from the Suez Canal.

At this rate we can rightly say that the days of colonialism in Africa are numbered. But the actual liberation of Africa has not yet taken place. Every possible effort is being made to introduce a dangerous new form of colonialism and the imperialists continue to dominate Africa's economy. The African people will still have to wage many a difficult battle against these two dangers.

In Africa, the trade union movement has played and is still playing a major role in the struggle against colonialism, for national independence and democratic freedom. The World Federation of Trade Unions has given invaluable assistance to the African trade unions, both affiliated and not affiliated, and has made a considerable contribution to the growth of the African trade union movement and to the efficiency of its action. It is no coincidence that the staunchest colonialists and imperialists are directing their attacks against the W.F.T.U. and assert that there has been a plot against the independent State of Congo "with the complicity of the W.F.T.U."

By including in the agenda of the 11th session of its General Council "The Contribution of the Trade Unions to the Struggle Against Colonialism", the W.F.T.U. has responded to the wishes of the workers of Africa who are conducting a tremendous battle against colonialism and imperialism. The meeting will, no doubt, find the most appropriate solutions to suit the new conditions and to promote and increase the struggle against colonialism and imperialism in Africa and throughout the world, as well as for universal disarmament and peace.

Speaking for the workers of the Cameroons, I greet the 11th session of the General Council of the W.F.T.U. which opens in Peking on May 30, with the conviction that the decisions it will take will help the African trade union movement to make rapid strides towards continental unity, the reinforcement of the struggle in defence of the workers' demands, for the achievement and protection of trade union rights, and for the complete liberation of Africa from colonialism and imperialism.

28 MAY 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

May 23, 1960.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

W.F.T.U. PROTESTS AGAINST REIGN OF TERROR IN IRAN

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. has sent the following telegram to Mr. HAMMARSKJÖLD, Secretary General of the U. N. :

"We have been deeply distressed by the news of the execution of five patriotic Iranian workers at Tabriz, namely Javad Forougui, Hassan Zehtab, Kosrow Azari, Alihasan Azimadeh and Ayoub Klantri, and of the sentences which an Iranian Military Tribunal passed on 17 others, ranging from 10 years imprisonment to life sentence with forced labour. The only grounds on which these verdicts have been passed is their democratic activity in the interests of the workers and people of Iran. We strongly protest against this inhuman act which is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We call on you to intervene so that democratic and trade union liberties should be respected by the Iranian Government and the imprisoned workers released."

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No.154.

4 JUN 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

May 31, 1960

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

TELEGRAM FROM THE W.F.T.U. TO THE TRADE UNIONS OF CHILE

The W.F.T.U. sent the following telegram to the United Trade Union Centre of Chile (CUTCh.)

"The World Federation of Trade Unions expresses its solidarity with the workers of the whole world at the tragic experience suffered by the working class and people of Chile. They sympathise with the victims of the disaster and convey their sincere hopes for the re-establishment of the wounded. They assure the solidarity of their 101 million members."

Telegrams of condolence with the workers of Chile have been sent by the following T.U.I.'S: Metalworkers, Textile, Transport, Commerce, Miners and Agriculture (Trade Departments of the WFTU)

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N° 155

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

20 JUN 1960

June 16, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No.146

A well-known British engineering trade unionist who has long championed the cause of international trade union unity Edmund FROW, Convenor of Shop Stewards at a Manchester Engineering factory and prominent member of the British Amalgamated Engineering Union (I.C.F.T.U.) told the W.F.T.U. radio correspondent in a personal capacity:

"The occasion of the 15th anniversary of the W.F.T.U. reminds us of the 1st Conference held in London in 1945.

"The unity forged in the war against fascism resulted in unity of the world trade unions. We were jubilant at the prospects that opened out for unity of the workers in all countries. Our high hopes were speedily dashed to the ground, and the Fulton speech of Winston Churchill which ushered in the cold war was followed by the disruption of the W.F.T.U. by the American and British trade union leaders.

"Since that time the banner of world unity in Britain has been taken up by individual unions and the rank and file.

"This is not just an abstract issue. Take the question of the 40-hour week. While the socialist countries forge ahead and introduce shorter hours as part of their planned economy, Britain after 70 or 80 years of agitation for a 40-hour week have still to achieve it. We have in the past been proud of our powerful trade union movement and thought in terms of helping trade unions in the so-called backward countries. It looks however now as if we may be in that category of a backward country. So in our work to win the demands of the working class we need more than ever to show we are part of a worldwide movement.

"Only the W.F.T.U. can win and inspire the workers of all lands. The Amalgamated Engineering Union inaugurated contribution to the I.C.F.T.U. International Solidarity Fund

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which realized £273, an indication of the lack of support from the membership for I.C.F.T.U. policies.

"Despite this, £42,800 was sent from the General Fund of the Union in flagrant violation of Rule to develop a subservient trade union in colonial countries.

"A protest was made at this action by the E.C. at the recent National Committee meeting which will no doubt also be considered in union branches.

"This gives the opportunity to raise the whole question of unity to show that the need is for the I.C.F.T.U. and W.F.T.U. to come together and rally all our forces in unity.

"This can only be achieved by pressure from the rank and file and winning each individual union for that policy.

"This would be the best way to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the W.F.T.U.

"This is already the policy of the A.E.U. and needs to be followed by many other unions."

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24 JUN 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

June 20, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No.148

A.F. BUCKLEY, General Secretary of the Boilermakers' Society of Australia (I.C.F.T.U.), made the following statement to the W.F.T.U. radio correspondent on a recent special occasion:

"The visit of Giacomo ADDUCCI to Australia is history-making in two respects. First, because he is the first representative of the W.F.T.U. to visit Australia.

"Secondly, because of the enthusiastic response of workers and many trade union leaders to his call for action to bring about unity of the I.C.F.T.U. and W.F.T.U. around the common demands of the working people throughout the world.

"Adducci's message was carried to a large number of workers in Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Melbourne, and in each city, whether speaking at functions, workshop meetings, or to meetings of migrants, he carried high the banner of unity for peace, full employment, higher living standards and the shorter working week.

"Highlight of his tour was his presence at the May Day celebration in Sydney and Wollongong, and the Peace March and Rally at the Sydney Town Hall on May 15, 1960; the decision of the Queensland Trades and Labor Council for world trade union unity and the statement on the same question signed by many leading trade unionists in Victoria.

"Adducci has helped us to lay a foundation for the building of international working class solidarity and unity of the I.C.F.T.U. and W.F.T.U.

"It is now the task of all Australian trade unionists who desire peace and progress to press for the realisation of one world trade union organisation to assist in obtaining our common demands.

"The Boilermakers' Society of Australia tenders sincere thanks to the W.F.T.U. for sending Adducci to our country and also our worthy visitor who has given us valuable assistance and wish him every success in his future efforts on behalf of the workers of the world."

Tom WRIGHT, General Secretary, Sheet Metal Workers' Trade Union of Australia (I.C.F.T.U.), then stated:

"On behalf of the Sheet Metal Workers' Union I express our gratitude to Brother Adducci for the excellent work he has done during his visit to Australia.

"It is an interesting commentary on the international trade union movement that although the A.C.T.U. is affiliated to the I.C.F.T.U. there has not as yet been a visit of an official representative of that organisation to Australia.

"As the first official representative of the W.F.T.U. to visit Australia, Brother Adducci has greatly assisted the work of making known to wide sections of the Australian trade union movement, the proposals of the W.F.T.U. for unity of action of the two internationals in the struggle of the workers for their immediate demands.

"The strong voices already raised in the Australian trade union movement, demanding that the I.C.F.T.U. accept the proposal of the W.F.T.U. for joint discussions, will be further strengthened as a result of Brother Adducci's visit.

"Our Union is particularly gratified at the interest displayed by a majority of the Australian metal trade unions in Brother Adducci's visit. This must lead to closer relations between our metal unions and the Metal and Engineering Department of the W.F.T.U.

"Brother Adducci's personality has greatly assisted in the success of his mission and won him also many personal friends. We wish him a safe journey home and further successes in the fight for world trade union unity."

Giacomo ADDUCCI, General Secretary, Metal and Engineering Workers' Trade Unions International (W.F.T.U.), thanked Brothers Buckley and Wright and then went on to state:

"During the four weeks I spent in Australia I have had the pleasure of meeting most trade union leaders and was able to talk to many workers in the factories. The visit was an important experience for me. The sincere feelings of friendship, the interest shown in the World Federation of Trade Unions which I found everywhere, the concern for the major problems common to the working class, the desire for delegation exchanges between various countries and the will for peace, progress and trade union unity

and friendship between the peoples are the most important aspects of this common experience. It is precisely on these points which represent the common basis for action that we, the Metal and Engineering Workers' Trade Unions International are anxious to promote and consolidate effective co-operation between our respective trade union organisations. Such international trade union co-operation, regardless of political outlook and international trade union affiliation, is today more essential and urgent than ever in order to put up an effective resistance to the policy of the big monopolies and international trusts and the governments backing them. We must work and act together to serve the common cause of the workers, to bring about economic and social progress, to strengthen world peace and to defeat the reactionaries and imperialists whose provocations are a threat to peace.

"The decisions and resolutions adopted at Brisbane and Melbourne are the essential basis of our co-operation to strengthen the international workers' front and to pave the way for the restoration of trade union unity between the W.F.T.U. and the I.C.F.T.U.

"On my own behalf and on behalf of the W.F.T.U., I can assure you that we shall persevere in our efforts to bring about unity of action with the I.C.F.T.U. and trade union unity in general. But you as well as all the unions belonging to the I.C.F.T.U. which are in favour of trade union unity can also work towards this objective. First of all, we must end the cold war between the trade unions and establish national and international trade union unity where it does not exist and consolidate it where it exists.

"We have done a good job of work together. Let us carry on with the same confidence and the same enthusiasm as we began. Ours is the most just cause of all and when we serve the working class we must always show courage and tenacity in order to arouse enthusiasm, remove all obstacles and achieve the aims and wishes of the workers."

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2 JUN 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

212-A

June 21, 1960.

PRESS RELEASE No: 149

Diallo SEYDOU, General Secretary for Press and Publicity of the General Union of Workers of Negro Africa - U.G.T.A.N. (Independent), when interviewed by a radio reporter of the W.F.T.U. today made the following declaration:

"The Executive Bureau of the U.G.T.A.N. is laying emphasis on a vital problem for the development of the African trade union movement: it is the organisation of the struggle and the respect for trade union and democratic liberties. If the year 1959-60 is called the year of African independence, the year 1960 is seeing a negative phenomenon that we must, however, point out - that is the systematic violation of trade union rights and democratic liberties. Our brothers Mayor Beck and Yopalouis were arrested at the frontier of British Nigeria after the U.G.T.A.N. Seminar held at Dalaba and sentenced to one and two months' imprisonment. There is also Brother Imoudi, a trade union leader from Nigeria, who has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment. There are also our brothers in the civil service who have been arbitrarily transferred, removed from office, or dismissed. And lastly our Brother Julien Boukhambou, General Secretary of the General Confederation of African Workers (C.G.A.T.), and Brother Matsika, both members of this organisation of Equatorial Africa under French domination, an organisation belonging to the World Federation of Trade Unions, were arbitrarily tried and sentenced by the French colonialists. The Executive Bureau of the U.G.T.A.N. vehemently protests against these systematic violations of trade union and democratic rights, and calls upon all the workers, on all the militants to protest to the authorities so that these brothers may be freed to continue to defend with courage and determination the militant trade unionists belonging to their organisation. That is why the Bureau has decided to call a Conference at Lome, capital of Togoland, that has recently become independent on Trade Union and Democratic Liberties.

"We shall have the opportunity to review these violations and find adequate solutions so that the working class can continue to develop rationally and achieve its major objective. We ask the African governments to consider that no social progress nor any economic development is possible without trade union and democratic freedom which allows a country to develop, to expand its economy, and makes for harmony among all sections of the people."

"Today the issues facing the workers are more momentous than ever. The nuclear weapon can cause the destruction of the human race, but nuclear energy can create abundance.

"Automation can lead to greatly increased production but whether the workers will benefit depends on the power of trade union organisation, internationally as well as nationally.

I think I have said enough to show that for trade unionists everywhere - and not least in my country - the 15th anniversary of the W.F.T.U. should be celebrated by a renewed effort to break down all the obstacles to full co-operation between trade unionists in all countries. From there we can look forward to the day when once more there will be a single united trade union organisation expressing the full power of the world's workers in support of their vital interests."

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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

April 4, 1960.

MAY DAY MESSAGE OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Workers,
Trade Unions,

Under the symbol of unity and international workers' solidarity, May Day, 1960, will mark a new and favourable stage in your long and bitter struggle for a lasting peace, the ending of colonialism and for better living and working conditions.

You will welcome with satisfaction the first steps made towards a relaxation of international tension to which your campaigns in recent years have greatly contributed. While deploring the intrigues and obstructions by those political circles and armaments monopolies who are still anxious to continue the cold war, you will make known your desire for a successful conclusion of the Summit Talks and the negotiations on the Plan for universal and complete disarmament proposed by the Soviet Union. The application of this Plan would make it possible to bring about a definite improvement in the conditions of the labouring masses.

In this year of African independence, you will hail the victories won by the peoples against colonialism which is tottering to its end. You will express stronger solidarity with the suffering workers of Algeria, the Union of South Africa and all other territories still in shackles.

Together you will celebrate the consistent and magnificent economic, social and scientific successes won by the workers in the socialist countries which open up splendid perspectives for unlimited social and human progress.

Together you will seek ways and means of strengthening your unity and solidarity in the unparalleled struggle which the working class is conducting against the economic offensive of the monopolies and their repeated attacks against your trade union liberties and social amenities which you have won at great costs.

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Dear Brothers,

Under the banner of proletarian internationalism increase your victories for peaceful construction and in the socialist countries, for the fulfilment of your magnificent plans which are continuously raising your living standards and which are giving invaluable encouragement to your brothers and sisters in those countries still fighting exploitation and colonialism.

Increase fraternal exchanges of delegations, contacts and agreements between your organisations of all shades of opinion, make further progress towards the essential trade union unity which you forged 15 years ago by forming the world Federation of Trade Unions.

Under the banners of May Day build Unity and Solidarity for universal and complete disarmament to free the world from wars and military budgets and improve the conditions of the people, for the final defeat of colonialism and independence of the peoples!

Unity and Action for higher wages and shorter working hours without loss of pay, for the right to work and the protection of jobs and of the unemployed, for the defence and extension of trade union rights.

LONG LIVE LABOUR DAY AND PEACE !

LONG LIVE MAY DAY !

LONG LIVE UNITY AND INTERNATIONAL
WORKERS' SOLIDARITY !

Secretariat of the W.F.T.U.

18 JAN 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

from the World Federation of Trade Unions
to the Workers, Trade Unions and Peoples
of Africa

The World Federation of Trade Unions sends New Year's greetings to the workers, trade unions and peoples of Africa and wishes to pay tribute to their courageous struggle against colonialism, for national independence and a better life. 1960 will go down in the history of Africa as a year in which the majority of Africans will be living in independent States.

This advance towards independence is, above all, the result of efforts made by the African people themselves.

The situation in Africa is creating very favourable conditions for the further progress of unity and concerted action by the trade unions, both nationally and internationally. In order to consolidate national independence or win it, to improve the workers' economic conditions and living standards and to protect and expand democratic and trade union rights, the African workers need active support from the trade unions of the whole world.

The W.F.T.U. will continue to be the main organising force of this support throughout the historical battle of the peoples and workers of Africa.

The African trade union movement with the support of the international trade union movement has played and continues to play an important part in the struggle for national independence. It is aware of the growing responsibility it assumes today in promoting the advancement of Africa and the solution of her specific economic and social problems.

Even though the European colonisers have suffered and still suffer serious political setbacks in Africa, their economic influence still remains considerable. The American imperialists are resorting to all kinds of subterfuges in Africa in order to replace their European allies.

This state of affairs constitutes a permanent danger for the independent development of the African countries, and the normal progress of their economic conditions.

The general and guaranteed improvement in the African workers' living standards as well as steady social progress depend, to a great extent, on the ending of the exploitation of African wealth by foreign monopolies.

By its unity and solidarity, concerted action and active fraternal co-operation with the world trade union movement, the African trade union movement together with all who oppose colonialism, can ward off this danger, remove all obstacles and advance towards greater progress.

The fraternal and continuous support from the 100 million workers affiliated to the W.F.T.U. on all five continents and the backing of all trade unions belonging to the W.F.T.U. stimulate the young African trade union movement to fresh successes.

While hailing the growing liberation movement in Africa, the W.F.T.U. condemns the imperialists' ruthless campaign of repression in the Congo, Nyasaland and in other countries, and the shameful policy of racial discrimination, particularly in South Africa. It hopes that 1960 will see the end of the cruel war the French colonialists are waging against the Algerian people, and the opening of genuine negotiations between the two parties involved. It sends fraternal greetings to all African patriots and trade unionists who are exposed to persecution on the grounds of their courageous struggle against imperialism and for a better life.

The W.F.T.U. sincerely congratulates the workers and people of the Cameroons, Togo, Nigeria, Somalia and Mali who have won or will win their independence in 1960.

Long live the New Africa !

Long live unity among the African workers
and unity with the workers of the world !

The World Federation of Trade Unions

January 4, 1960.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

April 29, 1960.

DECLARATION OF THE W.F.T.U. FOR THE RIGHT TO FREE ORGANISATION FOR WORKERS, PEASANTS AND STUDENTS OF SOUTH KOREA, AND FOR THE IMMEDIATE EVACUATION OF FOREIGN ARMED FORCES

In South Korea, accumulated strong indignation and extreme hatred against the 15 years of fascist-terrorist rule of the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee faction have erupted into mass uprisings.

Following the popular uprising in Masan, hundreds of thousands of people of all strata - workers, peasants and students - have risen in a gigantic struggle in all parts of South Korea - Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, Inchun, Kwangju, Taejun, Junjoo, Soowon and other places. On April 26, 1960, half-a-million people demonstrated in Seoul alone.

Despite bloody repression, the struggle of the South Korean people has become more and more heroic.

Under the pressure of vast and incessant demonstrations, the South Korean authorities are paralysed and disintegrating and Syngman Rhee has formally tendered his resignation. This is a first important success of the South Korean people in their fight against U.S. imperialism and the puppet government. This success will have far-reaching influence both on the struggle of the South Korean people for their existence, freedom and democracy, and on the struggle of the people of Asia and the whole world against the policy of aggression and war of the U.S. monopolies and for world peace.

The World Federation of Trade Unions strongly condemns the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists which constitutes the root cause of all sufferings of its people.

The W.F.T.U. points out that Syngman Rhee is defeated and any other puppet will meet with the same fate. As long as the U.S. maintains its aggressive army and puppet regime in

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South Korea and does not cease its interference in Korea, the struggle of the Korean people will grow in intensity and strength.

The W.F.T.U. supports the principal demands of the working people of Korea who strongly insist that the U.S. troops must at once withdraw from South Korea and the U.S. imperialists must not intervene in the internal affairs of Korea. The Korean people demand elections in South Korea for a new Congress in which representatives of workers and peasants will take part, as well as the respect of the rights of the people and in particular the right of the workers, peasants and students to free organisation, the abolition of the puppet regime, the dissolution of the present Congress, arrest of Syngman Rhee and his judgement by the people, the immediate lifting of martial law and freeing of persons arrested in the uprising.

The W.F.T.U. supports an immediate joint meeting of representatives of various political parties and social organisations of North and South Korea to discuss measures for remedying the present situation.

The W.F.T.U. calls on the trade unions and workers throughout the world to express their active solidarity with the South Korean workers and people in their just fight, through various initiatives and actions suitable to each country. It appeals to them to condemn all the crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists in South Korea and to launch a strong joint struggle to demand the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. aggressive troops from South Korea.

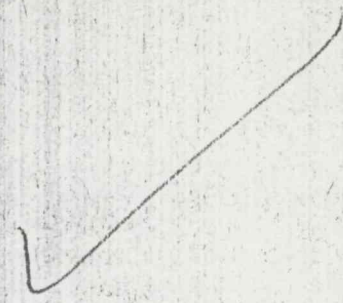
The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U.

28 MAR 1960

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

STATEMENT BY THE W.F.T.U.

on the growing remilitarisation of the
German Federal Republic



At a time when the LO-Tower Disarmament Conference is meeting in Geneva to discuss the proposals for universal disarmament, and only a few weeks before the Summit Talks, the workers and peoples are more determined than ever in expressing their desire for universal and controlled disarmament and their unanimous will to remove the threat of war now and for all time.

The workers and the majority of trade unions in all countries are making it quite clear that they want these Conferences to reach some practical solution.

The World Federation of Trade Unions is conveying these unanimous aspirations of the workers.

But in spite of the people's desire for peace and their demand that words should be accompanied by deeds, the aggressive circles in the capitalist countries, and more particularly the armament monopolies continue to hatch their plans for war. They are increasing their intrigues and are doing their best to thwart all efforts leading to peace.

The most serious threat to world peace comes from the German Federal Republic, where the militarists in power proclaim with impunity their plans for war.

With the help of the monopolies in the war industry, especially those in the United States, they are accelerating atomic armament and are speeding up the equipment of their aggressive armies. They are establishing a huge network of war basis from Norway right down to Greece. Defying world public opinion, they are still negotiating military agreements with Franco and are making preparations for a consolidation of their agreements with the Japanese reactionaries. So, under the very eyes of the indignant people and with the complicity of the western monopolies, an alliance between the German and Japanese militarists and Spanish fascists is being re-established and directed against democracy and peace.

The monopolies are making the workers pay for the serious effects of their arms policy. The working class in Western Germany, like the working class in other capitalist countries pursuing the same harmful policy, are aware of this from bitter experience.

Their living conditions are becoming worse and worse, the growing burden of taxation is weighing heavily on the mass of the people and the social gains of the workers, especially social security, are being attacked and challenged.

In addition, the monopolists, former nazis reinstated in their leading positions, are attacking trade union rights, in particular the right to strike, and are showing complete disregard for democratic liberties.

These serious attacks against the working class of Federal Germany and these moves by the German militarists represent a grave threat to all workers and peoples. They are a stumbling block to the consolidation of world peace and to a greater relaxation in international tension.

Despite persecution, and often ignoring the passive attitude of certain leaders of the D.G.B., the workers in the German Federal Republic are fighting a courageous battle at their places of work, in the shipyards, at factories and in the countryside, for the respect of their social gains, for better living conditions and for a policy of peace.

The workers and trade unions of many countries are by their side in this joint struggle, which is forging class solidarity among the workers against rearmament, war and hardships.

The W.F.T.U. expresses its complete solidarity with the workers in Federal Germany who are vigorously resisting all manoeuvres by the German militarists and who are pooling their forces in growing unity with their brothers in the German Democratic Republic, in order to achieve their legitimate demands for peace and democracy.

The Secretariat of the World
Federation of Trade Unions

Prague, March 22, 1960.

Published by the Press Dept.
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No.133

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

STATEMENT

ON THE NEW OUTBREAK OF ARRESTS OF SPANISH WORKERS AND DEMOCRATS

A new outbreak of mass persecution has recently begun in Spain.

Hundreds of workers, engineers and intellectuals have been thrown into jail, often after they have been badly treated or even tortured by the police for alleged "subversive activities". These attacks are simply an outrageous pretext for attempts to break the growing movement of protest among the Spanish workers and people whose hardships have been accentuated by the difficult economic conditions. These conditions have deteriorated as a result of recent government measures.

For the Spanish working class, twenty years of Franco's dictatorship and ruthless exploitation of the workers has meant that since 1936 their purchasing power has dropped by more than 50%. At the same time, the big firms have continued to amass fabulous profits.

The application of the "Stabilisation" Plan last July, which only benefits the imperialist monopolies, has made the justified discontent of the people more acute and succeeded in bringing it to a head. Severe economic measures have led to a substantial drop in the workers' incomes because of the often considerable reduction in hours of work, the abolition of bonuses and the numerous dismissals which have done much to aggravate unemployment.

The draft of the Franco-Adenauer agreement for the setting up of German military bases in Spain confirms that this plan is accompanied by measures which tend to turn Franco Spain more and more into a springboard for the aggressive plans of the warmongers.

Hundreds of thousands of workers, defying this repression, have expressed their brave and vigorous opposition to these plans which bring such hardships in their wake.

There have been demonstrations at Seville and in its neighbourhood, at Malaga, Madrid, Barcelona and in other towns.

Throughout Spain, the workers, supported by large sections of the people, are fighting for a general increase in wages, against dismissals and unemployment and for the restoration of democratic and trade union freedom.

Franco, backed especially by the United States monopolies, is afraid of this growing opposition from the people. Once these protests result in widespread action by the working class and by the working people, his reign of terror and oppression would be swept away. That is why he is trying to crush the movement with repressive measures. But he will not be able to prevent the irresistible growth of the campaign by the Spanish workers and people since it is strongly supported by international solidarity.

The W.F.T.U., therefore, hopes that all workers and democrats throughout Spain will unite in this campaign.

The W.F.T.U., true to its traditions, again deplures the outrages committed by the Franco dictatorship and assures all those who suffer from them, the workers and people of Spain, of its staunch support.

The W.F.T.U. draws the attention of world public opinion to the increase of repression in Spain just when international tension is on the decrease and on the eve of the World Summit Conference.

It appeals to all workers and trade unions throughout the world, who are unanimously against the Franco dictatorship, to unite in expressing their strong protest and to demand that the spanish authorities release ^{the} imprisoned workers and democrats.

There is more than ever a need for international working class solidarity to be expressed in every way throughout the world, so that the Spanish workers and democrats can be guaranteed unconditional support and helped to end the terror and hardship of the Franco regime.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

April 15, 1960.

STATEMENT BY THE W.F.T.U. ON THE SITUATION IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The W.F.T.U. notes with indignation that in the Union of South Africa the overwhelming majority of the African population, together with their sympathisers among the coloured and white people, have been deprived of the most elementary human rights. Killing, torturing, mass arrests, imprisonments, terror -- that is what is happening in the country today. A Police State whose whole policy is based on racial discrimination, is defying the whole world by its stubborn refusal to make the slightest change in this shameful policy. Neither the Resolution of the United Nations' General Assembly of November last year, nor that of the Security Council condemning the racial discrimination in the Union of South Africa has been respected by the Government of that country.

In an attempt to paralyse the heroic struggle of the workers and people of the Union of South Africa, the Government has declared a State of Emergency, banned all democratic organisations and imprisoned hundreds of active trade unionists and democrats. The police is still raiding native quarters in armoured cars, killing men, women and children. The South African Congress of Trade Unions, the only multi-racial trade union organisation and the most genuine is among the organisations which have been prevented from functioning freely. Its President, Leon Levy and its General Secretary, Leslie Massina were among those who have been arrested and thrown into prison where, under the State of Emergency they are being detained without having the right to see their lawyers and families. Strikes are being suppressed with the help of whips and guns.

Under such a reign of terror, the most elementary human and trade union rights are being violated every day.

While international working class solidarity with the workers and people in the Union of South Africa has always been important in supporting their struggle, it has now become more essential than ever before. The duty of each worker, of each trade union leader and of each trade union organisation throughout the world is to give even more support by every possible means to the courageous struggle of the workers and people of South Africa. The powerful force of the international working class must make it clear to the Government of the Union of South Africa and to all those who believe in or practice a policy of apartheid and racial discrimination, that there is no room for such a policy in the world of today.

Demands should be made for the immediate release of all imprisoned trade union members and democrats, for the respect of trade union and human rights and for an end to racial discrimination. Further pressure should be exerted upon the United Nations to ensure the application of its decisions by taking appropriate steps against the Government of the Union of South Africa. The workers should denounce the moral support which this Government is receiving from the imperialist governments who have refused to join the other member states on the Security Council in condemning the racial policy pursued by the Government of the Union of South Africa.

We are convinced that with the help of a growing international campaign, in the forefront of which stands the World Federation of Trade Unions and its 101 million members, the courageous struggle of the workers and people of South Africa will be fought to a victorious conclusion and that racial discrimination will be abolished once and forever.

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

STATEMENT

OF SOLIDARITY OF THE W.F.T.U. WITH THE WORKERS
AND TRADE UNIONS OF ASIAN COUNTRIES STRUGGLING
AGAINST THE INTERFERENCE AND THREATS OF AMERICAN
MONOPOLIES

The World Federation of Trade Unions declares its solidarity with the workers and trade unions of the Asian countries who are struggling against American military threats.

On the eve of the Summit Conference when peoples throughout the world are struggling for the relaxation of international tension, general and total disarmament and the defence of world peace, the W.F.T.U. notes that the American imperialists are stepping up their war preparations in Asia, extending their policy of aggression and undertaking armed provocations.

With contempt for the opposition of the workers and the people of Japan, they have concluded a military alliance with the KISHI Government, while their sphere of aggression, according to their own open declarations, extends right from the north of the Philippines to Japan and its neighbouring countries, including Korea, the Chinese territories of Taiwan, Quemoy and Matsu, as well as the Kurile islands which are part of the Soviet Union". The Americans are still in occupation of Okinawa and are strengthening their military bases on this island. They are sabotaging the Korean Armistice Agreement, building up their own army of occupation and the forces of SYNGMAN RHEE in South Korea, and illegally introducing ballistic missiles and atomic weapons into the country. Furthermore, on February 26 last, they openly began to launch missiles. They are still holding by force the Chinese territory of Taiwan and are supporting the farcical regime of Chiang Kai-Shek. They are continuously violating Chinese air space and territorial waters. At the present moment, in collaboration with the Chiang Kai-Shek clique, they are organising large-scale military manoeuvres in the Taiwan Straits. The Americans are speeding-up the arming of South Vietnam, sabotaging the Geneva Agreement and organising widespread persecution of valiant former resistance fighters. As soon as the United States stated that South Vietnam must be an anti-communist "outpost of the free world", NGO DINH DIEM announced immediately that the frontier of the United States had been extended as far as the 17th parallel of Vietnam. Furthermore, America still interferes in the internal affairs of Laos, thus aggravating the state of civil war in that country.

It is needless to say that, in those countries which participate directly in SEATO, military preparations are increasing and a warlike atmosphere exists.

In those countries under military control, economic disruption, inflation, and poverty are intensified. Thus, in South Korea half the working population is wholly or partially unemployed. Puppet leaders like SYNGMAN RHEE, CHIANG KAI-SHEK and NGO DINH DIEM place themselves completely at the service of their foreign masters and betray the national interests.

These activities and aggressive actions of American imperialism in Asia are a threat to the peace and security of this part of the world and a danger to the interests of the Asian peoples.

The broad masses of the people and the trade unions of Japan have organized more than 15 national campaigns on an unprecedented scale. At the moment they are fighting hard to prevent the ratification of the Japanese-American Security Treaty, and for its annulment. Protesting against the provocations of the American imperialists, the people and trade unions of Korea have organized mass meetings to demand the withdrawal from that country of ballistic missiles and atomic weapons, which have been illegally introduced, an end to the launching of these weapons, and respect of the Armistice Agreement. The workers and people of China have declared many times that Taiwan is Chinese territory, that American armed forces must be withdrawn from the island, and that Chinese affairs should be handled by the Chinese themselves.

The essential aggressive and expansionist nature of American imperialism is more and more widely recognized and denounced by the peoples of the Indo-Chinese peninsula and by those countries which are members of SEATO. Above all the fact that the U.S. supports the Kishi Government and has made a military alliance with it cannot but arouse the vigilance of the workers and peoples of the Asian countries who have already suffered from the occupation of their countries by the Japanese imperialists. "American imperialism, leave the Western Pacific" is now becoming a slogan common to the peoples of the Asian countries.

The World Federation of Trade Unions considers that the acts of aggression and the military provocations by American imperialism in Asia are an integral part of its acts of aggression throughout the world, and that they cannot be separated from U.S. attempts to assist in the rebirth of militarism in Western Germany and to disturb the peace in Europe. The recent military provocations in Korea and in the Taiwan Straits, especially, show a deliberate intention on the part of the U.S. to slow up the present-relaxation of international tension and to sabotage the Summit Conference. The workers and peoples of the whole world must take adequate note of these intrigues and remain vigilant to ensure that they fail.

The W.F.T.U. gives its warm support to the appeal of the workers and peoples of the Asian countries, and demands that the United States annul the American-Japanese military alliance, restore Okinawa to Japan, respect the Armistice Agreements on Korea and on Vietnam, and withdraw its armed forces from the Taiwan Straits, as well as all its military bases and armed forces in Asia.

The W.F.T.U. is sure that, with the solidarity of the workers and trade unions throughout the world, the workers and people of Asia will be victorious.

Secretary of the W.F.T.U.

April 20, 1960.